



UNIQUE LODGES OF THE WORLD



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN ACTION



UNIQUE LODGES OF THE WORLD

2019 Sustainable Tourism Impact Report

- 6 About National Geographic
Unique Lodges of the World
- 8 Map of the Collection
- 12 About This Report
- 13 The Pillars of Sustainable Tourism
- 14 Pillar 1: Protection of Natural Heritage
- 36 Pillar 2: Protection of Cultural Heritage
- 48 Pillar 3: Support for Local Communities
- 58 Pillar 4: Environmentally Friendly Operations

Cover Image: Tswalu Kalahari works closely with scientists conducting research on the rare Temminck's ground pangolin.





THREE CAMEL LODGE
MONGOLIA

**In 1950, there were
25 million travelers.**



**In 2019, 1.4 billion travelers
will set out to see the world.**



**This number is expected
to reach **2 billion** by 2030.**

 = 5 million travelers



Travel and tourism is among the world's largest industries, employing one out of 11 people on the planet. With this growth comes an even greater responsibility to harness the power of travel as a force for good.

The National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World collection seeks to do exactly that, providing travelers with a wonderful stay that contributes to biodiversity conservation, heritage preservation, and the well-being of local communities. By offering immersive and meaningful guest experiences rooted in the principles of sustainable tourism, these lodges are helping lead the way so that these special places can be enjoyed for generations to come.



ABOUT NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC UNIQUE LODGES OF THE WORLD

National Geographic was founded over a century ago to educate people about the planet by supporting exploration, discovery, and the protection of our natural and cultural diversity. Launched in January 2015, National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World has drawn together an array of exceptional properties that share these essential values. The collection debuted in 2015 with 24 properties, and as of this writing, it currently includes 61 distinct lodges in 34 countries.

Our lodge members provide guests with outstanding service and experiences while making the choice to tread lightly, celebrate nature rather than conquer it, support cultural heritage, and engage with local communities. They offer intimate and extraordinary experiences, connecting guests with their destination in an authentic and meaningful way while helping to protect these treasured places for generations to come.

Each property in our collection has been handpicked and carefully vetted for these attributes:

| SUSTAINABILITY |

Protects and enhances nature and culture

| ENGAGEMENT |

Connects with and benefits local people and communities

| AUTHENTICITY |

Reveals true sense of place

| EXCELLENCE |

Provides world-class guest services

| INSPIRATION |

Offers unique and enriching experiences

I THE COLLECTION



UNIQUE LODGES OF THE WORLD



The lodges indicated with a blue dot are new to the collection and are not included in the report.

“Sustainable tourism strives to preserve and enhance the environment, culture, heritage, and well-being of local residents. In essence, we make it our mission to look after our people and our places. When guests experience this passion we have for sustainability and our commitment to the environment, they leave inspired to make their own commitment.”

Hans Pfister, Director, Cayuga Collection



ZHIWA LING HERITAGE
BHUTAN



I ABOUT THIS REPORT

The National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World collection demonstrates that sustainability and an extraordinary travel experience go hand-in-hand. To join the collection, each property undergoes an on-site inspection by National Geographic representatives that includes a thorough review of their operations based on the pillars of sustainable tourism. These pillars also reflect the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

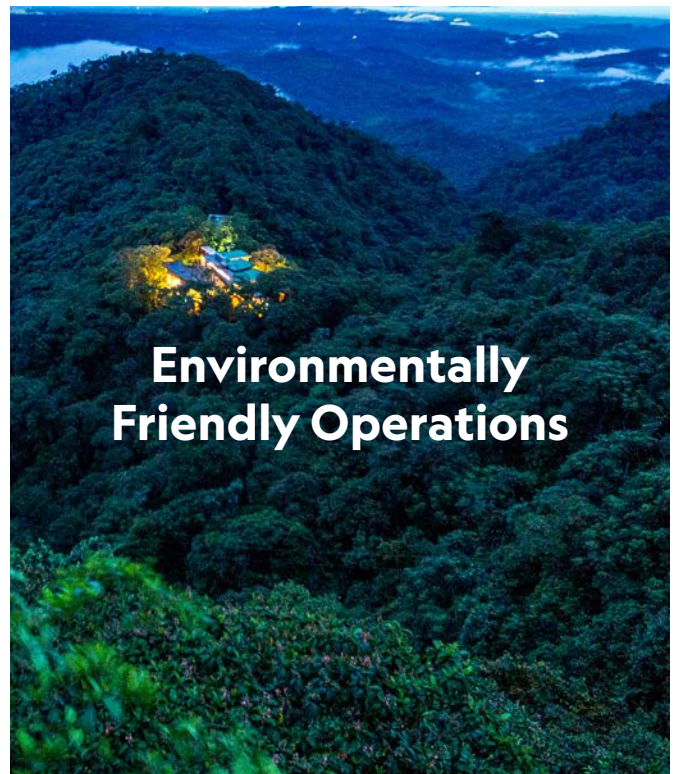
For this impact report, we asked each of our members to complete a detailed survey about their efforts in sustainable tourism in 2017 and 2018.

Monetary contributions made by the lodges to local organizations and partners, international projects, and their own sustainability efforts were directly reported, while in-kind contributions—providing free accommodations to visiting scientists, researchers, and community groups, or volunteering staff time to local projects—were assigned an estimated U.S. dollar amount.

The pages that follow detail our findings and highlight individual stories about sustainability projects at the lodges. These inspiring efforts are proof that tourism—when done right—can be a positive force for good in the world.



| THE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM |





PROTECTION OF NATURAL HERITAGE:
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND HABITATS RESTORED

1.9 MILLION AC
LAND AND SEA

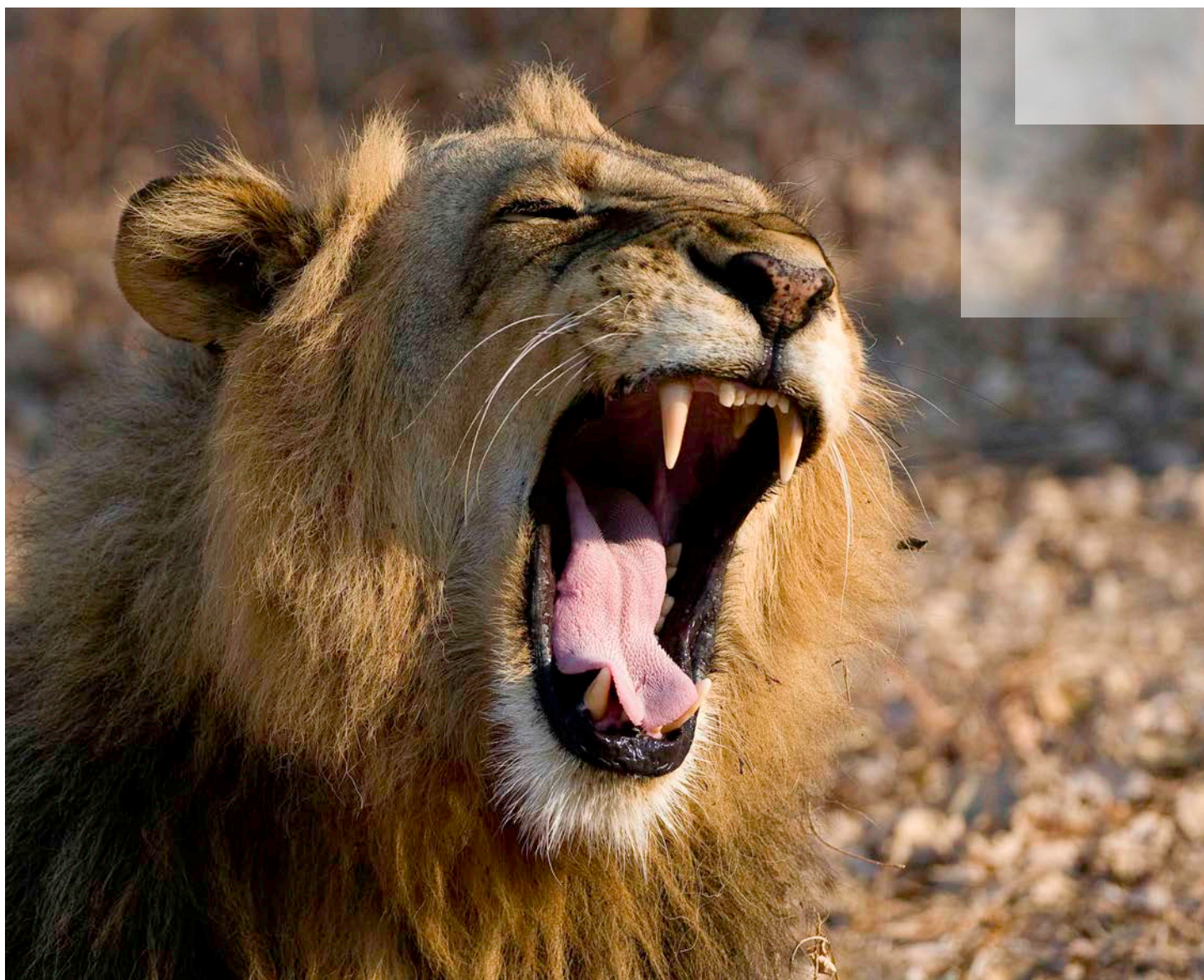
THREE CAMEL LODGE
MONGOLIA



RES OF CONSERVED

The members of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World helped conserve biodiversity and rehabilitate degraded habitat across 32 countries and six continents. Lodges helped protect and rehabilitate a total of 1,921,548 acres of terrestrial and marine habitat, contributing more than US \$11 million in direct and in-kind contributions to natural heritage conservation efforts in 2017 and 2018.

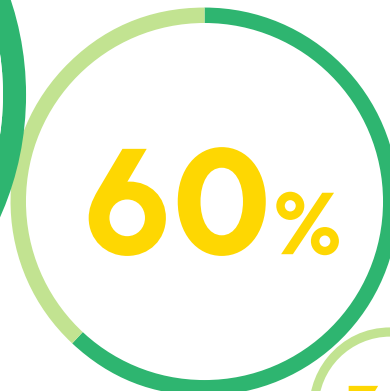
PROTECTION OF NATURAL HERITAGE
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



88% of lodges are engaged in direct contributions to the conservation of flora and fauna.

88% of the lodges provide specific guidelines to ensure that guests interact appropriately with wildlife during natural heritage activities.

