

IMPACT REPORT 2022

COMMUNITY, CONSERVATION AND COLLABORATION



The Grumeti Fund's mission is to contribute to the conservation of the Serengeti ecosystem, its natural landscape, and its wildlife. To do this we partner with local communities and other stakeholders to build capacity and thereby help them to realize their development aspirations. We believe that by doing this we can help to create a world in which people and wildlife live together, sustainably, forever.





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Matt Perry:
Conservation & Anti-Poaching



GENERAL MANAGER MESSAGE

2022 was a year of healing. As our year at Grumeti began, our greater, global community started to heal from one of the most challenging periods in history - the COVID-19 pandemic. As many of us can now attest, healing is no easy task. Having endured hardship for a period close to two years, we celebrated the ease of restrictions, allowing us all the opportunity to go back to our pre-pandemic existence. The pandemic shook the world, reminding us of how fragile we are and further demonstrating the need to increase efforts to restore and maintain our planet's ecological integrity. Simultaneously, climate change continues to jeopardize livelihoods around the world, and securing a future for all will rely on strengthening the resilience of nature and people more than ever before.

Despite ongoing challenges this past year, the Grumeti Fund responded by reinforcing its commitment to the people and wildlife of the Serengeti ecosystem. This iconic landscape is not only a refuge for the conservation of many species and their habitats, but it also provides critical cultural and socio-economic benefits to local communities and to the people of Tanzania. Our work is challenging, and yet, it is rewarding. As we reflect on the year that was, it is humbling to see how much our teams achieved. It is a hallmark of the quality within the Grumeti Fund, and I am grateful to every team member for their tireless efforts and unwavering dedication.

The joint wildlife protection teams, including our beloved canine unit, continued to carry out their mission to ensure that wildlife and their habitats were secured. Grumeti

Fund and RISE hosted its first conservation technology gathering, where we engaged in discussions about innovative technological solutions for pressing conservation challenges. The gathering attracted a diverse audience with participants representing local and international academic institutions, conservation NGOs as well as Tanzanian Government partners. Our conservation management teams enhanced ecosystem health by managing fire, rehabilitating Zaituni the orphaned black rhino, and tackling one of the most significant threats facing the Serengeti ecosystem today - the infestation of invasive alien plants.

Partnerships and collaborations are essential to our success. They enable us to leverage our collective strengths and values to drive further impact and achievement. I extend our thanks to the Tanzanian Government, especially the Tanzanian Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), as well as other stakeholders working to conserve Tanzania's rich, natural heritage. I would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors for their continued support - it is because of you that the Grumeti Fund remains empowered to carry out our mission.

As you read this report, we trust that you will find stories of hope and inspiration and that it offers you some relief at a time where so much uncertainty dominates the global headlines. We are looking forward to a new year, and together, we will be working hard to ensure that Grumeti Fund advances progress and drives impact for the benefit of Tanzania.



Noel Mbise

Research & Community

As we ushered in 2022, facing the future continued to be a predominant theme on our minds, in our plans, and instilled in our initiatives. Having endured unprecedented disruptions during the global pandemic, our community found itself grappling with both a sense of apprehension and one of cautious hope that maybe we were finally bidding farewell to an outbreak that had ravaged lives, livelihoods, economies, and hindered our own human interactions.

By December 2022, the Grumeti Fund confidently celebrated achievements in several key areas, none of which would have been possible without our team, our generous donors, key partners TAWA and TAWIRI, and other governmental and community stakeholders for whom we are truly grateful. Your collective support remains vital to our ability to deliver impact. Together, your support helped us navigate through the challenges, threats, uncertainties, and contestations that often line the road to successful conservation.

Spanning academics, cultures, and socioeconomics, we collaborated with different partners and stakeholders to reach over 1212 girls and 1657 boys through the now



GENERAL MANAGER MESSAGE

popular community empowerment and wellbeing programs. Local girls and boys gathered to engage with role models, peers, government representatives, and keynote speakers to better understand and increase agency on challenges pertinent to their age and circumstances. We saw 217 community members enroll in our Rural Enterprise Development training on entrepreneurship. To further deepen the impact of RED, the Grumeti Fund partnered with a leading Tanzanian microfinance institution to improve financial inclusion of entrepreneurial women and youth. Our educational support programs renewed full scholarships for 138 students and offered 87 new ones; at the same time, Grumeti Fund sponsored 50 graduate teaching fellows to improve learning of English, science, technology, and mathematics in 26 under-resourced, rural schools - an effort that benefited over 20,000 school kids. The Environmental Education Center directly benefited 512 secondary school students and 32 teachers from 16 different schools. Our dedicated, rapid response Mitigation Unit responded to 274 human-wildlife conflict incidents, in effect, averting potential danger for many villagers in our neighboring communities.

Recognizing the significant role that science, data, and technology plays in conservation, we hosted a spatial data analysis workshop at our RISE applied research facility, replaced collars for tracking elephants, expanded our research efforts with a new study on elephant demography, and published two papers in international peer-reviewed journals.

Moreover, our recent aerial survey showed an increasing abundance of most herbivore populations - notably elephants and buffalo - the latter of which was estimated to have surpassed the ten thousand mark for the first time. This level of wildlife recovery is no small feat, considering that two decades ago, the estimate was only about six hundred.

Looking ahead with our key partners and stakeholders, we aspire to generate greater impact through existing and new initiatives in 2023. These include continued support for education and sustainable livelihoods in adjacent villages, empowerment of local women and girls, deepening financial inclusion among rural youth and women, expansion of applied research in the western Serengeti, upskilling our team, and bolstering conservation of black rhino amongst other wildlife. Moreover, we will pursue collaborations on landscape-level programs by addressing drivers of rangeland degradation, invasive alien plants, unsustainable resource use, and insufficient awareness on conservation.

What we present here is just a snapshot of what we have achieved in 2022, but our overall mission continues to be long-term and hinges on continuous engagement and support from our donors and partners, innovation, and coalition building between diverse stakeholders. I hope these stories inspire you to continue doing the good that you are involved in - for nature, for humanity, for those of us here today, and for the many generations not yet arrived.



RESEARCH AND MONITORING

5

Reports on monitoring produced for use by internal and external stakeholders.

100

Herbaceous biomass permanent plots surveyed six times a year.

30

Number of plots surveyed in the annual vegetation composition assessment.

1

Aerial wildlife survey conducted in collaboration with TAWA and TAWIRI.

1


Training workshop designed and hosted.

