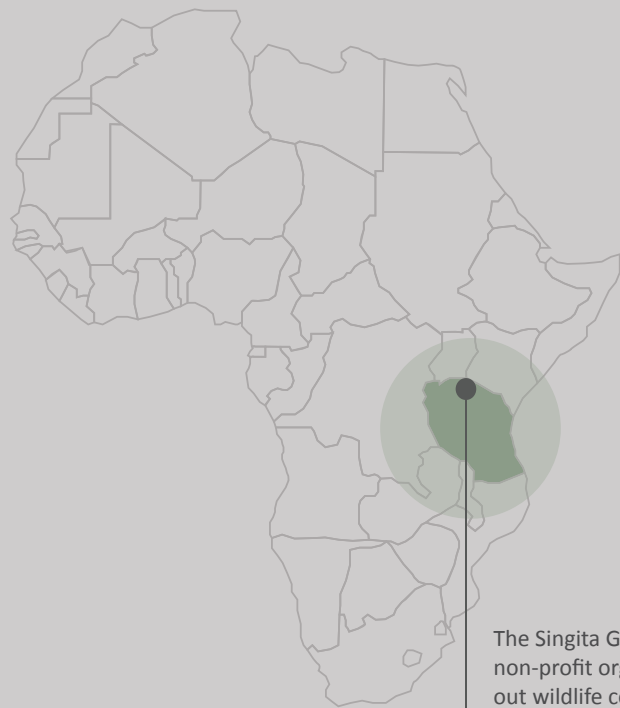


Singita
GRUMETI FUND
TANZANIA



The Singita Grumeti Fund is a non-profit organization carrying out wildlife conservation and community development work in the western corridor of the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania. Our vision is a world in which people and wildlife live together sustainably, forever.

www.singitagrumetifund.org
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IMPACT
REPORT
2017

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“Successfully safeguarding the western Serengeti for future generations relies on a dual strategy of effectively protecting wildlife while simultaneously uplifting surrounding communities.”

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Cover photo © Ami Vitale



STEPHEN CUNLIFFE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

In 2016, the Singita Grumeti Fund underwent a major restructure and rebuilding process. It was a tough year in the trenches, laying solid foundations for the future. I am pleased to report that all the hard behind-the-scenes groundwork set the stage for the Fund to emerge stronger than ever and in a position to launch a plethora of new projects during the course of 2017.

On the community outreach side, the Singita Grumeti Fund entered into formal agreements with Raizcorp to implement a rural enterprise development program in more than 20 villages bordering the concession area. Further Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were executed with Concordia Language Villages to bring world-class English language immersion camps and English teacher training retreats to the western Serengeti.

The newly created Anti-Poaching and Law Enforcement Department transformed a largely reactive scout force into a more well-trained, well-equipped and proactive anti-poaching team. There is always room for improvement and ongoing skills development, but the launch of the new Joint Intelligence Unit with our Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority colleagues, implementation of a real-time law enforcement database known as DAS, the arrival of a four-dog canine unit from America, and the launch of a reconnaissance drones program in November ensured it was a busy and productive year for the Singita Grumeti Fund. We have revolutionized the way we operate at Grumeti and the future is all about well-trained boots on the ground combined with game-changing technologies and other force multipliers to ensure our limited resources can be deployed as proactively and effectively as possible to achieve maximum success.

A newly formed partnership with the University of Minnesota Lion Center enabled the Research and Monitoring Department to deploy a grid of 332 camera traps across the concession area for monitoring small, nocturnal and cryptic species, as well as modelling species abundance to give us population estimates in the future, thereby negating the need for costly aerial surveys.

The many new partnerships and projects accomplished in 2017 – a selection of which have been highlighted above – would never have been possible in a single year without the creation of a Special Projects function. This new cross-cutting, inter-departmental role was specifically established to work hand-in-hand with the Fund’s senior managers to help investigate, identify and develop new project collaboration opportunities for implementation across the Singita Grumeti Fund.

Probably the most audacious undertaking of the year was the strong emphasis placed on better understanding, and drawing attention to, the exponential increase in human-wildlife conflict occurring along the protected area-community interface. A comprehensive needs assessment and follow up research surveys established that human-wildlife conflict, and specifically human-elephant conflict, is the number one rural livelihoods challenge facing our neighboring villages and rural communities today. To understand and address this escalating challenge, the Singita Grumeti Fund initiated an independent documentary film to bring attention to this continent-wide challenge; installed a toll-free hotline for villagers to report crop raiding elephants and other problem animals; and launched a new human-wildlife conflict mitigation unit to tackle this monumental challenge head on.

© Roshni Lodhia

FACTS 2017

ANTI-POACHING



1,197
snares removed



331
traditional weapons seized (snares, pangas, bows and arrows, spears)



4,842
patrols completed



27,307
kilometers completed on foot

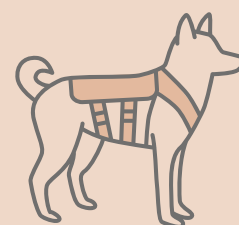


413
number of incidents encountered during patrols



475
arrests

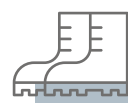
CANINE UNIT



4
new dogs

6
handlers trained

BOOTS ON THE GROUND



132

DE-SNARING



26
animals de-snared and treated

RHINO



1
rhino on site

1
approved for translocation in 2018

4 – 6
identified for translocation in 2019

EDUCATION



288
students through the Environmental Education Center

24
teachers through the Environmental Education Center

90
students through Concordia Language Immersion Camps

114
scholarships granted

581
girls reached through Girl Empowerment

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



RAIZCORP

48
entrepreneurs trained

SUCCESS STORY

Before the Singita Grumeti Fund's Enterprise Development program was implemented, Mwamba Mabeyo was a farmer. By attending the village learning program, he gained the skills and knowledge to open the restaurant he always dreamed of owning and operating.