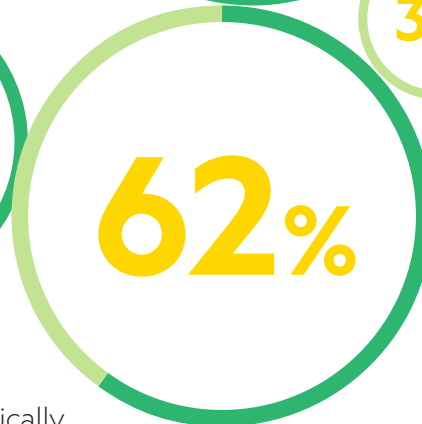
60% of the lodges directly manage private nature reserves on land and/or at sea.



36% of the lodges are directly engaged in marine conservation.



52% of the lodges are helping to protect critically endangered and endangered species (IUCN Red List), including megafauna, marine mammals, birds, and rare and endemic trees and flowers.



62% of the lodges are directly engaged in terrestrial conservation.



BUSHMANS KLOOF WILDERNESS RESERVE & WELLNESS RETREAT SOUTH AFRICA

Bushmans Kloof's comprehensive Environmental Management Plan focuses on conserving the wildlife and floral diversity of the Cederberg Mountains—where the lodge is located—as well as the prehistoric San rock art found on the reserve. In partnership with The Cape Leopard Trust, Bushmans Kloof funds research to monitor and protect the Cape leopard, one of

South Africa's most threatened species and the area's top predator. Bushmans Kloof also works with local farmers to promote the use of Anatolian shepherd dogs as protection for domestic livestock, resulting in a dramatic decrease in human-wildlife conflict and allowing the Cape leopard population to rebound in the surrounding area.



ZARAFI CAMP BOTSWANA

In order to help save Africa's critically endangered rhinos from poachers, this Great Plains Conservation lodge has partnered with safari tourism company andBeyond on the "Rhinos Without Borders" project. Launched in 2015, the program aims to relocate at least a hundred rhinos from high-risk poaching zones to safe havens in Botswana. Once in safety, they are carefully guarded and monitored by a team of

experts, working in partnership with Botswana's Department of Wildlife and National Parks as well as other organizations. The program is on track to achieve its ambitious goal—as of 2018, 87 rhinos have already been relocated and 23 calves born in the wild, positioning "Rhinos Without Borders" at the forefront of conservation efforts for one of Africa's most threatened and majestic creatures.



BENTWOOD INN

UNITED STATES

Surrounded by the peaks of Grand Teton National Park, Bentwood Inn weaves the fascinating natural heritage of the American West into the lodge experience. An extensive Natural History Library offers resources on wildlife, geology, and regional land management, while a natural history lecture series—established in partnership with the Teton Science School—invites biologists and wildlife researchers to present on nature and conservation programs. In addition, Bentwood Inn is a founding member of 1% for the Tetons, established to engage local businesses to help sustain the natural and cultural heritage of the area.



FOGO ISLAND INN

CANADA

With rocky terrain dating back hundreds of millions of years, Fogo Island invites geological investigation and discovery. In partnership with the Shorefast Foundation, Fogo Island Inn has established a residency program called Geology at the Edge, offering scientists from around the world the opportunity to stay at Fogo and study the island's geology. Visiting scientists lead interpretive geology hikes and oversee workshops and presentations about the island's fascinating natural history and biodiversity, open to both guests and community members.



OL DONYO LODGE

KENYA

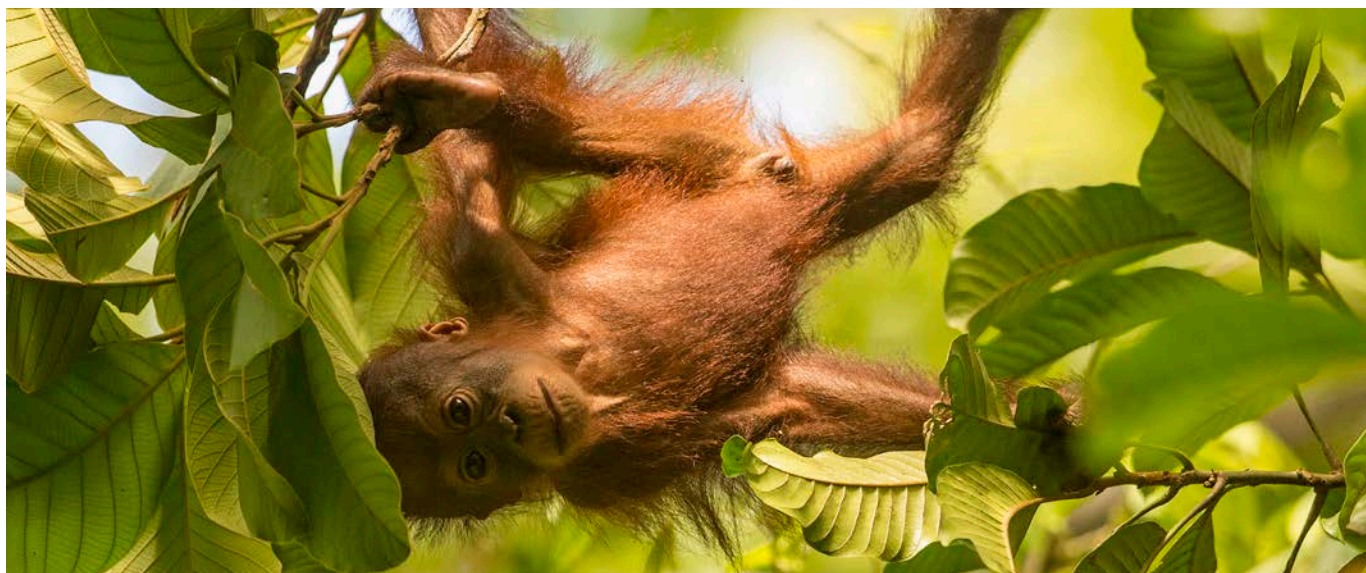
In order to protect Kenya's iconic lions while preserving Maasai cultural heritage, this Great Plains Conservation lodge supports the Maasai Olympics, a biennial community event where traditional lion hunting is replaced with athletic feats of skill and endurance. Through the Great Plains Foundation, the lodge also contributes to the Big Life Foundation's regional Predator Compensation Fund, which compensates local Maasai for livestock killed by predators. As a result, lion killings around Ol Donyo have been reduced by 90 percent, and many community members have become advocates for big cat conservation.



PACUARE LODGE

COSTA RICA

Deep in the Costa Rican rainforest, Pacuare Lodge has reduced regional poaching by 95 percent through the implementation of a hunting ban in their private reserve. In addition to providing alternative livelihoods to locals, the lodge has introduced conservation education in area schools. The lodge's jaguar monitoring program—co-managed with the National University of Costa Rica—uses camera traps to document the rising number of jaguars in the region, and guests are able to learn about the project at the on-site jaguar center.



SUKAU RAINFOREST LODGE

MALAYSIAN BORNEO

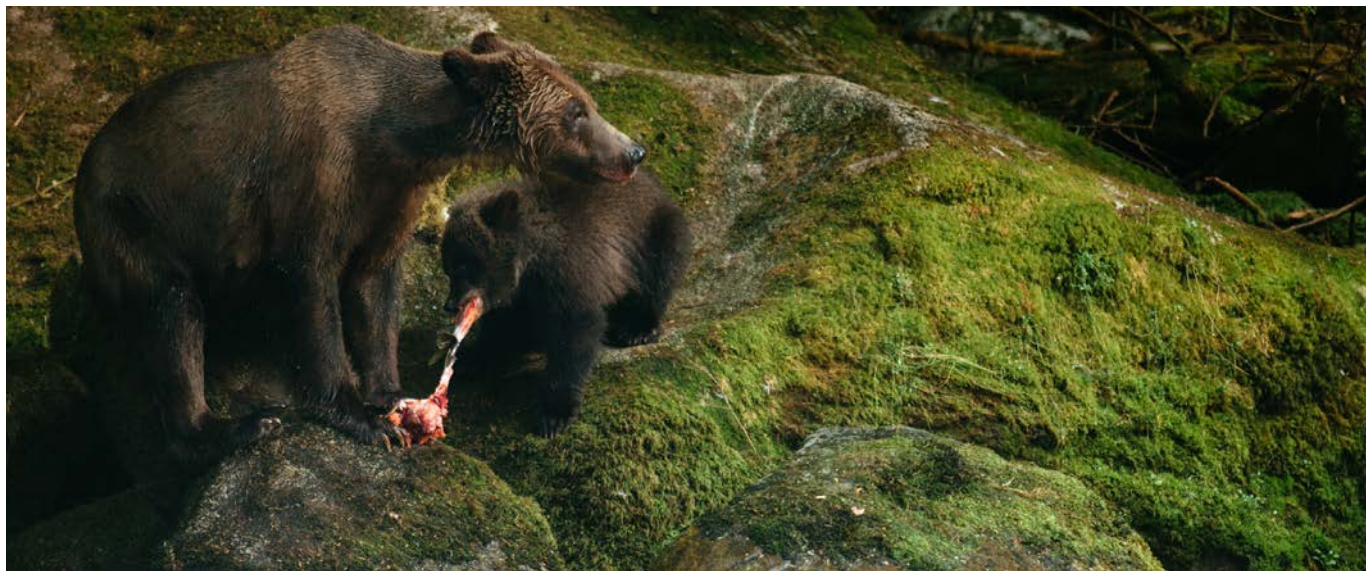
Through its foundation, the BEST Foundation, Sukau has purchased 7.7 acres of pristine rainforest as part of the Borneo Land Conservancy initiative, dedicated to preserving the critical habitat of orangutans, proboscis monkeys, and a diverse array of birdlife. Construction of the Sukau Ecotourism Research Center is also underway, which will include lodgings for students and researchers to carry out scientific investigation into the area's rich flora and fauna.



ANDBEYOND BENGUERRA ISLAND

MOZAMBIQUE

As part of andBeyond's Oceans Without Borders initiative—aimed at protecting East Africa's fragile marine environment—andBeyond Benguerra Island focuses its conservation efforts on the protection of 250 locally endangered dugongs that inhabit the surrounding waters. Working in partnership with Africa Foundation, the lodge supports a Dugong Emergency Protection Plan that includes education initiatives for both guests and local students, and provides assistance to anti-poaching marine patrols and aerial surveillance programs that help protect these important mammals and their natural habitat.



NIMMO BAY WILDERNESS RESORT

CANADA

Nimmo Bay Wilderness Resort—located in British Columbia’s Great Bear Rainforest—pioneered a conservation program called “Bullets for Binoculars,” which encouraged grizzly bear hunters to swap their guns for a pair of binoculars. Participants who turned in their bear tags and signed a permanent pledge to stop hunting grizzlies received a complimentary three-day stay and outdoor activities package at Nimmo Bay. Thanks in part to this program and Nimmo Bay’s tireless conservation efforts, grizzly bear hunting was officially banned in British Columbia in 2018.



