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BOTSWANA'S TOP SAFARI REVEALED

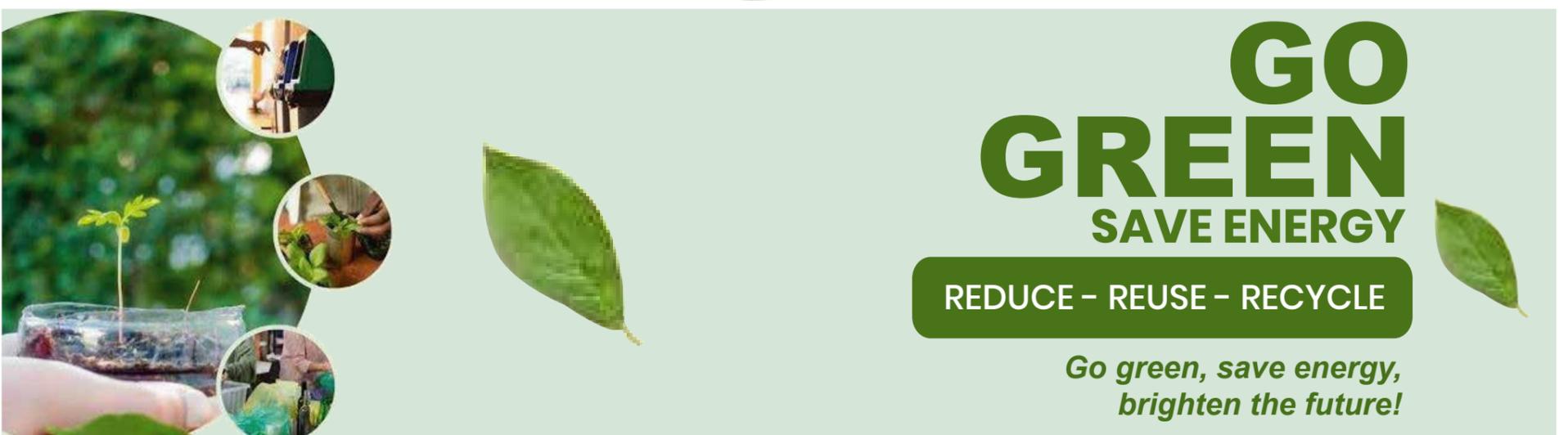
- Ultimate guide to the best safari tours in Botswana
- Top safari tours show off Botswana's natural beauty
- Botswana safari shine as tourist seek authentic African adventure
- Botswana ranked among Africa's best safari destinations

World on edge as climate crisis intensifies **STORY ON PAGE 5**



Britain muscles in
on Green Africa

PAGE 2



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BRITAIN MUSCLES IN ON GREEN AFRICA

- BRITAIN LEADS GLOBAL CALL FOR URGENT CLIMATE ACTION.
- STARMER'S TEAM LANDS BIG CLIMATE DEALS AS G20 BACKS GLOBAL CONSERVATION PUSH.



The United Kingdom stormed into the recent G20 summit in Johannesburg South Africa with a bold message of Britain betting big on Africa's green future and wants to be the center of its climate and conservation boom.

With the United States boycotting the summit and leaving an empty chair, Britain seized the moment

backing a global declaration calling for urgent climate action, fair financing for poorer nations and stronger protection of nature.

The G20 spotlighted climate disasters hammering Africa's wildlife hotspots from drought hit savannas to flood battered wetlands. Leaders have

demanded more cash for adaptation, early warning systems and protection of vulnerable ecosystems.

The British government says it is ready to deliver investment into clean infrastructure and supporting Africa's shift to greener energy systems, a move that could ease pressure on forests and wildlife rich landscapes.

Britain also rolled out new partnerships with South Africa to boost small businesses and improve eco-friendly rail transport deals billed as green growth that creates jobs not pollution.

The summit placed heavy emphasis on climate resilience, sustainable financing and support for vulnerable regions aligning closely with UK priorities and partnerships in Africa.

The G20 summit may have been overshadowed by political drama but for Britain it was a power move. With climate crisis accelerating, the UK wants to be the partner Africa turns to for green growth and wildlife protection.

EXXON'S BIG BET ON PLASTIC RECYCLING

- Energy giant pushes new advance recycling tech as plastic waste piles up worldwide
- Critics say the solution may fall short



ExxonMobil says it has the answer to the world's plastic waste crisis. The company says it is going to use a high-tech process called advanced recycling that breaks down dirty, mixed plastics and turns them into new materials. The oil giant insists this could keep millions of tons of waste out of landfills and oceans.

Environmental watchdogs are, however, not sold to what Exxon is proposing. They warn that the technology is still unproven at scale and could end up producing fuels instead of new plastics.

They say this risks giving the world a false sense of progress while plastic production keeps climbing.

Exxon argues that governments should support the rollout of chemical recycling plants and modern waste collection systems. It says inconsistent policy frameworks risk stalling innovation needed to scale up recycling systems globally.

Critics counter that real change must start with cutting single use plastics not just reinventing them.

