

Mkombozi

Empower. Engage. Enable.



Making dreams come true...

Mkombozi's boys safari in Arusha National Park

Evelyn Citroen, also known as "Clown Bijouxxx", has travelled around the world to make children laugh and have fun. This past January, Evelyn took the chance to make one of her own dreams come true: she took Mkombozi's youth on safari in one of Tanzania's national parks. A few weeks later, Evelyn shared with us this touching narrative about her trip...

"My first trip to Mkombozi was in May 2007, with 15 other clowns. But this time, I chose to make the trip in order to take the Mkombozi children on safari. The reason I wanted to take the children on safari is that, although tourists go on safari, orphans and children who live in the streets no opportunity to do so. I find that very sad. I want the children to see the nature and animals that is in their own country. I also know that nature, and especially animals, can give us a lot of strength. Street-living children need a lot of extra strength because they had such a hard life.

I felt honored to accompany the children on safari. On the day of the trip, I was so happy... my dream was coming true! Being in the bus together, singing and laughing reminded me of my own school journeys. And I was also very happy to walk in Arusha National Park and hold hands with the children - to talk and to play at the waterfalls, to take pictures of their happy faces, to eat together. We had a very nice guide who carried a large gun and told us all about the animals and plants we saw along the way. All the boys listened to him and were very quiet during the walk. I could really feel how good it was for all of us to walk around, surrounded by nature and silence.

After that it was time to go back to the center and to say goodbye. I hope this experience made the children a bit stronger and lighter and that it give them new perspective on their lives. Personally, I feel very rich to have been with them."

Since their safari experience, several of the Mkombozi youth who made the trip offered their thanks and reflections...

- I say thanks for the trip. I'm lucky to have gone to the national park, for that day we all say thank you.
- I was happy to see the animals, the forest and big snakes in the river.
- I'm happy to go to the national park to see animals and enjoy the environment. Thanks for your help Evelyn.
- I'm happy to see animals. It was my first time to go to a national park.
- I have been lucky to see animals like lions, zebra and snakes.
- First I want to say thanks for that trip. I enjoyed it very much. I saw things which I had not seen. May God bless you Mama Evelyn. We love you! We are welcoming you again in Mkombozi.
- I saw many animals and many environments. I was happy to see many things I never seen before.
- I have been to a national parks, but I never get a person who can explain to me about the animals' behaviors. But this time I was very happy because we got a person who explained to us.
- I say thanks for everything... I saw many animals, birds, trees and so many things. Every day I remember that trip. Thanks very much and God bless you.
- I was happy to see animals like giraffe, monkey and so many others. Every day I remember you, Evelyn!

Clowning around on safari!

Mkombozi's youth took the chance to enjoy Evelyn's "Clown Bijouxxx" props



Evelyn and Mkombozi youth at Arusha Park