

African responses to COVID-19 & the importance of diversification to build resilience

**COVID-19 and Green Economy Recovery:
What Roles for Sustainable Tourism?**
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Dr Sue Snyman
Director of Research
School of Wildlife Conservation, African Leadership University



Impact of COVID-19 on tourism in Africa

- Largest shock to-date
- Devastating and widespread impacts
- International arrivals to Africa down 83% (2021 vs 2019)
- Heavy reliance on international tourism for economic growth
- Repercussions for communities and conservation
- Uncertainty re virus and vaccines



Some country responses

Kenya: USD 18.5 million economic rescue package as grants for community conservancies & for 5,500 community scouts

Rwanda: Lowered gorilla permit fees to encourage domestic and regional tourism

Namibia: Emergency funding raised from donors & MET to allow conservancies & the private sector to pay at least 50% of their costs

South Africa: COVID-19 Tourism Relief Fund: one-off capped grants and a detailed Tourism Recovery Plan

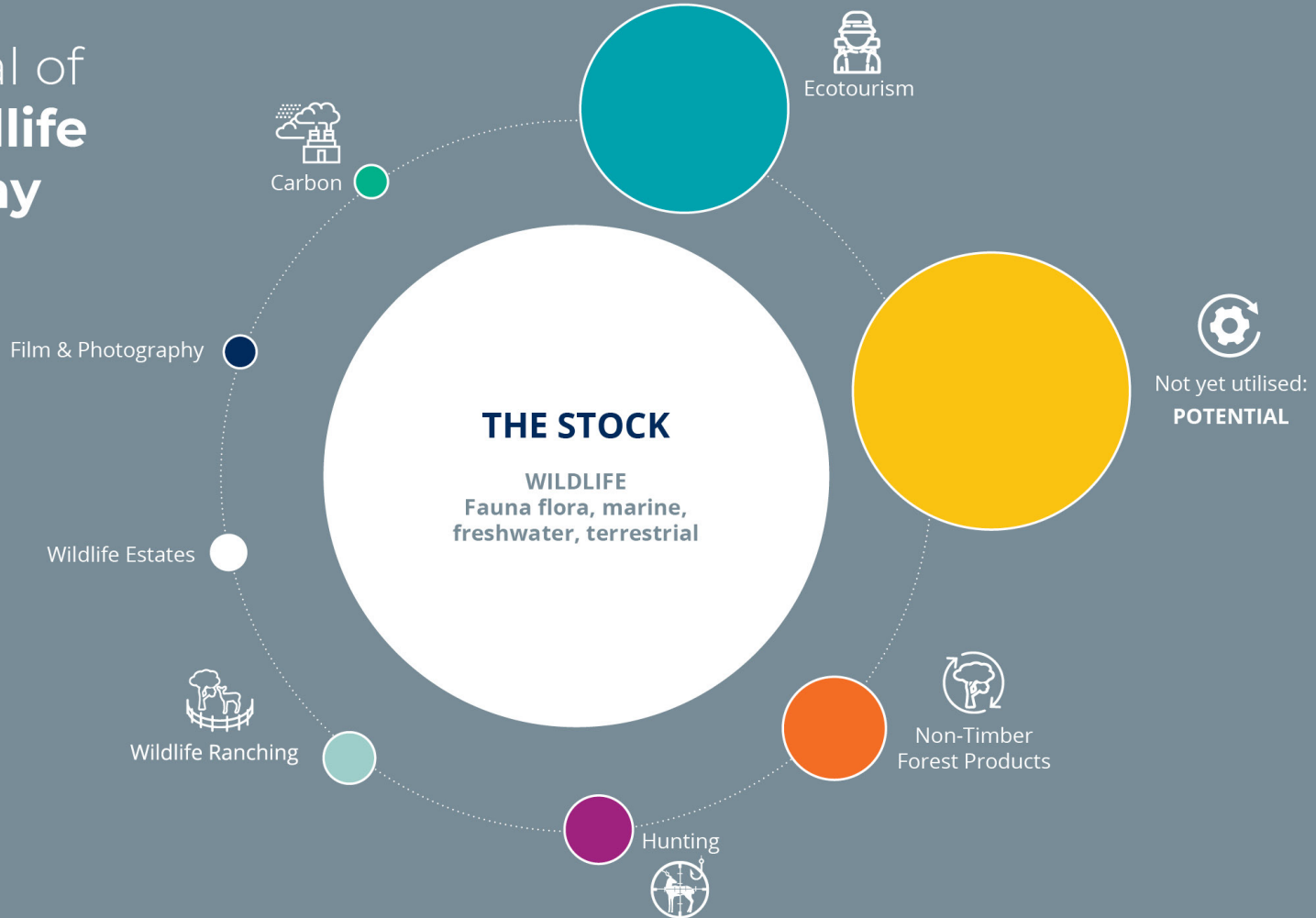


Diversification is key
to building resilience
and sustainability



State of the
Wildlife Economy
in Africa

Potential of the **wildlife** **economy**



Building forward better

Economic

- Diversification of the wildlife economy
- Domestic & regional tourism
- Diversification of the tourism product
- Fiscal incentives
- Benefit sharing & linkages

Environmental

- Promotion of Healthy Parks/Healthy People
- Better planning and management plans

Social

- Safety
- Innovation (virtual tourism/gamification)
- Collaboration and partnerships



Key takeaways



Research on, and understanding the value of, the **Wildlife Economy** is critically important as countries revise strategies & reform policy & practice post-COVID



Government support for and investment in wildlife and tourism, given the economic benefits provided by it, is crucial



There is a need to **build capacity & provide supportive institutions** as well as establish institutional arrangements for benefit-sharing



Diversification of all wildlife economy activities is important to reduce risk & build resilience



Monitoring and evaluation is important, including robust, regular data collection, to allow for data-driven decision-making going forward



If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together
- African proverb

THANK YOU

Dr Sue Snyman

Director of Research

School of Wildlife Conservation

African Leadership University

ssnyman@alueducation.com

