



# Power of Purpose

COLLABORATION FOR CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

*Singita*

THE MALILANGWE TRUST • SINGITA LOWVELD TRUST •  
GRUMETI FUND • SINGITA VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

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Scan this QR code with your mobile phone to read this Singita Conservation brochure in digital eZine format



# FOREWORD

At a time when nature is in crisis, our story is one of hope, optimism, and ambition. A showcase of what is possible when an influential and impactful network of conservation partners join hands.

Singita is the local Shangaan word for “place of miracles” – and its meaning has never been more deeply and keenly felt than now. With our planet facing the unprecedented challenges of rampant natural destruction and the accelerating effects of climate change, our portfolio of properties and network of conservation partners, offers many inspiring examples of the miracles of land restoration, wildlife recovery, and empowered communities.

The successes across these landscapes encourage us with hope and enthusiasm to keep scaling our collective impact; and to extend our reach in support of a Nature-Positive and Climate-Resilient world by 2030.

Singita’s low-impact, nature-based tourism model is a purpose-driven business guided by our 100-year vision to preserve and protect large areas of African wilderness for future generations. We drive awareness and support of the relevance and importance of the dedicated conservation efforts of our not-for-profit conservation partners across the four countries in which we currently operate.

As we celebrate Singita’s remarkable 30-year legacy as leaders in luxury ecotourism, we also reflect on the strong conservation foundations laid down to secure, safeguard and preserve these landscapes for future generations. It has been – and continues to be – a remarkable journey, built on the power of enduring partnerships, meaningful collaboration, and impactful contributions from our strategic network of Trust and Fund partners.

From the rainforests of Rwanda to the vast grasslands of the Serengeti and the breathtaking bushveld of Southern Africa – together the Singita Lowveld Trust (South Africa), Grumeti Fund (Tanzania), The Malilangwe Trust (Zimbabwe), and Singita Volcanoes National Park (Rwanda) showcase a remarkable range of wilderness areas and abundant and diverse wildlife. They are home to some of the world’s most critical biodiversity, unique wildlife, and iconic landscapes – an increasingly rare and fragile find.

In the pages that follow, you’ll find a brief snapshot of the important work and impressive track record of these conservation partners – showcasing a select few of the many projects and programmes that highlight their joint contributions towards a Nature-Positive, Climate-Resilient world.

The Covid-19 pandemic starkly illustrated how deeply our individual and collective health, wellbeing, economies, and livelihoods are intertwined with the wellbeing of our planet. We are more determined than ever to ensure that our nature-based offering contributes significantly towards a Nature-Positive, Climate-Resilient world by 2030.

## Become part of our story

Reversing biodiversity loss and addressing the climate crisis are decisive challenges – and what we do (or don’t do) in the next decade will define our lifetime, and shape this world for generations to come. It is a sentiment that is inherent to our 100-year purpose as we commit to protecting vast areas of wilderness and wildlife, while ensuring that neighbouring communities develop and prosper.

Guests, donors, and like-minded partners all play a significant role in helping to support, amplify and expand the awareness, reach and impact of these vital conservation and community partnerships.

Join us on our journey towards a future in which nature and mankind thrive – spend time in the Conservation Rooms at our lodges to discover more about the work of our partners; participate in guest experiences such as bespoke Safaris with a Purpose and community project visits; and browse the websites and links shared in this brochure to find out how you can support these efforts.



**Inge Kotze**  
Group Head of Conservation, Singita



**Jo Bailes**  
CEO, Singita



**Mark Saunders**  
CEO, JFO Africa



## A GLOBAL CONSERVATION IMPERATIVE

“WE ARE CURRENTLY  
LOSING NATURE  
FASTER THAN WE  
CAN RESTORE IT.”



The last 50 years of human activity has seen:

A **69% decline** in wildlife populations

**Human-induced global warming** accelerating climate change and climate instability



## Halt & reverse biodiversity loss

Across the continent, the landscapes in which we operate are all examples of large-scale biodiversity restoration:

- Restored landscapes in Grumeti – a vast and critical corridor in the western plains of the Serengeti in Tanzania.
- The expansion of Africa’s oldest protected area, Rwanda’s Volcanoes National Park – through reforestation and the natural regeneration of buffer zones adjacent to this park, thereby increasing the habitat for many species, including the endangered mountain gorillas.
- The land and catchment rehabilitation of overgrazed and overutilised cattle ranches in Zimbabwe’s Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve and South Africa’s Sabi Sand to rehabilitate lowveld savannas and bushveld.

As blueprints of biodiversity restoration done well, all of these previously degraded and denuded landscapes are once again supporting healthy, well-functioning ecosystems – and thriving and diverse wildlife populations.





## Zero further extinction of species

These landscapes now act as important wildlife refugia areas, and play all-important roles in the safeguarding, reintroduction, and recovery of endangered wildlife – from megaherbivores (rhino, mountain gorillas, elephants and buffalo) to large carnivores (including leopards, lions and wild dogs), rare antelope and general plains game.



## Halve our ecological footprint

Singita is deeply committed to ensuring that we tread lightly on the earth. Our One Planet Living sustainability commitments drive our efforts to halve our ecological footprint by minimising our use of resources (water, energy, and waste) – and promoting sustainable consumption across our operations and supply chains.



## Carbon neutral

In 2020, we launched our Carbon Offset programme to offset emissions from staff flights and guest bed nights. This commitment builds on our investment in renewable energy alternatives, while monitoring and reducing energy usage across all properties.

Building climate resilience is central to safeguarding these landscapes, and the work of the non-profit Trust and Funds focuses heavily on effective land stewardship and ongoing conservation management - invasive alien plant control, fire management and erosion control, and long term monitoring and research.

There is an increasing focus on freshwater resource protection and catchment stewardship initiatives working with neighbouring communities to promote sustainable land uses and management of natural resources to build climate resilient livelihoods with the broader surrounding catchments.



## People – the heartbeat of a nature-positive world

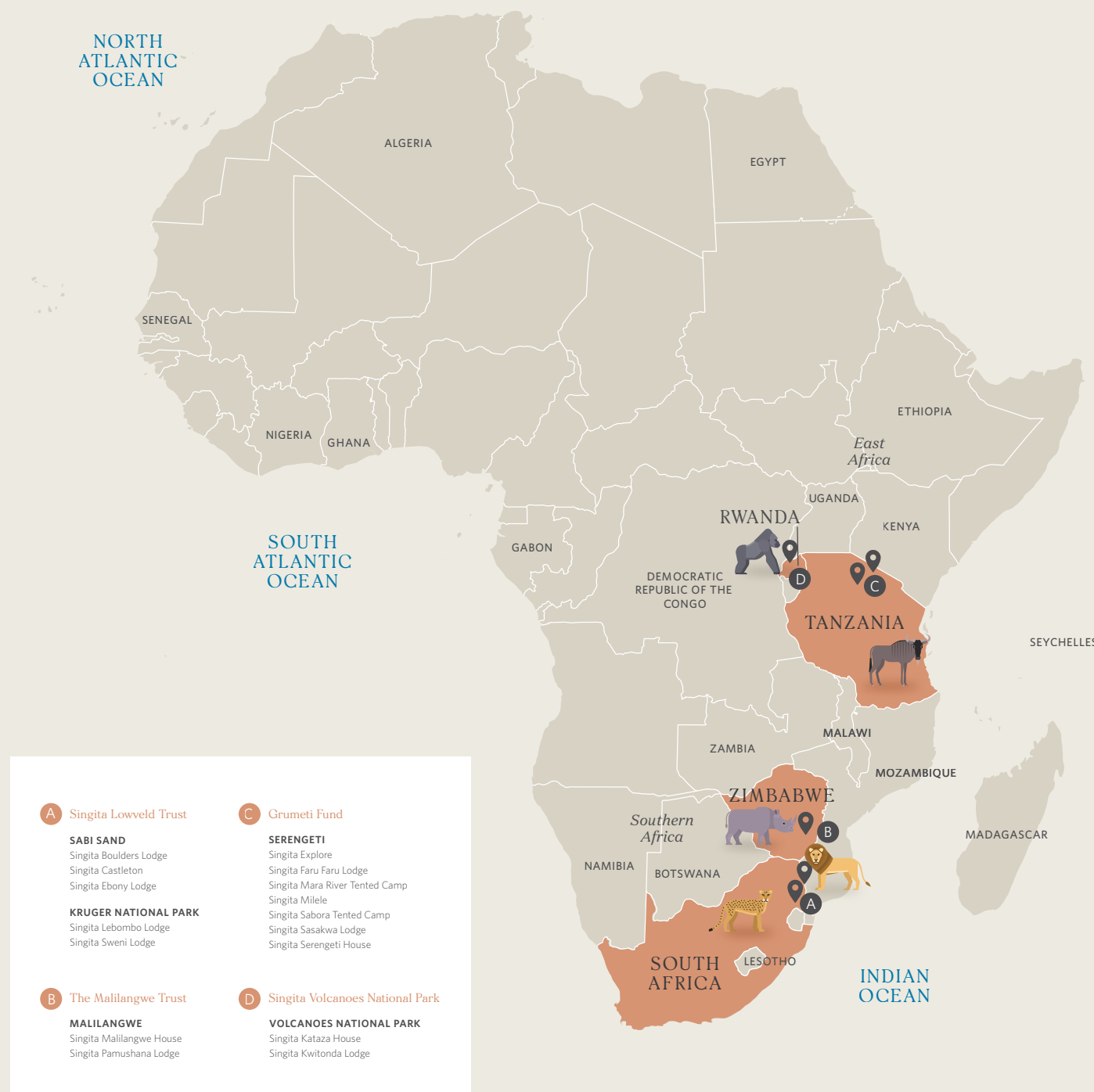
Youth development and connecting people and nature are at the core of how we deliver on these global goals for nature.

The development of long-lasting, meaningful community partnerships remains central to shaping landscapes where nature and people can thrive in harmony with one another. Supporting the many neighbouring communities whose wellbeing and livelihoods are deeply dependent on these landscapes lies at the heart of many of the programmes and projects.

Our community partnership programmes encompass a range of socio-economic interventions that support and promote access to quality education, professional skills development, job creation, rural enterprise development, environmental awareness, sustainable resource use, and woman and youth empowerment.

Join us on this journey and become part of the solution: driving this decade of global-scale restoration of biodiversity and bending back the curve of global warming to a Nature-Positive, Carbon-Resilient world by 2030.

# OUR LODGES AND CONSERVATION PARTNERS







# SOUTH AFRICA

## SINGITA KRUGER NATIONAL PARK & SABI SAND

From thick riverine forests to large open grasslands, wildly varying landscapes and diverse habitats benefit an abundant diversity of game.





# SINGITA LOWVELD TRUST

Spanning 45,000 acres of untouched wilderness in the heart of South Africa's 'Big Cat country', Singita Sabi Sand is known for high concentrations of big game and the highest density of leopards in any area in the country\*. Just 100 kilometres/62.1 miles away, yet offering a completely different landscape, Singita Kruger National Park encompasses a 33,000-acre private concession on the border of Mozambique, and features unique wildlife populations across four ecological zones.





REGION

South Africa



GLOBAL GOALS

Halt and Reverse  
Biodiversity Loss



Zero further extinction  
of species



Connecting people  
and nature



Youth development



Singita Lowveld Trust (SLT), formerly known as the Singita Community Development Trust, the not-for-profit Conservation partner, has been a committed custodian of the Greater Kruger Park region since 2006.

SLT places significant focus on building long-term, meaningful community partnerships in the region. Supporting access to quality education through a strategic focus on holistic early childhood development and school readiness, and access to digital online learning hubs, as well as promoting young entrepreneurship and rural enterprise development to address the high level of youth unemployment in the region.

SLT also supports the safeguarding and monitoring of the many species of conservation concern in this region (rhino, leopards, vultures and large raptors, lions and wild dogs), as well as the effective conservation management of Reserves.

These biodiversity conservation and community partnerships and programmes strive to build a future in which both people and nature can thrive in harmony alongside one another.

The Greater Kruger Park region was home to 80% of Africa's white rhino population, a region now at the epicentre of sustained poaching pressure. With a 75% decline in this population over the last decade – the plight of rhino's remains of critical concern and high priority. SLT supports varied conservation measures to counter the devastating impacts of rhino poaching including:

- **Sponsoring Care for Wild** The world's largest rhino orphan sanctuary – dedicated to the rewilding and release of rhino orphaned by poaching in this region.
- **Supporting the Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) and canine (K9) dog units** Critical to safeguarding rhino and the many other species of conservation concern.
- **Supporting strategic rhino dehorning** Providing significant funding towards the ongoing operational costs of dehorning and maintenance horn trimming across the Kruger National Park and Sabi Sand Nature Reserve.

