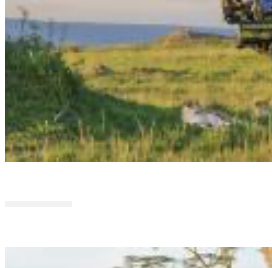


Tanzania Photo Safari
9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS



On Safari: Tanzania's Great Migration
9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS



Tanzania Safari Experience
7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

Protecting Tanzania's Wildlife: Q&A with Conservationist Hans Cosmas Ngoteya

Hans Cosmas Ngoteya is a conservationist from Tanzania with a passion for filmmaking and photography. For several years, he has worked on an initiative called Vijana na Mazingira, or Youths and the Environment, in a remote village in eastern Tanzania that neighbors one of the country's largest national parks. This project aims to raise conservation awareness, educate communities on sustainable environmental practices and ultimately, Hans hopes, help future generations coexist with wildlife.

As an expert for National Geographic Expeditions, Hans accompanies trips to share his expertise in wildlife protection and emerging resource challenges. Here, he discusses his travels, his work in Tanzania and his personal connection to conservation.

Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in conservation?

Hans: I grew up in Arusha, Northern Tanzania. I was among the lucky few to have gone through an education system. The town is close to the famous Serengeti plains and Kilimanjaro National Park, and it is a hub for wildlife, making tourism a leading activity and source of income. While growing up, I had a passion for wildlife and had a great desire to work as a tour guide or park ranger. My interest led me to pursue a Diploma in Wildlife Management at the College of African Wildlife Management based in Tanzania.

During my education, I realized that there were more opportunities for me to pursue than just being a tour guide or a ranger in the field of conservation. Over time, I developed a passion to educate others about conservation. I felt the need for people to understand that it's the responsibility of everybody to conserve. I feel conservation has largely been left for park rangers, researchers and tour guides, but I believe in collective responsibility. Therefore, I have been an ambassador for sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of all. My goal is to create broad awareness on wise use of natural resources and engage communities in reversing and abandoning activities that are harmful to our environment, as well as reduce overdependence on natural resources.

Q: How would you characterize the environment, people or wildlife in this region?

Hans: The environment seems to expand for eternity. Vast open plains ebb and flow with the passing of a multitude of creatures. At any one time, there could be thousands of wildebeest as far as the eye can see, and that same place hours later will be completely devoid of apparent life. The long grasses during part of the year conceal many animals, which are hunting or being hunted. The people of this region seamlessly blend with the wildlife—their roaming and grazing habits continuing in parallel. It is a dynamic and unpredictable environment, timeless except for the safari vehicles full of eager tourists.



Q: How do you think the experience of visiting Tanzania will impact Travelers?

Hans: Travelers will not only get an opportunity to witness one of the world wonders—the Serengeti migration—but also will be able to learn how people in this region have managed to live harmoniously with the wildlife. They'll see the different efforts that the people and authority around the area have managed so that these places are used sustainably and that people of the next generation will have an opportunity to witness them.

Q: What is one of the most meaningful projects you've worked on?

Hans: My favorite and most meaningful project in the region is called Conservation Career. In the past 3 years, we have been working on an award-winning conservation film where we featured different conservation experts in the region, especially women. The film aims to educate school students in Tanzania about the different conservation careers that they are capable of pursuing. This year, we are going to go around to schools to show the film, especially those in the age group that are in the position of selecting their career path.



Q: What is your favorite memory in your work travels with National Geographic Expeditions?

Hans: My favorite memory was my first sighting of an intense crossing of wildebeest on the Mara River. I have witnessed crossings before, but there was nothing to compare with this. It was a frenzy of survival and determination that was completely awe-inspiring. I have never experienced anything like this.

Learn more about [Hans Cosmas Ngoteya](#) and explore a full list of [National Geographic Expedition trips](#) to exciting destinations around the globe.



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