TIAMO RESORT

THE BAHAMAS

As a local ambassador for Longitude 181, a group that promotes marine conservation awareness and education, Tiamo donates one U.S. dollar for every air tank used during scuba diving activities at its resort. Tiamo also offers accommodations to scientific researchers studying the local marine ecosystem and surrounding barrier reef—the third largest in the world.



THREE CAMEL LODGE

MONGOLIA

In addition to its work with the Mongolian government to protect a 20-square kilometer buffer area around nearby Gurvansaikhan National Park, Three Camel Lodge has partnered with the Snow Leopard Conservancy to further research of this elusive big cat. The lodge has also implemented an innovative project called “Cooking for Conservation”, which encourages local villagers to turn in the steel traps used to poach snow leopards in exchange for a set of cooking pots—a highly valued item in this remote region. To date, approximately 400 illegal traps have been turned in.



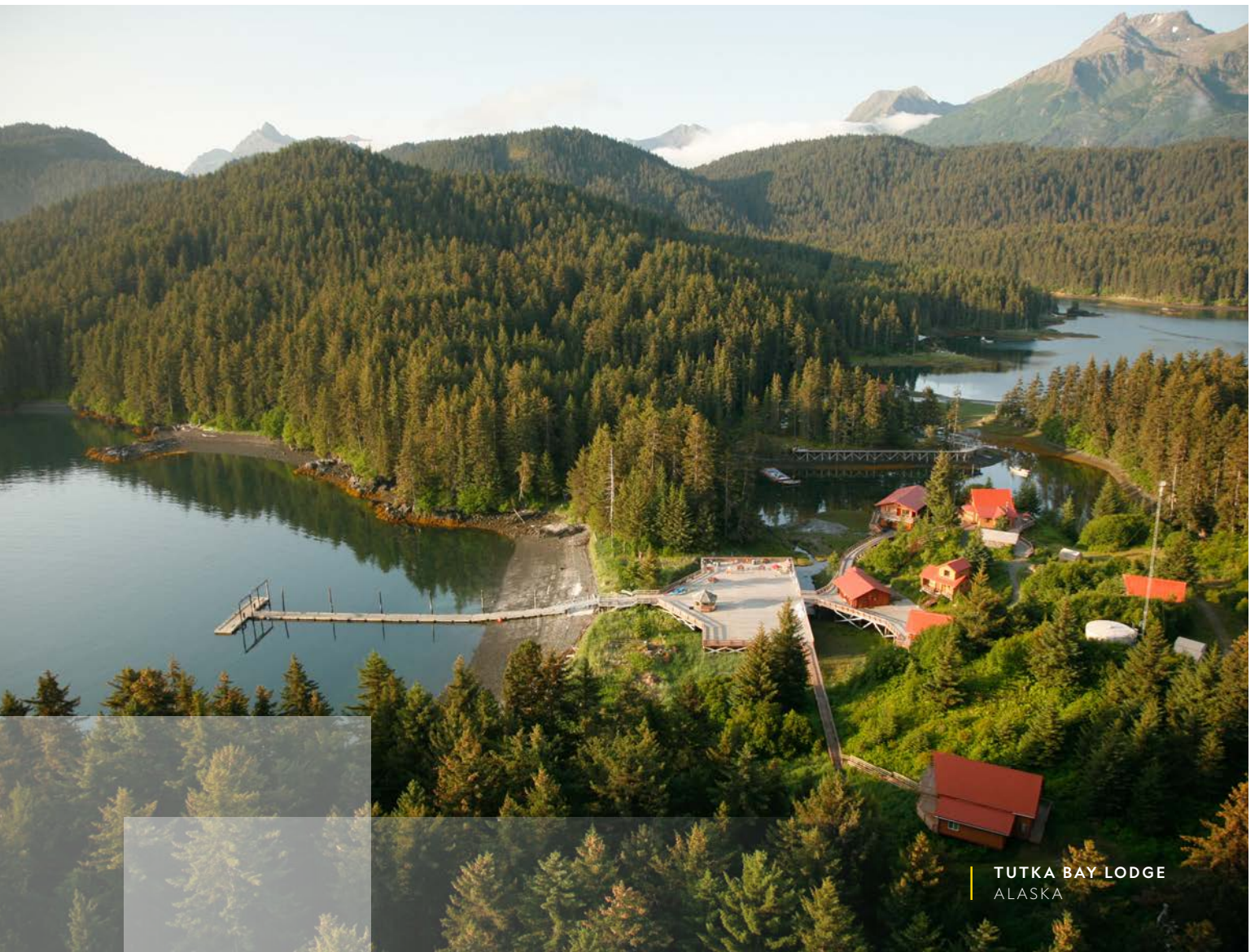
THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY

ZAMBIA

The Bushcamp Company is the largest local supporter of Conservation South Luangwa, an effective anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring organization in the region. Support ranges from financial donations to hosting researchers and offering seminars. In 2017, the United Nations World Tourism Organization designated South Luangwa National Park as the world’s first International Sustainable Wildlife Park, thanks to the combined efforts of the Zambian government, local and international NGOs, The Bushcamp Company and other safari operators, as well as local communities surrounding the park.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL HERITAGE

HABITATS RESTORED



TUTKA BAY LODGE
ALASKA

70% of the lodges are actively engaged in tree-planting initiatives, collectively planting more than 554,000 trees.

70% of the lodges are actively engaged in ecosystem restoration, rehabilitating degraded terrestrial and marine habitats.

86% of the lodges provided in-kind contributions to nature conservation, with an estimated value of more than US \$3.8 million in 2017-2018.



68% of the lodges provided over US \$7.2 million in direct contributions to nature conservation in 2017-2018.



LIKULIKU LAGOON RESORT FIJI

When a single Fijian crested iguana was discovered at the Likuliku Lagoon Resort in 2010, the lodge took immediate action to foster the revival of this endemic species, previously thought to be extinct. A multi-tiered conservation strategy was put in place to manage invasive species and restore the island's depleted tropical dry forest (TDF), the natural habitat and food source for the Fijian crested iguana; more than 6,500 TDF trees

were planted to that end. Thanks to a carefully monitored tag and release system—organized in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and the San Diego Zoo—experts were able to track the island's iguana population and establish a comprehensive breeding program. In 2017, Likuliku Lagoon Resort welcomed the island's first Fijian crested iguana born in captivity, followed by four more in 2018.





FINCA ROSA BLANCA

COSTA RICA

Since 1985, this family-run lodge has reforested 30 acres of degraded agricultural land in the scenic highlands outside of San José. As a result of planting more than 7,000 trees and a variety of native and endemic flora, the property has been transformed into a shaded forest where the lodge's certified organic coffee now thrives. The local bird population has also doubled in the past two decades. Following the reforestation initiative, Finca Rosa Blanca was invited to join the prestigious Costa Rican Network of Private Reserves.



FREGATE ISLAND PRIVATE

THE SEYCHELLES

Over 10,000 native trees have been planted on this private Seychellois island, resulting in the restoration of nearly 250 acres of land to its original state and providing a sanctuary for several critically endangered birds, including the endemic Seychelles white-eye and the Seychelles magpie-robin. The island is also home to the largest population of Aldabra giant tortoises in the wild—the result of a concentrated conservation and breeding program spanning 25 years. In addition, the Seychelles' first mineral accretion coral restoration project was implemented along Fregate's reefs in 2018 to study effective coral restoration methods.



MASHPI LODGE

ECUADOR

A former logging concession that is now a 3,213-acre rainforest reserve, Mashpi Lodge's environmental protection efforts have transformed the area into a center of biodiversity conservation and center of research. In 2018, Ecuador's Andean Chocó Rainforest—where Mashpi is located—was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, due in part to the results of the lodge's conservation efforts.



LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

UNITED STATES

This private 148-acre ranch, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, embarked on an ambitious project to restore a creek bed on a portion of the North Fork River, which runs through the property, enhancing the habitat for trout, beavers, and birds. As part of the Year of the Bird in 2018, Lone Mountain also established additional bird feeding and nesting sites around the ranch, which have resulted in an increase in the number of birds seen on the property.



PETIT ST. VINCENT PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

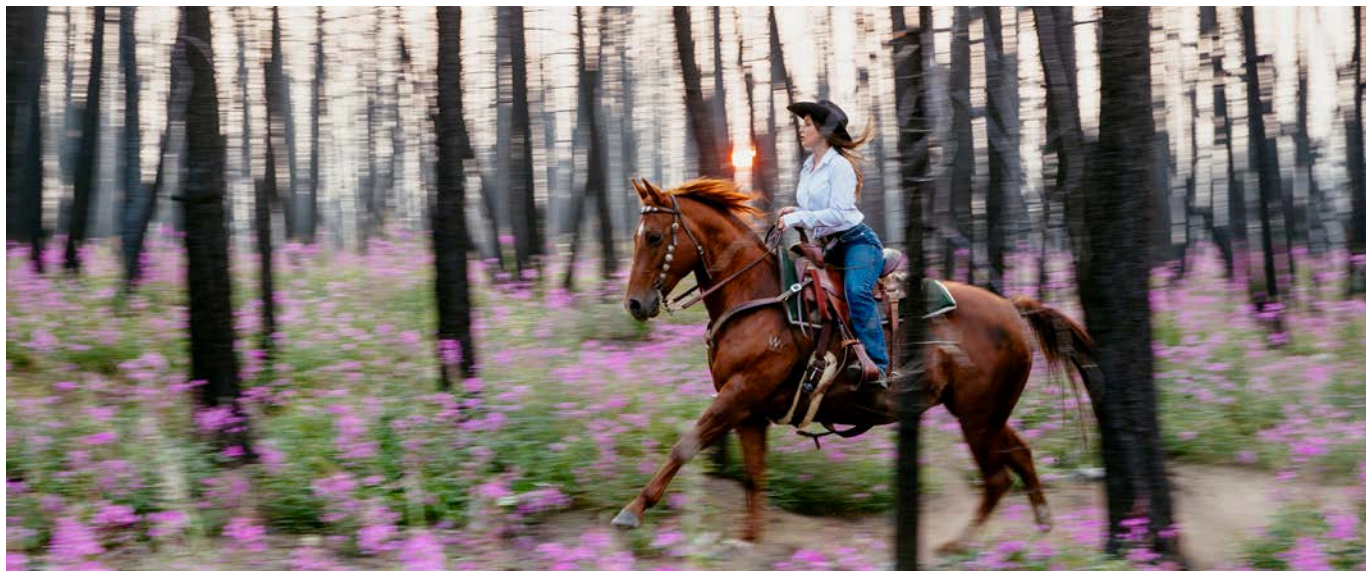
Petit St. Vincent's coral reef regeneration and monitoring project has produced more than 150 coral segments for transplant over the past two years. Fishing is not allowed on half of the island—including near the coral nurseries—and the repopulated reefs are already attracting new marine life. The project is now being replicated on neighboring islands.