Regulatory scrutiny has also intensified in Europe and the United States as governments are examining how recycled content should be measured and whether advanced recycling delivers the climate and environmental gains companies claim. For conservationists and communities concerned about plastic leakage into

rivers, protected areas and wildlife habitats, the debate holds major implications.

If advanced recycling achieves its stated goals, it could help reduce the environmental burden of plastics without disrupting industries that depend on them.

For wildlife rich regions already choking on plastic on plastics from African parks to global coastlines, the stakes could be higher as they desperately need recycling help.

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AFRICA PUSHES BACK AT CITES

BOTSWANA LEADS SOUTHERN AFRICA STATES IN REJECTING BLANKET TRADE BANS AS GLOBAL PRESSURE GROWS.

Tensions flared and alliances shifted at the just ended 2025 CITES, CoP20 conference as Botswana and the United Kingdom emerged on opposite ends of the global wildlife trade debate, each championing their own brand of conservation in a fast-changing world.

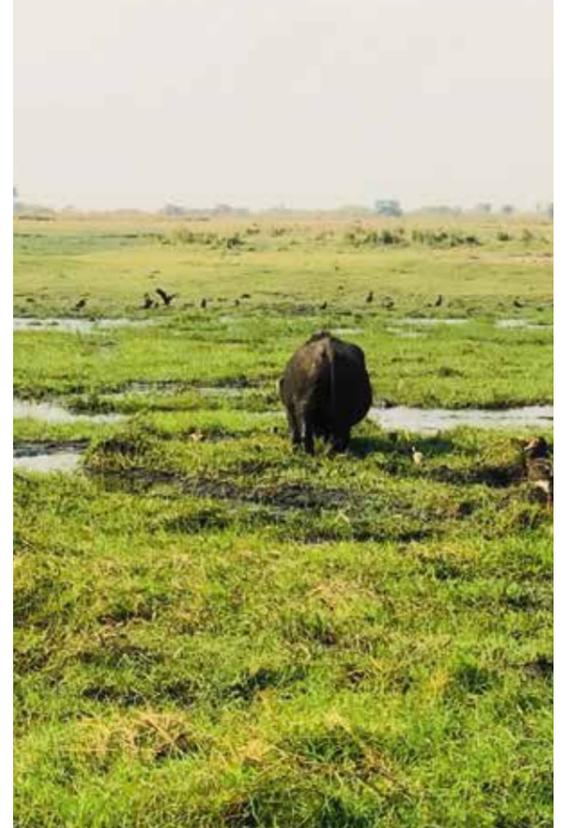
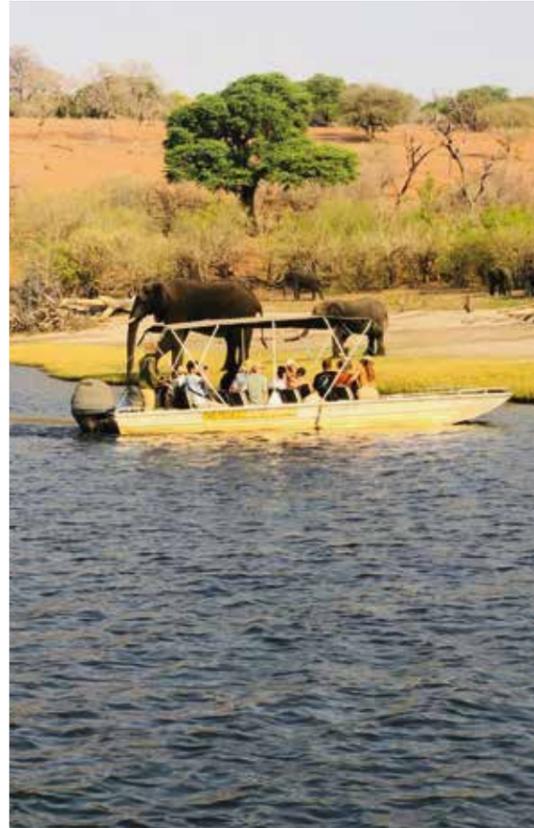
The conference, which is the biggest wildlife trade summit in history, decides how lions, elephants, sharks, timber and dozens of other species will be treated under international law for the next three years.

A senior Botswana delegate said the country would oppose any attempt to tighten ivory restrictions insisting that countries with successful conservation records should not be punished for managing wildlife better than the rest of the world.

Botswana which is home to the world's largest elephant population arrived in Samarkand in Uzbekistan determined to defend the right of Southern African states to benefit from their wildlife resources.

Botswana officials argue that communities living alongside elephants and predators pay a high price in the form of crop loss, livestock killings and rising human wildlife conflict while global donors push for blanket trade bans from afar.

Botswana also supported regional calls for CITES to revisit ivory stockpile rules, insisting that controlled science-based trade could fund conservation and ease community pressures. Across the negotiating floor, the UK delegation pushed for strict controls, especially on marine species and



high-end value wildlife products. UK has warned that wildlife trafficking has become a major branch of organised crime, with routes linking Africa, Asia and Europe.

The UK championed the newly adopted shark and ray protections, calling them a historic breakthrough for ocean ecosystems. British officials further pressed for tougher enforcement mechanisms and digital permitting systems to fight illegal

wildlife shipments entering European ports.