*\* As shown by a study by the conservation organisation Panthera (Page 21).*

Singita  
**LOWVELD  
TRUST**

Mirroring its rich symbolism on the continent, SLT has fittingly chosen to feature the vibrantly coloured lilac-breasted roller on its logo. Also known as 'the bird of the sun', this brightly-hued bird has long been considered a symbol of peace, and helped to maintain harmony between ancient communities. In many local traditions, its feathers are also integral in marriage ceremonies to tie couples together – if the bonds between feathers are strong enough to hold them together, the community will bless the union.







## GUARDIANS OF OUR WILDLIFE

# WINNING THE WAR ON WILDLIFE

Apart from rhino poaching, the escalating rate of wildlife snaring and poisoning across the Greater Kruger National Park region is an increasing cause for concern. As a result, the area has seen a dramatic decline in populations of vultures and other large birds of prey – while incidents affecting large carnivores, including lions, leopards, wild dogs and hyenas, have been sharply on the rise. Anti-poaching teams remain a cornerstone of wildlife protection in the region.





SLT supports the tireless 24/7 efforts of dedicated anti-poaching and law enforcement teams, which are critical to safeguarding the many species of conservation concern. The dedication and passion of the expertly trained anti-poaching unit (APU) and canine (K9) dog unit keep them one step ahead of the ever-evolving tactics of the poachers – innovative surveillance, early detection technology, and all-terrain vehicles allow for rapid response and follow-up to keep these brave field rangers and dogs at the forefront of the war on wildlife.

Well-versed in poaching tactics, the elite APU field rangers and trackers are constantly adapting to fluid situations. Trained in fitness, bushcraft, tracking, communication, first aid, combat and arrest procedures, as well as the use of night gear, they are fully equipped to navigate the continuously changing challenges of locating, apprehending, and deterring would-be poachers.

Comprised of professional handlers with tracker dogs, the K9 unit is trained to track both animals and humans. The permanent presence of highly skilled sniffer dogs helps to shift the focus from reactive to proactive law enforcement – deterring access or catching poachers before they succeed in killing wildlife.

The combination of innovative early detection technology and the efforts of the K9 and APU teams have proven to be highly effective. However, the poaching pressure remains ruthless and requires constant vigilance – and increasing resources to hold the line.

“The APU and K9 units are dedicated to halting the decline in what has become an increasing list of threatened species, continually adapting their strategy to navigate and anticipate the ever-changing evasive tactics of poaching syndicates.”

**INGE KOTZE**  
GROUP HEAD OF CONSERVATION, SINGITA



Only **1 rhino** had been lost to poaching since 2015 thanks to the brave efforts of Singita Sabi Sand APU & K9 unit.

#### DONATE:

**USD 250** – all-terrain vehicle servicing and maintenance kits (per kit)

**USD 500** – per trail camera (including a solar pack)

**USD 2,375** – 10 x all-terrain vehicle servicing and maintenance kits

**USD 6,250** – FLIR night-vision equipment

**USD 12,500** – 1 x drone (with night-vision capabilities)

**USD 50,000** – Thermal wide-area surveillance radar



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SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

# REHABILITATION AND REWILDING OF RHINO ORPHANS

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As the poaching of rhino continues to escalate across the continent, the widespread devastation wreaked by this scourge includes calves being traumatised and orphaned in brutal attacks on their mothers. Every life matters and the survival of these brave youngsters will secure future breeding populations.







**DONATE:  
SPONSOR A RHINO ORPHAN**

**USD 13,605** – total cost of one rhino orphan’s ICU and bottle-feeding phase (year 1)

**USD 8,760** – total cost of one rhino orphan’s weaning phase (year 2)

**USD 5,610** – total cost of one rhino orphan’s rewilding phase (year 3 and 4)



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The remarkable rescue operation of Mavic – a rhino calf orphaned in a tragic poaching incident in August 2022 – put a renewed spotlight on the urgency to ensure their future; and his rescue and journey of rehabilitation and rewilding is a testimony to the dedication of those who work tirelessly to achieve that goal. (Read his story on the opposite page.)

SLT’s ongoing support of rhino conservation and protection encompasses support for the dehorning of rhino, an interim, short term measure to deflect the poaching pressure on this important group of rhino in the region, as well as support for the rescue and rehabilitation of orphaned rhino calves. SLT is committed to the multi-year sponsorship to cover the full cost of Mavic’s rehabilitation and rewilding journey to ensure his eventual re-release into the wild. The aim is to grow the sponsorship and support the rehabilitation and rewilding of other rhino orphans as they become part of the future breeding population for the region and a key population in the efforts to safeguard these rhinos.



# MAVIC: A STORY OF HEARTBREAK, AND HOPE

In August 2022, traumatised by the gruesome killing of his mother, a seven-month-old rhino calf was stranded – and spent three harrowing days alone, hungry, and afraid. Desperate to save the young orphan, the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve’s anti-poaching units launched a full-scale rescue operation – only to face considerable odds as soon as he was located.

With darkness setting in, it was too late for the rescue helicopter to fly; and in an area known for prides of lion and clans of hyenas, the calf – who had been severely depleted and exhausted by his ordeal – was in grave danger.

Determined to keep him safe, the team deployed several DJI Mavic drones to watch over him throughout the night, and as each battery started to drain, another drone took its place. Never losing sight of little Mavic – who was named after the drones that safeguarded him – the team were able to get

to him by first light, and he was darted by air and transported to safety. Taken to Care for Wild – the world’s largest rhino orphan sanctuary – he immediately started his journey of recovery and rehabilitation, and joined other rhino orphans who had suffered similar fates.

Since his arrival, Mavic has gradually been able to overcome his fear, make new friends and recover his confidence – while reaching many important growth milestones along the way – including recently hitting the proud one tonne mark! After completing his three-to-four year journey of recovery and rewilding, he will ultimately be released back into the wild. His story embodies the spirit of hope, determination, and steadfast commitment among those who work tirelessly to protect and preserve Africa’s rhino – and the recovery of Mavic and his fellow orphans forms a key part of helping to ensure the survival of the species.





## PANTHERA LEOPARD RESEARCH

# USING SCIENCE TO RESTORE POPULATIONS

Despite inhabiting the most widespread range of habitats, leopards are among the most persecuted big cats in the world. And while it's often assumed that their conservation status is secure, illegal hunting, habitat loss, and the bushmeat trade severely impact their numbers.



### Key Successes of The Sabi Sand Leopard Project

The long-term data helps to identify the patterns and processes that govern **leopard population trends over generations**.

#### In less than 15 years:

**850+ leopard life histories** have been reconstructed in the Sabi Sand

**90,000 data collections** from leopard sightings

#### Panthera has also:

**gained unique insights** into the spatial organisation, foraging behaviour, and the dispersal of leopards

**harnessed advances in DNA technology and forensic analysis** for anti-trafficking operations; and to augment leopard life histories and develop genetic profiling

The scientists at Panthera – the world's leading wild cat conservation organisation – are dedicated to understanding where sustainable leopard populations currently exist or can be restored, and implementing strategies to reduce leopard killings. Their efforts focus on monitoring leopard population trends, stopping the illicit fur trade, reducing human-induced conflict, stabilising and increasing prey populations, and reducing unsustainable legal trophy hunting.

Launched in 2009, the Sabi Sand Leopard Project is the most extensive and longest-running global leopard research programme to date. Boasting a density of 1 leopard per 12km<sup>2</sup>/7.5 miles<sup>2</sup>, it is set in a global flagship area with one of the world's most stable and best-protected leopard populations.

A well-protected environment and sensitive game-viewing practices have ensured an extremely relaxed demeanour in the leopards in the Sabi Sand Reserve. The project harnesses this relaxed nature – as well as the knowledge and experience of expert field guides in the region – to convert daily sightings into high-quality data, which is critical to inform leopard ecology and conservation strategies in South Africa and beyond.





SLT and Singita support Panthera through:

- funding support for research and monitoring
- assistance with population monitoring, participation in the collation of citizen sightings, photography, observations, and support with ongoing and new research

No other leopard population in the world can be so comprehensively sampled. As the leopards are so relaxed, frequently seen and easily identified, it enables the Singita Field Guides in the Sabi Sand to collect and share scat of known leopards with Panthera. This information helps them to track family lineages, while building a model for greater understanding and developing broader conservation policies across the continent.

**DONATE:**

**USD 500** – Camera traps and solar pack

**USD 500** – Sponsor the “heritage” fur - a luxury synthetic fur replacement for real skins used in traditional, cultural ceremonies

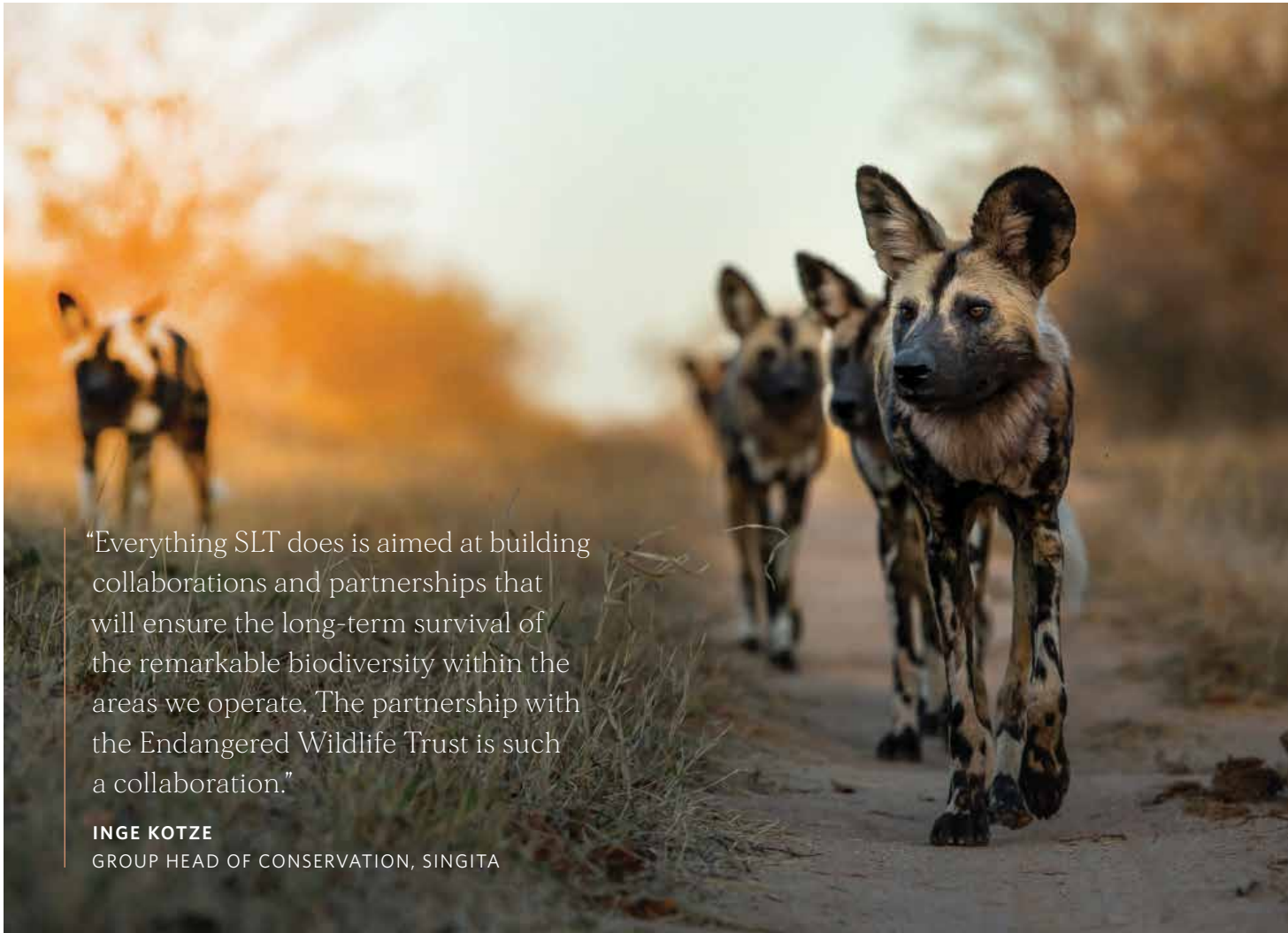
**USD 1,000** – Support the individual genetic profiling work for leopard scat of the Sabi Sand



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SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

# HELPING TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF VULNERABLE WILDLIFE



“Everything SLT does is aimed at building collaborations and partnerships that will ensure the long-term survival of the remarkable biodiversity within the areas we operate. The partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust is such a collaboration.”