INTERESTING WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS & DISCOVERIES



- Patas monkey
- Wild dog
- Aardwolf
- Greater kudu
- Roan antelope

RESEARCH AND MONITORING



332
cameras deployed

FIRE MANAGEMENT



10,117 ha
of total area burned



2
drones donated and deployed at Grumeti

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT AND MITIGATION



27
calls to action

67%
Mitigation Unit success rate

512
reports across 10 villages

ANTI-POACHING & LAW ENFORCEMENT

“The aim is the safety of the animals. If these Game Scouts were not here, there would be no animals here.”

Gotera Magesa
Head of Law
Enforcement Operations

It was two years ago that the Singita Grumeti Fund’s Anti-Poaching and Law Enforcement Department was given a mandate. This mandate was to have well-trained boots on the ground, supported by anti-poaching focused technology ready to tackle modern poaching threats. In terms of technology the goal was to form partnerships with carefully selected people and organizations to develop and implement technical solutions capable of working in a remote location. In 2017, structural changes within the Anti-Poaching and Law Enforcement Department were implemented through new policies, procedures and control measures as well as the hiring of key positions such as an Operations Room Coordinator and Head of Intelligence.

One vital aspect to law enforcement is intelligence, and this year saw the development of a new and improved Joint Intelligence Unit. To establish sound intel on the poaching networks operating in and around the concessions, having access to critical information is key to ensuring that the impact on poaching goes beyond arresting the poacher in the reserve by targeting the middle men and buyers within poaching syndicates and stopping poaching before it happens. The Unit was established together with our Tanzanian Government partners, TAWA, and has enjoyed significant successes in the short time that it has been in operation.

The Anti-Poaching and Law Enforcement Department has worked closely with the Special Projects function to implement several new technologies and this year saw the development of three systems, all possessing the ability to change the way in which anti-poaching and wildlife conservation is carried out. The first is a Domain Awareness System (DAS) – a real time database, created and donated by the philanthropic organization Vulcan, that stores all information being received from the concession and cross-cuts multiple Singita Grumeti Fund departments as it collates data from anti-poaching, conservation management and research and monitoring. This data is easily accessible and can be viewed on a series of digitized maps, enabling management to make quick and informed decisions. The second program, also supported by Vulcan, is a Surveillance Drones Program. Still under development, these fixed-wing drones will be piloted from our operations room while feeding live video day and night, and will allow the Singita Grumeti Fund to have eyes in the sky, reaching a much larger portion of the reserve in a much shorter space of time. In addition to these measures, the Singita Grumeti Fund has partnered with the organization Resolve to develop and trial a new anti-poaching technology called TrailGuard. TrailGuard is a series of covert cameras that are strategically positioned and triggered by movement allowing the Special Operations Group to react to poaching threats in a time efficient manner.

Looking ahead, the Singita Grumeti Fund's Anti-Poaching and Law Enforcement Department aims to combine and streamline these new and exciting technologies with the team of highly trained Scouts operating on the ground.



331

traditional weapons seized (snares, pangas, bows and arrows, spears)



Kabichi Suma shows his scars from the lion encounter

© Black Bean Productions

KABICHI SUMA

Kabichi Suma, a Senior Regional Leader with the Special Operations Group, is fiercely committed to his role within the Singita Grumeti Fund and his dedication to the protection of the fauna and flora of the Serengeti is second to none. In spite of the dangers that all wildlife scouts face, Kabichi is fearless and his integrity is beyond reproach. Since Kabichi began working as part of the Singita Grumeti Fund Scout Force in 2013, he has withstood several serious injuries. In 2016 he was mauled by a lion that he and several other Scouts were trying to move from the village back into the protected area, in his first year as a scout he was shot through the arm with a poison arrow, and most recently he was ambushed by poachers who cut him across the top of the head with a machete. Despite challenges such as these Kabichi's veracity is unwavering. He has climbed the ranks and is respected by his colleagues for his commitment and no-nonsense attitude toward his work protecting the wildlife within the concession. The anti-poaching work he carries out targets a protected area adjacent to his own home, which means he is often acquainted with the people connected to poaching incidents; even so, Kabichi does not succumb to peer pressure and continues to tirelessly and courageously work towards realizing the Fund's vision. His assertiveness comes with a gentleness that is easily noticeable when you meet him. Kabichi's future within the Singita Grumeti Fund is bright and his allegiance to the cause unwavering.



Scout looking out from an Observation Post

© Roshni Lodhia



Firearm and movement training

© Black Bean Productions



On patrol

© Roshni Lodhia



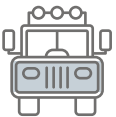
Scouts train using cross-fit techniques

© Roshni Lodhia



Wire snares

© Roshni Lodhia



4,842

patrols completed



132

law enforcement staff members



475

arrests

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

In 2017, the Singita Grumeti Fund launched UPLIFT (Unlocking Prosperous Livelihoods for Tomorrow) – a community outreach program designed to enhance the livelihoods of individuals living along the boundary of the concessions. In a corner of Tanzania where 99% of wage earners are farmers – an occupation that is extremely vulnerable to external threats such as climate change and crop-raiding elephants – the Singita Grumeti Fund is giving individuals the knowledge, tools and resources needed to provide for themselves, their families and their communities as a whole.