Botswana and Southern Africa partners insist that commercial bans alone cannot solve conservation problems, while the UK and EU argue that global markets must be tightly regulated to stop criminal networks.

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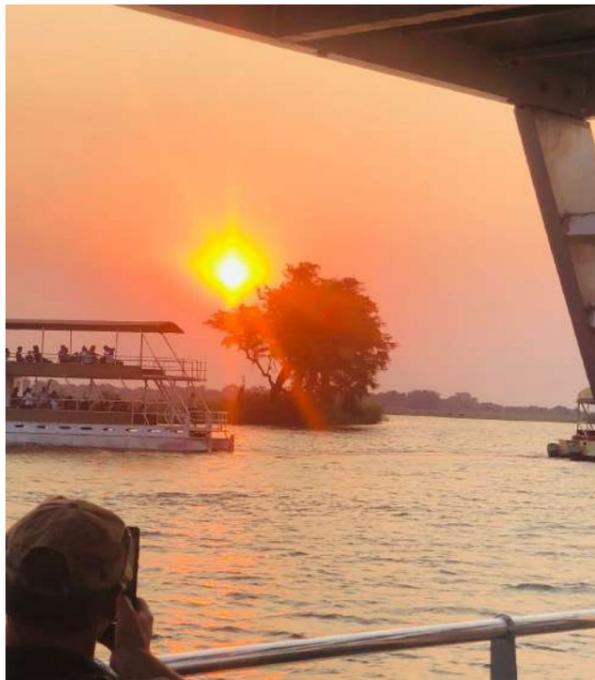
BOTSWANA'S TOP SAFARI ADVENTURES REVEALED

- **Ultimate guide to the best safari tours in Botswana**
- **Top safari tours show off Botswana's natural beauty**
- **Botswana ranked among Africa's best safari destinations**

Botswana remains one of Africa's premier safari destinations. Known for its pristine wilderness and commitment to sustainable tourism, the country offers an unforgettable safari experience and a variety of tours to suit every traveler, from the glistening waterways of the Okavango Delta to the vast salt pans of Makgadikgadi. The country offers one of the best safari tours that combine breathtaking wildlife, comfort, and conservation.

No trip to Botswana is complete without gliding silently through the Okavango Delta in a traditional mokoro known as dugout canoe. Guided by local polers, visitors explore narrow channels teeming with birds, elephants, and hippos. This experience, offered by community-based operators like Okavango Polers Trust, brings travelers close to nature while supporting local livelihoods.

The Chobe National Park which is home to Africa's largest elephant population also offers some of the most thrilling game viewing on the continent. Safari tours there combine boat cruises on the Chobe River with 4x4 game drives, giving visitors a chance to see elephants, buffaloes, and lions in a single afternoon. Sunset cruises are especially popular for photographers and tourists who are new to African safari. Located in the heart of the



Okavango, is the Moremi Game Reserve which is renowned for its rich biodiversity. Luxury and mid-range tour companies offer guided expeditions with expert trackers. The Moremi game reserve is one of the few places in Africa where you can see the Big Five in a single reserve.

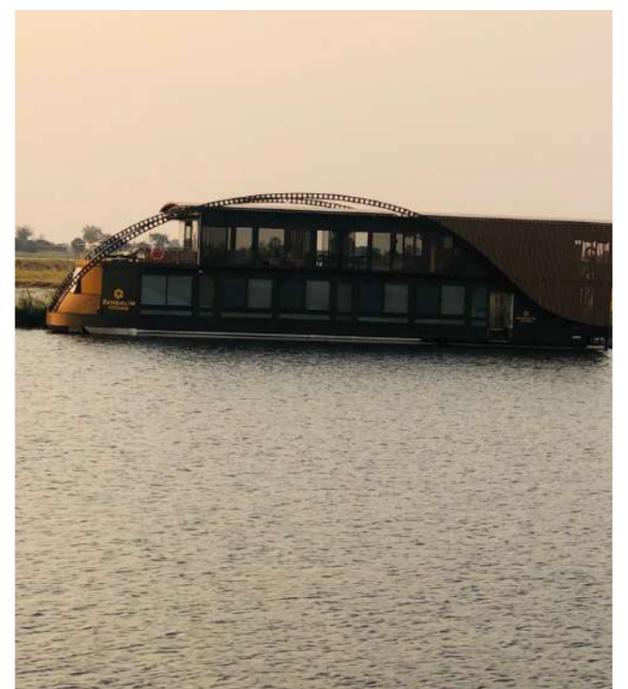
Then there is the Central Kalahari Desert adventure for those seeking solitude and vast open landscape which provide a different kind of safari. Visitors can spot oryx, cheetahs, and the legendary black-maned lions. Budget and camping safaris are run from Maun, giving travelers a more rugged, authentic experience.

The Makgadikgadi Pans which is one of the world's largest salt flats on the other hand offers surreal beauty, flamingo migrations, and cultural interactions with San Bushmen

guides. Quad biking and walking safaris across the pans are popular with adventurous visitors.