SABI SABI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

SOUTH AFRICA

Part of South Africa's greater Kruger National Park ecosystem, Sabi Sabi's environmental management practices include anti-erosion efforts, water hole rotation, controlled burns, and restoration of damaged land. The reserve also educates guests on proper safari etiquette in order to minimize disturbances to the wildlife.



SIWASH LAKE WILDERNESS RESORT

CANADA

Following a devastating wildfire in 2017, Siwash spearheaded the environmental and economic recovery of the region's severe burn zone. The owners of the resort established the nonprofit B.C. Wildland Ecological Centre (BCWEC), aimed at protecting, studying, and showcasing the surrounding post-fire ecosystem while uniting local stakeholders. Siwash and partners have planted 130,000 seedlings in the damaged region to date, and continually collect seeds for local nurseries; irrigate severely burned areas; monitor for invasive species; and protect remaining green areas from logging.



TIERRA PATAGONIA HOTEL & SPA

CHILE

Built discreetly into the Patagonia countryside, this low-impact lodge protects and showcases more than 175 acres of dramatic landscape surrounding Chile's Torres del Paine National Park. During construction, all native plants were carefully removed, stored, and replanted by specialists to rehabilitate the five acres of natural habitat surrounding the lodge, where local species like guanacos still thrive today.



WINTERLAKE LODGE

UNITED STATES

What began as an Alaskan hunting lodge now serves as a conservation gateway to a remote wilderness. An expanding network of adjacent properties—totaling 220 acres—have also been purchased for conservation purposes, and past evidence of hunting encampments and mining activity is responsibly removed as part of ongoing habitat restoration efforts.



LIZARD ISLAND

AUSTRALIA

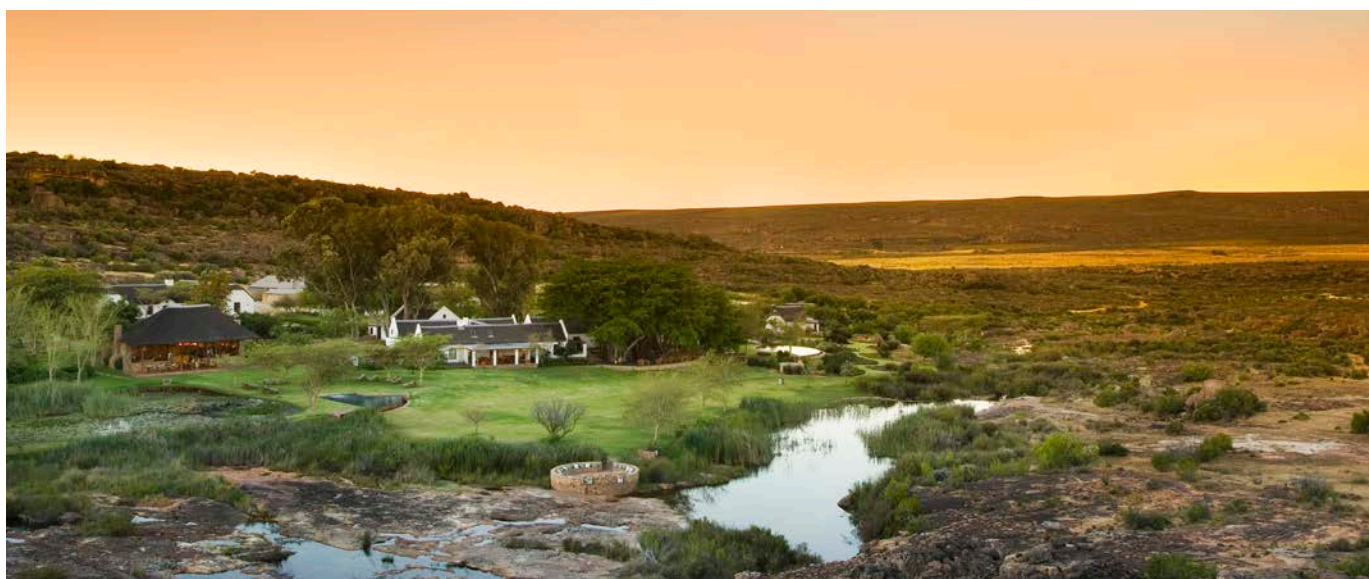
Working in partnership with the Lizard Island Research Station, the lodge supports ongoing efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef while educating guests on marine conservation. The Research Station has pioneered a successful technique to control the reef's biggest predator, the crown-of-thorns starfish—a prickly poisonous starfish that consumes the stony corals that form the base of the reef. Ox bile injected into each starfish kills the creature without harming the reef, aiding in coral recovery.



ANDBEYOND NGORONGORO CRATER LODGE

TANZANIA

This andBeyond lodge is located in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a UNESCO World Heritage site that includes Tanzania's Ngorongoro Crater, Olduvai Gorge, and multiple areas that integrate both wildlife conservation and community development. Ngorongoro Crater Lodge contributes to the identification and removal of alien species. Following the guidelines of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, which oversees habitat restoration, over 60,000 trees have been planted in the region.



BUSHMANS KLOOF WILDERNESS RESERVE & WELLNESS RETREAT

SOUTH AFRICA

Once abundant along the upper slopes of the Cederberg Mountains north of Cape Town, the endemic Clanwilliam cedar tree now faces extinction due to overexploitation and forest fires. To combat this critical decline, Bushmans Kloof has partnered with the Botanical Society of South Africa and CapeNature, a South African governmental organization, to establish an on-site sapling nursery. The lodge also hosts an annual tree and seed planting ceremony; as of 2018, over 1,500 Clanwilliam cedar trees have been successfully transplanted in the region.

A Buddhist monk with a shaved head and glasses, wearing traditional orange and maroon robes, is seated and performing a ritual. He holds a large, ornate brass ritual vessel (khadro) with both hands. In front of him is a low, rectangular wooden table with a decorative, painted top. On the table are several small, conical butter lamps (tsham) and a small bowl. The background features a wall with vibrant Buddhist murals, including a central figure of a Buddha in a meditative pose, and a horizontal band of text in Tibetan script. The overall atmosphere is serene and traditional.

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE: US \$1.6 MILLION IN DIRECT HISTORIC AND LIVING CULTURE

ZHIWA LING HERITAGE
BHUTAN



CT CONTRIBUTIONS TO CULTURAL HERITAGE

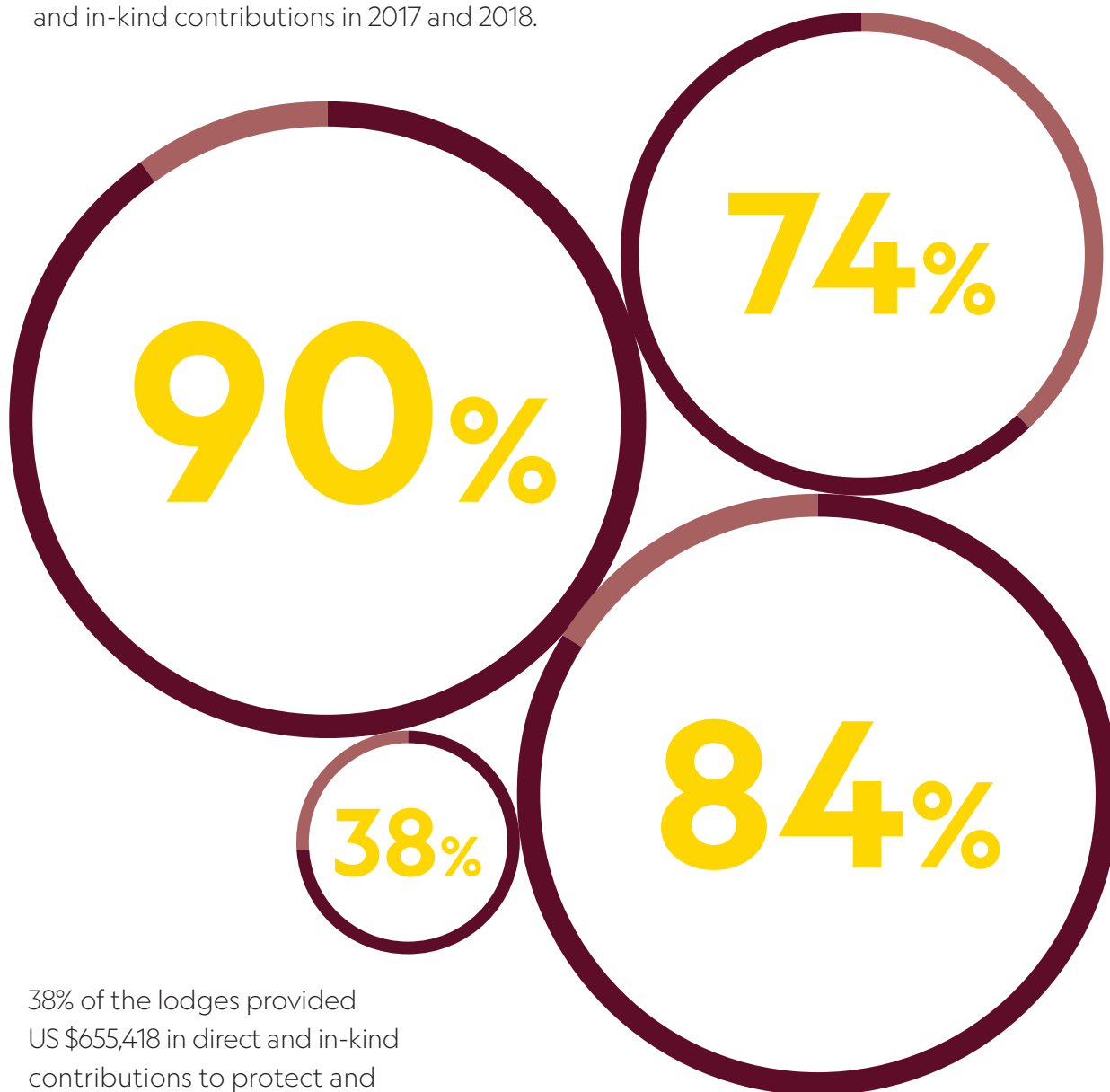
Cultural heritage forms an important part of the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World guest experience. To protect this heritage is to embrace living culture, including language, dance, textiles, art, and handicrafts; and to preserve historic landmarks, monuments, traditional architecture, and archaeological sites—including the sacred sites of indigenous peoples.

| PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE



90% of the lodges are actively involved in enhancing and protecting cultural heritage, contributing more than US \$1.6 million in direct and in-kind contributions in 2017 and 2018.

74% of the lodges provided over US \$1 million in total contributions to support local artists, artisans, musicians, and dancers in 2017-2018.



