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Travelers' Philanthropy

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2008 Travelers' Philanthropy Conference Announces Growing Participation, New Sponsors ~ Arusha, Tanzania, December 3-5, 2008 ~

The 2008 Travelers' Philanthropy Conference has attracted major new sponsorships from governments and the tourism industry, as growing numbers of people sign up to be speakers and to attend this groundbreaking gathering – the first ever to be held in Africa. New sponsors include:

- **Tanzania Tourist Board** which has agreed to sponsor and participate in the conference. Tanzania's Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism has been invited to attend.
- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, together with the **Jane Goodall Institute**, is supporting the plenary session on "HIV AIDS: Responses from the Travel Industry" and the workshops under the stream "Travelers' Philanthropy: Contribution to Conservation".
- **Ethiopian Airlines** has been named the conference's Preferred International Airline. It is providing a 50% discount on tickets for journalists covering the conference, as well as complimentary tickets for the U.S.-based conference organizers. Ethiopian Airlines is supporting travelers' philanthropy through their work with Greener Ethiopia.
- **CCAfrica** is hosting the December 4 cocktail reception which will feature the company's Ngorongoro Lodge Choir and will showcase the company's educational outreach programs on HIV AIDS.
- **Ford Foundation** whose regional offices in East and Southern Africa are providing several dozen scholarships for attendees and speakers.

Travelers' Philanthropy: *A Project of the Center on Ecotourism & Sustainable Development*

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- **Pro Parques Foundation** in Costa Rica and **Basecamp Foundation** which have financed a new documentary on travelers' philanthropy projects in East Africa and Costa Rica. The documentary by two young filmmakers from Stanford University will be premiered at the conference.

Other co-sponsors and active supporters of the 3-day event, which is being held at the Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge outside Arusha in Northern Tanzania, include **Country Walkers, Spirit of the Big Five Foundation, Thomson Safaris, Virgin Unite, Asilia Lodges and Camps, Africa Safari Lodge Foundation, and Honeyguide Foundation.** International travel, airport transfers, and hotel bookings at the Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge, the conference venue outside Arusha, is being handled by **Safari Ventures.**

Under the banner of "Making Travelers' Philanthropy Work for Development, Business, and Conservation," the conference will focus on the growing trend among responsible tourism businesses to support community and conservation projects in the host countries where they operate. The opening keynote speaker is **Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Wangari Maathai**, founder and leader of the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. Biologist **Dr. David Western**, who is founder of the Africa Conservation Centre and former director of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), will give a keynote address on Ecotourism, Conservation and Development in Eastern Africa. Other speakers and the full conference program are listed on the conference website:

www.travelersphilanthropyconference.org.

Arusha is a vibrant tourism town near the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Meru that serves as a gateway to Tanzania's world renowned game parks. The conference also features eight outstanding safaris that combine wildlife viewing with visits to community projects supported by tourism businesses, as well as visits to Zanzibar and a trek up Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The conference is being organized by the U.S. based nonprofit organization, the Center on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development (CESD), and a 3-person team in Arusha. For conference and safari details, registration, and hotel and airline bookings see: www.travelersphilanthropyconference.org or contact the organizers in Washington, DC or Arusha (details above). **Early Bird registration ends September 30, 2008.**

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