**INGE KOTZE**  
GROUP HEAD OF CONSERVATION, SINGITA





With 7 of the 11 vulture species found in Africa classified as Critically Endangered or Endangered, their populations are suffering a rapid decline. As scavengers, vultures are vital for cleaning ecosystems. However, they are also extremely vulnerable to poisoning when they feed on carcasses laced with lethal pesticides – set by those who snare predators like lions and leopards for their bones, body parts and pelts.



**80% decline** in SA’s vulture populations over the past 10 years



**2,300 estimate** of **remaining wild lions** in SA



The wild dog is one of the **world’s most endangered** mammals

In South Africa’s Greater Kruger National Park Region, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) works around the clock to ensure vultures survival, and safeguard lion and wild dog populations. Gathering important data about densities, demographics, habitat preferences, and real-time activity areas, they undertake real-time monitoring of these species and respond to threats such as poisoning and poaching.

SLT supports the EWT Large Raptor, Wildlife Poisoning Rapid Response and Carnivore Conservation Programmes through funding and Singita Field Guides are trained to assist with rapid response to poisoning events.

To secure habitat strongholds on its concessions and reserves, Singita will align with the Vulture Safe Zone Alliance. Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) create safe spaces for vultures to breed, forage and thrive; and reduce threats such as persecution, poisoning, powerline collisions, and habitat loss.



Trained as rapid responders for vulture poisoning incidents, Singita’s Field Guides can swiftly report suspected poisonings, and transport affected vultures safely to facilities for treatment and rehabilitation. They also support population monitoring, continued participation in the citizen science collation of sightings of tagged vultures, collared wild dogs and lions, photography, and observations.

By supporting the EWT’s research, monitoring and conservation projects, SLT is contributing to collaborative efforts that address raptor and carnivore population declines across the Greater Kruger Park region.

**DONATE:**

**Species of Conservation Concern:**  
**Wild dogs, lions, vultures/raptors**

**Research and monitoring:**

**USD 320** – per camera trap for lion research and monitoring

**USD 335** – per satellite tracker for vulture research monitoring

**USD 450** – helicopter to monitor lions in remote areas (per hour)

**USD 1,500** – per wild dog collar

**USD 1,700** – per lion collar

**Emergency response costs:**

**USD 450** – helicopter to respond to emergencies such as snaring (per hour)

**USD 1,700** – raptor emergency fund (covers monthly costs for raptor rescue and rehabilitation, logistics, vet bills, toxicology tests, food for vultures and medical supplies)

**USD 3,500** – LeadCare II test machine and kit for assessing vulture blood lead levels

**Project running costs:**

Donate towards EWT’s monthly running costs to cover monitors, vehicles, fuel, and more.



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\* 100% of contributions are used for Singita’s support of the EWT Large Raptor and Carnivore Conservation Programmes in the Greater Kruger Region.



HOLISTIC EARLY  
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

# BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

Supporting access to quality education, professional skills development and rural entrepreneurship are critical focus areas for SLT, as they enable local communities to thrive socially and economically.







**Key successes:**



**1,700–2,000 children** supported each year over the last 4 years (2019–2022).



**80 classes** across 17 ECD Centres were equipped with educational learning materials, playground and music equipment, educational toys, games and classroom furniture over the last 4 years



A **full-time ECD trainer** provides weekly training to Centre Managers and practitioners

SLT supports access to quality education and skills development programmes across a variety of stages in a child’s and young adult’s life – starting with a focus and strategic investment in holistic early childhood education. Creating a solid foundation of physical and mental development ensures a sound foundation and appropriate level of school readiness to optimise formal schooling years.

In addition to a strategic focus on early childhood development (ECD), SLT support the Good Work Foundation (GWF), a local partner in the region providing neighbouring rural villages with digital learning hubs for primary and secondary school children – where they acquire computing skills to bolster their literacy and numeracy skills. Whilst bridging programmes and professional certification programmes prepare school leavers and young adults to enter the workplace, as well as the Singita Community Culinary School.

**DONATE:**

**USD 500** – a shared book corner per centre

**USD 500** – shared music equipment per centre

**USD 1,000** – shared outdoor play equipment per centre

**USD 6,300** – resource the classrooms per one age group at one of the ECD centres



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**HOW EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TRANSFORMS LIVES**

Early childhood development (ECD) supports physical and mental stimulation, as well as developmental milestones from 0-5 years. It’s been proven to be a key enabler to success in later life, and provides the basis for a sound education.



- Research has found that 85% of brain development occurs in the first five years of a child’s life, and that children who are exposed to quality ECD programmes perform better in formal school.
- SLT currently supports approximately 17 (4%) of the 418 ECD centres in the impoverished rural villages surrounding the Singita Sabi Sand and Singita Kruger National Park.
- These centres support approximately 1700-2000 preschool children annually – from babies to 5-year olds.

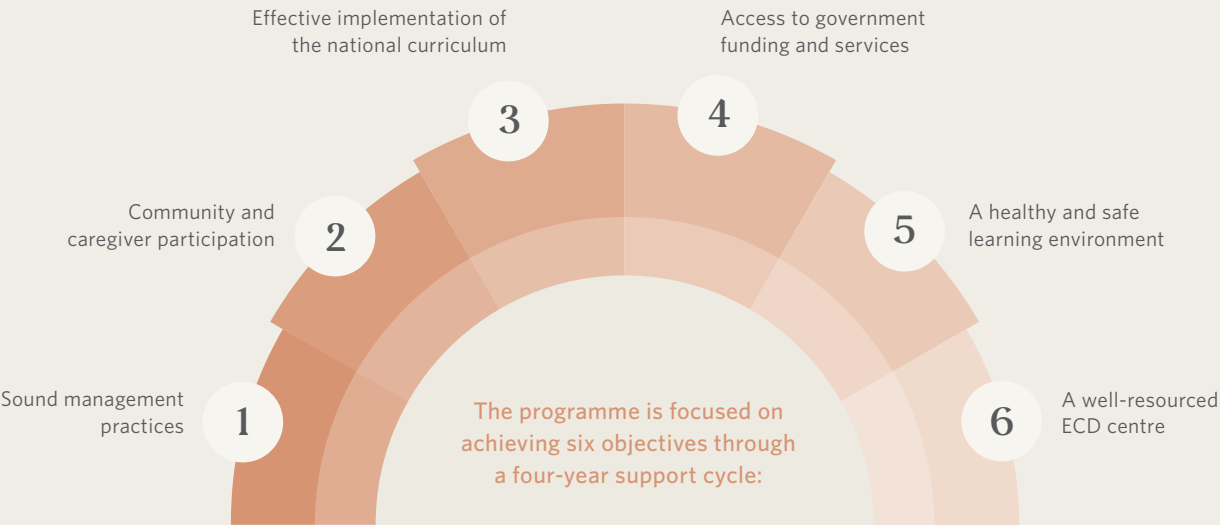
Although South Africa’s ECD curriculum is comprehensive, support for its implementation is limited. Educational resources are sparse, infrastructure is often severely lacking, and financial support from the government is minimal – or hard to access. While parents are required to pay school fees, they are often unable to.

SLT has developed and piloted a good practice holistic ECD support programme to enable the development of this critical sector across this region.

SLT has a full-time, highly experienced ECD trainer in the region who travels between centres to provide ongoing training and support to centre managers, practitioners/teachers and parents.

Since 2019, an annual SLT ECD Resource Drive has equipped 80 classrooms with age-appropriate resources, library reading corners, and central school areas with:

-  **classroom furniture**
-  **educational learning materials (including stationery and art supplies, puzzles, blocks, Lego, flashcards, posters, and more)**
-  **age-appropriate toys**
-  **books in their mother tongue (Xitsonga)**
-  **music equipment**
-  **nutrition programme utensils**







# SINGITA COMMUNITY CULINARY SCHOOL

Since the very first group of students stepped through the doors of the Singita Community Culinary School (SCCS) in South Africa when it opened in 2007, it has provided a launchpad for talented individuals who want to pursue successful careers in hospitality.



# THE START OF A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY



Empowering young adults from surrounding rural communities to become professional chefs, the Singita Community Culinary School (SCCS) is one of Singita's flagship community partnerships supporting the Hospitality and Tourism sector. This intensive year-long course offers young adults from neighbouring rural communities the opportunity to participate in a Singita-crafted, world class professional cheffing course.

Highlighting Singita's commitment to long-term community partnerships – which support access to quality education, professional skills development, rural enterprise development and formal employment – the SCCS ultimately opens doors to rewarding careers. It sees young talent expanding their knowledge and skills and allows them to soar.

Local community partnerships like the SCCS seek to bring about sustained socio-economic improvement in the many impoverished rural communities living alongside the reserves in which Singita operates.



## A world-class qualification and partnership

Singita has partnered with the Prue Leith Culinary Institute to provide the academic backbone and accreditation of the course. Every SCCS graduate emerges with a City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Professional Cookery, and the course applies theoretical culinary knowledge in practical cooking classes, and 180 hours of hands-on work experience in Singita's lodge kitchens. There's a strong focus on New African Cuisine and learning how to use the flavours and traditions of the continent in contemporary ways. Students also complete the international WSET Level 1 Award in Wines, and as a result, they emerge as fully fledged chefs with an understanding of dining as an experience.

### The SCCS at a glance:

**2007** first school opens its doors at Singita Kruger National Park in South Africa

**2015** second school opens at Singita Grumeti in Tanzania

**2021** third school opens in Rwanda

**151 students** have graduated from the programme to date

**26 students** are set to graduate in 2023

Each SCCS graduate is placed and supported through a six-month paid-for work internship and receives formal job placement throughout this period. Our proven track record shows that the intensive theoretical and practical course training, followed by in-situ work experience, prepares students optimally for the reality of operating in high-end lodges, hotels and restaurants.

With three dedicated schools already in operation and more in planning, the SCCS programme can make a significant difference to the prospects of aspiring young chefs from the many surrounding communities across the regions. There's no limit to what's possible for the talented youth across the continent, and we are well on our way to supporting the next generation of Africa's very best chefs.



## SINGITA COMMUNITY CULINARY SCHOOL

## A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Through the promotion of professional cooking as a highly skilled career option with excellent formal and self-employment prospects — both locally and abroad — the SCCS helps aspiring young adults, aged 18-24 from villages alongside the Singita Kruger National Park concession, to expand their horizons. Enabling them to secure much-needed employment and exciting career prospects to support their families and communities.

The SCCS is a unique programme that serves to fulfil a real need in the neighbouring rural communities, as well as for the South African hospitality industry as a whole. Graduates emerge with sought-after skills and strong employment prospects, while Singita's lodge kitchens – and those further afield – benefit from a pool of expertly trained aspiring young chefs.