1


RM staff member embarked on a long-term research project (PhD) on invasive alien plants spatial ecology, in collaboration with RISE and Leiden University (Netherlands). They used GIS and remote sensing to monitor fire programs and to produce one key fire planning map.

2

TAWA-GF joint teams conducted daily rhino monitoring in collaboration with TAWA, and SENAPA.



For meaningful impact and scale, it is critical to better understand key ecosystem dynamics, threats, drivers of change, and how research-based information can continue to guide our conservation interventions.



Conservation depends on systematic monitoring and research to build knowledge and facilitate efficient learning critical to our decision making. Monitoring allows us to measure the success of conservation actions and gather information necessary to guide better management. The success of the Grumeti Fund's Research and Monitoring department is one of the many positive outcomes from our collaboration with our key partners and stakeholders, namely the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), and other research academic institutions.

Learnings and results from Research and Monitoring department aid understanding of whether and how Grumeti Fund's conservation interventions are supporting pre-identified conservation objectives and optimization of our socioecological impact. The department continues to invest in research and monitoring programs to maintain long-term records of changes in our key areas.

Aerial Census

Over the last 20 years, the Grumeti Fund has made significant investments into the protection of regional wildlife and into the infrastructure required to monitor one of our most important ecological outcomes – the changes in resident wildlife populations. Resident wildlife are species that do not migrate throughout the year. These animals have made Grumeti their home for most of the time, and by understanding how their populations change overtime, we hope to ensure they find the necessary safety and resources here for decades to come. This is not only important for the conservation of the Serengeti ecosystem, but it is also critical for a future of sustainable use and development in the region as well as in the concession.

Our most important tool for monitoring resident wildlife is our annual aerial game count. We deploy a helicopter and a talented team of wildlife experts to fly over the entire Grumeti concession and attempt to count every animal they see from the air. This is no easy task – the team must sit especially still for over five hours daily while flying without doors to gather accurate and scientifically rigorous data. This census allows us to track how wildlife populations have changed overtime as well as how many and what types of animals this ecosystem is able to support. Additionally, this census allows us to identify problems facing wildlife in the concession as they arise. Ultimately, the information we gather during the aerial survey empower us to become even more impactful and efficient stewards of the ecosystem.



2022 marks the 15th time since 2003, that the Grumeti Fund has conducted an aerial count. The upward trends revealed by the findings are encouraging. We found steady increases in abundance of buffalo, elephant, lion, and hyena. The total effort was 1,581 km flown in 31.03 hours on survey.

Working in collaboration with our Government partners, the Fund has been successful in achieving this, with resident herbivore biomass increasing five-fold to date and still increasing. Buffalo and elephant numbers continue to grow, and together, they increased dominance of the overall herbivore biomass 72%. Similarly, the abundance of large carnivores like lion and hyena is increasing, indicating that

the concession supports a healthy and potentially stabilizing balance between predator and prey species.

“It’s important to understand the ecosystem since we have been rehabilitating this area for some years now, and during that process, populations of the different herbivores have changed quite a bit at different rates. The main cause of that would be the improved security that we give to the wildlife and integrity to the system as a whole. We do use the estimates of populations and their growths and trends as an indicator of the effectiveness of the security measures that have taken place to stabilize the area.” - Dr. Pete Goodman, Wildlife Ecologist.



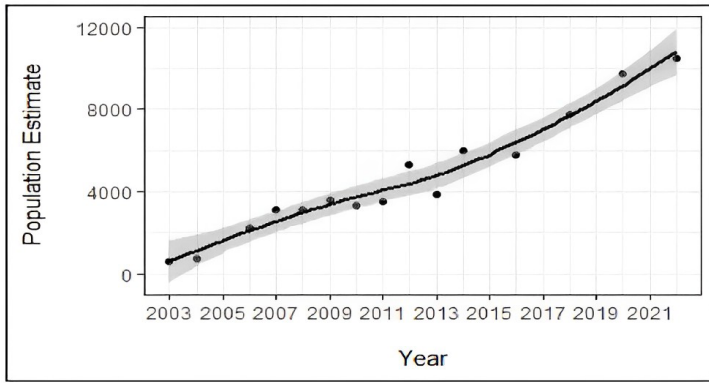
1,581 km flown



31.03 hours on survey.

72%

increased dominance
of the overall
herbivore biomass



The increase in buffalo since the inception of the project continues. This species has experienced a 16.2 % annual growth since inception (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Long-term trend in the estimated population size of buffalo in the Grumeti Reserves complex (grey shading represents standard error of trend line).

