



For Immediate Release

## Big Five Tours & Expeditions Launches New Initiative in Support of Education in Africa

*Innovative collaboration through Spirit of Big Five Foundation supports two new primary schools in the Kidepo Valley of Uganda*

**January 15, 2020 (Stuart, Florida)** – [Big Five Tours & Expeditions](#), the award-winning adventure and sustainable travel operator, has launched a new initiative in support of the **African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) Classroom Africa** program. The innovative sustainable tourism collaboration, tendered through the travel operator's **Spirit of Big Five Foundation**, offers the rewarding opportunity for every Big Five guest to make a positive impact on the world and specifically the Kidepo Valley of Uganda – which has long been part and parcel of what the Big Five experience is all about.

The new initiative will see the Spirit of Big Five Foundation supporting AWF's new education initiative near Kidepo Valley National Park in remote Northeastern Uganda. The region is home to a variety of rare and endangered species, including elephant, leopard and rhino plus some 75 species of other mammals and 470 species of birds. It is also now home to two new schools, **Kidepo Primary School** and **Sarachom Primary School**, with enrollment of more than 900 students between them. The former school is based near the Uganda Wildlife Authority headquarters in the National Park the latter is located in a community that borders a critical wildlife corridor that feeds into the Park.

Both primary schools are significant additions to the Kidepo Valley, providing much-needed access to education for the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) staff and local Geremech community. Most of the 400 plus school-aged children there have been unable to attend school for economic and cultural reasons ranging from inability to pay fees, lack of transportation and pressure, particularly on young girls, to remain at home helping with household duties.

Yet there is no minimizing the importance of education in the region, the lack of which can lead to poverty, followed by environmental degradation and inevitably wildlife poaching. Essentially, every child that benefits from AWF's Classroom Africa is one less likely to be recruited as a poacher. The Kidepo and Sarachom Primary Schools both provide quality infrastructure and trained teachers as well as offer programs in conservation and environmental education to provide students with hands-on activities including field trips into the 557-square-mile expanse of Kidepo Valley National Park. This results in indelible experiences for children to be exposed that will allow them to realize the importance of saving the wildlife and habitat of where they live as many of them have never seen it.

“It is an honor to be working with the African Wildlife Foundation’s Classroom Africa program that will further the education of children in Northeastern Uganda and provide a quality setting for learning and experiences that, in the long run, are pivotal to protecting the environment and reducing wildlife poaching,” said **Ashish Sanghrajka, President of Big Five Tours & Expedition**. “Conservationists in Africa have long been aware of the negative effects the lack of education can have on communities as well as the environment. Through the Spirit of Big Five Foundation, we provide an incredible opportunity for our company and our clients to make a lasting impact.”

The Spirit of Big Five Foundation focuses efforts in areas around the world with the goal of conserving and protecting wildlife; working to minimize poverty among some of the most vulnerable; providing access to education and healthcare for the next generation; and preserving global cultural heritage integrity.

For more information about The Spirit of Big Five Foundation or how to get involved, visit [www.bigfive.com](http://www.bigfive.com).

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#### **About Big Five Tours & Expeditions**

Founded in Kenya in 1973 by Mahen Sanghrajka, Big Five Tours & Expeditions is renowned for customized, luxury adventure travel to more than 45 destinations worldwide. Big Five has been recognized for its sustainable tourism commitment: The company is twice winner of the Virtuoso® luxury travel network *Sustainable Tourism Leadership Award* in 2014 and in 2016, while Condé Nast Traveler magazine recognized Big Five with a *World Savers Award* in 2013. For more detailed information about Big Five customized trip itineraries, contact [info@bigfive.com](mailto:info@bigfive.com) or call one a destination specialists at (800) 244 3483. Also visit [www.bigfive.com](http://www.bigfive.com).

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