



Power of Purpose

COLLABORATION FOR CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

Singita

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

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.”



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.

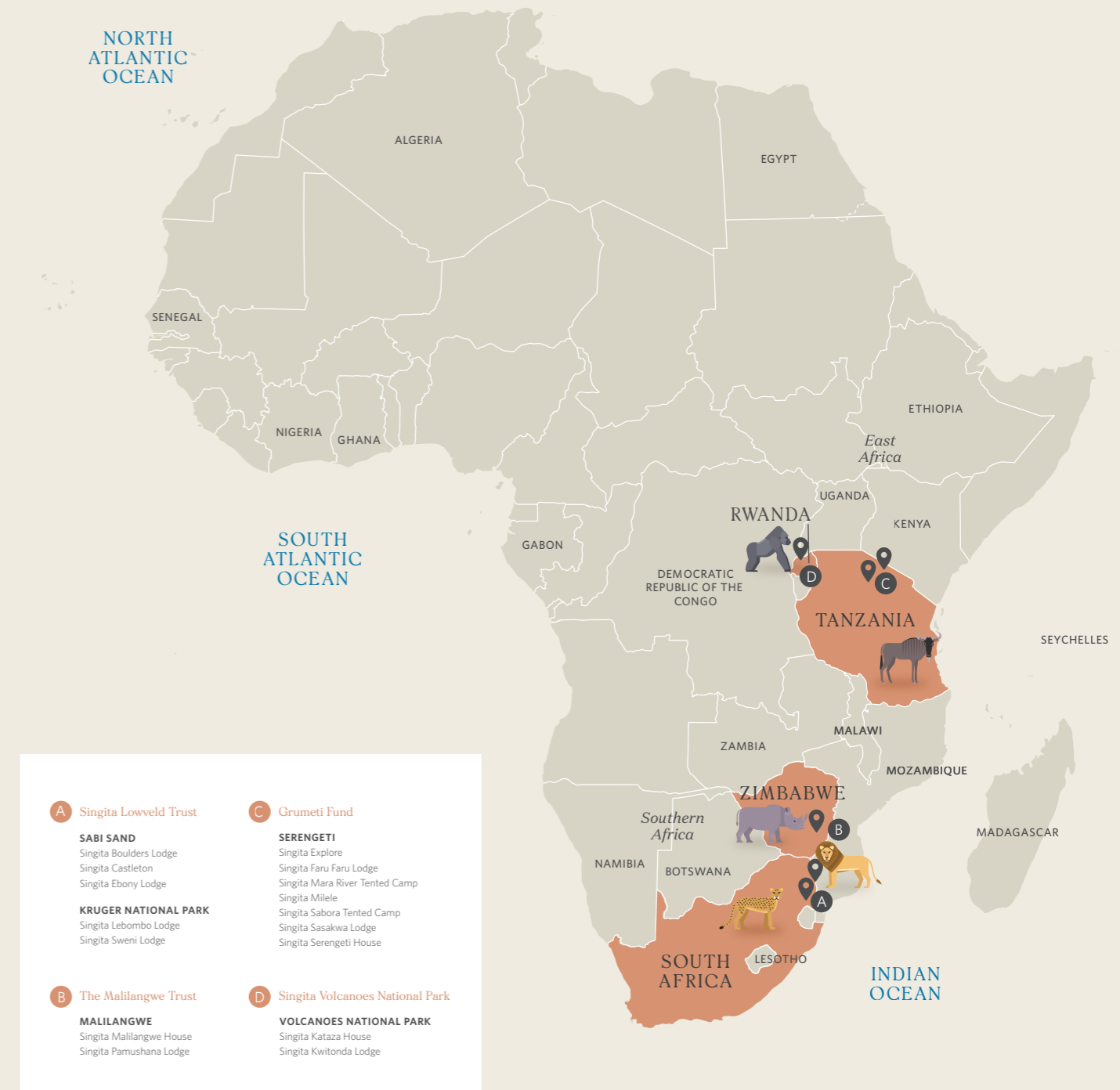
The development of long-lasting, meaningful community partnerships remains central to shaping landscapes where nature and people can thrive in harmony with one another.