UPLIFT employs a three-pronged approach to enhance livelihood security:

- 1 Assisting youth to achieve higher levels of education
- 2 Increasing income generation opportunities
- 3 Promoting the peaceful coexistence of wildlife and humans

EDUCATION

Education projects are focused on giving students access to quality education so that they can achieve academic success and go on to pursue their dreams. In 2017, the Singita Grumeti Fund awarded 114 students from resource-poor families with scholarships for secondary school, vocational studies and university. Realizing that academic success is multifaceted, the scholarship program also consists of life skills training, internships and a mentorship program whereby scholarship recipients are paired with a mentor from Singita Grumeti. Every one of the secondary school scholarship recipients participated in life skills training where they were exposed to information pertaining to career exploration, leadership, health topics and life mapping. An additional 18 students pursuing advanced studies obtained internships through Singita Grumeti, which enabled them to put their classroom learning into practice. An incredible achievement in 2017 was that 100% of scholarship recipients in their final year of school passed their exams and graduated and 64% of students who completed their advanced studies in 2017 are already employed.

Since the inception of the scholarship program, the Singita Grumeti Fund has come up against numerous barriers to keeping girl students in school and successfully advancing in their studies. Pressure from family members to give up



Member of the Village Learning program in class © Roshni Lodhia

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

At the same time that the Singita Grumeti Fund’s law enforcement operations work to eliminate wildlife poaching, alternative options for income generation need to be developed so that households that rely on poaching can make ends meet. The Singita Grumeti Fund has partnered with Raizcorp – a business incubator that has a proven track record of success in business development. The enterprise development program consists of two key components: Guiding and Village Learning. Guiding is a high-touch entrepreneurial development approach providing intensive one-on-one business support to entrepreneurs to help them enhance business development skills, whereas Village Learning consists of weekly sessions for budding entrepreneurs on business skills and personal development. In 2017, the rural enterprise development program guided three entrepreneurs who were chosen through a rigorous selection process. After just two months in the program, two of the three entrepreneurs were able to increase their net profit, employ more people in their businesses, and open new business branches. In Village Learning, the program has also successfully trained 45 individuals 50% of which were women.



45

individuals trained through the Village Learning program

“We are not here to change culture, but we are here to speak to girls and tell them, ‘you have the right to a good education and to stand firm.’ We want to inspire them, to give them power and energy.”

Frida Mollel
Community Outreach Program Manager



Girl Empowerment education session

© Roshni Lodhia

their education to help with chores or to get married are common struggles these girls face on a daily basis. Working with other female leaders in Tanzania, the Fund organized Girls Empowerment events which brought together 581 girls from secondary schools to talk about pertinent issues such as reproductive health, FGM and menstrual hygiene – topics that are seldom spoken about, but which significantly affect girls. The Singita Grumeti Fund believes that investing in girls is a critical step to breaking the cycle of poverty in local villages.

Unique to Tanzania, government primary schools are taught in Swahili while secondary schools are taught in English. Because English comprehension in primary schools is low and students are seldom exposed to English outside of school, the transition from primary to secondary school results in high drop-out rates. Addressing this issue, the Singita Grumeti Fund partnered with experts in language immersion – Concordia Language Villages. 2017 marked the first year of English immersion camps for 90 primary school students. Assessments conducted upon conclusion of this pilot project proved that all 90 students improved their English-speaking skills by at least 25% from the beginning to the end of the camp.



Scholarship recipients of the Singita Grumeti Fund now working in the Workshop

© Roshni Lodhia



Bahati Sumuni, Education Project Officer at Nata Primary School

© Roshni Lodhia



45

scholarship
recipients
graduated

64%

of all students
pursuing advanced
studies are now
employed

581

secondary school
girls participated
in a Girl
Empowerment
event

114

scholarships

18

internships

90

primary school
students participated
in English Immersion
Camps



Nancy and Rehema on the first day of the Mentorship Program

© Beezie Burden

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The Fund's focus on education extends to the environment and the critical role each individual plays in minimizing their impact on the earth's limited resources. At the Environmental Education Center (EEC), groups of 12 students, accompanied by their teacher, are exposed to critical environmental issues such as deforestation, soil erosion and water conservation that affect each and every one of them. In 2017, 288 students (50% girls) and 24 teachers from 12 secondary schools took part in the one-week residential course offered by the EEC.

The Singita Grumeti Fund was instrumental in organizing and co-financing the annual regional environmental Malihai conference. Themed 'connecting people with nature', the conference drew together 205 secondary students to discuss pertinent topics. The Fund also organized an inter-school debate competition which brought 106 students together to debate on the topic 'Africa should be blamed for world climate change'.