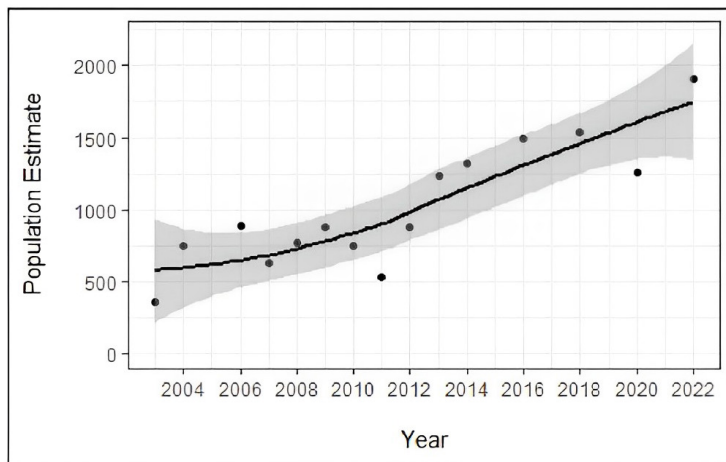


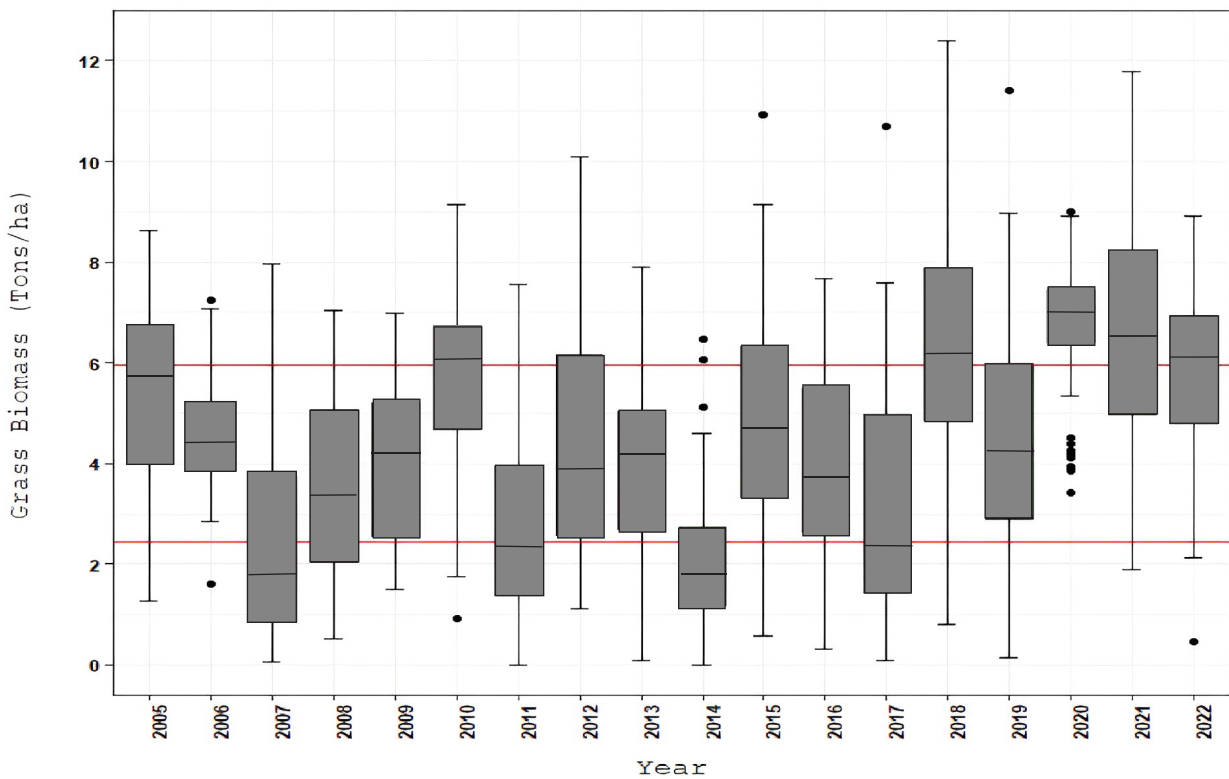
Figure 6. Long-term trend in the estimated size of the elephant population in Grumeti Reserves (grey shading represents standard error of trend line).



VEGETATION MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Herbaceous biomass monitoring

Grumeti Fund maintains long-term data on above ground herbaceous biomass (grass, forbes) obtained through measurements taken on a 100 permanent survey plots which are evenly distributed throughout the concession. This activity is done once every other month (and therefore six times a year). Assessing herbaceous biomass trends is critical for understanding the amount of fodder available for resident and migratory herbivores fuel load accumulated in the preceding growing (wet) season, the latter being a key metric for planning for wildfire prevention and control. In 2022, measured volume of herbaceous biomass average 5.8 tones ha⁻¹, a decline from 6.4 tones ha⁻¹ in 2021 but still on the higher side as was the case in recent years – 2018, 2020 (see the figure below). The variation is partially a function of rainfall and movement of migratory species.



Above: Long-term trends in above-ground herbaceous biomass volume in the reserve





RESEARCH & INNOVATION
FOR THE SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM

7

Elephant collars deployed (replacement)

14

Camera traps deployed

10

Villages monitored on a monthly basis by VAOs, 226 reports of HWC recorded

2

Scientific papers published in international peer-reviewed journals

7

Past participants connected with internships through Women in the Field (WIF) Program

2

International programs hosted in Kenya and Mozambique used WIF as the basis for their own programs

12

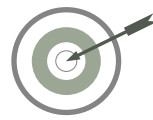
Women hosted for research and conservation training during Women in the Field



Foundational to RISE is the commitment to support local talent, make and promote increased space for women in conservation, and to support early-stage conservationists.

Grumeti Fund's Research and Innovation for the Serengeti Ecosystem (RISE) is an applied research facility in the western Serengeti, with a mission to create innovative tools and solutions to combat the most pressing conservation issues and challenges of our time. Built upon a platform of collaboration and education, RISE aims to develop and support research initiatives that provide tangible and resilient solutions to benefit the people and wildlife of the Serengeti ecosystem and beyond.

Foundational to RISE is the commitment to support local talent, make and promote increased space for women in conservation, and to support early-stage conservationists. Fundamental to the Grumeti Fund is the belief that conservation programs that create opportunities for women and youth will lead the way to a future where conservation actions and policies are sufficiently inclusive of a diversity of needs and perspectives, and ultimately, contribute to better outcomes for both people and wildlife.



This year RISE had 3 core objectives:

1. Maintain current research programs and produce high quality scientific outputs;
2. Provide supervisory and logistical support to existing graduate student fellows; and
3. Continue and expand programs that support the advancement of researchers and women within the conservation sector.

All objectives were met with very successful updates on researchers and women advancing in the conservation sector.





Researchers

Michael Kimaro continues to make excellent progress in his PhD. This year he has continued his field work to assess ecological impacts of the Ikorongo fence on wildlife. In collaboration with Dr. Kate Tiedeman, Micheal has made important progress using remote sensing to evaluate fencing impacts on vegetation recovery. He completed a planned household survey, which repeated a survey completed in 2017. By doing so, Micheal's research is facilitating an understanding of how the spatial distribution of human-wildlife conflict may have changed since construction of the Ikorongo fence. Michael spent the last three months of 2022 in the Netherlands working on writing up his first manuscript.

Loyce Majige completed her MSc degree at Glasgow University in January. She is currently employed at Southern Tanzania Elephant Program (STEP). Loyce's research quantifies the impact of the Ikorongo electric fence on elephant movement behavior along protected area boundaries; her work specifically explores the degree to which the fence reduces agricultural destruction by elephants. Loyce is continuing to work on her thesis for a publication.

WOMEN IN THE FIELD (WIF)

Women in the Field is an immersive capacity building and training program that invests in Tanzania's next generation of female conservationists and researchers. The program hopes to empower its participants to make an impact in the largely male-dominated conservation and research field. After a three-week hands-on training course, WIF participants have learned important ecological and social research methods, explored various data analysis techniques, and gained professional development skills. Of equal significance, WIF participants leave RISE with a strong network of women who are invested in their future conservation and research careers.

In 2022, RISE hosted 12 new participants during two sessions of Women in the Field. WIF was first established in 2019, and in our four years, WIF has grown and evolved to accept more participants during multiple sessions each year. Nonetheless, we continue to stay in-touch with WIF participants from our earlier cohorts.