38% of the lodges provided US \$655,418 in direct and in-kind contributions to protect and preserve historic, archaeological, and sacred cultural sites in 2017 and 2018.

84% of the lodges support living cultural heritage, incorporating contemporary musicians, dancers, artists, and artisans in guest experiences.



THREE CAMEL LODGE MONGOLIA

Three Camel Lodge has supported the local Hanhongger School for over a decade, teaching the next generation of Mongolians the traditional dances and musical instruments of the Gobi. Many of these students have gone on to pursue college degrees in the performing

arts. In 2018, Three Camel Lodge provided funding for 10 students and two teachers to perform traditional Mongolian music at the International Children's Music Festival in Ankara, Turkey, spreading global awareness of Mongolia's living cultural heritage.



ARISTI MOUNTAIN RESORT & VILLA

GREECE

When the nearby Panagia Speleotissa Monastery—built in 1665—fell into disrepair, Aristi Mountain Resort spearheaded and co-funded its restoration. The rodents that were damaging the monastery’s frescoes were removed, antique doors and windows were refurbished, and the monastery’s frescoes were restored. In partnership with the local youth association, the lodge also contributes to the ongoing restoration of Aristi village’s main church, which dates to the early 18th century.



KASBAH DU TOUBKAL

MOROCCO

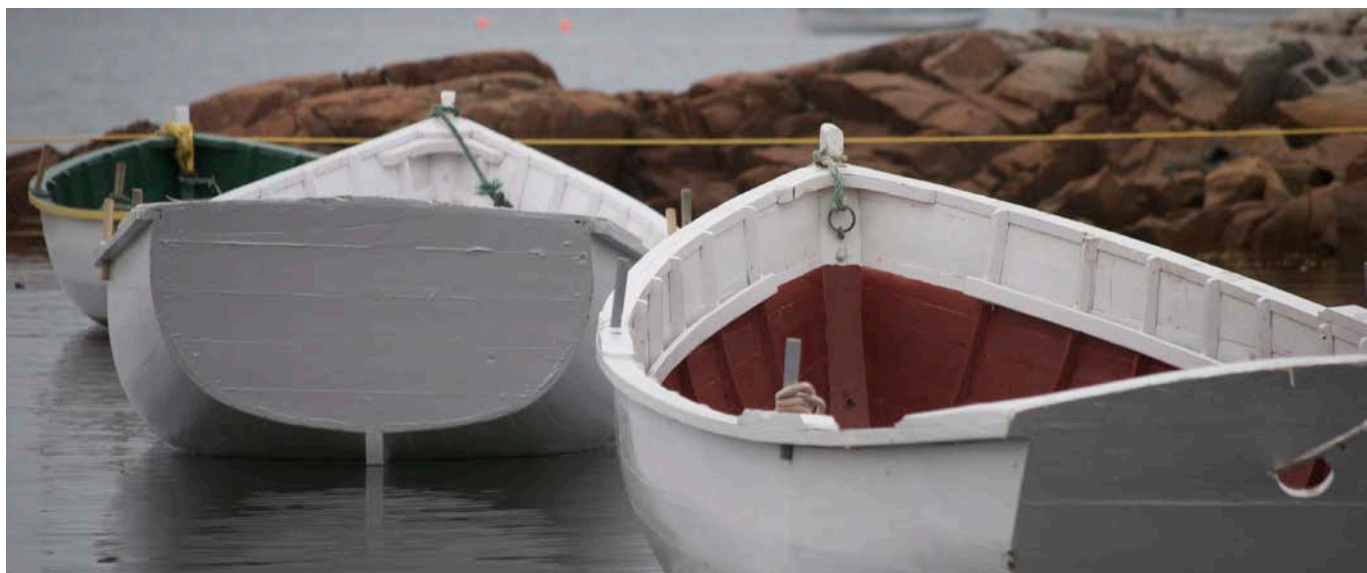
This Moroccan kasbah was in ruins when the current owners purchased it, determined to restore it as a cultural landmark on a hilltop beneath North Africa’s highest peak, Jbel Toubkal. Considered a center of Berber hospitality, the lodge is run by community members and donates a percentage of all guest stays to the Association Bassins d’Imlil, a local group that provides funding for cultural heritage and community initiatives in the small villages of the Imlil Valley.



CHURCHILL WILD—NANUK POLAR BEAR LODGE

CANADA

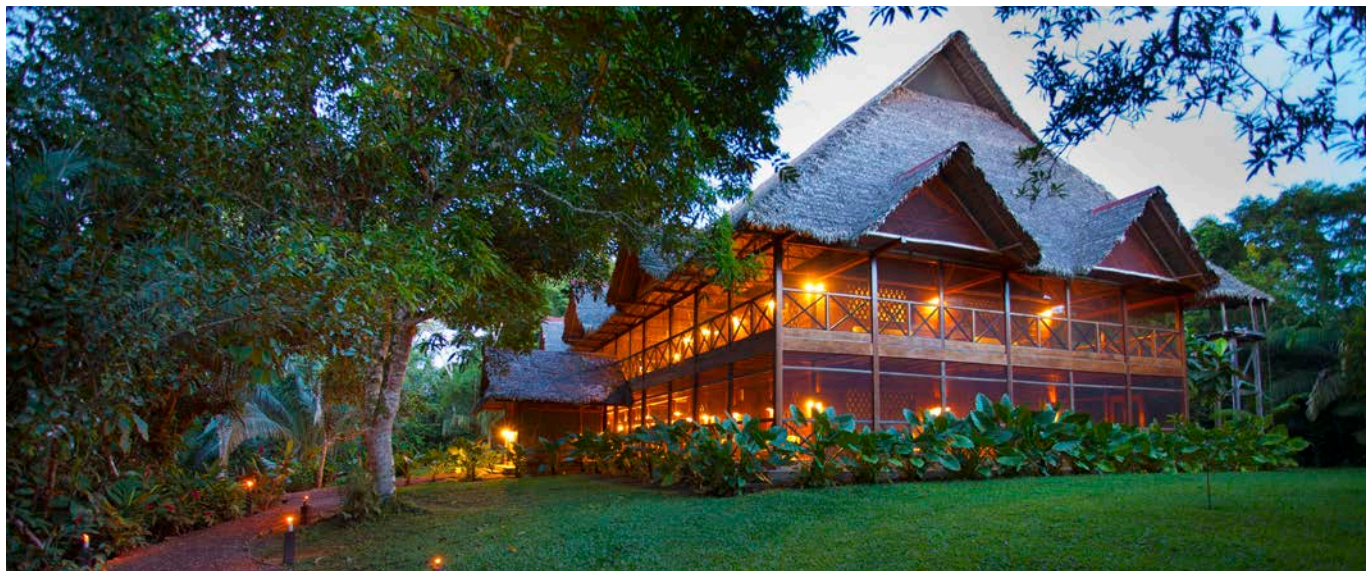
To support the indigenous peoples who call Hudson Bay home, Churchill Wild annually donates its Nanuk Lodge facilities to a community-run outdoor youth mentorship program led by First Nations elders. The experience aims to foster an appreciation of the vast Arctic tundra among the region's youth while promoting traditional activities and inculcating a sense of pride and understanding of their rich cultural legacy.



FOGO ISLAND INN

CANADA

Fogo Island Inn has partnered with the Shorefast Foundation to revitalize the tradition of punt boatbuilding, an important part of this remote island's cultural heritage. Only eight boat builders were left in the community when the project kicked off in the early 2000s; since then, an annual international punt race has been established, boatbuilding classes introduced in local schools, and the historic Punt Premises restored. The Punt Premises houses a rare collection of punts and hosts community events year-round, bringing the island's maritime history alive for locals and visitors alike.



INKATERRA HACIENDA CONCEPCIÓN PERU

Each year, Inkaterra Hacienda Concepción hosts *Momento Selva*, a culinary event led by Virgilio Martínez—one of Peru’s most celebrated chefs. The event offers workshops on Amazonian culinary traditions, indigenous local knowledge, and ecological sustainability, bringing together chefs, academics, artisans, farmers, and community members and promoting global understanding of the region’s natural and cultural diversity.



INKATERRA HACIENDA URUBAMBA PERU

Honoring the Inca legacy of Peru’s Sacred Valley, Hacienda Urubamba has constructed an authentic *chicha de jora* house on-site, where the fermented corn beverage is made in traditional fashion. Guests learn about the history and significance of the libation—used in Inca religious ceremonies—and lend a hand in its preparation, which begins by grinding the corn with a crescent-shaped stone.



ASHFORD CASTLE

IRELAND

Cultural heritage abounds in the spectacularly restored 13th-century Ashford Castle estate. The castle supports local livelihoods and traditions: the majority of its staff comes from the nearby village of Cong, including many third-generation employees, like the *ghillie* fishing guide who assists guests on catch-and-release fishing excursions. The castle also provides funding for sustainable food festivals as well as a village community center, offering a welcoming space for communal events and activities.



TUTKA BAY LODGE

UNITED STATES

Perched on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, Tutka Bay Lodge is home to a 1,000-year-old native hearth as well as two middens or refuse heaps, left by the area's prehistoric inhabitants. The lodge has reconstructed the historic hearth—in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute—and continues to work with native community leaders to better understand and preserve the region's ancient cultural heritage.



TIERRA CHILOÉ HOTEL & SPA

CHILE

Located on Chiloé—South America’s second largest island—Tierra Chiloé’s architecture is inspired by traditional *palafito* stilt houses which dot the coastline. The lodge’s interior décor features textiles and art honoring local Chilota culture and mythology, while a traditional apple press is used to make the island’s famed fermented chicha. The lodge’s private boat, *The Williche* showcases traditional boatbuilding techniques and brings guests on excursions beyond the mainland.



TOPAS ECOLODGE

VIETNAM

Topas Ecolodge provides guests the opportunity to learn about the diverse cultural traditions of the Red Dao ethnic minority during their stay. On interactive village walks, guests witness artisans at work, learn about traditional medicinal plants, and make rice paper. The lodge’s on-site marketplace showcases the hill tribe’s traditional handicrafts, and annual events sponsored by the lodge—such as the Vietnam Mountain Marathon—help raise funds for community needs.



TSARA KOMBA LUXURY BEACH & FOREST LODGE MADAGASCAR

Tsara Komba was built in accordance with ancestral traditions, using local materials that blend with the natural surroundings of Nosy Komba, popularly known as “Lemur Island.” Malagasy artists were hired to create the furniture, paintings, sculptures, and wood carvings that decorate the lodge. The lodge also supports numerous community development projects in the nearby village, including a women’s handicraft center; the women are often invited to the lodge to showcase their work.