288

students (50% girls) and
24 teachers from
12 secondary schools took
part in the one-week course
offered by the Environmental
Education Center at Grumeti



Secondary school students during their week at the Environmental Education Center

© Roshni Lodhia

The 350 000 acre Singita Grumeti concessions form a crucial part of the Serengeti ecosystem. In addition to rejuvenating and preserving the landscape, the Singita Grumeti Fund works with government, local communities and other stakeholders on various conservation projects, ranging from the reintroduction of locally extinct animal species to managing wildfires and reducing the impact of invasive alien plant species.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Conservation Management is a key component of the Singita Grumeti Fund’s mission to contribute to the conservation of the Serengeti ecosystem, its natural landscape, and its wildlife. With six key focuses, the department works to: protect animal welfare, manage fire, eradicate alien plants, manage the black rhino Intensive Protection Zone, oversee the reserve’s road network and control tsetse flies.

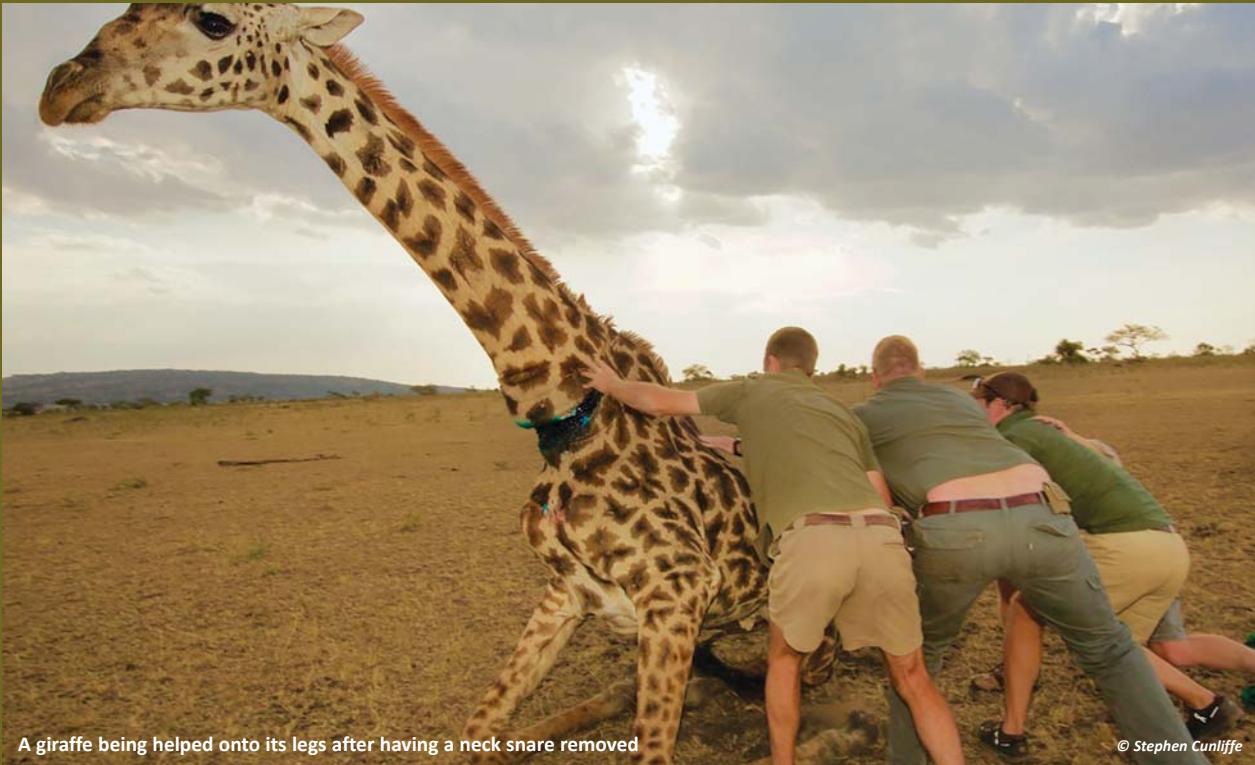
The reserve complex is divided into three zones, each with a Section Manager based strategically in their section and reporting to the Conservation Manager. This compartmentalization of the reserve complex greatly assists in the response time to various conservation challenges, from identifying and responding to wild fires to darting and treating snared animals.

With the assistance of government partners, injured animals are darted and treated when possible; alien plant teams are deployed to affected areas; camera traps are serviced; tsetse fly targets treated; and road construction and maintenance is supervised.

The Conservation Management Department faces many recurring challenges, but with streamlining and experience the effectiveness of the department has improved significantly. The alien plant eradication program is showing tangible results; response time to fire has improved greatly; new roads have made the furthest reaches of the reserve easily accessible; and a new veterinary partnership with TAWIRI has saved the lives of animals that would otherwise have died from their human-induced injuries.

KEY FOCUSES

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 Protect animal welfare | 4 Eradication of alien plants |
| 2 Fire management | 5 Control of tsetse flies |
| 3 Rhino management | 6 Maintenance of the reserve’s road network |



A giraffe being helped onto its legs after having a neck snare removed © Stephen Cunliffe

TAWIRI PARTNERSHIP

Wire snares present a serious threat to wildlife. These snares originate from poachers who hunt wild animals for bush meat, but sadly, snares are indiscriminate killers of any animal that has the misfortune of becoming entangled in the wire noose. To combat this threat, the Singita Grumeti Fund focuses on two main approaches. First, Game Scouts on anti-poaching patrol search for and remove snares. Second, the Fund works with wildlife veterinarians from Tanzanian National Parks (TANAPA) and Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) to immobilize and de-snare any wildlife found alive in snares. In 2017, the Singita Grumeti Fund, with support from our government partners, successfully darted, de-snared and treated 26 animals.

