



FRIEDKIN CONSERVATION FUND | TANZANIA

Annual Report 2023



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Our mission

The Friedkin Conservation Fund Tanzania (FCFT) is the philanthropic and conservation arm of Legendary Expeditions (Mwiba Holdings). Together, we have the privilege of managing 2 vast and vital tracts of wilderness, Mwiba Reserve and Maswa. Forming an area roughly the size of Rhode Island or Luxembourg, the areas under our care encompass an astonishing 8% of the entire protected network of the Greater Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater ecosystems.

This puts us in the extraordinary position to play a pivotal role not just in the protection of the areas we oversee, the wildlife within, and the communities that share this land with us, but in the long-term conservation of two of Africa's most important ecosystems.

Foreword by Jean-Claude McMenamin
CEO, Friedkin Group of Companies Tanzania

The conversation around conservation in Tanzania, and indeed Africa, is shifting with the needle pointing to Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) as a major concern in the future. Our report highlights the crucial role that the ecologically significant areas we're privileged to manage — Mwiba Wildlife Reserve, Maswa — have, and will continue to play, in securing the long-term protection of the Greater Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater ecosystems.

Tourism, specifically low-impact, high-value eco-tourism, is inextricably linked to this conversation and our ability, as the conservation arm of Legendary Expeditions, to make a tangible impact.

Successful conservation within areas such as ours depends on the communities we share the land with realizing the benefit that protected areas and wildlife can bring. This is where eco-tourism

as a key source of employment in these richly biodiverse areas plays an essential role. Most importantly, it is the funding from our tourism operations and our shareholders that enable us to continue our community development work and conservation initiatives, such as anti-poaching and habitat management.

Engaging with the Tanzanian government and supporting their conservation efforts, alongside empowering our communities has always been the cornerstone of our work. Now, as we search for solutions to the growing problem of HWC, it has become even more vital.

In 2023 we laid the groundwork for our new Economic Training Project with Hand In Hand Tanzania where we conducted an economic empowerment study that identified 4 income-generating opportunities for community members. We also made significant strides in our

efforts to turn the tide on low school attendance within our communities. Between our engaging environmental education initiative, school nutrition program, and the construction of new school infrastructure, we're pleased to see a marked decrease in dropouts, and an increase in school attendance.

Our approach to conservation remains multifaceted, as we continue to prioritize wildlife monitoring, specifically the collaring of elephants, in our efforts to address the increasing problem of HWC in our areas. We also supported the Serengeti Rhino Repatriation Project's (SRRP)'s rhino monitoring program.

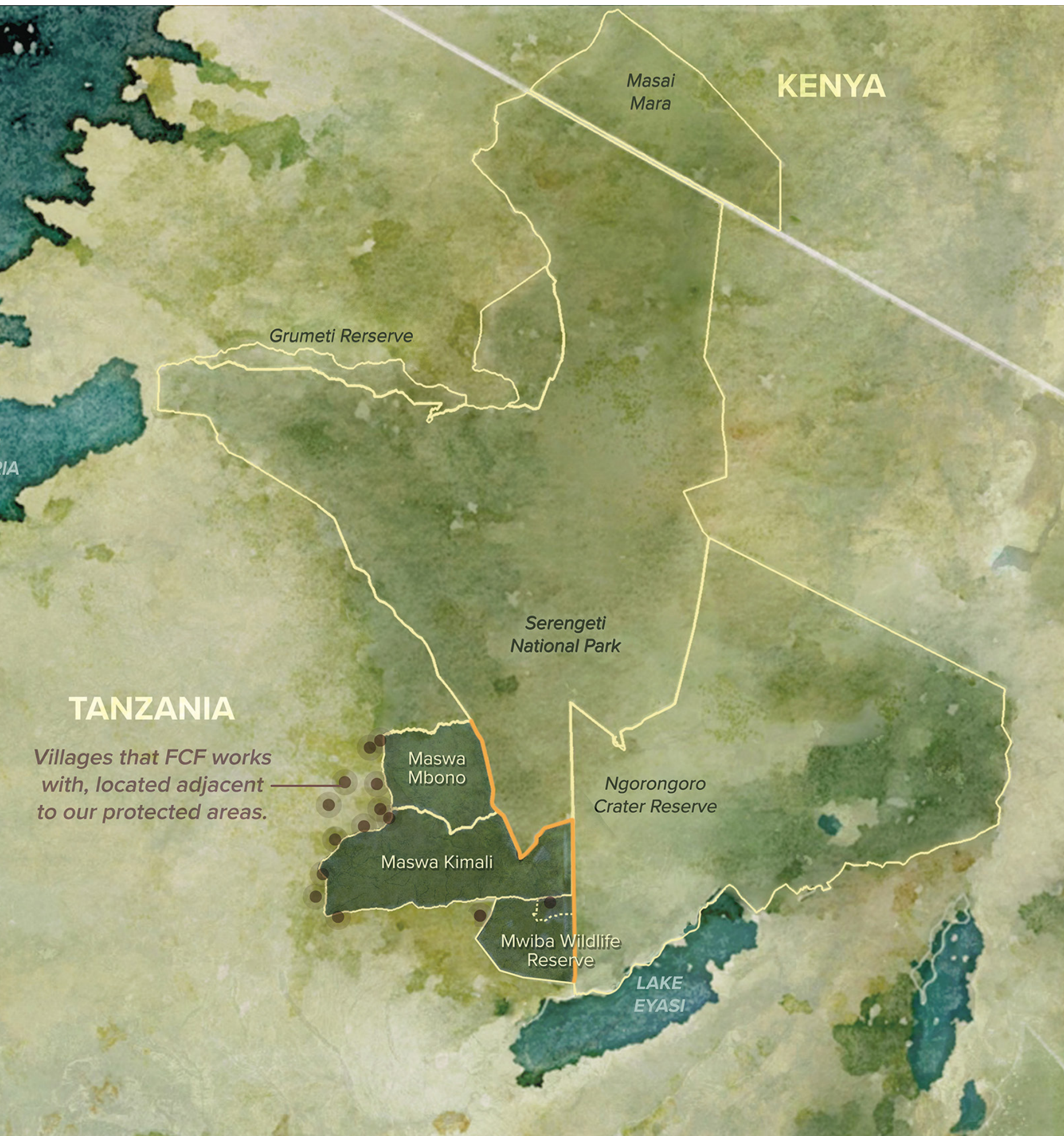
The threat of poaching and habitat loss is no less pervasive and so, throughout 2023, we coordinated with Legendary Expeditions to support our anti-poaching teams through data collection and monitoring, as well as aerial