**Key successes:**

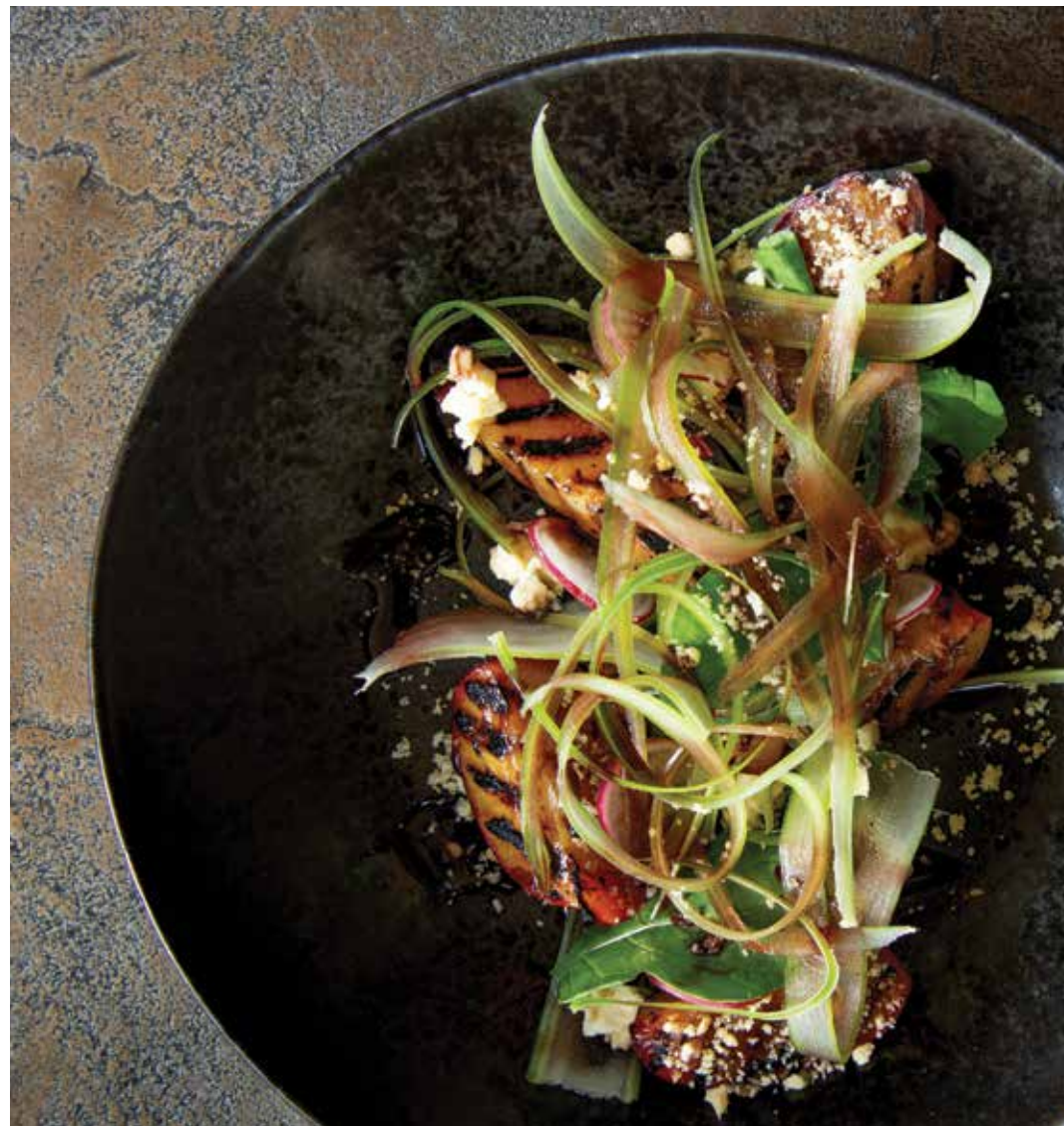
**103 students** have graduated from the SCCS at Singita Kruger National Park since it opened

**92% of graduates** are currently employed full-time

**44% of graduates** have advanced to the Junior Sous Chef level or beyond

The rigorous one-year course is a fully immersive experience encompassing one-on-one academic teaching, complemented by intensive on-site practical experience in the school's state-of-the-art cooking studio, which was opened in 2018 and is centrally located between Singita Lebombo Lodge's kitchen and dining area.

Here, students learn the finer points of the culinary craft at the hands of Nande Magojo, Chef Skills Developer, who is supported by Thys Taljaard, Singita's Regional SCCS Head. Guests also have the opportunity to engage and cook with the talented students during tailormade cooking class experiences.

**DONATE:**

**USD 150** – participate in a SCCS cooking class at Singita Lebombo lodge. All proceeds from these classes contribute to the SCCS Student Scholarship Fund.

**USD 12,500** – sponsor an annual SCCS scholarship for a student (includes annual tuition, uniforms, personal kitchen equipment, ingredients, room and board, transport, and monthly stipend).

Contribute any amount of your choosing to the **SCCS Student Scholarship Fund**. All funds donated go towards covering additional annual scholarships, and the aim is to **support 10 students at all campuses** by 2024.



Scan this QR code to make a donation to Singita Lowveld Trust via Empowers Africa, our USA 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor





# TANZANIA

## SINGITA GRUMETI AND LAMAI

Forming dramatic backdrops for the greatest show on earth – the annual migration – the western corridor of the Serengeti and its northernmost tip embody the essence of this vast wilderness.





# GRUMETI FUND

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Supporting millions of resident and migrating wildlife, the Serengeti is a world-renowned wilderness encompassing vast grasslands – with a diversity of socio-cultural communities living in and alongside the area’s reserves. Known for its rich biodiversity, it has one of a few fully functioning savannah ecosystems that remain intact – a region of national and global importance to preserve for future generations.





## REGION

Tanzania



## GLOBAL GOALS

Halt and Reverse  
Biodiversity Loss



Zero further extinction  
of species



Connecting people  
and nature



Youth development



As a non-profit organisation carrying out wildlife conservation and community development work in the western corridor of the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania, the Grumeti Fund – in partnership with the Tanzanian government – has embraced this task with great dedication and success for the past 20 years. Their vision is a world in which people and wildlife live together sustainably, forever.

In the early years of the Fund's existence, wildlife populations in this area were low, with black rhino being locally extinct and buffalo numbering a mere 600. One seldom heard a lion roar at night.

Today, **120** passionate team members protect, manage and monitor **350,000 acres** of previously neglected wilderness in Grumeti's concessions

The dedication of this team ensures that now more than 10,000 buffalo roam free, rhino have been successfully re-introduced and breeding, lions roar nightly, livelihoods have been improved, together with access to quality education and woman and youth empowerment.

The Grumeti Fund is making a tangible impact and bringing about profound and positive change through active conservation management, collaboration with local communities, technological innovations, and the deployment of well-trained boots on the ground.

Anti-poaching successes are largely attributed to the proactive approach of the Fund's canine unit; their 100 game scouts for survival; and a clandestine unit that relies on a network of informants from neighbouring communities, who provide valuable intelligence on the movements of poachers. Added to that, 12 permanent scout patrol camps and a network of high-lying observation posts (manned 24/7) were established to combat poaching.

The Fund's ongoing conservation projects include the re-establishment and protection of the endangered Eastern black rhino in northern Tanzania; caring for wildlife injured as a result of snaring for bushmeat – in partnership with Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA); managing wildfires; and reducing the impact of invasive alien plants.

Its community outreach programs continue to deliver exceptional results in neighbouring communities. Continuous engagement and relationship-building with these communities are of vital importance to enhance their livelihoods and maintain a peaceful coexistence between them and the wildlife that surrounds them.





ANTI-POACHING UNITS

“WE ARE  
PROTECTING  
WHAT IS  
SACRED.”

DAVID NICHOLAS MWAKIPISILE

As the custodians of the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania, the Grumeti Fund have made a profound impact, and their partnership has turned a near-barren wilderness with invasive alien vegetation and severely depressed game numbers into flourishing landscapes teeming with wildlife and biodiversity.





#### Key successes:

**5,000+ poachers** arrested since 2003

**100 former poachers** converted to wildlife protectors

Since the Grumeti Fund took over the joint management of the area in 2003 with the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), many species have recovered and now thrive – from buffalo to wildebeest and elephant populations. In 2019, in conjunction with government partners, the Fund carried out the largest single relocation and reintroduction of nine critically endangered Eastern black rhino.

They combine cutting-edge technology with boots on the ground to combat poaching threats, collaborate with communities, and practice active conservation management. Within the game scout force – comprising more than a hundred men from local communities – an elite Special Operations Group of high-performing scouts have excelled as a rapid reaction unit fighting poachers and protecting the wildlife.



#### DONATE:

Ranger equipment:  
**USD 15,000** per year

Ranger salaries:  
**USD 300,000** per year

Ranger training:  
**USD 40,000** per year

Aerial support to support scouts on patrols and responses:  
**USD 50,000** per year

The Fund's highly effective canine unit is also responsible for detecting highly trafficked wildlife contraband. The dogs have been expertly trained by Grumeti Fund dog handlers to sniff out ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, ammunition, bushmeat and snares – and they are also able to track people from the scene of a crime. The expert handlers have undergone intensive training at Singita Grumeti with the specialists from ASCT (American Society of Canine Trainers) and have been matched based on their mutual connection. The canine team works in Singita Grumeti, and aims to expand the program to other areas in the Serengeti as a part of a solution for wider protection.

The anti-poaching unit is constantly pushing the boundaries to ensure that scouts are equipped with cutting-edge gear and training.



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## RESEARCH &amp; MONITORING:

“YOU CANNOT MANAGE  
WELL WHAT YOU DO  
NOT UNDERSTAND WELL.”

NOEL MBISE, GENERAL MANAGER, GRUMETI FUND RESEARCH & COMMUNITY



To better understand local ecological systems and measure the effectiveness of community and conservation work, the Grumeti Fund invests significantly in research and monitoring programs. The aim is to maintain long-term records of changes in key variables – including climate, soil carbon, hydrological variables, vegetation biomass and species composition, controlled management burns, alien species (plants), large mammal numbers, large and important bird species, and human-wildlife conflict.

Using state-of-the-art GIS mapping software, the Fund can accurately map everything from wildfires and alien plant infestations to human-wildlife conflict and poaching incidents. This data ensures that only the best evidence-based information guides decision-making. Several projects are aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the dynamics of wildlife populations, including a focus on predator densities and territories, as well as elephant behaviour and movements:

### Biennial Aerial Game Census

The Game Census provides invaluable information regarding population trends in a wide variety of wildlife species. When collated, it provides a holistic overview and understanding of the protected area through the collaborative efforts of the Grumeti Fund's various departments. Since the first census was conducted in 2003, it has revealed dramatic recoveries in wildlife in the Serengeti ecosystem.

#### Key successes:



**10,466 buffalo** roaming the concessions by 2022 (from 600 in 2003)



Resident herbivore biomass increased **four-fold** since 2003



The 2020 census counted **free-ranging eastern black rhino** for the first time – including a newly born calf





### Camera Trap Survey

Camera traps capture information on the presence, diversity, distribution, and abundance of wildlife species – including those which are cryptic (hard to detect) or nocturnal and unable to be monitored via the aerial census. Deployed across the concession, the cameras aim to glean a better understanding of the presence of rare and key species, the seasonal distribution of conflict-prone species like elephants and lion, and the influence of people and livestock on wildlife.

### Elephant Collaring

A two-pronged project to build a long-term data set to better understand elephant movements and distributions; and serves as a management tool for preventing human-elephant conflict through interventions and preventing elephants from moving into farms and villages.

### Key Species Monitoring

In collaboration with the Singita Field Guides, this project looks largely at carnivore demographics and identification across the protected area.

### Research and Innovation

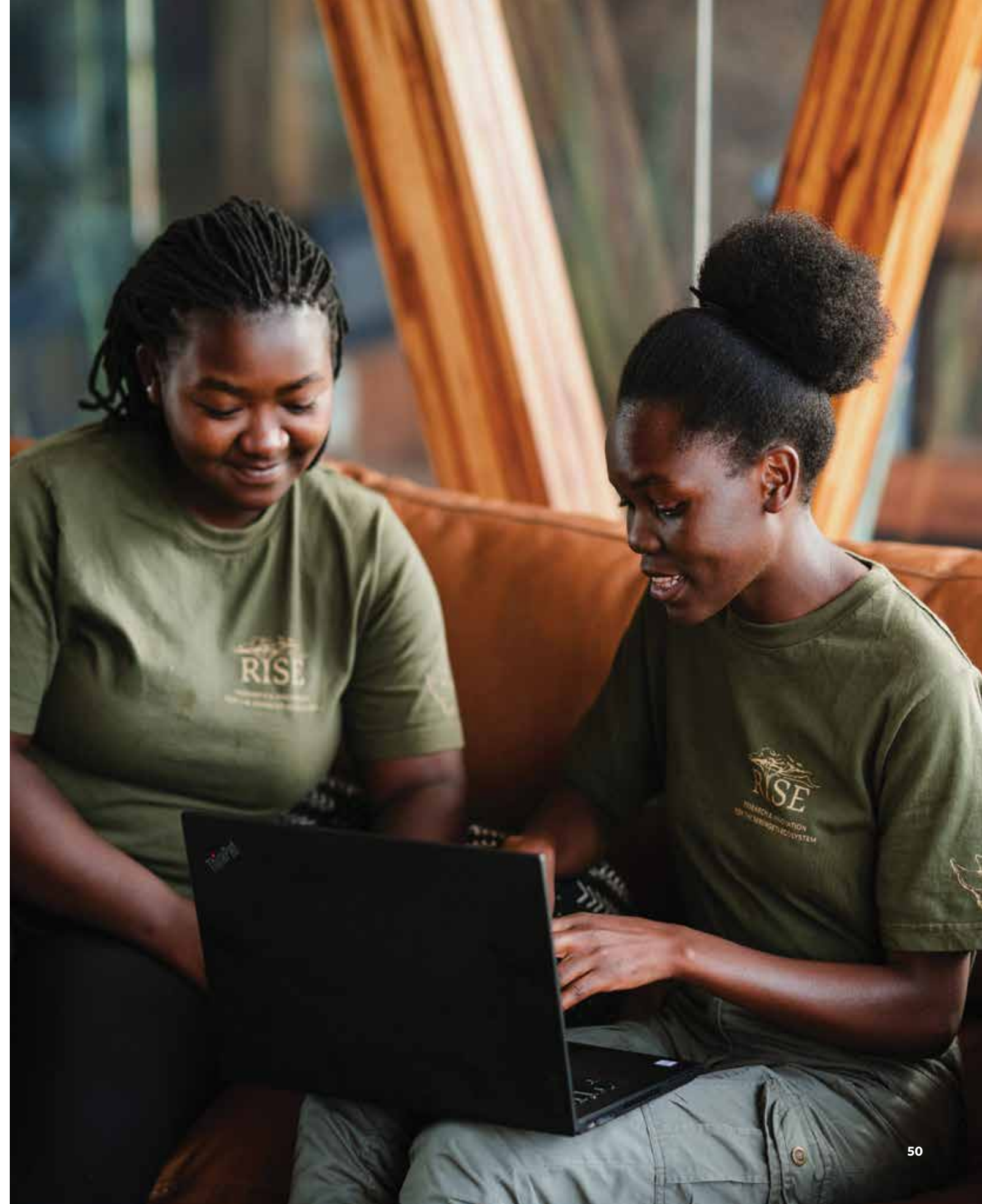
Established in 2020, **RISE** (Research & Innovation for Serengeti Ecosystem) is an applied research centre in the western Serengeti. Its mission is to create innovative tools and solutions to combat the most pressing conservation challenges of our time.