ZHIWA LING HERITAGE BHUTAN

Zhiwa Ling upholds Bhutan’s vibrant cultural legacy through traditional hand-carved architecture and immersive guest experiences. A local monk conducts ceremonies at the on-site Buddhist temple—reconstructed from the timbers of a 450-year-old monastery—and guests can join him or meditate there on their own. Local musicians and dancers frequently perform at the lodge, while Zhiwa Ling’s tea house steeps visitors in an important Bhutanese cultural ritual. Lodge staff are trained in Driglam Namzha—the country’s official code of etiquette—which they also share with guests.



INKATERRA LA CASONA

PERU

Located in the heart of Cusco—a UNESCO World Heritage site—Inkaterra La Casona is a 16th-century Spanish colonial mansion built on the site of an Inca army training ground. It was once inhabited by Diego de Almagro, a Spanish conquistador of Peru, and South America’s renowned liberator Simón Bolívar. In 2008, this historic building opened its doors to guests as Cusco’s first boutique hotel, following a careful restoration process that complied with the standards of Peru’s National Institute for Culture. The hotel’s décor reflects the country’s rich cultural history, from pre-Colombian to Spanish colonial to independence.



THALA BEACH NATURE RESERVE

AUSTRALIA

Elders from the local Kuku Yalanji aboriginal community visit this Queensland lodge every week to educate guests about their ancestral knowledge and traditions—part of the lodge’s efforts to recognize and promote the ancient cultural heritage of the region. These weekly presentations provide unique insights into Kuku Yalanji mythology and beliefs; ritual music; traditional medicine; and the tribe’s complex relationship with the natural environment.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES:

US \$3 MILLION PRO
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

MARA PLAINS CAMP
KENYA

VIDED TO SUPPORT TION INITIATIVES

Caring about local communities is a fundamental aspect of our lodges' commitment to sustainable tourism. All of our lodges are engaged in their communities, providing not only employment, but also opportunities in education, health, and small business development. Sourcing locally goes beyond supplies and jobs to building for the future—from Kasbah du Toubkal's five-percent guest levy, which supports a community development fund administered by local villagers, to Pacuare Lodge's participation in an initiative that empowers local stakeholders to work together to improve their community in a sustainable way.

| SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES



78% of the lodges directly support community development initiatives, such as providing clean water to health clinics and funding local community centers.

78% of the lodges directly support community education initiatives, from building classrooms to providing school supplies and offering scholarships.

66% of the lodges employ at least 70% of their staff from local communities.

78%

66%

64%

72%

62%

64% of the lodges provided more than US \$2.5 million in funding to community development initiatives in 2017 and 2018, including \$2.2 million in direct contributions and \$305,308 in in-kind contributions.

62% of the lodges provided more than US \$2.5 million in funding to community development initiatives in 2017-2018, including \$2.2 million in direct contributions and \$305,308 in in-kind contributions.

72% of the lodges provided more than US \$3 million in funding to community education initiatives in 2017 and 2018, including more than US \$2.7 million in direct contributions, and US \$4.2 million in-kind contributions.



GROOTBOS PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE SOUTH AFRICA

In 2016, the Grootbos Foundation—set up by the owners of the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve—established the Masakhane Community Farm and Training Centre, where the basics of food production and entrepreneurship are taught. Plots of land are allocated to

those who have completed the training, allowing community members greater access to nutritious foods as well as a means of supplementing their income with the surplus produce they grow. More than 138 community members have graduated from the program to date.





ANDBEYOND BENGUERRA ISLAND

MOZAMBIQUE

When Benguerra Island's villagers requested a multi-purpose community center, andBeyond Benguerra helped fund its construction. Today, the center is used as a meeting place, where community members gather to discuss important decisions impacting the island's future; it also serves as a base for local medical services, health education, and disaster management assistance. In addition, the lodge offers ongoing support to a variety of community initiatives, such as distributing solar lanterns and teaching English to local students.



JICARO ISLAND LODGE

NICARAGUA

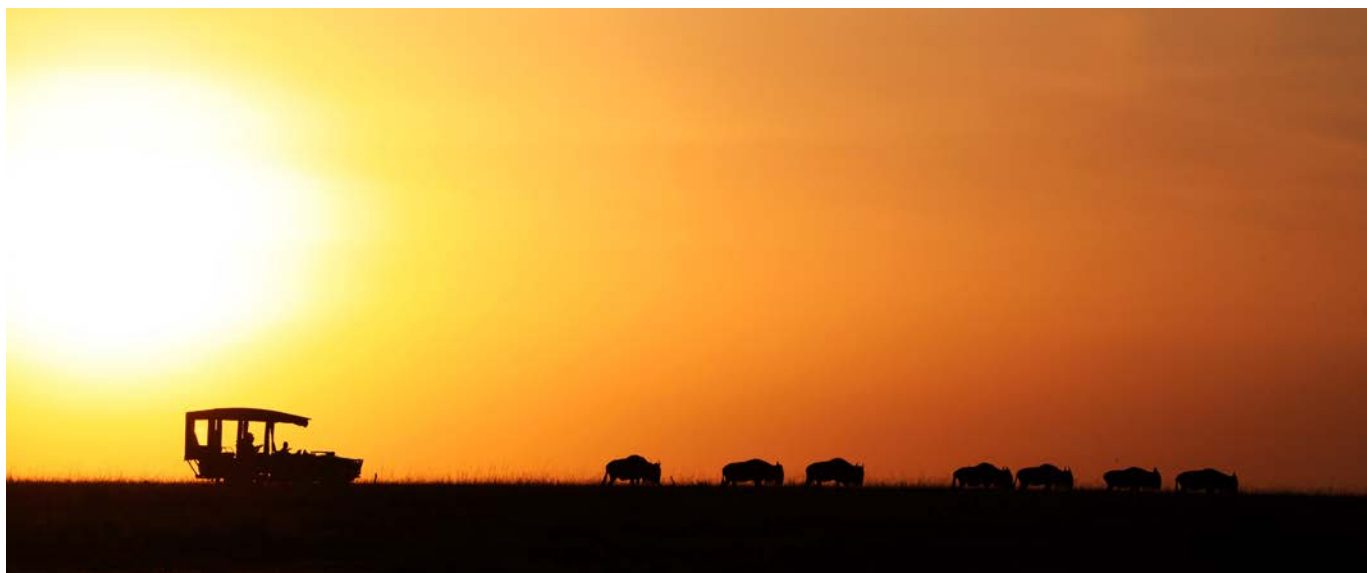
Jicaro Island Lodge has helped install solar panels at the local Padre Nello school, creating a dramatic ripple effect throughout the community. In addition to fueling a water filtration system that provides clean drinking water to students and their families, the renewable energy offers light for nighttime adult education classes and even extends to the community health center, allowing doctors to operate vital medical equipment. The lodge also trains students' parents to sew their children's school uniforms, reducing uniform costs by 60 percent.



LAPA RIOS LODGE

COSTA RICA

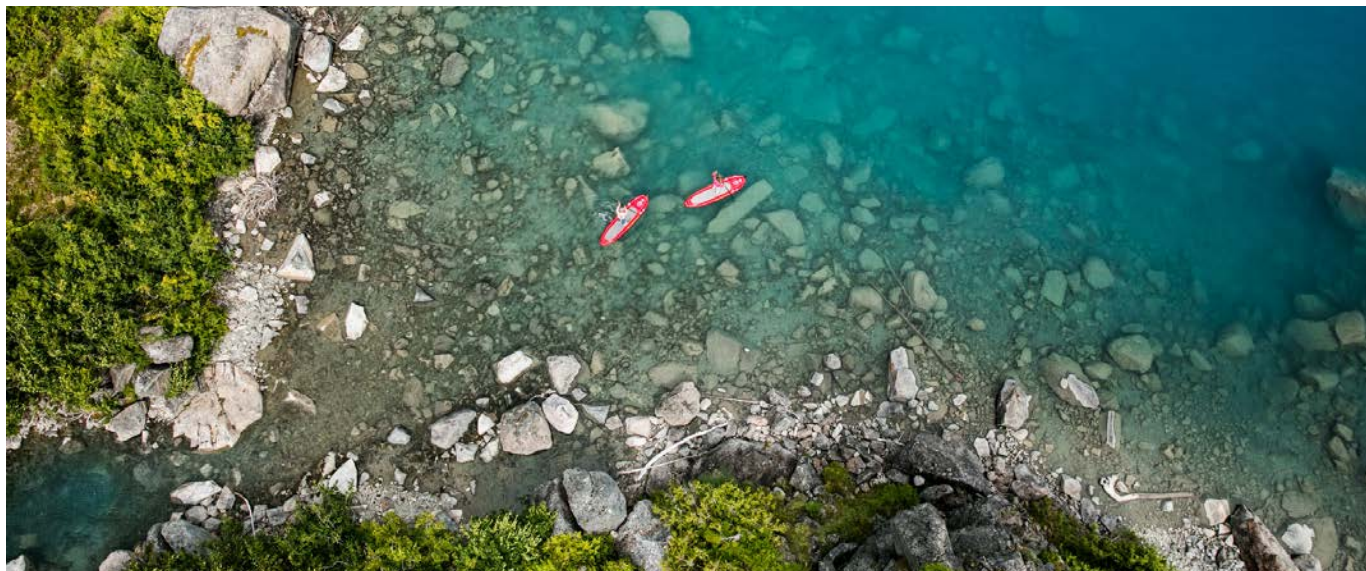
Since 2009, Lapa Rios has been organizing an annual fundraising race called the Lapathon, generating over US \$42,000 for community projects. Lodge staff, guests, and locals run a distance of 10 kilometers together, while a “mini” Lapathon is held for children. Proceeds from the race support community health centers; provide equipment for local schools; and even funded the construction of a public, open-air gym. In 2018, Lapa Rios celebrated a decade of the Lapathon.



MARA PLAINS CAMP

KENYA

With support from the Great Plains Foundation and in partnership with the Maa Trust, Mara Plains Camp runs weeklong student trainings to educate and mentor the future custodians of Kenya’s rich wildlife reserves and critical ecosystems. The lodge provides transport, accommodation, and staff to facilitate these important programs, which combine classroom instruction with field studies and personalized mentorship, and empower local children to become leaders in conservation.



NIMMO BAY WILDERNESS RESORT

CANADA

Family-owned Nimmo Bay Wilderness Resort provides ongoing support to local nonprofit Sea to Cedar, which is focused on connecting local communities to their natural surroundings. Sea to Cedar's Youth Leadership Paddle Program takes First Nations youth from the nearby Musmagw Dzwada'enuxw communities on week-long canoeing trips into the Canadian wilderness, with the goal of teaching navigation and communication skills while fostering strong community bonds.



THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY

ZAMBIA

The Bushcamp Company actively supports education initiatives in local communities around South Luangwa National Park, sponsoring over 350 students and providing assistance to the Kakumbi Community Clinic. The company also hires a local theater group—Sensitization and Education through Kunda Arts (SEKA)—to perform plays centered around human-wildlife conflict. Proceeds from the performances are used to promote awareness and disseminate information about health education at local schools and villages.



THE RANCH AT LAGUNA BEACH

UNITED STATES

This coastal lodge hosts ongoing outreach programs for under-served Californian youth in partnership with the Ocean Institute, with more than 400 participants annually. During “Adventure Camps” held throughout the year, groups of at-risk children—many of whom have never seen the ocean before—have an opportunity to camp out on the lodge’s grounds, combining immersive natural experiences with marine education and youth mentorship.



TIERRA ATACAMA HOTEL & SPA

CHILE

Located in an oasis town in Chile’s dramatic Atacama Desert, Tierra Atacama accepts 12 interns annually from the nearby indigenous Likan Antai technical school. Pairing students with leading members of the lodge staff fosters capacity building and professional development; many of the interns are offered employment at Tierra Atacama after graduation, or find other opportunities in the growing Chilean tourism sector.



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OPERATIONS:

MORE THAN 3.7 MIL
OF WASTE DIVERTED

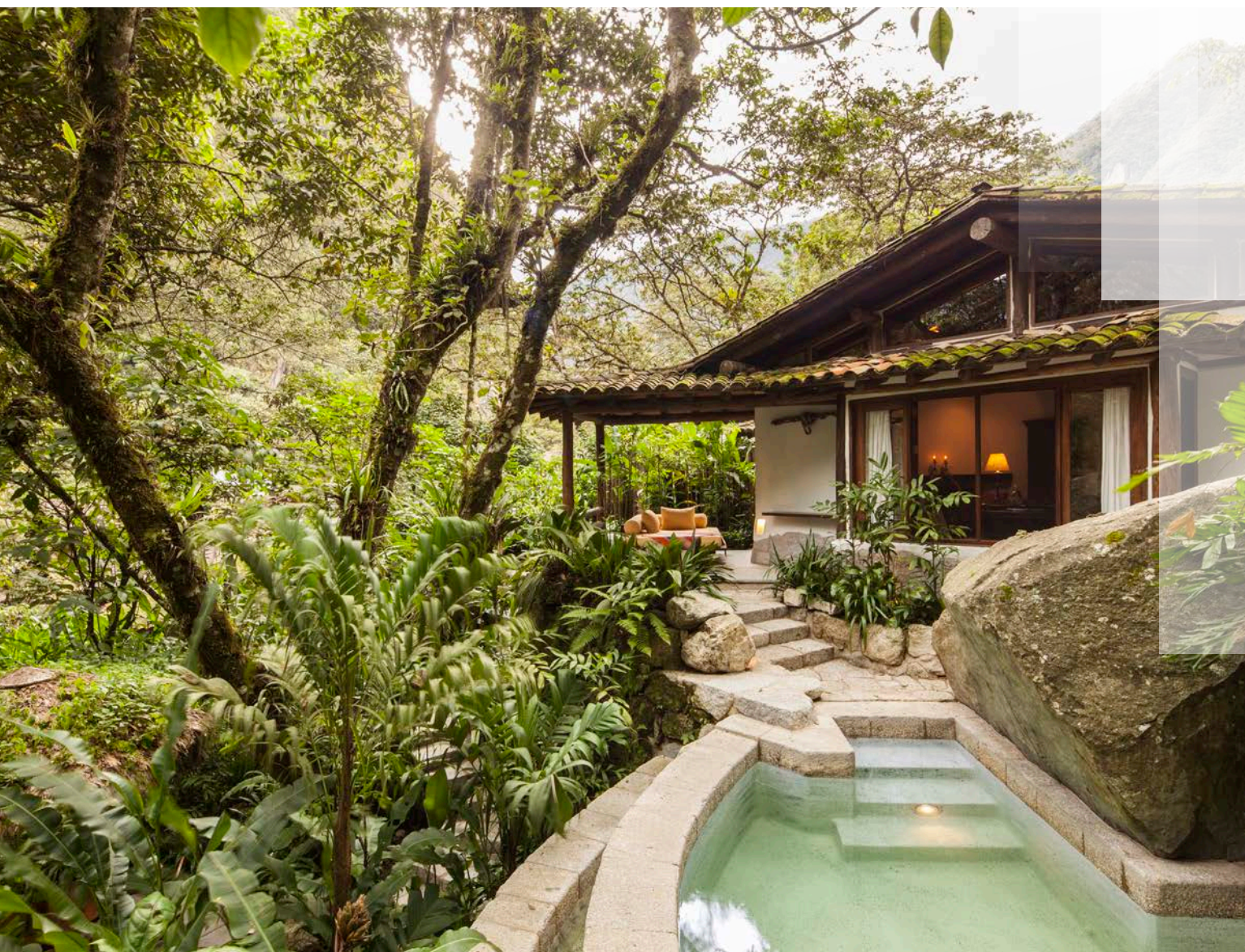
HOTEL HÚSAFELL
ICELAND

The background image is a wide-angle landscape photograph. In the foreground, there's a lush green valley with a small, dark-roofed building nestled among trees. A river or stream flows through the valley. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a sky with soft, wispy clouds. The overall tone is serene and natural.

LION POUNDS FROM LANDFILLS

A cornerstone of sustainable tourism is to minimize the negative environmental impacts of a tourism enterprise. All of our lodges are actively engaged in environmentally friendly operations, from conserving energy and water to reducing waste, recycling materials, repurposing products, and cutting carbon emissions. Through collaboration and innovation, the lodges in this collection continue to look for ways to lighten their footprint in the fragile natural and cultural environments in which they operate.

| ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OPERATIONS



100% of the lodges are actively engaged in efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

84% of the lodges diverted more than 3.7 million pounds of waste from landfills in 2017-2018, with 44% of the lodges diverting more than 50% of their waste.

88% of the lodges conduct sustainability training for their staff.

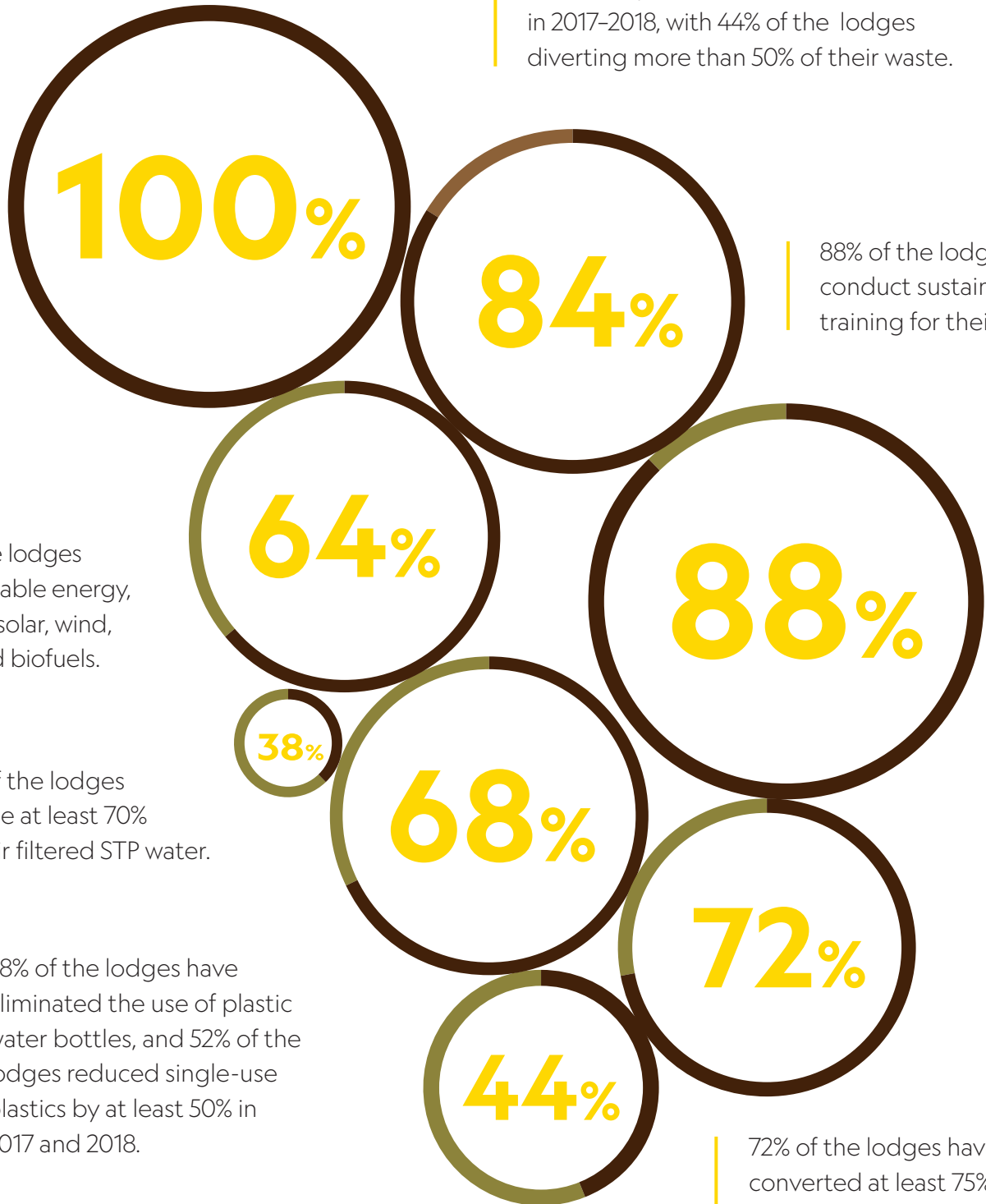
64% of the lodges use renewable energy, including solar, wind, hydro, and biofuels.

38% of the lodges recycle at least 70% of their filtered STP water.

68% of the lodges have eliminated the use of plastic water bottles, and 52% of the lodges reduced single-use plastics by at least 50% in 2017 and 2018.

44% of the lodges use solar energy, ranging from solar panels on individual rooms to supplying up to 100% of the lodge's energy needs.

72% of the lodges have converted at least 75% of their lights to low-energy LED lighting.