patrols. Additionally, over 2,000ha of grassland was cleared through habitat management initiatives.

The year ahead marks a significant and exciting new step in the fund's 35-year conservation journey with the launch of Mwiba Foundation. Taking up the mantle as the conservation arm of the Friedkin Group of Companies Tanzania, Mwiba Foundation will continue the FCFT's legacy, of protecting and conserving the areas we manage and in turn, the Greater Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater Ecosystems. Our goal remains to ensure this vital ecosystem not only survives but thrives for generations to come.

Continuing this legacy would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our team, and the ongoing support of our founder and our partners.





Buffer zones

Taking center stage in human-wildlife conflict

All that separates the Serengeti National Park — the home of the iconic Great Migration — from the villages and towns that lie beyond is a network of protected wildlife areas. These areas, which function as extensions to — and boundaries of — the vital Greater Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater ecosystems, are known as buffer zones.

Just as national parks play a critical role in providing sanctuary for wildlife in a world where wild spaces are dwindling, buffer zones are equally as important — if not more so. They, in turn, safeguard our national parks.

The importance of buffer zones is twofold. On one hand, these ecologically significant areas play an essential role in maintaining healthy ecosystems: they create vital connections between habitats, preventing overcrowding in national parks and providing space for species to migrate. They also act as natural shields against environmental threats such as habitat loss and degradation.

Most importantly, however, buffer zones function as areas of transition between wilderness areas and human settlements. And it's here, where the lines between animal and human activity are blurred, that we see the bulk of human-wildlife interaction — and conflict. For this reason, buffer zones — alongside wildlife corridors — have been identified as areas in which community engagement and empowerment initiatives stand to have the biggest impact on conservation.

Ever-expanding populations and the ensuing encroachment have catapulted HWC into the conservation spotlight in recent years, with the Tanzanian government declaring it the single biggest threat facing wildlife at this time. The buffer zone areas we manage are at the center of this conversation and the onus is on us to seek long-term solutions.





Our team

The people who make our vision a reality

Jean-Claude McMenamin | CEO

Aurelia Klassarah | FCF Tanzania Program Director

Julius Robinson | Group Conservation Manager

Bwasama Sylvester | Community Program Manager

Macarios Gisberth | IT and Operations Coordinator

Baraka Lucas | Beekeeping Training and Youth Programs

Lameck Stanslaus | Community Conservation Liaison

Cleopa Sikawa | Community Projects Liaison

Richard Mulisu | Senior Village Liaison Officer

Herieth Nnko | Office Administrator

Consultants

Mike Kirkinis | Strategy

Andrea Frey | Donor Relations

Dave Rudolph | Sustainability

Adam Makis Kossioris | Community Development



Existing partnerships strengthened and new partnerships forged



FRANKFURT
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

2023 at a glance



2166

children received
daily **school lunches**



723

children received
**conservation
education**



5

classrooms
constructed



1

teacher's house
built



850kg

honey produced
through our
beekeeping initiative



22

COCOBA (**Community
Conservation Bank**)
groups formed



10

elephants collared



4

rhinos microchipped

Community

The buffer zones are where the primary interactions between human settlements and wildlife occur — often leading to HWC with devastating consequences.

To foster a sense of shared responsibility and, eventually, custodianship of the land, we must engage with our communities and ensure that they come to see the benefit of protecting wildlife. We must listen to them, learn from them, work together with them, and, most importantly, empower them to break the cycle of poverty. They who bear the true cost of living on the frontlines of the wilderness, hold the key to its protection.