A fundamental cornerstone of the Grumeti Fund is the belief that conservation programs create opportunities for women and youth that will lead to a future where conservation actions and policies are inclusive and, as a result, contribute to better outcomes for both people and wildlife.

Built on collaboration and education, RISE aims to develop and support research initiatives that provide tangible and sustainable solutions to benefit the people and wildlife of the Serengeti ecosystem and beyond. They are committed to supporting local talent and early-stage conservationists, and making space for women in conservation research and protected area management.



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HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION:  
ELEPHANT MONITORING

# PROMOTING COOPERATION & COEXISTENCE

Human-wildlife conflict has been in existence as long as people and wild animals have shared the same landscapes and resources. However, the issue has escalated in response to factors such as increasing human populations, the associated demand for natural resources, and – ironically – the Grumeti Fund’s success in restoring wildlife-protected areas in northern Tanzania.







Communities living close to these protected areas often face huge losses due to conflict situations with wildlife – whether it’s the destruction of crops by elephants or the predation of cattle by lions and hyenas. With around 1,922 elephants thriving in the reserve (up from only 350 just 18 years ago), it’s not surprising that human-wildlife conflicts have steadily increased; and with a single elephant incident potentially leading to the loss of an entire year’s income, the stakes are much higher – for both people and wildlife.

A study commissioned by Grumeti Fund found that from 2012-2014, the annual number of elephant-related crop-damage incidents in nearby villages increased by 750%. This led to the establishment of the specialist Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Unit, which consists of specially trained Grumeti Fund and government scouts who are constantly on standby to respond to – and mitigate – conflict incidents reported via a dedicated hotline.

In addition to the hotline, the successful installation of satellite-enabled GPS collars on 30 elephants, who were carefully chosen to represent the elephant population in Grumeti, provides unparalleled real-time monitoring on the advanced EarthRanger tracking platform, and a better understanding of elephant movement dynamics, which is invaluable in the prevention of human-wildlife conflict.

In combination with geofencing – a virtual perimeter between the Grumeti concessions and community land – it allows the Mitigation Unit to proactively anticipate potential conflict situations, inform scout deployment and anti-poaching work, and promote transboundary cooperation within the wider ecosystem.

### DONATE:

Support the replacement of one of the elephant collars to enable the ongoing understanding of how individual animals respond to changing climate, human development, law enforcement strategies, and measures for mitigating human–elephant conflicts.

**USD 5,000**  
deployment of 1 collar

**USD 60,000**  
annual operating costs



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

“I NEVER MET  
A POACHER  
WHO WENT  
TO SCHOOL.”

BENSON BENJAMIN, RESEARCHER

The decision to become a poacher is often one of necessity. And sadly, many poor families in marginalised communities rely on that income as they have no other options or means to make ends meet, but it's a very dangerous and unsustainable option for the future of these communities, as well as the surrounding wildlife.





UPLIFT (Unlocking Prosperous Livelihoods for Tomorrow) is the Grumeti Fund’s outreach program, and it is designed to enhance the livelihoods of communities neighbouring the concession. Through UPLIFT, the Fund aims to improve the quality of education, income-generation opportunities, enterprise development resources, as well as environmental awareness initiatives in these communities. All of these efforts work towards equipping individuals with the necessary skills and abilities to pursue rewarding and successful careers. They also acquire a deeper appreciation and understanding of conservation, become more aware of their role in nature’s preservation, and are enabled to become custodians of the habitats and wildlife that surround them.

Sustainable income opportunities are made available through the Fund’s partnership with Raizcorp, which offers guidance on business skills and personal development for budding entrepreneurs.

The introduction of English language villages, in partnership with Concordia Language Villages, helps to bridge the gap for children who are transitioning from primary to secondary school – when the main language of instruction changes from Kiswahili to English – and sets them up for academic success.

Scholarships for secondary school, vocational studies, and education within the conservation and tourism sectors are readily available to youth from local communities. Hands-on experience is provided by mentors at the Grumeti Fund, who offer life skills training and internship opportunities.

Across all of the Grumeti Fund’s educational programs, girl empowerment is a key focus. Events for girls addressing empowerment, health, confidence, body image and career development are held several times a year.

**Donations go toward:**

**USD 1,300** per year of secondary school

**USD 4,500** per year of vocational studies

**USD 7,500** per year of university studies



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# NURTURING AMBASSADORS FOR NATURE: MEET LAURIAN LAMATUS

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“Attitudes don’t change overnight – it’s a process. At the Environmental Education Centre (EEC), we are preparing strong leaders who will make the right decisions at the right time.”

As the Principal of the EEC in Singita Grumeti since 2009, Laurian Lamatus has also been a trainer from the very first day, and his dedication to inspiring young minds while shaping a better future is clear. “If the new generation is well-informed, they will make the right decisions in favour of the natural resources they have – and pass on this legacy of conservation to the next generation. All of this becomes possible through the EEC,” he says.

The centre runs residential, week-long courses for students (aged 15-17) from 16 neighbouring secondary schools bordering the concessions. Accompanied by their teacher, 16 students attend each course, which entails living in nature and experiencing their natural heritage first-hand. Training happens in an interactive classroom and in the field, covering a range of critical issues such as deforestation, soil erosion, waste management and water conservation.

Students get a well-rounded understanding of their role in greater conservation struggles, and gain knowledge to help counter these issues. Afterwards, they return to their local schools and communities to become agents of change – and start conservation clubs, planting indigenous trees, addressing soil erosion and tackling many environmental issues. Some schools even established beekeeping as a result.







Conceptualised by the Grumeti Fund, the program fits into the local curriculum and includes topics related to conservation selected from four subjects – biology, chemistry, geography, and civics. Apart from EEC students reportedly faring better in these subjects than their counterparts in the national exams, they are profoundly moved by the content of the course. “Before joining us, students were unaware of poaching’s negative effects, yet after the course, they talk openly about it and even suggest solutions,” says Laurian.

**512 students** and **32 teachers** attend the EEC every year

**2,000 young people and teachers** have benefitted from this inspiring opportunity to date

The EEC’s benefits are multiple – and while creating future leaders with the experience and ability to correctly manage the use of natural resources, the students’ families also benefit from the ripple effect of their knowledge through activities like planting trees and vegetable gardens in nearby villages. As the local community becomes more aware of the importance of conservation, they ensure that the message is spread far and wide.

Students are selected based on academic performance or a strong passion for the environment and sometimes, the students you’d least expect it from end up shining the most. Laurian remembers one boy who was incredibly quiet throughout the course – but then surprised everyone by eventually doing an entire presentation through artwork to express his feelings on conservation. He used second-hand materials to produce various designs, which were even featured on BBC, and his art still enjoys pride of place in the EEC training room to this day.

According to Laurian, one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching young minds is to witness their attitudes towards wildlife conservation change. “It’s supporting the Grumeti Fund’s dream to create a place where humans and wildlife can live together sustainably, forever.” It’s therefore crucial for this work to continue, as the EEC provides an opportunity for young people to hear more about – and participate in – meaningful change.

“During the course, the students become very eager to find solutions, and although they’d love to see change overnight, they realise that their communities are reluctant to take the necessary steps – for example, towards rehabilitating water resources, and controlling invasive alien plants species. As educators, our role is to encourage them to raise awareness and engage with decision makers. It’s so rewarding to see these vibrant youths ready to bring about change.”

## TEACHING SUPPORT PROGRAM

# “QUALITY TEACHERS WHO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE LEARNING ARE PIVOTAL.”



Primary and early school education is critical as it establishes a solid foundation for the future of children and as the builders of this foundation, quality teachers who provide effective learning – in and outside of the classroom – are pivotal. Added to that, a healthy student-teacher ratio ensures a successful learning environment.

Unfortunately, these key prerequisites are not givens in most of the remote rural schools set in the communities neighbouring the protected areas that the Grumeti Fund and Singita help to conserve, and student-teacher ratios are low. In some schools, they’re so negligible that it constitutes a significant challenge that ultimately impedes successful learning and teaching.

The Grumeti Fund’s Teaching Support Program (TSP) addresses this challenge by placing 52 young, passionate, and recently graduated teachers in 26 local primary schools to boost the teacher-student ratio, improve academic achievement, and increase students’ potential to realise their future ambitions and potential in life.

Donate towards the program’s annual operational costs: **USD 250,000**



Scan this QR code to make a donation to Grumeti Fund via the African Community and Conservation Foundation, our USA 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor



# A SPECIES IN CRISIS

Across the globe, rhino are a species in crisis. Africa, which is home to two of the world’s five rhino species – the white and black rhino – also has the largest remaining populations of rhino on earth.

Over time, both species have been part of significant conservation success stories. White rhino recovered steadily from near extinction after their numbers in the wild dwindled as low as 50-100 in the early 1900s, and more recently, after the African black rhino population dropped to just under 2,500 in 1995.

Today, there’s a clarion call across the continent to support the conservation of these species once more, and a multi-pronged approach involving various conservation partners playing their part to turn the tide on rampant poaching pressure. The goal is to maintain viable populations that can stabilise and grow the numbers of both white and black rhino across Africa to prevent the threat of local extinction.

With the total number of rhino now hovering at 27,000 worldwide, it’s hard to imagine that just 150 years ago, a million rhino roamed the African wilderness. Waves of poaching pressure have targeted the species for many decades before this scourge reached a crisis point by 2008.

Across many regions, populations in key strongholds have seen dramatic declines, with no time to recover from the losses of the past decade. The long-term impact of the relentless pressure, driven by highly organised crime syndicates supplying the illicit trade in rhino horn – coupled with extended periods of drought – is taking its toll.

By 2022, poachers were killing more than one rhino a day. Without urgent action, Africa’s rhino numbers will continue to plummet. Overall numbers in South Africa, home to the world’s largest population of rhino, have declined by nearly 75% in just 10 years. The reality is that the poaching crisis has reached a pinnacle – requiring intensive resourcing with those at the forefront of the fight being pushed to their limits:

Every **16 hours** a rhino is poached in Africa

**±9,400 African rhino lost** to poaching in the past decade

**1,700+** rhino poached from **2017-2021** in SA’s Kruger National Park

**33%** of Botswana’s rhino population lost in the past **5 years**

The next decade will be critical for the survival of the species across the continent – from South Africa to other key home ranges Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Tanzania and Kenya – with very few rhino surviving outside of protected areas and reserves, and the majority now under the custodianship and protection of the private sector.

In each of these regions, dedicated conservationists, NGOs, and government partners in key ranges are employing a variety of conservation tactics to stay ahead of the relentless poaching pressure.

## A multi-pronged approach to conserving Africa's rhino

There are many successful interventions offering beacons of hope.

They involve many passionate role players and dedicated strategies, including the:

- resource-intensive protection of these animals – providing 24/7 security in the form of highly trained, dedicated anti-poaching units
- use of innovative surveillance and monitoring technology to support early detection and rapid response to poaching incursions
- removal and translocation of key rhino populations from high-density poaching hotspot areas, reintroducing these groups into smaller, well-protected areas or new geographic ranges
- establishment of rhino orphan sanctuaries for rescued calves – to facilitate their rehabilitation and rewilding before being re-released into well-protected wilderness areas as important future breeding groups
- short-term dehorning (sedating the animal to remove the horn) to deflect the poaching pressure on key high-density poaching hotspot regions
- use of a network of informants supporting law enforcement, arrests and the successful prosecution of poachers

In addition to these direct conservation efforts, many NGOs and law enforcement agencies are working to track the financial flows of the illicit trade to track the kingpins organising the poaching networks and to curb market demand in key consumer markets.