As the number of species heading toward extinction increases, the decision of when to intervene and when to let nature take its course becomes a delicate and emotive issue. If an animal has been injured due to human activity, our intervention is not only appropriate but necessary. Thus, it is with much excitement that the Singita Grumeti Fund formalized a partnership with TAWIRI, whereby a wildlife veterinarian is based at Singita Grumeti for a week every month, allowing the conservation management and anti-poaching teams to actively seek out and locate snared animals for treatment. Having someone on site is crucial, as wildlife deaths have occurred in the past, due to difficulties and delays in sourcing vets from far away.

While acting quickly to save an animal entrapped in a wire snare is critically important, so is working within the surrounding communities to improve livelihoods and provide alternative income sources. The Singita Grumeti Fund's Community Outreach Program works to boost education and create small businesses through entrepreneurial development, environmental education, a scholarships program and English language training. Successfully safeguarding the western Serengeti for future generations relies on a dual strategy of effectively protecting wildlife while simultaneously sustainably developing surrounding communities.



A crop-raiding elephant bull undergoing treatment for human-induced injuries © Beezie Burden



Chiwa, Makuru and Yohanna – the three Singita Grumeti Fund Section Managers © Roshni Lodhia



Fire in the game reserve © Stephen Cunliffe



Alien plant control © Roshni Lodhia



FIRE



ROADS



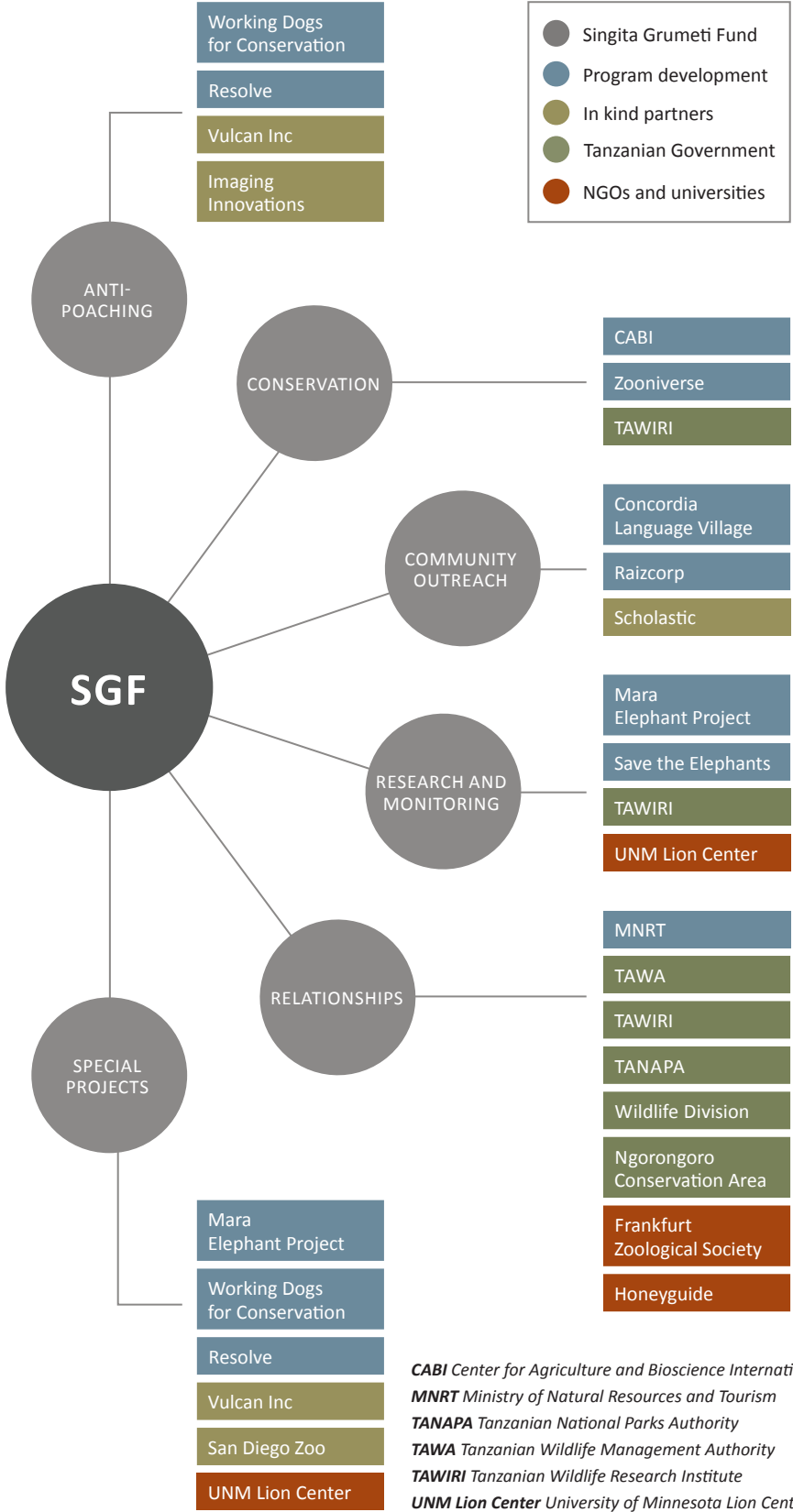
INJURED ANIMALS



ALIEN PLANTS

	FIRE	ROADS	INJURED ANIMALS	ALIEN PLANTS
Q1	882 ha burned	3 km of road network maintained	9 animals reported 5 animals treated 4 unable to relocate	No areas treated
Q2	2,225 ha burned	7 km of road network maintained	7 animals reported 1 animal treated 4 unable to relocate 2 euthanized	112 ha treated
Q3	7,010 ha burned	28 km of road network maintained	24 animals reported 15 animals treated 9 unable to relocate	399 ha treated
Q4	No fires	2 km of new road constructed	9 animals reported 5 animals treated 4 euthanized	No areas treated

