



# Power of Purpose

COLLABORATION FOR CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

*Singita*

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

# FOREWORD

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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.”



**1 million species** are on the brink of extinction due to the double impact of the rate and scale of biodiversity loss and climate change.

We believe the time is now – across the globe – to act collectively, and with great urgency.

It’s time to halt and reverse these interlinked trends of biodiversity loss, the extinction of species, and human-induced climate change.

Singita’s nature-based tourism and conservation partnership model is committed to deliver on a 2030 Nature-Positive, Climate-Resilient ambition. Our combined efforts and resources are focused on four areas of contribution across all our landscapes:

- halt and reverse biodiversity loss
- zero further extinction of species
- halve our ecological footprint
- carbon neutral



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.

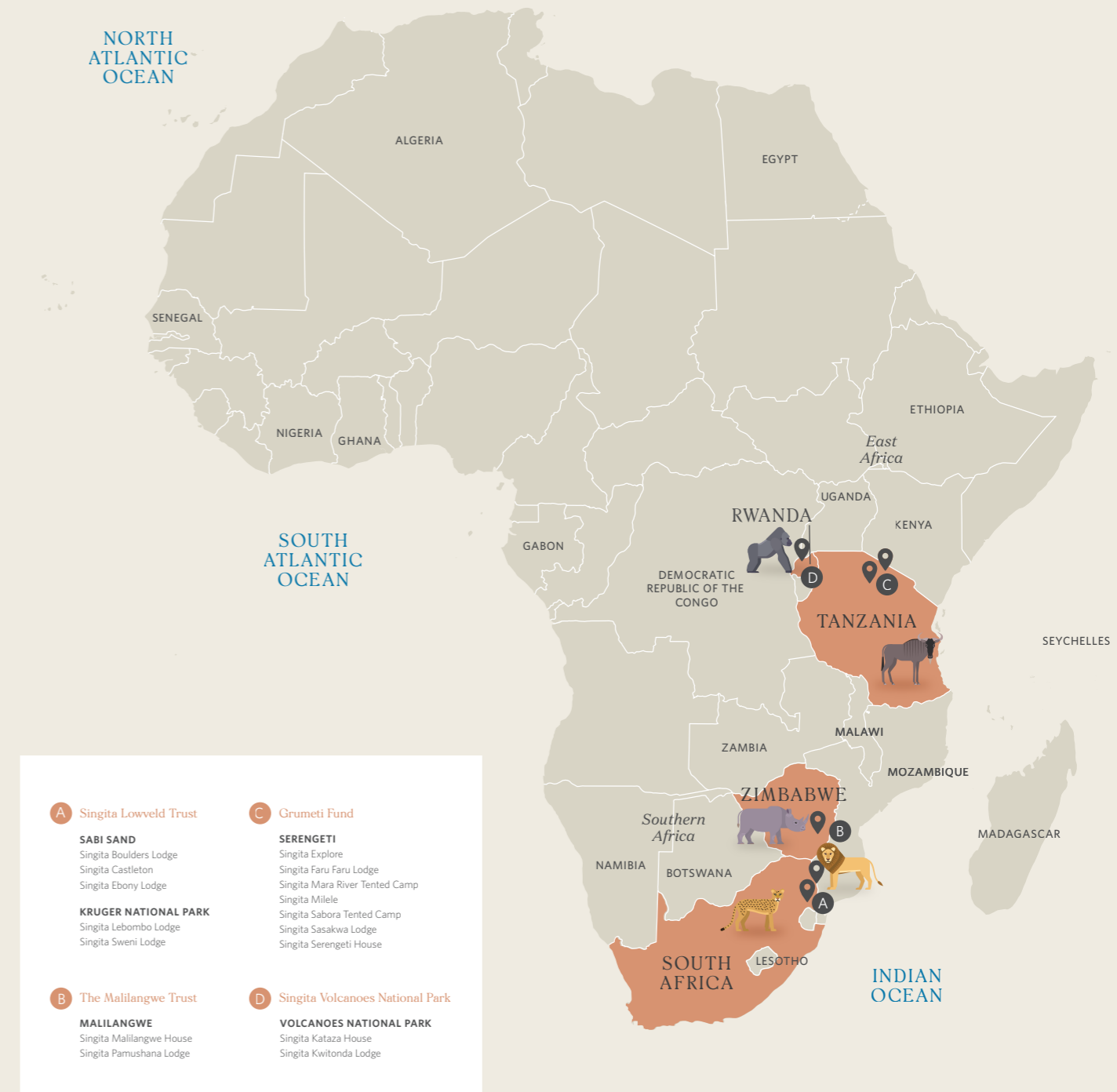
The development of long-lasting, meaningful community partnerships remains central to shaping landscapes where nature and people can thrive in harmony with one another.