Across Africa, intensive protection, strategic translocations and reintroductions have become pivotal to ensure viable breeding populations and maintain these as key source populations for restocking areas where rhino teeter on the edge of local extinction. The multi-layered approach to rhino conservation highlights the importance of collaborative efforts between various conservation partners and networks – as well as the need for dramatic, short-term interventions such as intensive protection and dehorning to buy time for the species at this critical juncture.

“Many populations are at tipping point: we cannot afford to lose any more rhino and must do everything possible to protect those remaining and see their numbers increase. “



Our Conservation Partners across Zimbabwe (The Malilangwe Trust), Tanzania (Grumeti Fund), and South Africa (Singita Lowveld Trust) are all playing an important role in the protection of Africa’s rhino, illustrating the range of unique tactics and efforts underway across our region:

**The Greater Kruger Region (South Africa)**

Home to the majority of the world’s remaining rhino, South Africa has also been hardest hit by the poaching scourge and remains at the epicentre of poaching in the region, seeing sharp declines of both white and black rhino in recent years.

The Greater Kruger Park region has the highest densities of rhino across the continent.

A decade ago, the region was home to an estimated 12,000 white rhino (the largest population in the world); and ±2,000 black rhino (the second-largest population). However, escalating pressure has seen dedicated anti-poaching units and field rangers facing an endless stream of harrowing challenges, resulting in a devastating 75% decline of white rhino. The region is now down to 2,000 white rhino, reaching tenuous thresholds to maintain viable, stable populations.

The goal in this area is to ensure the protection of the remaining key population to maintain a viable breeding population that can stabilise and grow the rhino numbers to replenish and restock this area.



**80%** of Africa’s white rhino are in SA



**75% decline** in white rhino in Greater Kruger National Park in the past **10 years**



critically endangered

**33%** of Africa’s black rhino are in SA

To reduce and deflect the current poaching pressure on a critical remaining population, it has become a necessity to dehorn rhino in high density areas.

Rhino dehorning:

This intervention involves the aerial darting of the animals to sedate them, prior to their horns being removed just above the nasal passage.

Rhino horn is made of keratin (similar to human fingernails), with no nerve-endings, which makes them the only species that can have their most highly valued body part safely removed with the knowledge that the horn can grow back fully over time – at a rate of approximately 7cm per year.

The animals experience relatively minor effects when they are safely dehorned, when weighed up against the high risk of brutal deaths at the hands of poachers.

To date, 98% of all rhinos in the Greater Kruger Park region have been successfully dehorned and annual maintenance trimming of horn regrowth will continue until the poaching pressure has been contained in this region.

As one of the cogs in the wheel of the multi-pronged approach to tackling the poaching crisis across the continent, the Singita Lowveld Trust (SLT):

- supports the dehorning of rhino as a drastic, short-term intervention to reduce and deflect poaching pressure in a high-density, poaching hotspot region. Singita sponsors the dehorning of rhino through our Safaris with Purpose, in aid of the Kruger National Park’s rhino conservation programme
- is a sponsor of Care for Wild Rhino Orphanage. With each rhino cow capable of producing up to 7-8 offspring in her lifetime, every calf counts in the bid to replenish and grow SA’s rhino population (read more on the remarkable and inspiring story of Mavic on page 20).
- actively supports the work of Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) and canine dog (K9) units in the region, who are crucial for safeguarding rhino and many other species of conservation concern (read more on page 14).



**The Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve (Zimbabwe)**

At Malilangwe, the absence of black rhino for more than 50 years and the depletion of white rhino numbers to less than 10 in 1994 were cause for concern. This prompted The Malilangwe Trust to embark on a bold and ambitious translocation and reintroduction programme, which has turned into a flagship initiative for the recovery of both species. Today, the reserve offers a key refuge and source population for restocking protected areas across the region.

In line with The Malilangwe Trust’s plan to restore the historic biodiversity of the area, several rare or locally extinct species were reintroduced, including black and white rhino. Both were relocated from KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, and the translocation involved what was, at the time, the largest cross-border relocation of black rhino in history, with 28 animals arriving safely at their new home. Under the watchful eye of Malilangwe’s elite anti-poaching team, 12 white rhinos also made the 1,000km journey to the reserve, and both species are thriving in this highly favourable habitat.

With their numbers steadily increasing over the past two decades, the reserve is now home to globally significant populations of both species, and here, a small but dedicated team of conservation professionals are making an outsized impact on the conservation of Africa’s rhino. They are now able to support significant translocations to other areas where these species have become locally extinct – including a contribution of 10 animals to the recent reintroduction of 38 black rhino to the neighbouring Gonarezhou National Park.

**Malilangwe’s rhino – 1994-2023:**

Black rhino **locally extinct** for **more than 50 years** prior to **reintroduction in 1998**

By 2020s – showing a **six-fold increase** in black rhino; and a **30-fold increase** in white rhino

Now home to globally significant populations of both species (**combined total of >400**)



Grumeti (Tanzania)

At a time when the critically endangered eastern black rhino was locally extinct in the Grumeti concession, the Grumeti Fund opted for a bold strategy when they translocated and re-established a viable population in the western Grumeti corridor of the Serengeti Ecosystem.

In a controversial move, they brought in and rewilded captive-bred zoo animals – a game plan many critics predicted would never succeed. However, working with key government partners, while providing significant resources, expertise paired with the tenacious and tireless commitment of the Grumeti Fund team, this innovative vision is now paying off over time.

Today, Grumeti is home to 10% of northern Tanzania’s black rhino – and a significant satellite population in the region.

It was a hard-won victory, but a risk well worth taking given the crisis at hand. It has proven the merit of a novel approach which included introducing genetic diversity – and added another game-changing strategy in service of saving the species.

Perseverance & hope

While the odds are considerable, and the challenges huge, history has repeatedly shown that committed individuals on the ground, supported by like-minded donors, are capable of bringing back rhino populations from the brink of local extinction.

There have also been times when rhino had been locally extinct, and the species had been all but lost in specific regions. Our Conservation partners have had an oversized impact at key tipping points – by bringing rhino back and reintroducing and re-establishing key satellite populations.



150 years ago

More than 1 million+ black and white rhino roamed Africa’s savannas freely, before European hunters sent their numbers into sharp decline

1970 - 1980s

Poaching escalated as the illicit demand for rhino horn grew – leaving both white and black rhino species at risk

1980 - 2000s

Critical interventions in countries such as SA, Namibia and Zimbabwe helped to boost rhino numbers

2008 - 2023

Poaching is once again threatening the survival of Africa’s rhino populations

The remarkable success story of The Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve highlights what can be achieved in just 20 years, while the Grumeti Fund’s bold and courageous vision included big risks to support the far-reaching recovery of Africa’s rhino.

“We’ve been at this crossroads before, living through intense poaching scourges over the decades. And yet, with decisive action and innovative approaches, rhino numbers were stabilised and restored. This gives us hope and determination to overcome this poaching pandemic once again.”

INGE KOTZE  
GROUP HEAD OF CONSERVATION, SINGITA





# ZIMBABWE

## SINGITA MALILANGWE

A rare and remote wilderness in Zimbabwe's breathtaking south eastern reaches – where iconic species flourish and thrive.







# THE MALILANGWE TRUST

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Set in Zimbabwe's remote southeast, the Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve comprises 115,000 acres of protected wilderness known for its rugged beauty and thriving wildlife. As a shining example of a long-term conservation vision, it supports a landscape where ecosystems function naturally much as they have done for thousands of years.



The Malilangwe Trust





## REGION

Zimbabwe



Malilangwe is home to a remarkable diversity of wildlife including endangered black and white rhino as well as predators like lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and wild dogs which keep the abundant antelope populations in check. Herds of up to 500 buffalo are not uncommon in the dry season.

Teeming with several fish species, including tigerfish, the Malilangwe Dam is home to hippo, crocodile and numerous water birds; and during the summer months, elephant breeding herds can regularly be seen enjoying leisurely swims. More than 400 bird species are found in the Reserve, and a total of 60 raptor species have been recorded, among which 11 are owls.

Since 1994, The Malilangwe Trust – a Zimbabwean non-profit organisation – has been dedicated to the environmental conservation of this incredible wilderness and its wildlife, as well as the development of local communities living alongside the Reserve. Today, the Trust's 392 committed employees are responsible for far-reaching initiatives that include a nutrition programme, environmental awareness and junior ranger programmes, an anti-poaching unit, youth development, and more.

The Malilangwe Trust's work entails the day-to-day management of the Reserve, and their holistic vision considers every living organism – from butterflies and dung beetles to giraffe and elephant – which are all equally important to the functioning of a healthy ecosystem.

## GLOBAL GOALS

Halt and Reverse Biodiversity Loss



Zero further extinction of species



Connecting people and nature



Youth development



Key objectives include restoration and preservation; making a meaningful contribution to conservation science through dedicated research; contributing towards the development of people in surrounding communities; and developing sustainable revenue streams to fund these activities.

By integrating conservation and community development to the mutual benefit of both humans and wildlife, this team promotes a coexistence that is critical in today's Africa. Science-based wildlife protection allows the healthy growth of wild populations in their natural habitat, alongside community development programmes that support livelihoods, improve local standards of living, and teach the value of wildlands and wild animals so that they will be preserved for future generations.





ANTI-POACHING UNIT

# SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE SPECIES

After successfully introducing black and white rhino to the area between 1996 and 1998, the Reserve is now home to globally significant populations of both species. It even serves as a source for restocking rhino to other protected areas in Africa to bolster breeding populations, or re-establish the species in areas where they've become locally extinct.







While anti-poaching scouts have always been a part of The Malilangwe Trust's arsenal, the more recent mounting scourge of organised poaching has called for intensified efforts. In 2007, when rhino poaching reached crisis levels in southern Africa and threats to the Reserve intensified, the Trust responded by re-fencing the entire property, increasing the number of scouts, and improving their equipment and training.

Scouts' recruitment training includes physical fitness, tracking, first aid, weapons training, radio communications and GPS proficiency – and the physical and mental challenges of this training pushes recruits beyond what they believe they are capable of. At the end of the six-month course, a select few take their places as Malilangwe Scouts. Refresher training is scheduled every three months.

Constantly on high alert, the Malilangwe Scouts are at the forefront of the war on poaching and their extraordinary courage and dedication stands between the Reserve's biodiversity, and, for some species, the threat of extinction. The Anti-Poaching Unit directs considerable effort and resources towards intelligence which allows them to respond to incoming information and apprehend potential poachers.



#### DONATE:

**USD 540** – for 1 Scout's full uniform (including boots, uniforms, and wet-weather gear)

**USD 5,000** – 100 rechargeable high-lumen flashlight torches for night patrols

**USD 10,000** – 100 hydration bladder packs to keep scouts hydrated during their daily patrols in the bush



#### Key successes:

2005-2022: **37 white rhino** translocated from the Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve to other conservation areas

2021: **10 critically endangered black rhino** translocated to Gonarezhou National Park

Poaching at Malilangwe is 90% **under control**

**12-fold increase** in rhinos since 1994

Today, 90 scouts are strategically deployed across the Reserve, and their daily patrols include anti-poaching and biological monitoring. While on patrol, they observe and record data on large mammals and other wildlife. This data is captured into a database which is used to direct management decisions and further scientific research.

Compared to other reserves with rhino, Malilangwe reports fewer incursions. Malilangwe's Quick Reaction Team has multiple functions including rapid response to incidents, assisting government authorities with off-property investigations, locating rhino that are infrequently seen, and visiting neighbouring communities to forge relationships.



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# A CONSERVATIONIST AT HEART: MEET PANDENI CHITIMELA

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“I’m a conservationist at heart – I want to ensure that Malilangwe’s wildlife is safe, and that its flora and fauna will be around for future generations.”

Growing up with an innate passion to protect animals, Pandeni Chitimela was destined for a life in conservation from a very young age. In pursuit of his lifelong purpose, he enrolled in the Malilangwe Scouts’ selection course in 1997, and was recruited soon after that. During his five years as a scout, Pandeni developed a fascination for the Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve’s flora and fauna, and learnt all he could about different vegetation types while collecting meaningful data about the incredible wildlife of this region.

His enthusiasm did not go unnoticed and before long, Pandeni was selected as one of Malilangwe’s first Research Technicians. With further training and continuing to broaden his skills set, he took on responsibilities such as rhino database management, rhino ops, and training the scouts on rhino monitoring, which has given him integral and in-depth knowledge of all the rhino on the reserve.