**PARTNERSHIPS:
WEB OF IMPACT**



“The Singita Grumeti Fund values partnerships with like-minded individuals, companies and organizations pursuing the sustainable development of protected areas and the communities that surround them. These partnerships are key to ensuring that the impact of the work being done on the ground at Grumeti goes beyond its borders to positively impact conservation on a larger scale.”

RELATIONSHIPS

The Singita Grumeti Fund works to maintain, build and strengthen close relationships with all relevant government, conservation and local community stakeholders that operate within the Serengeti ecosystem. Specifically, we work in partnership with Singita, who holds the concessions on the land we manage; the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, the Tanzanian Wildlife Management Authority, various district and regional government authorities, local village councils and an array of other government entities and non-profit organizations.

In 2017, a new program was developed to prevent and combat human-wildlife conflict. A prevalent issue in the conservation and community development space, human- wildlife conflict is a major focus of the Singita Grumeti Fund. One area that the Fund has focused on is assisting communities in moving problem animals back into the reserve. To do this, a specialized Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Unit was created and trained to assist communities whenever a predator or an elephant enters their village or farms. Since this program was launched in July 2017, the unit has responded to 27 incidents of human-wildlife conflict across 13 villages.

Another area of focus for the Relationships Department is working with the local magistrate court, public prosecutors and APU Bunda (the local government anti-poaching unit). Ensuring court cases, witnesses and logistics run smoothly is imperative, as an effective judicial system plays a critical role in eliminating poaching.



WORKING TO PREVENT HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Human-wildlife conflict occurs where people and wildlife live in close proximity to one another in an area without fences. This interface is often negative. Conflict typically results in the destruction of crops or the killing of livestock, with retribution killings and the destruction of wildlife a frequent consequence. To combat this escalating issue in our area, the Singita Grumeti Fund is working on multiple solutions to mitigate human-wildlife conflict to ensure that people and wildlife can co-exist in relative harmony and safety.

The Singita Grumeti Fund Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Unit is one of these solutions. This is a team of four specially trained conflict mitigators, working in collaboration with Tanzanian Wildlife Management Authority and Anti-Poaching Unit Bunda based in the village of Hunyari. The team's mission is to proactively assist local villagers in dealing with human-wildlife conflict.

To enhance their abilities in combatting and preventing human-wildlife conflict, the team partook in a two-week training course with the non-profit organization, Honeyguide. During their training in the Manyara area, the Mitigation Unit learned approaches and practiced using different tools to effectively move elephants out of village areas – mainly with the aid of vehicles and spotlights. However, they also found that noise can play a useful role in deterring elephants.

In the six months since being deployed in July 2017, the new human-wildlife conflict mitigation unit has responded to 27 problem animals and conflict incidents – mostly connected to elephants raiding crops. As soon as the team receives a call to alert them to the presence of wildlife in or near a village, they respond as quickly as possible to the location of the conflict incident.

There are, of course, some difficulties. A major obstacle is the rough roads and frequently long distances between the Mitigation Unit and some of the villages they service, which can mean that the problem animal has already done significant damage to the crops or livestock by the time they arrive. The team, who wants to see both wildlife and people thriving, often encounters situations where local peoples' livelihoods have been destroyed or animals have been injured or killed. They are on call around the clock and most of their work occurs at night when elephants move into village land in search of ripening crops.

Despite these challenges, the team remains positive. They believe that collaboration, communication and education are extremely important in reducing human-wildlife conflict going forward. There are two ways in which they implement proactive measures. The first is through educating residents on how to deal with human-wildlife conflict, how to discourage animals coming onto their farms, and how to alert each other and work as a team to push them safely back into the protected area. The second is to engage in daily preventative patrols in areas where wildlife is expected to enter the village. The team is also eager to learn from other local efforts – either those of villages effectively combatting human-wildlife conflict, or through other local NGOs focusing on addressing this major issue.

Human-wildlife conflict remains the greatest challenge faced by rural Tanzanian communities living adjacent to protected areas like the Serengeti ecosystem, so it is of utmost importance that the Singita Grumeti Fund continues to explore new strategies and effective methods of addressing this serious and widespread problem.



RESEARCH AND MONITORING DEPARTMENT

Research and Monitoring started the year with the development and submission of an important research proposal to TAWIRI. The approval of this proposal saw the deployment of over 300 camera traps across the reserve for the purpose of expanding our knowledge and database with regards to wildlife populations and movements and the identification of rarely seen species, such as kudu, roan or patas monkeys.