In 2022, we had the opportunity to catch up with Vainess Laizer and Lucia Romward about how their WIF experience has impacted them since. Vainess participated in the first WIF cohort hosted in 2019, and Lucia completed a WIF session in 2021. Since participating in WIF, Vainess and Lucia have returned to Grumeti to conduct research as part of their evolving education.

"WIF was an eye opener for my career path...Grumeti Fund and RISE have been blessings in my life because they have given me a platform to showcase my abilities and go after what I really want to do." - Vainess Laizer

Today, Vainess is a graduate student at the Sokoine University of Agriculture, and as part of her Masters, Vainess is leading a research team and exploring nesting patterns of the White-Backed Vulture in the Grumeti concession area. Lucia was connected to Vainess through her WIF network, and now, she supports Vainess as a research assistant and trainee.



Elephant Movement Monitoring

RISE has been collecting quantitative, spatially explicit data on the occurrence of human-wildlife conflict along the protected area boundary. Battery-operated, satellite enabled GPS collars allow the Grumeti Fund to monitor elephants in real time. The software runs a real time monitoring algorithm that detects when an elephant stops moving, breaches a virtual geofence into community areas, or starts to move more slowly, which could indicate an injury or illness. This information is used daily to mitigate human-elephant conflict, inform scout deployment, and promote transboundary cooperation within the wider ecosystem.

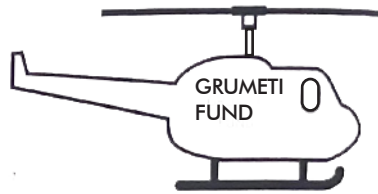
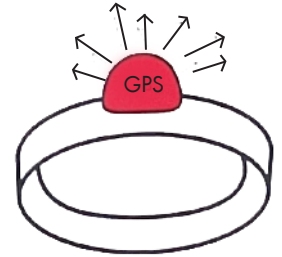


How to Collar an Elephant:



1. PLANNING: Devise a strategy for which animal, or type of animal will be collared. Depending on the program objectives, this could be a specific individual in the population, like a routine crop raider, or any individual that meets certain criteria, like 'non-matriarch cow over the age of 25.'

2. COORDINATION: Assemble the collaring team and gather all necessary equipment. Ensure that the GPS collar is on and in good working order.



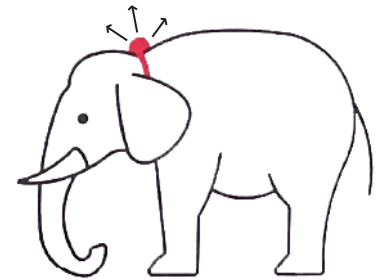
3. RECONNAISSANCE: Locate the individual to be collared and monitor its location until the collaring team is able to deploy. This is a good time to take high quality ID photos.



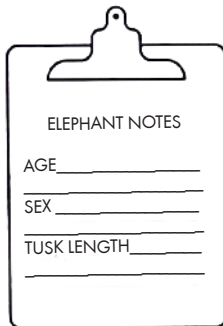
4. SEDATION: The veterinary team prepares and administers a tranquilizer. Darting can be accomplished from a helicopter, vehicle, or on foot depending on the terrain and mood of the herd. After the animal is fully sedated, it is essential to ensure that other animals are kept safely away while the team works.



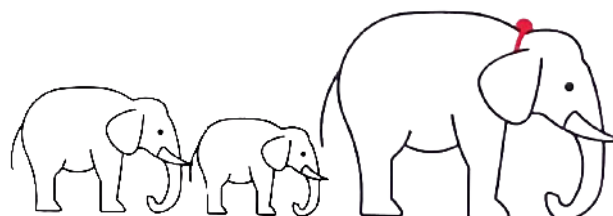
5. ANIMAL CARE: Once an elephant is sedated, the first thing is to ensure its comfort. The animal should be positioned on its side. The trunk is extended and monitored to ensure regular breathing; the ear is folded over the exposed eye; and the animal is doused with water to prevent overheating. The veterinary team continues to monitor vitals throughout the collaring process, and will also treat any injuries, remove ticks, and draw blood samples.



6. FITTING THE COLLAR: The GPS collar is positioned around the elephant's neck, taking care to center the GPS unit and counterweight, and to leave enough room for the collar to hang comfortably (especially important for bulls, who tend to swell during musth). The collar straps are fixed together with bolts, cut to length, and rough edges of bolts are sanded down.



7. MEASUREMENTS: While the collar is fitted, the team records several physiological measurements. These include shoulder height; length from shoulder to tail; front foot length, width, and circumference; and tusk circumference and length. We estimate the animal's age by recording molar set, number of lamella, and length and width of the exposed molar(s) - this requires a high tolerance for elephant breath!



8. REVERSAL: Once the collar is fitted and measurements taken, the vet administers a reversal drug, which has an almost immediate effect. You can expect an elephant to be standing within two minutes! After ensuring that the animal is well and behaving normally, the team departs as quickly and quietly as possible.



CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

49 %

Of the concessions burned (16% due to prescribed management fires and 33% due to arson)

35

Snares removed from injured animals

664

Invasive alien plant control interventions

4

Invasive alien plants targeted

Biodiversity is the key to a healthy ecosystem, the variety of animals, plants, fungi, invertebrates, and even microorganisms, like bacteria, that make up our natural world are imperative for our survival. These interconnected species and organisms work together in an intricate web to support the delicate balance that supports all life.

This year, the Conservation Management team has been busy; they have managed both controlled and arson fires, ensured the wellbeing of wildlife, and supervised infrastructure maintenance, such as road networks and scout camps. The 350,000 acres of protected land is divided into three sections, each of which is overseen by a Section Manager who ensures the responsible management and implementation of conservation activities in that area.