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

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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

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.



SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

# HELPING TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF VULNERABLE WILDLIFE

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:**

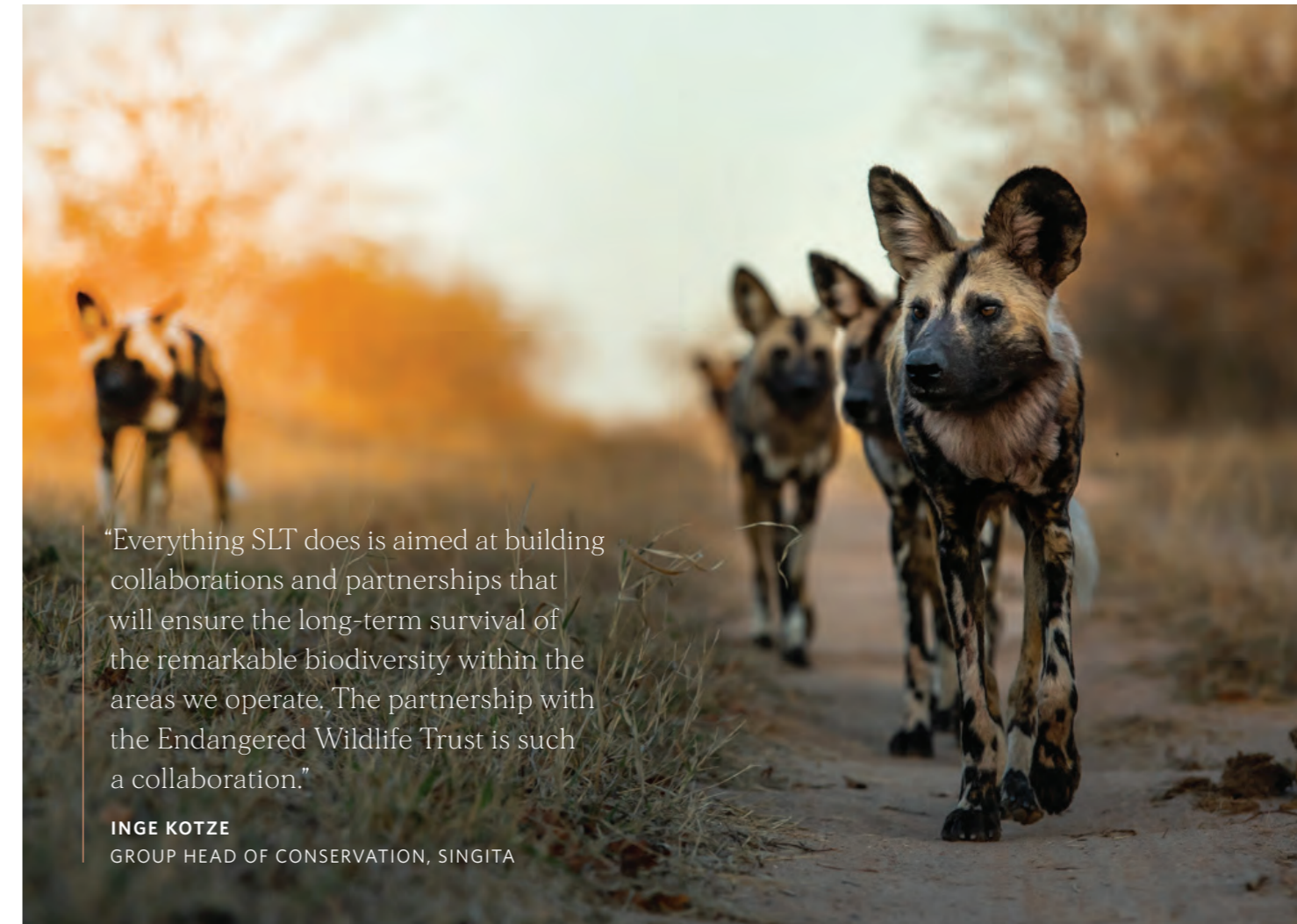
**USD 500** – Camera traps and solar pack

**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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“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