In 2021, Pandeni was intricately involved with the translocation of 10 black rhino from the reserve to the nearby Gonarezhou National Park. He helped with the selection of the animals and created the list of rhino to be moved. “Our selection included animals who were friends – because they were often seen together; and mothers with calves. We also considered their mates – so if a cow was frequently seen with a bull, we’d move the pair together,” he says.

Preparation for the translocation involved everything from ensuring that the team had enough water on hand to spray the animals to keep them cool, to packing the necessary gear (like GPS and cameras) as well as chains and ropes, and a chainsaw to remove shrubs and bushes around the rhino to smooth the process.

During the translocation, Pandeni was radioed by the scouts when they had located the earmarked animals, and he alerted both the air and ground crews in the wildlife team to dart the rhino. Once the rhino were darted from the helicopter and immobilised, Pandeni’s role as part of the ground crew involved crucial monitoring activities – and he measured their horns, body length, the diameter of their feet, and more. He also assisted with gently and safely directing the rhino into crates.

Translocations are not for the faint-hearted, and the process is filled with many stressful and emotional elements. Sometimes after an animal is darted, it may fall into thick bushes or a riverbed – areas that cannot be accessed with the big trucks used for translocations. “We then had to load the rhino onto a conveyor belt, which is pulled using a tractor before being able to gain access to the truck,” says Pandeni. “While I knew it was the best option under the circumstances, it was hard to see rhino that I’ve come to know being carried in this way.”

He adds that he was concerned about the animals injuring themselves when they pushed against the crates in which they were moved; and once they were offloaded, they were at times stressed, reluctant to feed, and crashing into poles. “So I naturally worried about their wellbeing – we all worried.”

Yet, despite their arduous journey, the translocation was invaluable for the survival of the species, and part of a larger project that saw black rhino set foot in Gonarezhou for the first time in nearly three decades.

Says Pandeni: “I hope that our animals will continue to stay well-protected and multiply – and we will continue to stop poaching in its tracks so that future generations will be able to witness the same animals that we’ve been taking care of.”







#### NUTRITION PROGRAMME

## NOURISHING YOUNG MINDS

The Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve is located in an area that is prone to unpredictable rainfall patterns and frequent periods of drought. Neighbouring communities mostly rely on subsistence farming to survive, as a result they are vulnerable to these climatic variations and face food insecurity. Many children living in rural Zimbabwe have to walk long distances to school, often with little or no food to get through the day, which leads to high rates of absenteeism.





#### Key successes:

**20,000+ children** receive a nutritional drink every school day

**Improved school attendance** and physical development of children, higher energy levels and enhanced concentration in class.

**Water health and sanitation was addressed** for the broader community – extending to schools and clinics.

In 2003, the Trust established a programme which aimed to provide a fully balanced meal to every school child, every school day. It's located at 400 sites in the communities surrounding the reserve. Children younger than 5 received corn-soya porridge at satellite meal sites, and children under 12 received this porridge at selected schools.

In 2019, the initiative was expanded, and the porridge was replaced with maheu – a highly nutritious drink. Today, maheu is distributed to 32 schools in the area, as well as three children's homes and an old-age home. While there's been a decline in the number of distribution sites, the programme's reach has been increased to include more children.



The Trust employs and trains 32 people in neighbouring communities as custodians of this vitally important programme, and they are responsible for every child receiving 300ml of maheu per school day. They also prepare the maheu and take care of the health and hygiene of each facility. As maheu is prepared with water, the Trust works closely with relevant government ministries to ensure the cleanliness and safety of potable water at each site. Where needed, hygiene standards of water facilities were addressed by implementing infrastructural changes or drilling boreholes.

#### DONATE:

**USD 16** – one meal per day for a child for a year

**USD 25** – to feed 15 children a month with 1 x 20kg bag of maheu

**USD 200** – one child's junior school education per year (Grades 1-7)

**USD 1,250** – 1 ton of maheu



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## CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMME

# INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION OF AMBASSADORS FOR NATURE

While rural communities living alongside Africa's pristine wilderness regions can be crucial for the survival of these settings, they are often unable to actively participate in the preservation of these protected areas due to a limited availability of knowledge.



### Key successes:

**The Malilangwe Rhino Soccer Trophy Tournament** – an annual soccer festival which combines sport and conservation – was born from these classes.

**Green Clubs** – which include tree-planting – were started at various schools.

One of the students received a **sponsorship to study law** at a university in India.

Facing challenges accelerated by climate change – and with their livelihoods for the most part depending on subsistence farming – there's an increasing need to be better equipped to deal with ecological processes that affect the soil; as well as a better understanding of everything from fires and grazing to the detrimental effects of unsustainable agricultural practices.

To empower local communities with the information and skills they need to understand the value of conserving wildlife and wilderness, and the benefits that arise from the dedicated care of the natural assets around them, the Trust established a dedicated Conservation Education course. Hosted at Hakamela Camp in the reserve, classes are designed and hosted by Malilangwe employees, and each four-day course is earmarked for Grade 6 (11-12 years old) pupils from 11 schools bordering the reserve.

Launched in 2011, the course aims to instil an appreciation for wildlife, conservation, sustainability, environmental processes, and cultural heritage, as well as to equip students with a range of life skills. Students also participate in highly engaging game drives and practical field experiments in the bush, where most of them have their first-ever experiences with large wild animals.



## JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMME

# DEVELOPING AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MEN



In addition to learning more about environmental functions, they embark on team-building exercises, receive counselling on prevalent and pressing social issues in their communities, and are immersed in a cultural experience at the Kambako Living Museum – which showcases historical bushcraft of the Shangaan people.

Since inception, the course has averaged 450 students per year.

By raising awareness, and through education and meaningful experiences in the wilderness, a new generation of ambassadors for conservation can be inspired to come to the fore.

Awareness will always be key to the success of these efforts, and thanks to an improved understanding of the work being done – as well as the goals at the heart of the efforts to preserve this beautiful reserve – the Trust receives ongoing support from its neighbours.



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### DONATE:

**USD 60** – to sponsor Conservation Education (per child per year)

**USD 40,000** – funds needed to buy a new vehicle for Conservation Education game drives



The Malilangwe Trust's Junior Ranger Programme (JRP) started in 2018 with the purpose of equipping young men with life skills to improve their employment opportunities after leaving school. The programme takes place during school holidays over the course of a year, and is aimed at boys aged 16-19 from a neighbouring rural school. The JRP is designed and instructed by the Malilangwe Scouts, who act as mentors and pass on a diverse range of skills and wisdom to the young recruits.





During their time as Junior Rangers, the boys live in purpose-built dormitories in a Malilangwe staff village in the Reserve. As unity is important, they work as a team and share responsibilities – including cooking their own meals, washing, and keeping the facilities clean and tidy. For all of these boys, it's their first time to sleep in a real bed and use a proper shower.

The course aims to instil discipline, respect, teamwork, leadership, and self-confidence – which in turn creates a happy learning environment. The Junior Rangers are instructed in physical fitness, bushcraft, conservation education, first aid and a wide range of life skills such

as sewing, cooking, public speaking, and compiling CVs. They ultimately graduate in a parade which encompasses a full drill exercise and demonstrates some of the incredible skills that they've mastered in conservation, first aid and public speaking.

Over the past 5 years, 14 of the boys who have graduated from the programme have been employed by the Trust to work in their conservation programmes, workshops, maintenance departments, and as scouts. A couple of the boys who continued with their schooling have also been sponsored by the Trust to attend university.

#### Key successes:

To date, **74 boys have been impacted** – giving them hope, direction, life skills and future opportunities.

The **Junior Rangers** are in turn making a difference in their communities by giving back (eg building homes for the elderly, establishing vegetable gardens and mentoring other youngsters).

#### 4 boys received sponsorships

from The Malilangwe Trust for their A levels and one received a bursary to study Finance at university.

**Graduates** of the programme have been employed in various departments across Malilangwe; some have become mentors in the Junior Ranger Programme.



#### DONATE:

**USD 150** – stationery, first aid and survival kits per boy (per year)

**USD 250** – school uniform including shoes per boy (per year)

**USD 3,000** – senior school attendance per boy (per year)

**USD 5,000** – costs for 1 young man to attend a government university in Zimbabwe, including accommodation, meals, uniform and laptop (per year)

**USD 40,000** – funds needed to buy a vehicle to transport the Junior Rangers



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RESCUWS

# INSPIRING NEW DIGNITY AND HOPE

As a topic that's typically taboo in many African cultures, menstrual health is often surrounded by stigmas and young girls have to bear the brunt of insufficient access to proper sanitary wear, silence and shame, absence from school, and a lack of support. Frequently referred to as period poverty, its physical and emotional impact affects girls in poor rural communities around the globe.





“It was heartbreaking to see the number of girls who were absent from school and didn’t have adequate resources to help them through their periods. Giving them a product that they’ll be able to use for several years was not only inspiring, but also gave hope and a brighter perspective to the future of girl child empowerment.”

**KASANDARA MCKOP,**  
MALILANGWE TRUST RESEARCH STUDENT

**Key successes:**

In 2022, RESCUWS:



• Raised **USD 23,250** after 28 runners and 13 cyclists completed a combined total of 650km/403.9 miles in 10 days.



• Produced **6,750 pads** – 4 women sewed an average of 40 pads per day in 8 months, using 615m of fabric.



• Distributed 5,005 pads to **956 girls** and 32 teachers at 5 high schools, and 13 RESCUWS team members.



• Held **informative talks** on menstrual hygiene, women’s health, sustainability, girl child rights, child abuse, child marriages and other important topics to empower young girls.

More than 70% of girls in rural Zimbabwe don’t have access to proper sanitary wear and resort to old rags, leaves, and cattle dung instead – and 62% miss school days due to this lack of hygiene products.

Dedicated and named in honour of Emelina Sipumise – a Malilangwe Trust employee whose own childhood experiences led her to become an advocate for the growth and success of young women – RESCUWS (Run Dedicated to Emelina Sipumise Unifying Women in Communities Through Sustainability) empowers Zimbabwean girls by providing them with sanitary products, and motivating them through education and messages of hope.

At its inception in 2022, RESCUWS supported small, eco-friendly business enterprises in Zimbabwe and the funds raised were used for manufacturing packs of pads, sewn by local women in Harare. Sustainable living is part of the Trust’s ethos and if looked after properly, pads can last between 3-5 years. Each pack of 5 reusable sanitary pads allows one girl to manage her periods with dignity and without a financial burden for up to 5 years.

The pads enable girls to continue going to school while menstruating, and to not be embarrassed due to the need to carry around buckets of water and wash during their cycles. It also frees them from physical discomfort, rashes and other skin ailments caused by using other materials, and they don’t have to ask family/guardians for money for sanitary wear.

**DONATE:**

**USD 20** – 1 pack of a set of 5 washable and reusable RESCUWS pads

**USD 20** – 1 pack of 5 items of girls’ underwear

**USD 20** – 1 pack of 5 items of boys’ underwear

**USD 3,000** – sponsoring 1 girl to attend senior school (per year)

**USD 5,000** – sponsorship to attend university in Zimbabwe per girl (per year)

**USD 12,000** – to set up 1 x 120,000-litre rainwater harvesting system per classroom



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# RWANDA

## SINGITA VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

A vivid setting framed by ancient volcanic mountains and misty rainforests – and a diversity of fauna and flora that are integral to the region's future.





# SINGITA VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK



SVNP Conservation and  
Community Partnerships



REGION

Rwanda



GLOBAL GOALS

Halt and Reverse  
Biodiversity Loss



Zero further extinction  
of species



Connecting people  
and nature



Youth development



**Key successes:**  
**Impact of the National Park's expansion  
for mountain gorillas**

**15-20% increase** in habitat

**50% reduction** in infant  
mortality rate

Dating back to 1925, Volcanoes National Park (VNP) is one of Africa's oldest protected areas, and part of the Virunga Massif in the Albertine Rift region of Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Designated as a world heritage site, the Massif's unique biodiversity supports many endemic species, including the endangered golden monkey and mountain gorilla. VNP is also one of the regions with the most endemic species of vertebrate in Africa, with 86 mammal, 43 reptile, 47 amphibian, and 294 bird species calling it home.

Despite its incredible biodiversity, the Park experienced high levels of degradation, destruction, and agricultural encroachment during the 1960s and '70s, which resulted in a reduction of more than 100km<sup>2</sup>/38.6 miles<sup>2</sup>. Due to habitat loss, biodiversity suffered, and the mountain gorilla and other wildlife populations were negatively affected.

