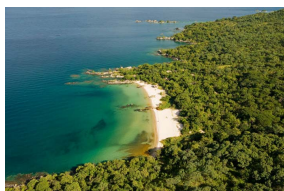


Nkwichi Lodge wins a Condé Nast Traveler's 2012 World Savers Award

Nkwichi Lodge is the winner of a Condé Nast Traveler World Savers award in the 'Doing It All' category for small resorts. For the fifth year running, Condé Nast Traveler has spotlighted tourism companies that are hard toward making the world a better place. These include anything from fighting climate change to alleviating poverty or conserving wildlife. There are eight industry sectors that can enter and properties are then assessed on their social responsibility in six various areas: Poverty Relief, Preservation (environmental or cultural), Education Programs, Wildlife Conservation, Health Initiatives and Doing It All.

According to the assessment: 'Since 2003, Nkwichi has been tackling one of the challenges of development in Africa—trying to help local people improve their lives without destroying the precious wilderness. To make sure the community gets real benefits from the lodge, the owners established the Manda Wilderness Community Trust, funded by bed-night levies and donations. The trust has built four schools (eight more are under way), increasing the number of students to about 3,000, as well as a maternity clinic, a boardinghouse for secondary-school girls, two corn mills, and an agricultural teaching center. 'Before Nkwichi opened, there was no development in the area', says Joseph Salimu, a community project manager.



"Working with the people is the only way, because it is our land. We are responsible for it." About Nkwichi Lodge: Nkwichi Lodge is a hidden, hand-built lodge located in the north-western corner of Mozambique, on the eastern side of Lake Niassa (or Lake Malawi as it is called on the Malawi side). Nkwichi Lodge has been recognized as a pioneering eco-tourism establishment and has been awarded many accolades, including Africa's Leading Responsible Tourism Company and Best Small Hotel/Accommodation at the Virgin Responsible Tourism Awards. The most recent achievement is the Overall Winner and Best in Community Empowerment of the Kutoa Community Impact Awards 2012.

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Daring dug-out canoeists battle for supremacy of Lake Niassa/Malawi!



This year the annual Manda Wilderness Canoe Race coincided with the timing of the Olympics, creating more hype than usual. Held on Mataka beach on the remote, untouched Mozambican shores of Lake Niassa/Malawi, the event includes dugout canoe races for men, women and mixed teams, as well as swimming races for children from local schools. All 10 lakeshore villages of Manda Wilderness participated, the overall winners being Nfogi village – which is no surprise as they have won for the past 2 years.

The dugout canoe, locally known as the "macorro" to the Nyanja people, is a challenge to balance – after all it is a hollowed out tree. The skill required to complete the race is quite impressive and only the best of the best get placements in this annual event. After the race, the dugout canoes will revert back to their normal intended use of subsistence fishing.

The event is organised and sponsored by the Manda Wilderness Community Trust, and aims to bring the disparate communities of the lakeshore together, strengthen local Nyanja identity and help bring awareness to a previously forgotten corner of Africa. The Trust is supported by Nkwichi Lodge which has just been nominated as a finalist in the Condé Nast Traveler World Savers Awards in the "Doing it All" category for small resorts. Nkwichi Lodge and the Manda Wilderness Community Trust work with the villages of the area in various other development initiatives of the Manda Wilderness Project.

OCEAN CONSERVANCY

Sign up for the 27th Annual International Coastal Cleanup!

Over the past 26 years, Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup has become the world's largest volunteer effort for ocean health. Nearly nine million volunteers from 152 countries and locations have cleaned 145 million pounds of trash from the shores of lakes, streams, rivers, and the ocean on just one day each year. They have recorded every item found, giving us a clear picture of the manufactured items impacting the health of humans, wildlife, and economies. As our 2011 report demonstrates, the body of data from the International Coastal Cleanup has inspired action to rid the ocean of harmful trash. [Read the full report \(pdf\).](#)

Join us on 15 September - Sign up for a cleanup near you and get involved today! Cleanup sites are just beginning to be added to the map and more are added daily, so be sure to check back often. If you don't see a cleanup scheduled in your area, or if you want to schedule one on a date other than September 15, you can [propose your own](#) now and find out more about organizing a cleanup.

To read more about the work of Ocean Conservancy and where to find your nearest beach cleanup, please visit www.oceanconservancy.org

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