Protecting endangered wildlife and empowering local communities: New TUI Wildlife projects launched in Kenya and Costa Rica to preserve unique ecosystems

- *TUI Wildlife Kenya protects endangered animals and improves water infrastructure to benefit wildlife and communities in the Tsavo region*
- *TUI Wildlife Costa Rica safeguards the endangered Great Green Macaw and Lemur Leaf Frog and creates sustainable tourism experiences*
- *Initiatives are part of the international TUI Wildlife programme, which protects endangered wildlife and habitats in destinations across the world*

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Berlin, 12th September 2024. *The TUI Care Foundation has launched two new TUI Wildlife projects aimed at safeguarding endangered wildlife and their habitats in two iconic tourism destinations. In many regions around the world, water scarcity and limited livelihood opportunities lead to adverse effects on the environment. This often results in the destruction of wildlife habitats through logging, overgrazing, extensions of farmland, and wildlife crimes. To support local communities and protect endangered wildlife, the TUI Care Foundation is working with local partners in Kenya and Costa Rica to address these challenges.*

In Kenya, the Tsavo region is experiencing a severe yearlong drought. Disrupted weather patterns, irregular rainfall and high temperatures make its historically green terrain increasingly barren. To mitigate this, the TUI Care Foundation, in partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation, is launching **TUI Wildlife Kenya**. Five endangered species will be protected during a three-year project, including elephants, giraffes, lions, cheetahs and pangolins. Water access will be improved through separate water infrastructures and two boreholes, which will reduce competition for water resources for wildlife and livestock and will secure a water supply for over 20,000 people.
The initiative will also strengthen local farming systems by constructing three greenhouses to increase food security, setting three acres under drip irrigation, and supporting three poultry and pig farming groups. Together with the Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA), local livelihoods will be improved through entrepreneurship training and market linkages for sisal weaving and leather tanning production. Overall, around 300 members of local communities in Tsavo will receive training in climate-smart agriculture and in marketing their authentic products to the tourism industry.

Through **TUI Wildlife Costa Rica**, the habitat of a variety of species, including the endangered Great Green Macaw and Lemur Leaf Frog, will be protected in the area around Barbilla National Park. The project is implemented in partnership with the Work with Nature, which is part of the non-profit organisation Adopt Rainforest. The reserve is rich in biodiversity and covers 275 hectares of rainforest. However, significant deforestation in this area means that many tree and animal species are lost or

threatened. During the three-year project, 4,000 Almendro trees will be planted and nesting boxes will be installed to provide food and nesting opportunities for the Great Green Macaw. In addition, the project will create a number of frog pools to support the critically endangered Lemur Leaf Frog that has been successfully reintroduced into the area over recent years. Camera traps will enable the detection, counting and monitoring of wildlife. To protect the reserve, local rangers will be trained to conserve the flora and fauna of the rainforest. Through walking tours, tourists and the local community will have the unique opportunity to observe and explore this remarkable ecosystem.

Both projects are part of TUI Care Foundation's TUI Wildlife Programme, which aims to protect endangered wildlife and habitats in tourist destinations worldwide.

About the TUI Care Foundation

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Building on the potential of tourism as a force for good, the TUI Care Foundation supports and initiates projects which create new opportunities and contribute to thriving communities in tourism destinations all over the world. Connecting holidaymakers to good causes, it supports education and training opportunities for young people; drives the protection of natural habitats and the marine environment; and helps local communities to thrive sustainably and benefit from tourism. The TUI Care Foundation builds on strong partnerships with local and international organisations to create meaningful and long-lasting impact. The independent charitable organisation was founded by TUI, one of the world's leading tourism businesses, and is based in the Netherlands. Website: www.tuicarefoundation.com

About African Wildlife Foundation

The African Wildlife Foundation is the primary advocate for the protection of wildlife and their habitats as an essential part of a modern and prosperous Africa. Founded in 1961 during the African independence movement in order to build our capacity to steward our natural resources, AWF articulates a uniquely African vision, bridging science, education, public policy, and field programs to demonstrate the benefits of conservation and build a future for Africa where people and wildlife thrive.
Website: www.awf.org

About Work with Nature

Work with Nature was born out of pure passion for the rainforest and its biodiversity. This passion is in the DNA of the foundation and is the unlimited motivation to continue with the good work they do. The foundation is located in the Netherlands and mainly focuses on fundraising and education in order to achieve the practical goals in Costa Rica. The foundation protects Costa Rican rainforest, and facilitates research in this area. Work with Nature is committed to the preservation and restoration of at least 2000 hectares of rainforest in Costa Rica through the purchase of rainforest and the active protection of both this rainforest and its biodiversity.
Website: www.adoptrainforest.com

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