The department achieved significant milestones towards the collaring of 12 problem elephants in early 2018 so that land resource use and movement patterns in and outside the concessions can be better understood in order to more effectively address human-elephant conflict (HEC) in the adjacent communities. More specifically, the movement data will help us trial virtual fences as a mitigation tool for HEC in nearby community lands. The geo-fence implementation will help our Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Unit respond to potential conflict incidents in a more timely and proactive manner.

The Singita Grumeti Fund ecologist was awarded a conservation leadership scholarship to pursue an MBA at the African Leadership University's School of Business. The scholarship is jointly sponsored by Singita in collaboration with the African Leadership University. Despite these successes, challenges exist too, including the threat of invasive plant species like *Chromolaena*, the theft of camera traps, and the escalating challenge of human-wildlife conflict.

The outlook for 2018 is bright and includes deploying elephant collars to help mitigate human-wildlife conflict, conducting routine monitoring of: fire, rare and endangered species, herbaceous biomass and general climate data. To expand our data collection capacity, the Research and Monitoring team will collaborate with the Singita Grumeti Guiding Department to collect key information and distribution data on select predator species, especially big cats.

2017 IN NUMBERS



1
major research proposal produced



2
staff members pursuing higher degree studies through distance learning platforms



3
existing research collaborations



4
major reports on ecological monitoring

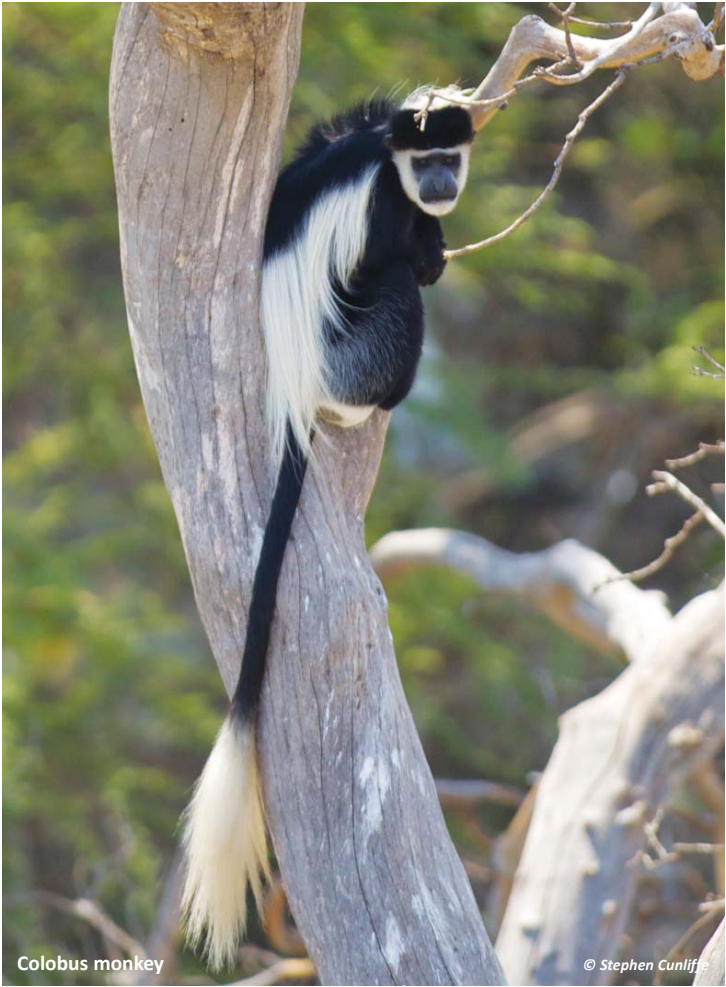


332
camera traps



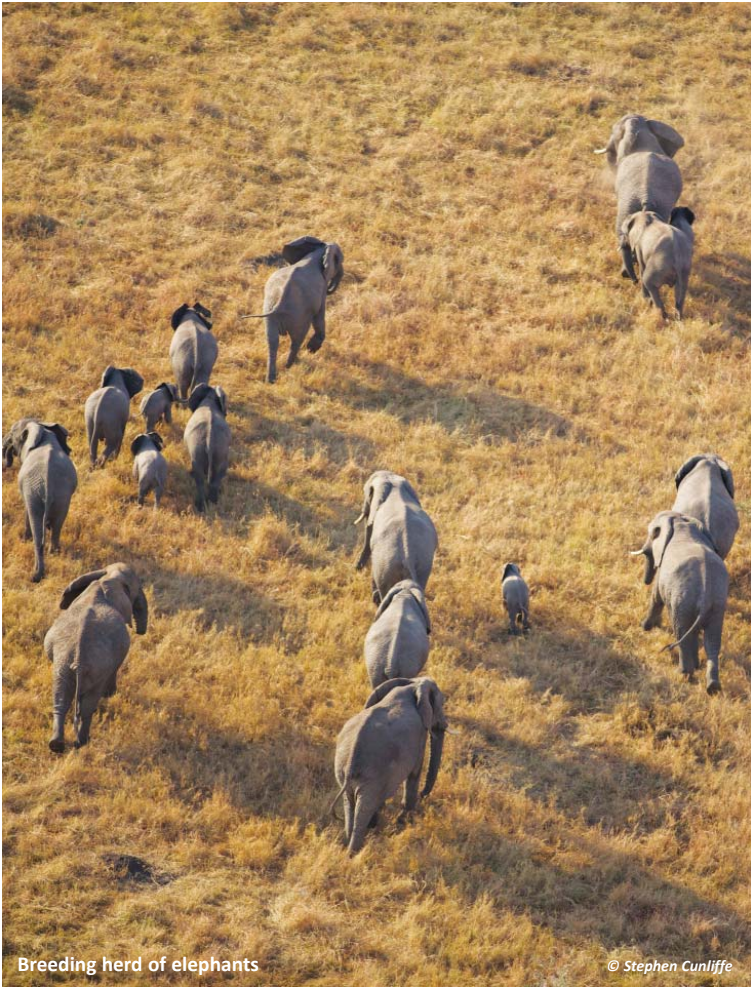
Collecting vegetation samples

© Roshni Lodhia



Colobus monkey

© Stephen Cunliffe



Breeding herd of elephants

© Stephen Cunliffe



Preparing for the bi-annual aerial census

© Matt Perry



Deploying camera traps

© Roshni Lodhia



Greater kudu spotted on a camera trap in Ikorongo



Driven by the Special Projects function, the Singita Grumeti Fund has undergone a shift toward becoming more engaged in the use of new and innovative technologies and strategies. Working closely with Anti-Poaching and Law Enforcement, the Special Projects function is a force multiplier that enhances the existing boots on the ground approach for protected area management. As a direct result, the Fund has become more of an open and active collaborator within African conservation circles. For the past two years, the Fund has actively sought out key partnerships with organizations that can bring real value to our vision of protecting the Serengeti for future generations.

Radars on his first day at Singita Grumeti

© Beezie Burden

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Singita Grumeti Fund is fortunate not only to be a recipient of groundbreaking technologies and force multipliers, but also to be embedded in the development process of the majority of them. This allows for the Fund to advise on technical and operational enhancements.