Botswana's Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme has also inspired a new generation of responsible tourism. In areas such as Sankuyo and Khwai, community trusts run eco-lodges and safari tours that ensure profits return to residents while preserving wildlife habitats.

Botswana's safari model emphasizes low-impact, high-value tourism, protecting its wilderness while delivering world-class experiences. Whether camping under the stars or staying in a luxury lodge, visitors are reminded that the true spirit of Botswana lies in its wild, untamed landscapes and the people who protect them. When you visit Botswana, you don't just see the animals you become part of their conservation story.



WORLD ON EDGE AS CLIMATE CRISIS INTENSIFIES

The world is standing at a critical juncture in the fight against climate change. Scientists warn that the 1.5 °C threshold once considered the upper limit for a safe planet is now slipping beyond reach. Recent United Nations assessments reveal that global temperatures have already exceeded this mark in several months of 2024 and 2025, signaling the arrival of a new climate reality.

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has warned that humanity is on a path toward escalating disasters urging people to change course. From record-breaking heatwaves in Europe and North America to catastrophic floods in South Asia and prolonged droughts in Africa, the signs are unmistakable. Extreme weather events, once rare, have become routine displacing millions, destroying livelihoods, and costing economies billions.

In September, Hurricane Melissa tore through the Caribbean, fueled by unusually warm Atlantic waters. According to the World Meteorological Organization, 2025 has already seen more weather-related disasters than any previous year on record. Reports indicate that



Global sea-surface temperatures have soared to historic highs, triggering a mass coral bleaching event affecting reefs across the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans.

While no country is immune, the burden of climate change falls most heavily on those least responsible for it. Many African, Asian, and Latin American nations face a dual challenge: adapting to extreme conditions while striving for development.

The United Nations have reiterated that climate change threatens progress on more than half of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from food security to poverty reduction. Despite growing awareness, action remains uneven.

The UN's latest emissions gap report shows that even if all current national pledges are fulfilled, global temperatures could still rise by up to 2.7 °C by the end of the century. Activists and scientists alike argue that the pace of transition to renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate finance must accelerate dramatically.

Experts stress that immediate and coordinated action is essential to curb emissions, protect vulnerable ecosystems, and build resilience for communities on the front lines. They say the next decade will determine whether humanity averts a full-scale climate catastrophe or locks in a future of irreversible damage.

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BOTSWANA'S BOLD PATH TO SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION

A new wave of community led projects is redefining how Botswana protects its wildlife and supports local livelihoods.

Botswana, long celebrated for its vast wilderness and abundant wildlife, is once again at the heart of Africa's conservation success story. This time, it's not just about elephants, lions, or the Okavango Delta — it's about people, policy, and the promise of sustainable coexistence.

Communities across the country are leading a grassroots movement to protect the environment while building resilient livelihoods. At the center of this effort is Natural Resource Management, CBNRM programme which is a globally recognized model that empowers rural communities to manage and benefit from their surrounding wildlife and natural resources.

Communities have welcome the CBNRM policy as it gives them a stake in conservation because when locals are involved in protecting wildlife,

they also protect their own future. Under the CBNRM framework, villages form community trusts that manage tourism concessions, forests, and grazing lands. Revenue from eco-tourism, photographic safaris, and sustainable resource use, flows back to local projects to fund schools, clinics, and clean water initiatives.

This approach has helped reduce human-wildlife conflict and curb illegal hunting by ensuring that wildlife becomes an economic asset, not a liability. In some areas, elephant populations have stabilized, and previously degraded lands are showing signs of ecological recovery.

Botswana's government, alongside organizations like the Botswana Tourism Organisation, BTO and Department of Wildlife and National Parks, continues to strengthen conservation laws. Recent efforts include expanding protected corridors between national parks

and promoting eco-friendly tourism standards that limit environmental footprints. However, conservation faces modern pressures. Climate change has intensified droughts, threatening water sources vital for both people and wildlife.

Population growth and land-use expansion are testing the balance between development and preservation. To address this, conservation groups are investing in climate-smart adaptation projects — such as solar-powered boreholes, sustainable grazing systems, and reforestation in semi-arid zones.

Experts say Botswana's future depends on how well we integrate conservation with climate resilience as the survival of wildlife comes from the survival of the communities.

In an era where the world is struggling to balance growth with environmental protection, Botswana offers a hopeful lesson that true conservation is not about locking nature away, but living with it, wisely and sustainably.



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SPECTACLE OF SURVIVAL AS WILDBEEST MIGRATION STUNS THE SERENGETI



The great wildebeest migration is the largest single movement of wild animals in the world. It has been listed as one of the eight natural wonders and an exceptional inspiration for a dream tour.

The migration is one of the greatest natural phenomena as millions of wildebeest and zebra cross the crocodile infested Mara river to Masai Mara river and back to Serengeti, highlighting struggle for survival against all odds.

The wildebeest migration occurs yearly as millions of wildebeest alongside Zebras and gazelles travel across the plains of East

Africa, primarily in Tanzania's Serengeti National park and Kenya's Masai Mara driven by the need for fresh grazing and water after seasonal rains.