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





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

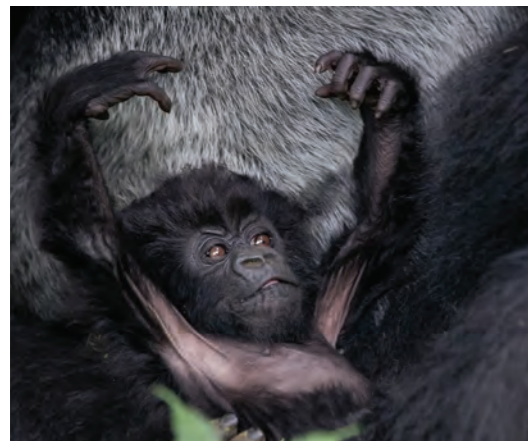
Dating back to 1925, Volcanoes National Park (VNP) is one of Africa's oldest protected areas, and part of the Virunga Massif in the Albertine Rift region of Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Designated as a world heritage site, the Massif's unique biodiversity supports many endemic 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 100km²/38.6 miles². 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 37.4km²/14.4 miles². 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

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



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

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 SVN



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 SVN. 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.



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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.



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

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 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.



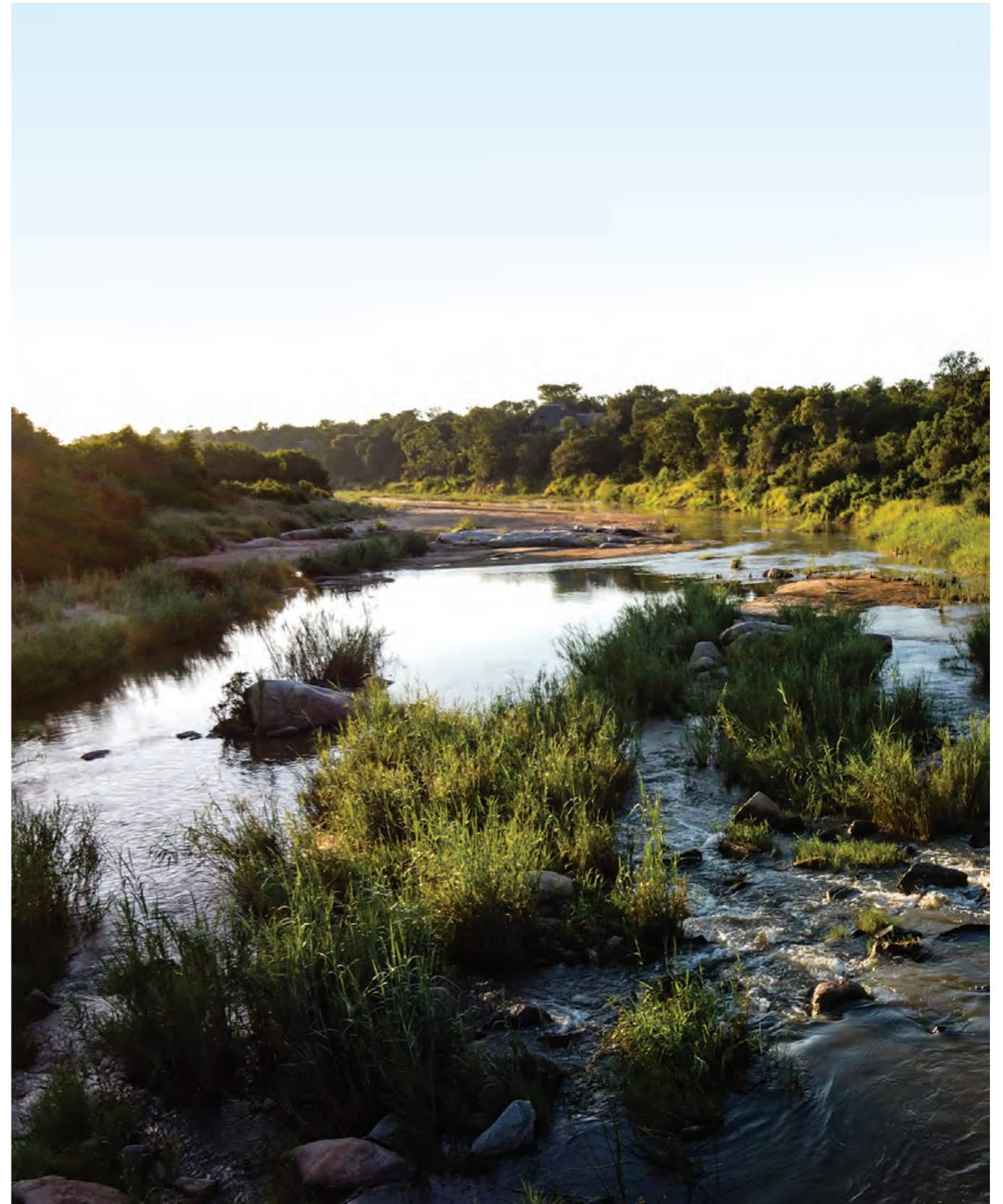
Care for our Planet

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 (piggyeries).





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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