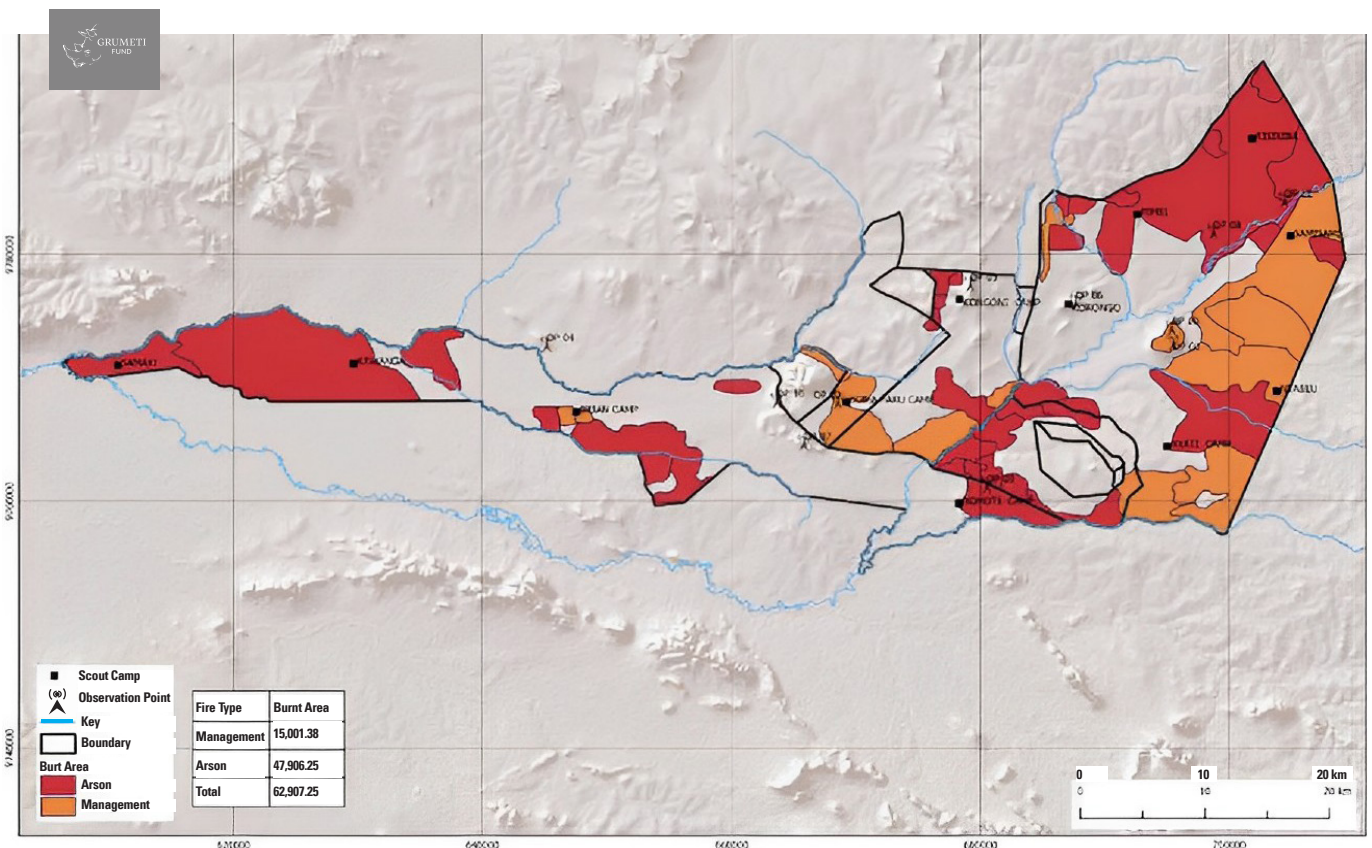




Fire Management

Grassland ecosystems rely on fire to stimulate healthy plant growth and enrich the soil. While fire can be destructive, it is also a very important tool for revitalizing the savanna. Our Conservation Management team ensures that controlled burns improve the ecosystem by carefully planning and timing burns and mapping out areas for burning in advance. They fine tune and coordinate burns while considering other environmental factors, such as weather and animal movements. Doing so helps them avoid unintended consequences of controlled burns; for example, they can make sure that fire in an area with re-established black rhino only removes the grass layer whilst avoiding harming trees and shrubs that are a potential food source for the rhino. Under the fire management plan, the Conservation Management team aims to burn all controlled burn areas every third year, though burns are entirely dependent on other environmental assessments.

While controlled burns benefit the ecosystem, arson fires can harm it. Arson fires are sometimes set by poachers looking to attract animals to areas with new growth or by pastoralists trying to improve grazing for their cattle. The Conservation Management team responds immediately to arson fires to suppress the flames and limit damage or risk to assets, land, and wildlife. This year there were 54 arson incidents that were handled in a timely manner by the team.



The map illustrated shows the areas burned by controlled fire versus those caused by arson.



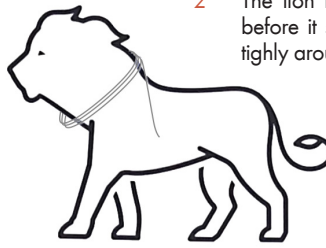
Wildlife wellbeing

When an animal is suffering from human induced injuries, our Conservation Management team intervenes. Bushmeat poaching is one of the largest threats to wildlife within the protected area, and often, poachers' tactics lead to severe injury to wildlife. Snare poaching, or the use of metal wires that tighten when an animal walks through them, is the most common cause of human-induced wildlife injury in the concession. These snares tighten, eventually creating deep, painful cuts on the animal, leaving it more susceptible to predation, infection, malnutrition, and death. In response, our Conservation Management team, along with our Government partners, are constantly called upon to remove snares that have grievously injured animals. This year, the Conservation Management team removed 35 snares, bettering the health and chances for 35 diverse wild animals of this ecosystem.

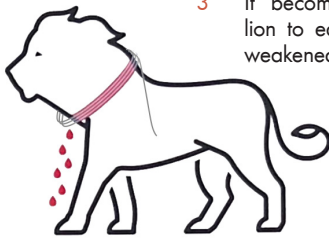
The process from when a snare is set by a poacher to when it is removed by the Conservation Management team:



1 A poacher sets a wire snare attaching it to a tree. The aim is to catch plains game, like wildebeest, zebra or impala, to sell as bushmeat into the illegal wildlife market.



2 The lion is strong and pulls the snare off the tree before it suffocates him. The wire noose is secured tightly around his neck causing serious damage.



3 It becomes difficult for the lion to eat and drink and is weakened over time.



4 A Grumeti Fund Section Manager/ staff spots the lion looking weak and injured. He takes a closer look with his binoculars and sees the snares around the lion's neck.



5 The section manager calls our government partners TAWA and a wildlife veterinarian to take a closer look.



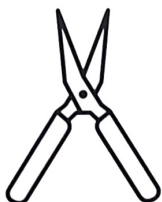
6 The section manager and veterinarian decide the injuries are human-induced and must be treated.



7 The veterinarian mixes a sedative and darts the lion with a dart gun.



8 10 minutes later the lion is asleep.



9 The veterinarian and section manager use a wire cutter to cut the snare from the lion's neck, treating and disinfecting any wounds related to the snare. The team treats the animal as fast as possible to minimize the time it is sedated. While the animal is sedated and being treated, its exposed eyes are covered to protect them from the sun, and the animal is doused in water to make sure it is safe from overheating.