Creating a massive, circular movement that is considered the largest land mammal migration on Earth; this migration is notable for its calving season where a large number of calves are born at once, making them vulnerable to predators, and the dramatic river crossings where they face dangers like crocodiles; the migration also plays a critical ecological role by replenishing grasslands and sustaining predator populations.

Key points about the wildebeest migration:

Calving season:

The most dramatic part of the migration is the calving season, where most wildebeest give birth within a short period, usually occurring in the southern Serengeti between late January and mid-March.

River crossings:

A dangerous part of the migration is crossing rivers like the Mara River, where crocodiles often prey on the herds.

Predators:

While the wildebeest migrate, large numbers of predators like lions, hyenas, and leopards follow to hunt the vulnerable calves and weaker individuals.

Not just wildebeest:

Alongside the wildebeest, large herds of zebras and gazelles also participate in the migration.

Circular movement:

The migration follows a circular route, moving north during the rainy season to access fresh grass and then returning south during the dry season.

Impact on the ecosystem:

The migration plays a vital role in the Serengeti ecosystem by fertilizing the soil through their droppings and encouraging new grass growth.



A GIRAFFE'S SPOTS ARE AS UNIQUE AS HUMAN FINGERPRINTS



Giraffe researchers are shedding new light on one of nature's most striking

features of the animal being the irregular, puzzle like spots. Scientists say these patterns are

distinctive and that no two giraffes share the same design, much like human fingerprints.

Wildlife conservationists are using the unique spot arrangement to better track and monitor giraffe populations across Africa. With the species facing ongoing threats from habitat loss, poaching and climate related droughts, accurate identification has become crucial their protection and long term survival.

Advanced imaging tools and AI assisted photo databases now allow rangers to identify individual giraffes without physically tagging or disturbing them. Each spot shape, colour and spacing act like a natural barcode, revealing information about the giraffe's age, health and even family lineage.

Experts say that understanding these patterns not only improves scientific knowledge but also strengthens conservation strategies. As Africa's ecosystems continue to face pressure, the unique spots on giraffe's body may become one of the most powerful tools to ensuring their future.

BRITAIN'S HEDGEHOGS ON THE BRINK

Simple garden changes could help save a species slipping silently from UK streets Britain's beloved hedgehogs are said to be disappearing fast and conservation groups have warned that the species could become rare in many areas if action is not taken.

Once a common sight in parks and back gardens, the hedgehog numbers have dropped sharply due to habitat loss, pesticides, fenced gardens and busy roads. With fewer insects to eat and fewer safe places to nest,

the animals are struggling to survive.

Wildlife charities say simple community actions can make a big difference. Creating small gaps in fences, reducing chemical use and leaving wilder corners in gardens can help hedgehogs move, feed and breed safely.

Some councils are also reported to be adopting a no mow zones to boost insect life which is a crucial food source for hedgehogs and other wildlife. Conservationists say these local actions are crucial in rebuilding safe corridors for hedgehog

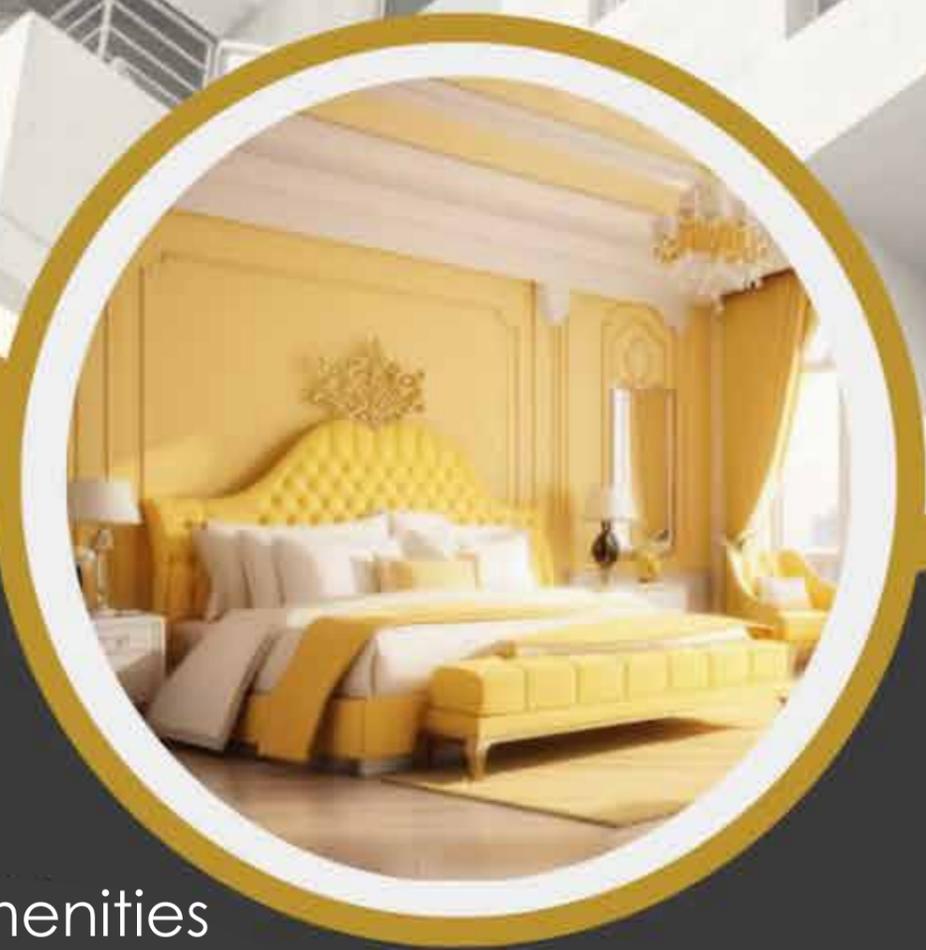
movements.