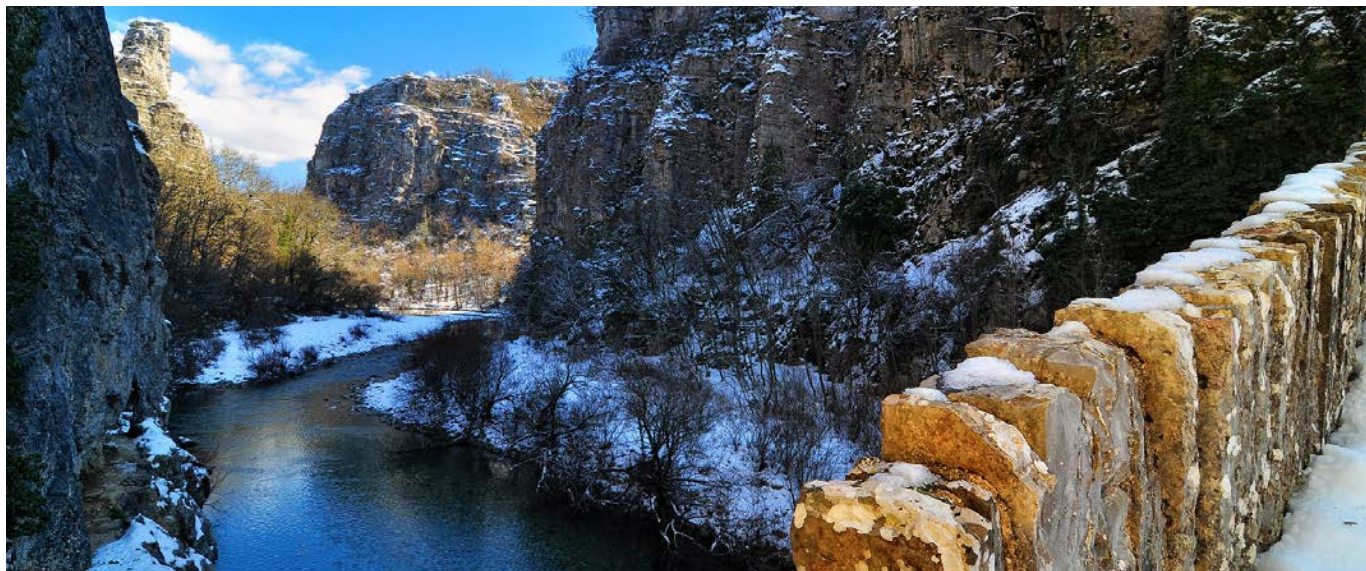
CAYUGA COLLECTION

COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA

Three properties of the Cayuga Collection are National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World: Isla Palenque Resort in Panama, Jicaró Island Lodge in Nicaragua, and Lapa Rios Lodge in Costa Rica. These lodges benefit from the Cayuga Collection's strong leadership and on-the-ground experience implementing sustainable tourism practices and promoting staff, community, and guest empowerment. All three lodges have also eliminated the use of plastic water bottles—including on excursions—and reduced other single-use plastics

by 90 percent or more. A monthly in-house monitoring and reporting system helps each lodge track progress on energy, water, and waste reduction targets, and encourages staff to suggest ways to improve outcomes. Lapa Rios Lodge and Jicaró Island Lodge have achieved a landfill waste diversion rate of 80 percent as a result of robust food composting and recycling efforts, community education, and on-going staff training. Isla Palenque Resort, which opened in 2018, is following in the footsteps of its fellow Cayuga Collection members.





ARISTI MOUNTAIN RESORT & VILLA

GREECE

Located in the stunning Zagori mountain region, Aristi has embarked on a mission to completely eliminate plastic from the property, in line with National Geographic's Planet or Plastic initiative. From guest room amenities to laundry bags and water bottles, plastic products and plastic packaging have been reduced by 98%, demonstrating that it is possible to operate a world-class lodge plastic-free and setting an inspiring example for other hotels.



FINCA ROSA BLANCA

COSTA RICA

In order to avoid the harmful effects of chlorine used in conventional swimming pools, Finca Rosa Blanca utilizes an ionization system that sanitizes water with positively charged copper and silver ions. This unique pool cleaning approach is not only better for the environment and for guests' health; it also serves as a conversation-starter to encourage travelers to learn about the lodge's other eco-friendly practices.



FINCH BAY GALAPAGOS HOTEL

ECUADOR

This island lodge has partnered with Chakrita Labs to establish vertical gardens in the Galápagos archipelago as a sustainable way to grow fresh produce in volcanic terrain. The hotel's restaurant now sources its ingredients from on-site self-fertilizing towers made of recycled barrels, enhancing food quality while reducing the carbon footprint of "food miles." This innovative project also has the potential to improve food security for the residents of the Galápagos, decreasing their dependence on imported produce.



HOTEL HÚSAFELL

ICELAND

At family-owned Hotel Húsafell, four on-site hydropower plants provide energy by harnessing the coursing waters of western Iceland's rugged volcanic terrain. Excess power is sold to the national grid, supporting alternative energy throughout the country. Geothermal waters are also channeled to heat the lodge's facilities and feed outdoor public pools where guests can soak after an active day of exploring the area's striking geological formations.



INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL

PERU

In 2018, the lodge established an on-site processing plant to convert its used cooking oil into biodiesel and glycerin in partnership with the nonprofit Inkaterra Association, the AJE beverage company, and the Municipality of Machu Picchu. The plant also processes used vegetable oil from homes, restaurants, and other hotels in the area, producing 20 gallons of biodiesel daily. The glycerin obtained via the process is used by the Municipality of Machu Picchu to clean stone floors, replacing chemical cleaning products.



ISLA PALENQUE RESORT

PANAMA

In addition to crafting rustic furniture from fallen trees, Isla Palenque Resort—located on a private Panamanian island—has also eliminated single-use plastics, replacing them with creative local solutions like drinking straws made from papaya leaves. Guests can also join behind-the-scenes tours that showcase other sustainable practices at the lodge.



CHURCHILL WILD—SEAL RIVER HERITAGE LODGE

CANADA

Located in Canada's remote Arctic tundra, this lodge has dramatically reduced its reliance on diesel generators by installing solar panels. Solar energy now provides 75 percent of the property's electricity, which has had the added benefit of decreasing the number of flights needed to transport fossil fuels to the lodge and reducing noise and air pollution. Fallen wood is also collected from around the property to create biofuel, supplying 50 percent of the lodge's heating.



SUNDY PRAIA

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

Nestled within tropical rainforest, Sundy Praia's guest villas were designed to cause minimal disturbance to the surrounding environment, and a property-wide "no cut" policy applies to all native trees. In a country where drinking water is imported, the lodge sources and treats its water on-site and bottles it in reusable glass containers.



THE RANCH AT LAGUNA BEACH

UNITED STATES

In 2017, this Californian lodge began to create its own “sand” from used glass bottles. The first hospitality enterprise in North America to operate the GLSand glass crushing machine, Laguna Beach recycles 90 percent of its waste glass by creating a sand-like product that is then used in walkways and other areas around the property. The lodge also only serves beverages bottled in glass, ensuring an environmentally friendly supply chain for all bottled drinks consumed on-site.



TIERRA CHILOÉ HOTEL & SPA

CHILE

Built from responsibly sourced Chilean wood, Tierra Chiloé’s sustainable geometric design conserves up to 66 percent of energy that would otherwise be lost; it also harnesses the island’s natural ventilation, eliminating the need for air-conditioning. The lodge features a rooftop rain catchment system that both stores water and recycles it for irrigation, while heat for the property is produced at on-site biomass boilers by incinerating locally produced sawdust pellets.



TSWALU KALAHARI

SOUTH AFRICA

As a result of diligent conservation efforts, water consumption within the Tswalu Kalahari—South Africa’s largest private game reserve, where the lodge is located—has been reduced by 100,000 liters per month. Efforts include reducing water usage; treating and recycling wastewater; and employing a comprehensive monitoring system that constantly measures water use and sets new targets for conservation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

COSTAS CHRIST



Costas Christ is one of the world’s leading experts on sustainable tourism. Now a senior advisor for National Geographic Expeditions, Costas has traveled to more than 130 countries and lectured and published widely on tourism’s global impact. Costas was recognized by the IAmEco-Warrior project alongside conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall, ocean explorer Dr. Sylvia Earle, and CNN founder Ted Turner as a visionary working towards a sustainable future for the planet. He was the lead author of *Tourism and Biodiversity: Mapping Tourism’s Global Footprint* (UNEP 2003) and a contributing author to *Wilderness: Earth’s Last Wild Places* (CI 2002); *Transboundary Conservation: A New Vision for Protected Areas* (Cemex 2005); and *Echoes of Bhutan* (Shaffer 2017). His stories appear regularly in *National Geographic Traveler* magazine, where he is also an editor at large.

To learn more, visit natgeolodges.com/sustainability





TIERRA PATAGONIA HOTEL & SPA
CHILE

CONTRIBUTING MEMBER LODGES

The following lodges contributed to this report:

andBeyond Benguerra Island, Mozambique

andBeyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, Tanzania

Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas, Greece

Ashford Castle, Ireland

Bentwood Inn, United States

Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve
& Wellness Retreat, South Africa

Churchill Wild-Nanuk Polar Bear Lodge, Canada

Churchill Wild-Seal River Heritage Lodge, Canada

Finca Rosa Blanca, Costa Rica

Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel, Ecuador

Fogo Island Inn, Canada

Fregate Island Private, Seychelles

Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, South Africa

Hotel Húsafell, Iceland

Inkaterra Hacienda Concepción, Peru

Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, Peru

Inkaterra La Casona, Peru

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Peru

Isla Palenque Resort, Panama

Jicaro Island Lodge, Nicaragua

Kasbah du Toubkal, Morocco

Lapa Rios Lodge, Costa Rica

Likuliku Lagoon Resort, Fiji

Lizard Island, Australia



50 LODGES | 1,387 ROOMS

Lone Mountain Ranch, United States

Mara Plains Camp, Kenya

Mashpi Lodge, Ecuador

Nimmo Bay Wilderness Resort, Canada

ol Donyo Lodge, Kenya

Pacuare Lodge, Costa Rica

Petit St. Vincent Private Island Resort,
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve, South Africa

Siwash Lake Wilderness Resort, Canada

Sukau Rainforest Lodge, Malaysian Borneo

Sundy Praia, São Tomé and Príncipe

Thala Beach Nature Reserve, Australia

The Bushcamp Company, Zambia

The Ranch at Laguna Beach, United States

Three Camel Lodge, Mongolia

Tiamo Resort, Bahamas

Tierra Atacama Hotel & Spa, Chile

Tierra Chiloé Hotel & Spa, Chile

Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa, Chile

Topas Ecolodge, Vietnam

Tsara Komba Luxury Beach & Forest Lodge,
Madagascar

Tswalu Kalahari, South Africa

Tutka Bay Lodge, United States

Winterlake Lodge, United States

Zarafa Camp, Botswana

Zhiwa Ling Heritage, Bhutan

LEARN MORE AT
[NATGEOLODGES.COM/SUSTAINABILITY](https://natgeolodges.com/sustainability)



UNIQUE LODGES
OF THE WORLD