Today, the area's biggest threats and challenges include:

- being too small to harbour viable populations of certain species;
- a lack of connectivity with other areas with natural habitats and wildlife populations – which translates to no gene flow and limited migration possibilities; and
- climate change – which requires more land for sufficient buffer areas against range shifts

To address these threats, the Government of Rwanda, the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), and the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) have embarked on an ambitious project to expand the Park by approximately 23% – an increase of 37.4km<sup>2</sup>/14.4 miles<sup>2</sup>. This expansion will not only help to secure the habitat of mountain gorillas and other species, but also significantly improves the lives of the communities living around the Park.







**PRESERVING A RICH NATURAL HERITAGE:**

# HONOURING THE HOME OF THE MOUNTAIN GORILLA

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Singita is committed to the protection of Rwanda's endangered mountain gorillas. Singita Kwitonda Lodge is uniquely situated right on the boundary of the Volcanoes National Park and the reforestation and rehabilitation of this property plays a critical role in the expansion of the Park — increasing habitat for the mountain gorilla along with many other species, whilst also acting as a buffer between the Park and human development.



“In a very short timeframe, we are already seeing the impact of this reforestation and rewilding initiative – securing expanded habitat for the growing mountain gorilla populations is benefiting many other forest species – regular sightings of elephants, buffalos, birds, frogs, chameleons, and many other small mammals – it’s exciting and rewarding to see it unfold.”

**CLAUDINE TUYISHIME,**  
SVNP REGIONAL PROGRAMME MANAGER



Mountain gorillas are conservation-dependent and require continual protection. As a flagship species, they also act as a surrogate for the conservation of other endangered forest species.

Due to the success of conservation efforts in and around the mountain gorillas’ habitat, which were largely driven by the primatologist and conservationist Dian Fossey, their population in the Virunga Massif has doubled in size since the 1980s. However, despite this positive growth, they still face significant threats – including a limited habitat, disease, human pressures, climate change, and their small overall number.

As the custodian of 178 acres bordering Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, Singita’s two properties in the region – Singita Kwitonda Lodge and an exclusive-use villa, Kataza House – form part of the protected formal buffer zone in the Volcanoes National Park Area Expansion Strategy (VNPAES).

**250,000 indigenous trees** planted during the construction of the lodge (2019)

**66,000** planted **since opening in 2019**

**1,000 trees planted by local school’s nature club**, partnering with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and the African Community and Conservation Foundation (ACCF)

Approx. **25 acres cleared of invasive alien plants** (eucalyptus trees)

Singita Volcanoes National Park’s on-site Akarabo Nursery also plays a vital role in Singita’s efforts to support reforestation in Rwanda. Meaning “Little Flower” in Kinyarwanda, Akarabo is having a significant impact providing saplings that are sourced from the local region or propagated onsite by the local cooperative farmer, Coopav Mararo, prior to being planted out across the property.

Guests are encouraged to visit and spend time at the beautiful Akarabo Nursery – and contribute directly to the restoration of the area by planting an indigenous tree. Or to join our passionate conservationists on an informative nature walk across the property, exploring the ongoing conservation efforts underway.

**Looking to the future**

Regular bird counts, vegetation and species surveys and camera trap monitoring has documented the remarkable recovery – from forest buffalo and elephants now regularly viewed on the property, to an impressive 100+ bird species, jackal, bushbuck and serval among the many species finding sanctuary in the property.

The rapid rate of deforestation worldwide calls for the development of strategies that restore forest cover quickly and efficiently. Singita is now partnering with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, on a long term biodiversity research and monitoring programme:

- supporting the development of local Rwandan researchers and
- using peer-reviewed science to support the ongoing conservation management efforts on the property,
- informing best practice for the reforestation initiatives across the region.



**DONATE:**

**Research and monitoring:**

**USD 250** – Ulefone (smartphone) for SMART data collection

**USD 500** – per camera trap for wildlife monitoring

**USD 750** – vegetation research and monitoring equipment

**USD 1,000** – bird monitoring equipment

Donate towards the annual Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (DFGF) student MSc or PhD research grant

**Reforestation:**

**USD 50** – plant 10 indigenous trees at USD 5 per tree



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# A CALLING FOR CONSERVATION: MEET CHARLES NSABIMANA

“If we take care of nature, nature will take care of us in return.”

Born at the base of Sabyinyo mountain near Volcanoes National Park (VNP), Charles Nsabimana’s conservation journey started at a very young age. He’s always been passionate about the diversity found in this region, and fondly remembers seeing a great many buffalo, bushbuck, duiker and even elephant as a young boy. Growing up, his dream was to meet Rwanda’s mountain gorillas one day.



At the age of 15, an opportunity came knocking to work as a porter during school holidays in the nearby National Park, and finally, he met a family of gorillas up close. In the years that followed - as Charles spent many hours in the company of these majestic animals - the foundations were laid for a lifelong passion and commitment to help ensure their survival.

The next step in his journey saw him join the Karisoke Research Centre as a field assistant. “We spent thousands of hours with mountain gorillas - observing them, taking care of them, and connecting with them. They were our friends. It’s always a matter of respect: you respect them; they respect you.” Gaining invaluable insight and experience, his work here still forms part of the wealth of knowledge he shares with Singita’s guests to this day.

“I love the diversity of this area, from the smallest beautiful flower to the majestic volcanoes.”

Over time, Charles’ involvement with the plight of the gorillas only grew stronger, and the many roles he’s filled have included park ranger, gorilla tracker, tourist guide, research warden and law enforcement warden in VNP.

As a resident Conservationist at Singita Volcanoes National Park, Charles is now responsible for pre-trek briefings and providing guests with all the information they might need. “It’s a great honour and such a wonderful opportunity for guests, as their expectations are almost always exceeded - whether they’re interested in the history of the area’s gorillas, their conservation, habituation, ecology - or anti-poaching initiatives, community engagement, and conservation projects.”

Ultimately, Charles says that he wants to inspire younger generations through his work, and that he’s filled with hope for the future of this region. “There’s willingness from government, community engagement, active participation in all conservation projects - with tangible benefits, and huge investments by the private sector. Conservation-based tourism is also making significant and positive impacts locally - so it’s a win-win situation and the mountain gorillas are central to it all. It’s therefore key to secure the habitat of mountain gorillas and other wildlife through reforestation.”







SINGITA COMMUNITY CULINARY SCHOOL

# CREATING A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



**Key successes:**

**10 students graduated** in 2022 – the school's first cohort



**100% of the graduates** received work internships at Singita or peer-organisation kitchens



**4 graduates** are currently employed at SVNP



The 2023 group of **10 students**, currently **completing their course** and work internships

When the third Singita Community Culinary School (SCCS) opened its doors in Rwanda in 2021, it also opened doors of opportunity to young adults from local communities who are inspired to realise their full potential in the hospitality world.

Established by Singita Volcanoes National Park (SVNP) in partnership with the Muhabura Integrated Polytechnic College (MIPC), the SCCS's campus in the town of Musanze is located half an hour from SVNP. Following Singita's renovation of the MIPC teaching kitchen, students now have a top-class training facility with state-of-the-art kitchen equipment.

"The school is a dream come true for students – and the culmination of high hopes of teams on the ground. It presents an incredible opportunity for 10 young adults every year, contributes meaningfully to local communities, and aligns perfectly with Singita's long-term commitment to upliftment and empowerment."

**CLAUDINE TUYISHIME,**  
COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION  
PROGRAMME MANAGER



Students are taught by an expert Rwandan Chef Skills Developer, Fabien Habamenshi, with academic support and internal moderation and mentorship provided by Singita's Regional Head, Thys Taljaard. As part of the practical component of the course, they complete valuable work experience in the SVNP lodge kitchen.

As well as retaining firm roots within their communities, the students bring a wealth of local inspiration and knowledge into their studies, and the seasonal flavours of Rwanda's local abundance feature strongly throughout. The result is a contemporary expression of traditional cooking, and students learn to merge classic cooking skills with recipes that have been passed down generations.

Find out more about the SCCS programme on page 33.



“Retaining firm roots within their communities, the students bring a wealth of local inspiration and knowledge into their studies, and the seasonal flavours of Rwanda's local abundance feature strongly throughout. The result is a contemporary expression of traditional cooking, and students learn to merge classic cooking skills with recipes that have been passed down generations”

**THYS TALJAARD,**  
REGIONAL HEAD, SCCS

**DONATE:**

**USD 12,500** – sponsor one student's SCCS annual scholarship (includes annual tuition, uniforms, personal kitchen equipment, ingredients, room and board, transport, and monthly stipend).

Contribute any amount to the **SCCS Student Scholarship Fund**. All funds donated go towards covering additional annual scholarships, and the aim is to **support 10 students at all campuses** by 2024.



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# SUSTAINABILITY AT SINGITA

At Singita, we believe a sustainable world is one in which people – our staff, guests, and neighbouring communities – enjoy happy and healthy lives within their fair share of the earth's resources, leaving space for wildlife and wilderness to thrive. To do our part in achieving this, we strive to design, build and operate our lodges and create guest experiences in a sustainable manner.





Singita’s nature-based tourism model relies on large wilderness areas, supporting an abundance of diverse flora and fauna that our guests come to experience firsthand. Sustainability is at the heart of this model, and an ethos of “care for our people and care for our planet” plays a major role in achieving our purpose to preserve and protect large areas of African wilderness for current and future generations.

As part of an international network of organisations, we are endorsed by Bioregional and follow their One Planet Living framework. Demonstrating Singita’s leadership in One Planet Living, our commitment to their ten One Planet Living Sustainability Principles guides our focus throughout.



### Care for our Planet

Underpinned by the joint custodianship of the landscapes in which we operate – as illustrated through the work of the Trust and Funds – we are committed to reduce our ecological footprint through the wise and responsible use of finite natural resources. This is highlighted through our:

- strong focus on the measurement and reduction of energy, water and waste
- transition to clean, renewable energy sources
- dedicated carbon offsetting programme for staff flights and guest bednights, and
- increasing emphasis on our role as water stewards in the broader landscapes and watersheds in which we operate.

We closely monitor our waste and consumption through:

- a commitment to the procurement of ethically and sustainably sourced goods, produce, and where possible, locally sourced food, and
- an emphasis on waste management through the elimination of single-use plastics, striving to achieve zero waste to landfill through re-use, recycling and the reduction of solid waste and composting/ or agricultural use of food waste (piggeries).



### Care for our People

Singita works to promote good health and wellbeing for guests, staff and neighbouring communities alike. We do this by:

- creating safe, equitable, and inclusive working and living conditions
- hosting health and wellness programme for staff
- focusing on healthy guest food and wellness activities
- nurturing local identity, culture and heritage, and
- supporting local economies.

With the buy-in and support of our neighbouring communities, staff, guests and conservation partners, we can contribute significantly to the global goals of halting and reversing biodiversity loss; ensuring zero further extinction of species across our landscapes; and halve our ecological footprint and achieve carbon neutrality – thereby ensuring that nature-based tourism continues to support a world in which both people and nature can thrive.







### OUR FISCAL SPONSORS



#### The African Community and Conservation Foundation

African Community & Conservation Foundation (ACCF) identified the need for a gateway platform to connect people all over the world with the strategic and sustainable community and conservation programs underway in Africa. Founded in 2018, ACCF’s mission is to contribute to the preservation of important African wilderness areas, as well as to empower the communities living alongside these spaces, contributing to a world in which people and wildlife live together, sustainably, forever.

As a United States public charity exempt from Federal Income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, ACCF work with distinguished non-profit funds and trusts carrying out impactful conservation and community projects in Africa. Its founding project was with the Grumeti Fund, located in the western corridor of the Serengeti, which paved the way to expand and grow its impact across Africa. The latest ACCF expansion projects include Karingani in Mozambique, the Rwanda Project – Volcanoes National Park, and The Malilangwe Trust in Zimbabwe.



#### Empowers Africa

Empowers Africa serves as a fiscal sponsor to over 30 organizations working on the ground in Africa, supporting programs that protect wildlife and land conservation as well as community-led, measurable and sustainable programs that bolster communities improving access to education, healthcare and business opportunities. A U.S. public charity under IRC Section 501(c)(3), Empowers Africa is efficiently collecting and processing donations for some of the most effective changemakers on the continent, allowing them to focus on what’s most important—the work being done on the ground.



“We find ourselves in the defining decade of our lifetime – this must be a decade of restoration and regeneration. Now is the time to act collectively, with urgency on a global scale to restore nature for our own benefit. What Africa offers to the world is completely unique - the incredible biodiversity and true spirited people - we owe it to them to do everything we can during this challenging time. Working with our dedicated network of conservation partners, Singita is committed to safeguarding some of Africa’s most critical biodiversity areas, and restoring and maintaining healthy, functioning natural ecosystems, which will also help buffer us from the most extreme impacts of rapid climate change.”

**JO BAILES,**  
CEO, SINGITA



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