10 The sedative is then reversed with an antidote and the lion wakes up, snare free.



11 The section manager and veterinarian watch the lion wake up and make sure he is stable and strong enough before letting him go on.

Invasive Alien Plant Eradication

Often accidentally introduced, human activities, and environmental agents like wind and water, invasive alien plants can quickly dominate an ecosystem with significant consequences for endemic flora and fauna. The Conservation Management team tirelessly addresses this urgent conservation challenge, and this year, they have targeted the most common and most aggressive invasive alien plants. The team continued to eradicate *Opuntia* s.s. (prickly pear), while also turning their focus toward eliminating *Chromolaena Odorata* (triffid weed). Invasive alien plants remain a serious and evolving threat, and halting new infestations was considered a top priority. A single plant of this species can produce up to a million seeds annually, which highlights the severity of the issue at hand.





Mentorship and Development

Section Manager Yohana Augustino was awarded a Grumeti Fund study scholarship and continues with his career development journey by enrolling for a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Management at MWEKA Wildlife College. Yohana has been with Grumeti Fund since the very beginning in 2003, where he worked as a casual employee. Over the years, Yohana has excelled and demonstrated his commitment to conservation. We are delighted to see him bridge his operational experience with this academic qualification, and we look forward to his return once he has successfully completed his 3 year study sabbatical.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



225

Scholarships awarded
(138 ongoing, 87 new)

6

Internships awarded

106

Life skills training

512

Students through the Environmental
Education Centre

20,782

Students impacted by TSP fellows
(10,446 boys, 10,336 girls)

52

graduate fellow teachers placed in
26 local primary schools

18

Educational mentors working with
mentees in local communities

2,869

Local students registered for and
participated in Grumeti Fund's girls'
empowerment sessions

217

Individuals from neighboring villages
participated in RED's tier one training,
14 in the more advanced guiding level

14 (100%)


Guiding entrepreneurs are now
paying themselves a monthly salary

94

New bank accounts opened by
participants

34

Jobs (20 permanent and 14 temporary)
were created by RED supported
entrepreneurs



SAYANSI NA TEKNOLOJIA

SUMAKU

Successful protection and conservation of this iconic ecosystem is only possible with the buy-in and involvement of its local stakeholders. It is extremely important for the communities surrounding the concession to be empowered and their basic needs fulfilled symbiotically with the achievements of conservation goals.

Initially, community outreach was largely about meeting critical needs, such as access to clean water and infrastructure development. This was incredibly important at the time, especially to foster trust and support with communities. Today, the Grumeti Fund's focus has shifted from providing donations and infrastructure based help to empowering communities through education, capacity building and dismantling gender inequality. These are two levers we believe will disrupt trends of poverty in the area and lead to long-term, sustainable economic and social transformation.



EDUCATION

Education continues to be one of the most important components of our Community Outreach Programs. Grumeti Fund focuses on providing scholarships, teaching support in schools with very high student - teacher ratios, and a supportive learning environment through mentorship, life skills training, and English immersion camps.

The significance of primary and early school education cannot be overstated; it establishes a solid foundation for a child's future learning, growth, and opportunity. Quality teaching and effective learning in and outside of the classroom relies greatly on teachers as the builders of such a foundation. Likewise, having healthy student-teacher ratios that allow students to get one-on-one attention, assistance, and guidance is critical to successful learning. Unfortunately, these key prerequisites are unmet in most remote, rural schools surrounding the Grumeti concession. Student-teacher ratios are high and, in some schools, extremely high, meaning that there are very few teachers in relation to the number of students being taught. This is a significant challenge that impedes quality teaching, successful learning, morale of teachers and students alike, and overall educational outcomes. High student - teacher ratios leave teachers overworked and unable to tailor lessons to different students' needs. Similarly, they leave students less able to learn, ask specific questions, and engage in material.

The Grumeti Fund's Teaching Support Program was launched in 2021 and continues to address these challenges. This year the program placed 52 young, passionate, recent graduate fellow teachers in 26 local primary schools, effectively reducing student - teacher ratios and improving students' academic achievements. In total, these fellows' involvement has impacted over 20,800 students, an average of 416 students per fellow.

Since the inception of this program, we have seen students receiving higher academic performances on both internal and external exams. In 2022, students' performances increased consistently across all subjects relative to 2021. Mathematics and Science, performance improved by 6% whereas students' performance in the Arts improved by 14%. We also found that classes that had been taught by a fellow teacher two years in a row performed better than the classes that only had a fellow teacher for one year. Additionally, the introduction of various extracurricular activities has helped sustain students' interest in school and resulted in fewer dropouts.

The remarkable increase in performance can be attributed to the hard work of the teaching fellows in collaboration with the teachers and school administration. The teaching fellows' methods that have contributed to this success are:

- There were more practical activities in the subjects they taught;
- They introduced technology into their classrooms;
- They promoted literacy skills;
- They promoted environmental protection activities, such as reuse, reduce and recycle;
- They introduced environment conservation activities;
- They hosted empowerment sessions; and
- They taught students collective leadership.

Life Skills Training

Life skills training is another important aspect of educating youth. 106 scholarship recipients participated in life skills training this year. The topics taught include: time management, career development, technology, reproductive health, enterprise development, savings, goal setting, and management. These training sessions have also helped students develop self-confidence and knowledge of dealing with significant life changes and challenges, such as bullying. The training has given these students a voice at school, in their community, and in society at large.

Mentorship

The Community Outreach department continues with mentoring as one component of the outreach program. The supportive, healthy relationships formed between mentors and mentees are both immediate and long-term, and they contribute to a host of benefits for both the mentors and mentees. This year, 18 mentors from Grumeti engaged with their mentees in the local community, providing them with guidance and hands-on experience. All of Grumeti Fund's educational programs center girls empowerment as a key focus. Grumeti Fund believes that investing in girls is a critical step to breaking cycles of poverty in the local communities.





RELATIONSHIPS DEPARTMENT

25,529

People attended Grumeti Fund awareness campaigns in 29 villages.

7,196

Villagers attended 31 human-wildlife conflict awareness movie night shows in 21 villages adjacent to the concession.

5,573

Community members participated in 29 traditional dances in 10 villages.

30,000

Trees planted on water catchments.

31

Meetings with government officials and villagers conducted on the importance of electric fences.

254

Crop raiding incidents were responded to by our HWC Mitigation Unit, 141 of which were elephant related.

337

Calls received by our HWC Mitigation Unit regarding HWC cases.

93.75%

Of permits granted to carry out conservation work.