As Britain faces growing environmental pressures, the hedgehog has become a symbol of how quickly everyday wildlife can vanish and how communities can unite to save it



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BRITISH COMMUNITIES LEAD A NEW ERA OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

- **UK's Quite Environment Action**
- **Local initiatives drive national momentum as residents push for cleaner, greener living**

As the UK navigates a future shaped by rising temperatures, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss, a quiet but determined green revolution is taking root across the country from the rolling hills of Yorkshire to the wetlands of Somerset.

After years of ambitious pledges and policy debates, 2025 has become a decisive year for Britain's environmental protection efforts. With record flooding in parts of England and new warnings about declining pollinator populations, communities, councils, and conservationists are coming together to take local action where national systems often fall short.

Local environmental scientists have confirmed seeing a real shift in how Britons understand the environment and how every local green space, river, and hedgerow contributes to national resilience. One of the most notable

developments this year has been the expansion of nature recovery networks, part of the UK's post-Brexit environmental framework. These projects link protected landscapes and urban green spaces, allowing wildlife to move freely and ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate pressures.

In London, city planners have introduced green corridors, rewilded strips of land that connect parks, gardens, and riverbanks while in the Midlands, farmers are participating in sustainable soil management schemes that reward them for restoring carbon and biodiversity to their fields.

Meanwhile, grassroots campaigns are thriving as community groups take lead in cleanup drives, lobbied councils for pollution controls, and educated residents about waste reduction and native planting. The communities believe that environmental protection can't

just live in policy papers but has to happen in real places, with real people doing the work in order to protect Britain.

The UK government's Environment Act, introduced in 2021, continues to shape these efforts though critics argue enforcement remains uneven. New targets for air and water quality, coupled with public funding for reforestation and wetland restoration, aim to bring measurable results by the end of the most notable decade. Across Scotland and Wales, local governments have gone even further — launching citizen-led climate assemblies and integrating conservation into regional planning and education.

As the planet faces its greatest ecological challenges, Britain's next generation is proving that protecting the environment isn't just about saving nature, it's about their home



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STAINABILITY IN ACTION, THE NEW BLUEPRINT FOR A CLEANER, GREENER WORLD

As the world confronts rising temperatures, dwindling natural resources, and intensifying climate extremes, a powerful idea is taking hold across industries, cities, and communities. Sustainability is no longer optional, it is essential.

From London's urban rooftops to Africa's reforested plains, the global movement toward environmental protection through sustainable practices is redefining how societies grow, consume, and coexist with nature.

In the United Kingdom, the drive for sustainability has moved beyond pledges and into action. Businesses are rethinking supply chains to reduce waste, while local councils are promoting renewable energy, green housing, and circular economy models that recycle rather than discard.

Environmental experts say environmental protection must be built into every decision we make to ensure that the

economy and ecology thrive together. At the heart of the sustainability movement is a simple but transformative principle of meeting today's needs without compromising those of future generations. That ethos is shaping innovations in everything from renewable energy and transport to food production and packaging.

In cities like Manchester and Bristol, sustainability hubs are bringing together entrepreneurs and environmentalists to design solutions that reduce emissions and conserve resources. These include solar-powered community centers, electric public transport systems, and green roofs that absorb rainfall and cool buildings naturally.

Across Africa, similar initiatives are flourishing, from Botswana's community-led conservation programs to Kenya's wind farms and South Africa's biodiversity corridors. Together, these projects highlight that sustainability is not a Western ideal but a global necessity.

Despite these efforts, the road ahead remains challenging. Plastic pollution continues to choke oceans, and deforestation persists in critical ecosystems. Climate-induced droughts and floods threaten progress in vulnerable regions, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated global action.

To tackle these issues, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs continue to serve as a roadmap, guiding countries towards cleaner energy, responsible consumption, and climate resilience. Education also plays a crucial role. Environmental awareness campaigns, particularly among youth, are inspiring new generations to make conscious choices, from reducing energy use to supporting eco-friendly brands.

Despite the outlined challenges, signs of hope are everywhere. Renewable energy investment is breaking records, forests are being restored, and cities are reimagining what sustainable living looks like. In the end, environmental protection and sustainability are not distant goals, they are the framework for the future. Each action, each innovation, and each community effort brings the world closer to a lasting balance between people and planet.