One of the transformational systems implemented by the Singita Grumeti Fund in 2017 is the Domain Awareness System: a real-time monitoring database system displayed in a state-of-the-art operations room. Other projects include TrailGuard, a network of remote covert camera sensors that feed into the DAS and facilitates the rapid deployment of scout forces to intercept poaching suspects before they have the opportunity to kill. An integral part of any scout deployment is the detection and tracking Canine Unit which operates in conjunction with the Special Operations Group.

Human-wildlife conflict is a challenge that possibly outweighs the severity of the poaching issues we face in the western Serengeti. To this end, the Fund has employed strategies that will vastly improve our ability to support the mitigation of these conflict issues. These include GPS satellite collars for crop-raiding elephants; over 300 trap cameras deployed concession-wide; and participation in the making of a human-wildlife conflict documentary to bring attention to the plight of the animals and humans suffering at this human-wildlife interface.

Special Projects cut across all of the Singita Grumeti Fund departments, addressing a diverse set of challenges to which, in collaboration with department heads and outside partners, we seek to implement innovative and effective solutions.



The operations room where the Domain Awareness System is located

© Roshni Lodhia



Handler, Peter and dog, Popo in training

© Alycats

CANINE UNIT

The Singita Grumeti Fund Canine Unit arrived in September 2017. Four dogs – Tony, Popo, DJ and Radar – were warmly welcomed to their new home. Having been rescued from dog shelters in the United States, these previously abandoned canines have been given a second chance to protect wildlife species that are on the verge of extinction. All four dogs (two chocolate Labrador mixes and two Belgian Malanois) have been trained through our partner, Working Dogs for Conservation, in detecting ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, ammunition, bush meat and snares.

Since their arrival, the dogs have learned to track scent, allowing the anti-poaching teams to follow poachers from a crime site to their current location. The dogs have integrated successfully into the anti-poaching team and have begun to play a vital role within the Anti-Poaching and Law Enforcement Department. With their handlers – who underwent rigorous training from expert trainers on how to care for, train and work the dogs – these dogs enhance the Singita Grumeti Fund’s ability to stop poaching. By assisting in the detection and arrest of poachers trafficking wildlife contraband, we hope the presence of these determined canines will deter potential poachers from picking up their weapons and entering the protected area.

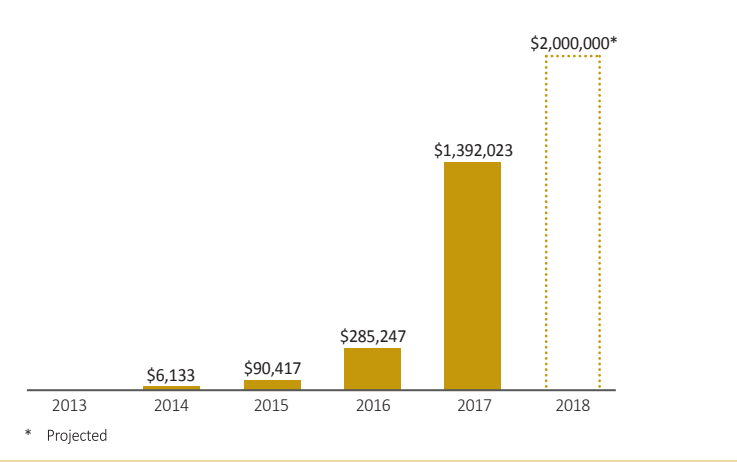
In 2018, we aim to finalize an agreement with government stakeholders that will allow the Canine Unit to operate throughout the wider Serengeti ecosystem, increasing their impact and reducing poaching across the entire protected landscape.

FINANCIALS

DEPARTMENT SPENDING IN 2017



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