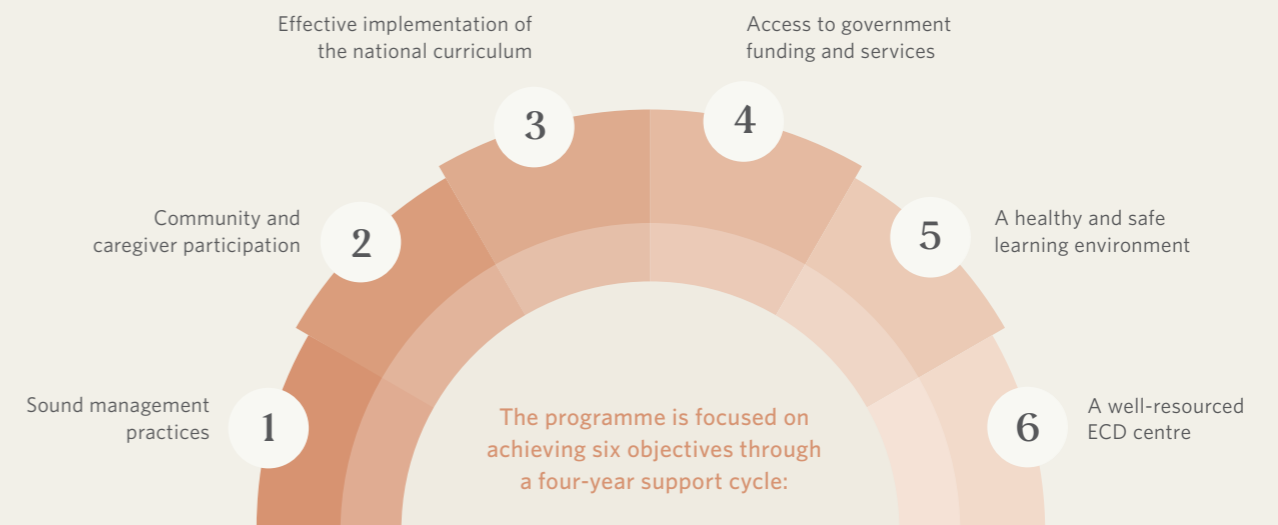
books in their mother tongue (Xitsonga)



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.



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# 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.

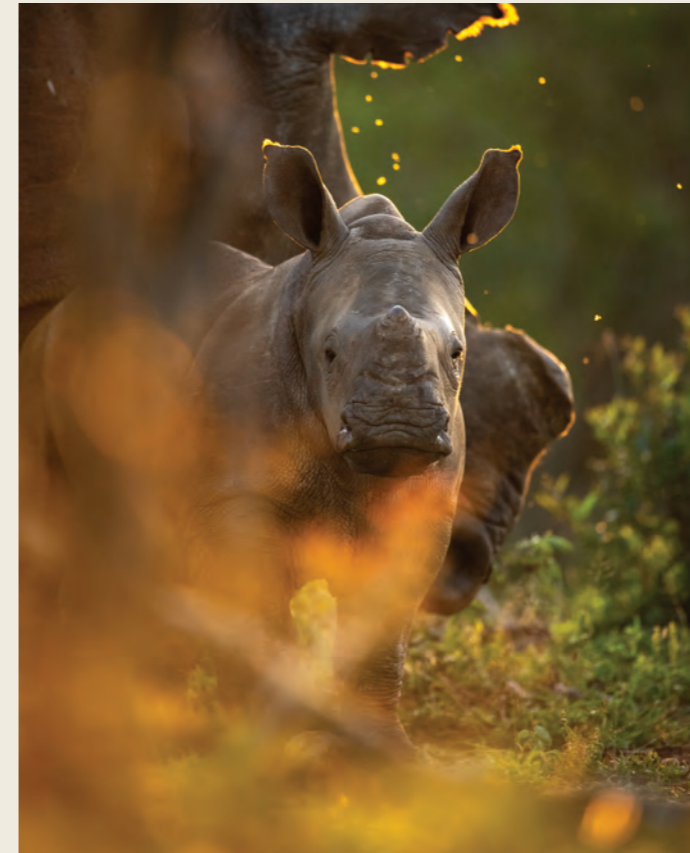
Rhino horn is made of keratin (similar to human fingernails), with no nerve-endings, which makes them the only species that can have their most highly valued body part safely removed with the knowledge that the horn can grow back fully over time – at a rate of approximately 7cm per year.

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



**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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