ENGLAND FACES CHANGING CLIMATE AS AUTUMN FADES

- **unseasonably mild weather sparks questions about climate patterns**
 - **Experts warn that familiar weather cycles are slowly shifting**
 - **Cooler days and falling leaves mark more than a seasonal shift**

As golden leaves blanket parks and hedgerows, England's familiar autumn chill has returned however this year the weather carries a different kind of weight. Beyond the crisp air and shorter days, scientists and communities are noticing a subtle yet significant change that hints at a shifting climate.

UK meteorology office has reported that temperatures this

autumn have been unusually mild, with longer spells of rain and fewer frosty mornings. While some welcome the warmth, experts warn that these variations are part of a wider global pattern linked to climate change. They say autumns that arrive later and winter that is shorter are a reminder that even the most familiar seasons are being reshaped by global warming.

In towns and cities across the country, local councils and environmental groups are taking action, planting trees, restoring rivers and encouraging sustainable living. These community efforts are part of a growing movement to protect biodiversity and strengthen local ecosystems against the impacts of changing weather patterns.

For many this autumn feels like a call to reflection not just on the passing of another but on the fragility of the natural world. As England prepares for winter, experts say the coming months will test both infrastructure and resilience. Amid the uncertainty, there is also hope found in the collective will of communities determined to protect the environment and ensure that future autumns still bring the same beauty, balance and sense of renewal.



AFRICAN LIONS CONFRONT A RISING WAVE OF NEW THREAT

As discussions surrounding wildlife conservation intensify globally, the majestic African lion, an iconic symbol of the African savannah, finds itself at a crossroads. While ongoing conservation efforts have seen some success in stabilizing populations, escalating human-wildlife conflict and habitat loss are emerging as formidable challenges that threaten the future of these apex predators.

According to recent reports from the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), the population of African lions has declined by approximately 43% over the past two decades, primarily due to habitat fragmentation, poaching, and conflicts with farmers. However, certain regions, particularly in Tanzania and South Africa, have reported encouraging signs of growth due to targeted conservation strategies.

Conservation biologists say there is a promising trend in reserves where concerted efforts have been made. They say community involvement and anti-poaching initiatives have proven effective in protecting lion population.





PLANNING AN AFFORDABLE AFRICAN SAFARI

An African safari does not have to be a luxury reserved for the wealthy. With careful planning, smart choices and a sense of adventure, you can experience the magic of Africa's wildlife and landscapes without breaking the bank. The following can be considered to make safari dream both affordable and unforgettable

- . choosing budget friendly destinations

- . travelling during the shoulder season which is before or after peak months when there are fewer crowds, lower accommodation prices and good wildlife sightings. For countries in Southern African April to May or October to

November are months to consider.

- . joining a group safari or overland tour can also reduce costs as you get to share transport, guides and accommodation as compared to private tour costs.

- . skip the five star accommodation and opt for budget tented camps, self-drive safaris or community run lodges.

- .booking directly with local tour operators or using regional agencies can also save international markups. However you always need to check reviews and verify operators are licensed and environmentally conscious.

- . Pack smart and plan ahead as a good safari doesn't need fancy gear. Pack light, neutral colour clothing.

An African safari can be affordable, ethical and deeply rewarding with the right planning. By choosing local operators, travelling in low season and staying in community lodges you not only save money but also help support wildlife conservation and local livelihoods.

When all this is said and done, the true luxury of a safari is not the lodge but rather the experience of watching elephants at dawn, hearing lion roar at dusk and feeling part of Africa's wild heartbeat.



SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

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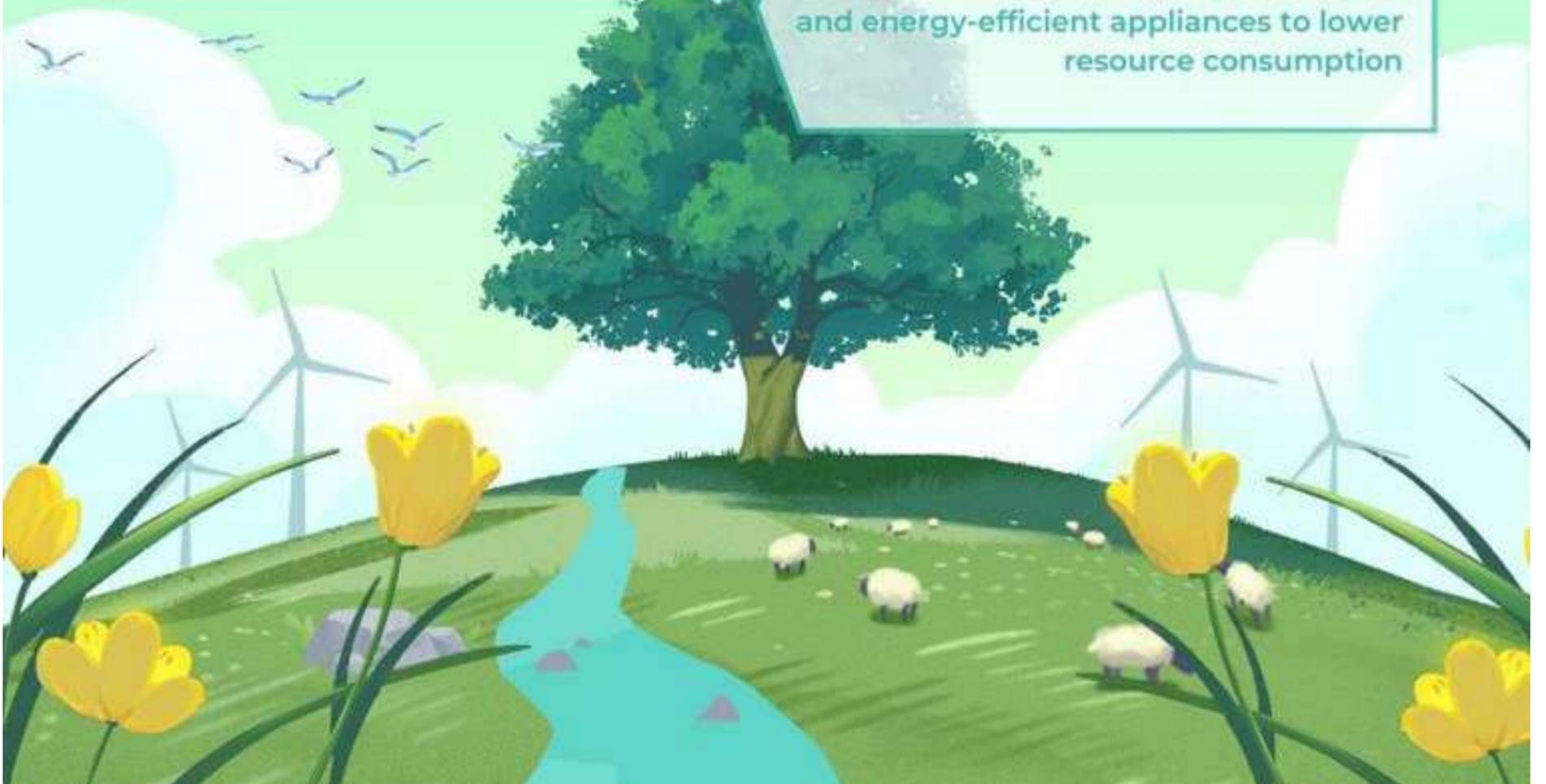
Shift to solar, wind, and hydro power to reduce carbon emissions and fossil fuel reliance

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Minimize waste by reusing items, recycling materials, and opting for sustainable products

CONSERVE WATER AND ENERGY

Implement water-saving techniques and energy-efficient appliances to lower resource consumption



AFRICA'S WILDLIFE BATTLES A HEATING PLANET

Drought, shifting migrations and rising conflict push iconic species to their limit. Across Africa's sprawling savannahs and wetlands, the effects of climate change are no longer a distant warning, they are a harsh reality shaping the lives of some of the continent's most iconic species.

Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall and prolonged droughts are increasingly disrupting migration patterns, breeding cycles and food availability for wildlife.

In Botswana's Okavango Delta, researchers have observed that hippos and elephants are forced to travel far for water, straining both the animals and surrounding human communities.

Drying riverbeds not only reduce water access but also shrink grazing areas, increasing competition among herbivores.

Predators are also affected as Lions and cheetahs which rely on predictable prey movements face declining hunting success as prey animals shift their ranges in response to the drought and habitat loss.

Conservationists warn that these disruptions could lead to cascading ecological consequences including declining population numbers and localized extinctions.

Communities living near national parks are feeling the impact as well. Crop failures and water scarcity force humans and wildlife into closer contact,

heightening the risk of conflict and further stressing the ecosystem.

There are however efforts to mitigate the effects as conservation groups are introducing climate smart management practices such as creating artificial watering holes, restoring degraded wetlands and implementing wildlife corridors that allow animals to migrate safely.

Despite all these interventions, experts still emphasize that while these interventions help, they are only part of the solution.

Reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, supporting local conservation programmes and building resilient communities are essential to preserve Africa's rich wildlife heritage

BONDED BY THE RIVER

Hippos exhibit strong social bonds and typically live in groups of 40 to 200 hippos. These formidable animals are considered the second largest mammals, after elephants. The average male hippo can weigh around 3,200 kilograms, while females usually weigh 30% less. They're typically 3.5 metres long and 1.5 metres tall.

The groups are known as bloods, pods or herds. Hippos are territorial creatures and use their dung to mark their territory. Male hippos have been known to flick their dung around to assert dominance. This dung is actually important to their aquatic ecosystems, as it transfers vital nutrients from

the land to the water, allowing insects, plants, and other microorganisms to flourish.

Hippos have bulky, barrel-shaped bodies, short and stout legs, large heads, and enormously powerful jaws. Their jaws can open to 180 degrees and bite down with three times the strength of a lion. They're armed with impressive, sharp teeth that can grow up to 50 centimetres long, used for eating and defence. The common hippopotamus has four webbed toes adapted to support them on land and in water. On the other hand, pygmy hippos tend to have less webbing and slightly longer legs.

A hippo's eyes and nostrils sit on top of its head,

which helps it stay mostly submerged in water while breathing and keeping an eye on its surroundings. Although hippos can't breathe underwater, they can hold their breath for up to five minutes.