Grumeti Fund's mission can only be achieved through collaboration and mutual relationships. The Relationships department serves as a link between the Grumeti Fund, the community, the Government, and other conservation stakeholders.

The Relationships department is vital in the Grumeti Fund's initiatives to increase conservation awareness in local communities. Traditional dances, awareness movie nights, exhibitions, sports, entertainment, and awareness sessions in schools and colleges are all used to build conservation partnership, trust, and understanding with local communities.

Human-Wildlife Conflict

Conservation challenges are emerging in and around most protected areas in Tanzania, Africa, and beyond. In our case, factors like growing human population, more abundant wildlife, unreliable weather, shrinking and degradation of community rangelands, and greater demand for land resources drive the degree and extent of conflict manifestation. With more people and more wildlife in the same areas, we have seen an increase in the number of undesirable human-wildlife interactions, most notably crop raiding by elephants.

Human-wildlife conflict mostly results from competing needs for resources (space, water, food, and from a human perspective; values, interests). Through sensitive and innovative mitigation, the Grumeti Fund is striving to make harmonious coexistence of humans and wildlife possible – one initiative at a time. The Grumeti Fund's Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Unit is specially trained and kitted for rapid response; it consists of Grumeti Fund and government scouts who are always ready (24/7) to deploy when needed. There is also a dedicated toll-free hotline that ensures communities throughout the area can call in for help and receive it when a problem with wildlife arises. Calls go directly to the Joint Operations Center, which then dispatches the relevant parties and relays information to government and community partners. The Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Unit has achieved a remarkable success rate in mitigation of conflict situations, especially considering the challenges they face. The Unit confronts the inherent dangers of dealing with stressed wild animals, while simultaneously navigating emotionally charged situations in which human protagonists are often armed and justifiably irate. The sheer number of incidents this unit responds to alone can be overwhelming – just over 100 calls a month – sometimes playing out simultaneously and lasting up to three hours long.

“



David Mwakipesile

“Working collaboratively with our Government, community, and other conservation stakeholders has always been our top priority. We firmly believe that unity is power, and we must work together as a team to achieve our shared conservation objectives of safeguarding the iconic Serengeti ecosystem. Because of this, the Relationships department works to strengthen and build mutual understanding with local communities, the Government, and non-governmental conservation stakeholders.”



SAFARIS WITH A PURPOSE

Safaris with a Purpose are up-close and personal experiences that offer a way for donors to be a part of the work we do at Grumeti Fund, raising much needed funding for our projects.

Serengeti Girls Run

The Grumeti Fund believes that investing in girls is a critical step to breaking the cycle of poverty in local surrounding villages. We run girls' empowerment events that encourage girls to have confidence to be who they dream to be.

Practices such as female genital mutilation still occur illegally, and young girls are married off for dowry, unable to finish their education. Menstruation and reproductive health are taboo subjects and access to materials can be challenging. Many girls do not go to school during their menstrual cycle, missing out on a significant portion of their studies. In the last five years, we have introduced empowerment events whereby high school girls come together to learn about career development, confidence building, menstruation, female genital mutilation, early marriage, and reproductive health.

While the run itself takes place inside the protected area, the reason for the run is never far from mind. 2022 was the fifth consecutive year for the Serengeti Girls Run, and participants found themselves discussing many ways of breaking down the barriers and finding healthy and positive ways to impact young women around the world.

2023 Serengeti Girls Run dates: October 27, 2023 - November 1, 2023

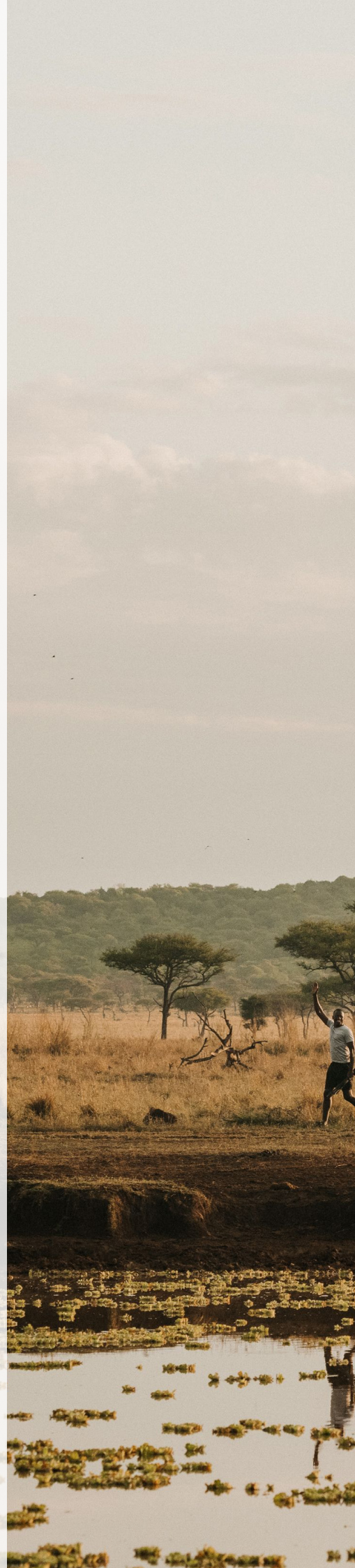
Email: info@grumetifund.org for more information

Elephant Collaring

Human-wildlife conflict continues to be a problem in the communities surrounding the protected areas. As a way to offer a proactive solution, the Research and Monitoring department, in collaboration with RISE came up with the elephant collaring program as a way to gather more detailed information on where and when elephants are dispersing to during different times of the year and to offer early detection for the Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Unit.

When a need arises to re-collar or replace a failing collar, and as a way to raise funds for this program, donors are given the opportunity to collar selected elephants, providing a hands-on, once in a life time experience.

To learn more about the Elephant Collaring Safaris with a Purpose, email info@grumetifund.org.







ANTI-POACHING DEPARTMENT

4,262

Kg of bushmeat recovered.

1,103

Snares recovered.

84

Intelligence based arrests.

55

Poachers apprehended by the Mobile Patrol Unit.


4

Highly trained tracking dogs.

0

Elephants or rhinos poached.



A person wearing green clothing and black boots is seen from the side, looking out over a vast savanna landscape. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. In the foreground, there are some green bushes and a small tree with thorns. The landscape extends to a distant horizon under a bright sky.

