



# 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.

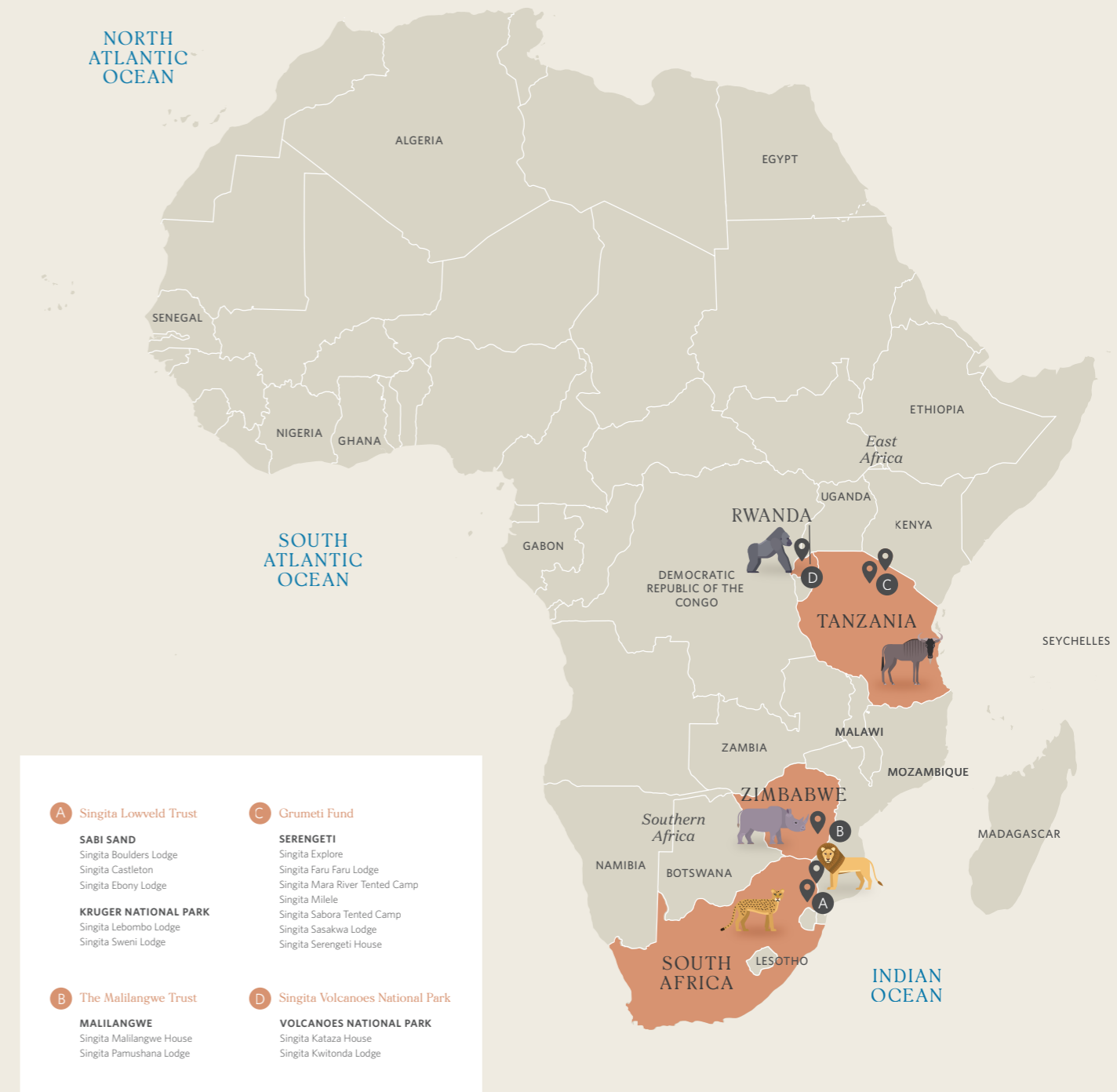
The development of long-lasting, meaningful community partnerships remains central to shaping landscapes where nature and people can thrive in harmony with one another.

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





# 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



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.

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.



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 & 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.





TEACHING SUPPORT PROGRAM

“QUALITY TEACHERS WHO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE LEARNING ARE PIVOTAL.”



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.

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.

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.”



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 given 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**



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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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