The Anti-Poaching Unit plays a critical role in enhancing the protection of Grumeti and broadly that of the Serengeti ecosystem. Bushmeat poaching has always been the biggest threat in the Grumeti concession, supplying both local and larger commercial markets. The Anti-Poaching Unit employs various techniques such as aerial surveillance, foot patrols, and intelligence gathering, to detect and apprehend poachers. Their efforts have helped to reduce incidences of poaching activity, safeguarding the Serengeti's biodiversity, and preserving the natural integrity of the ecosystem. The importance of this Unit cannot be overstated, and their continued efforts are vital for the protection of this landscape. The Unit's efforts contribute to the ongoing efforts to support co-existence of both local communities and the wildlife that call the Serengeti home.

Special Operations Group

With a strong game scout force, there is an elite Special Operations Group (SOG) composed of high-performing scouts that have proven themselves to be the best of the best with unquestionable integrity and the highest ethic. They are provided with ongoing advanced training and high-tech equipment, and together with our TAWA colleagues, they are tasked with confronting the most serious security threats in the Grumeti concession. The SOG constantly carries out a mission to safeguard wildlife, and they are deployed as a rapid reaction Unit to engage active poaching threats.

Canine Unit

Tony, Oke, DJ, and Radar continue to be an essential part of the efforts to combat poaching in the Grumeti concession. These highly trained dogs, together with their handlers, work tirelessly to detect illegal activities and protect the wildlife in the concession. With their exceptional sense of smell and agility, the canines are able to track down poachers and detect illegal wildlife products such as ivory and bushmeat. The Canine Unit is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the scouts and conservationists, who work tirelessly to preserve the entire ecosystem and its wildlife.

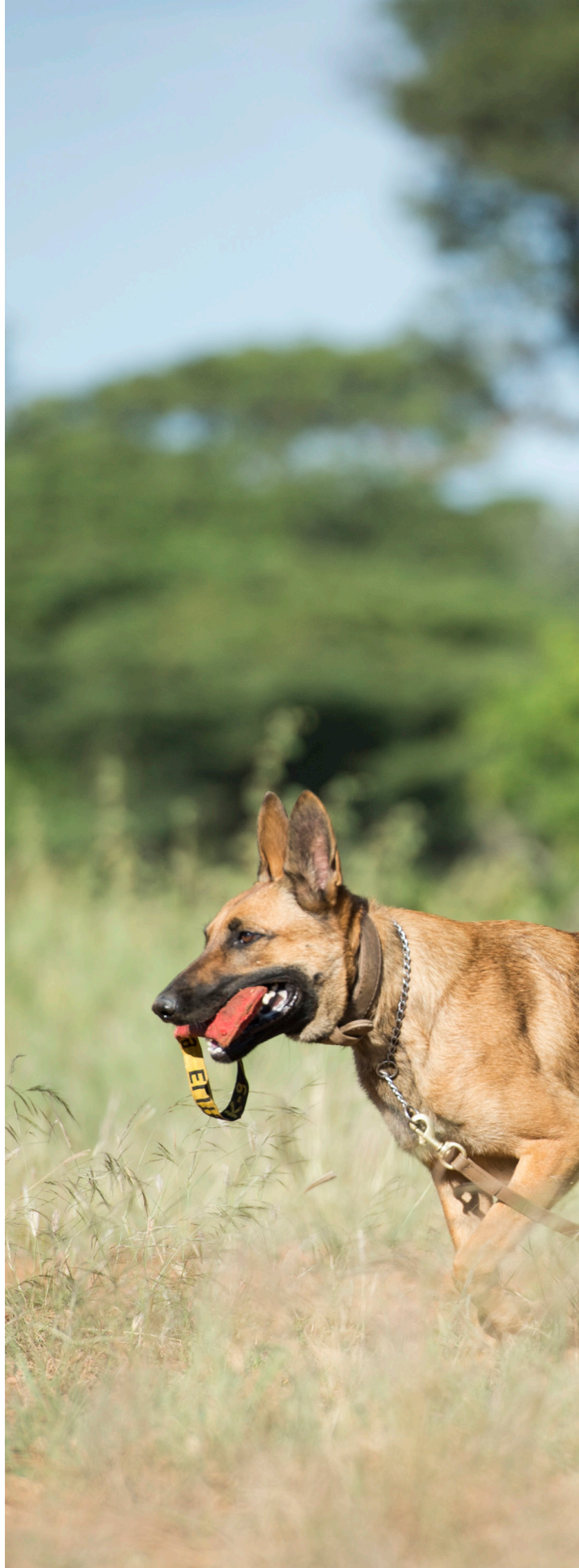
Mobile Patrol Unit

The Mobile Patrol Unit is a critical component of the anti-poaching efforts in the concession. The Unit consists of scouts traveling on motorbikes to various parts of the concession. They are able to rapidly deter poaching activities and respond quickly to any poaching incidents. It is equipped with advanced technology, including radios, GPS devices, and binoculars, to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

This Mobile Patrol Unit is essential in areas of the concession that are difficult to reach by foot, especially as they can cover large areas quickly. The presence of the Mobile Patrol Unit has led to a significant reduction in poaching incidents; they work closely with other anti-poaching teams in the concession to coordinate efforts and share intelligence.

The Unit continues to improve the overall effectiveness of the Grumeti Fund's Anti-Poaching Department. It is a vital component of Grumeti Fund's efforts to protect the ecosystem, and its continued presence and support are essential for the concessions long-term sustainability and security.

These highly trained dogs, together with their handlers, work tirelessly to detect illegal activities and protect the wildlife in the concession





PARTNERS

The Grumeti Fund values external partnerships and knowledge sharing. By developing opportunities with sector specific experts we can increase the positive impact on the ground. From key government stakeholders to anti-poaching technology developers and enterprise development professionals, we are proud to call the following organizations and companies our Impact Partners.

Singita

Singita is the Grumeti Fund's sole ecotourism partner. The low-impact and exclusive tourism carried out by Singita creates opportunities for people from around the world to learn and experience the beauty of the Grumeti concession, shining a light on conservation and community development.



The Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority and the Grumeti Fund work in partnership to conserve the Grumeti concessions. The co-partnership in lieu of co-management agreement includes decision making surrounding the wildlife and habitat of the area, and overseeing activities such as the black rhino re-establishment project, wildlife wellbeing and law enforcement.



The African Community and Conservation Foundation is the Grumeti Fund's Fundraising partner in the United States. The organisation operates a 501(c)(3) non-profit through which all US based Grumeti Fund donors can make tax deductible donations.



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Tracey Steinberg
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Veronika Larisova
Wolfgang Raffalsky & Zelda Vikos.

FINANCES

16% Conservation Management

6% Relationships Department

17% Community Outreach

32% Anti-Poaching Department

12% Research and Monitoring

17% Support Services and Administration







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