Economic Empowerment Project: securing stable futures

To truly empower our communities, we need to give community members the tools to secure a stable future in which they can support themselves and their families. To guide this, we conducted an Economic Empowerment Study that identified 4 income-generating opportunities that can sustainably support communities in the southern Serengeti ecosystem: honey and its by-products, sunflower, and poultry. These, in turn, will form the foundation of our Economic Empowerment Project, which will begin rollout in 2024.

Together with our partner, Hand in Hand Tanzania, we'll be providing entrepreneurial training to community members in these 4 supply chains. This will equip them with the skills needed to start small businesses and, ultimately, create new jobs.



FROM THE FIELD

Beekeeping Program: a buzz-worthy success

When it comes to tackling poverty at a grassroots level, beekeeping (and its products and by-products) is a powerful tool, creating jobs, providing skills, and generating income for community beekeeping groups. In 2023, our beekeeping program blossomed, growing from strength to strength as we built new apiaries and added new members to our team of beekeepers. We also tapped into the talent of local professional beekeepers to train our team, laying the groundwork for an enduring and successful project.



A sweet success

2

modern apiaries were established at Legendary Lodge, with honey being produced and sold to the lodge.

52

modern super hives and several traditional beehives were established in our gated apiary in Makao Village.

22

members have been organized in our Makao beekeeping group, benefiting over 440 people (5 members per household) — and the number is increasing.

1

apiary set up in Mwiba, with the intention of training beekeepers and producing honey for the lodge.

850

kilograms of honey harvested, providing a sustainable income for the members of our community beekeeping groups.

Empowerment in education

Environmental education: engaging our youth

Economic empowerment is the key to long-term conservation — but you can't break the cycle of poverty overnight. The vital role education plays in this process cannot be emphasized enough, which is why we've honed in on environmental education to ignite an enthusiasm for learning among our youth, and shape creative thinking.

Lifeskills training: setting the scene for success

Setting our youth up for success encompasses more than just an academic education. In 2023, we equipped 432 students with vital life skills by providing training on topics including time management, career advancement, technology, reproductive health, entrepreneurship, financial planning, and goal setting.

School construction: laying the groundwork

To give the children in our communities the best chance at academic success, in 2023 we joined forces with the Mwabagimu Village community to tackle capacity challenges at the primary school. Together, we constructed 5 new classrooms and suitable teachers' accommodation. Additionally, a water tank with an 18,000-liter capacity was built to ensure teachers and students have access to clean drinking water all year round.



Our environmental education initiative in numbers

We conduct regular follow-ups with teachers to assess the impact of this program and the results are overwhelmingly positive. None of the 723 students who attended the 'Jasiri Environmental Ambassadors' program have dropped out of school.

A strong foundation

9

schools have formed 'Jasiri Environmental Clubs'.

723

students benefit from in-classroom and outdoor conservation education.

2

school safaris conducted, taking 198 students on 3-day camping trips to the Serengeti and Olduvai Gorge.

5

new teachers employed since the completion of the teachers' housing.

141

new students enrolled.



FROM THE FIELD

A recipe for success

Our school nutrition program has been extraordinarily successful in reducing absenteeism at Makao Primary School. Here are just some of the positive impacts headteacher John Saganda has noted since the project's inception.

School nutrition: feeding hungry minds

Guided by the belief that no child should have to learn on an empty stomach, we launched our school nutrition programs at Makao and Olosiva primary schools. In 2023, we completed construction on a new school kitchen at Makao Primary School which provides 800 students with nutritious daily lunches. And, in the spirit of fostering community ownership over this exciting initiative, the parents at the school each contribute towards the salaries of the dedicated team of cooks who prepare the meals.

The impact

School attendance rates have vastly improved with a reduction in absenteeism from 24% to 7%.

Students no longer arrive late to school.

The introduction of clean water facilities at the school has afforded students additional study time that would otherwise have been spent fetching water.

There has been a notable increase in enrolments, with 32 new students enrolling for 2024.

School transport program: making education accessible

Transport can be a major barrier to entry for access to education in rural areas, where some children travel more than 18 km daily to and from school. We're working to change this. Our ongoing school transport program has, to date, provided 200 students with bicycles. Looking to the future, our goal is to distribute 200 more bicycles as we continue to monitor the impact this has on school attendance rates.

Scholarship program: opening the doors to education

Created to ensure that no bright young mind gets left behind, our scholarship program gives youths within our communities the opportunity to receive an education. In 2023, we supported a total of 20 students sending 13 to advanced Secondary Schools and 7 to higher learning institutions. Looking ahead to 2024, we've set our sights on even bigger goals as we redesign the program and develop a new budget to increase the number of students we support.

Internship program: fostering future opportunity

Equipping youths with marketable skills is a powerful tool for tackling poverty in rural communities. As part of our 2023 internship program, we provided 8 internship opportunities at Mwiba Lodge for secondary school graduates. Of the 8 interns, 4 went on to secure paid apprenticeships. For the remaining 4, this invaluable training has significantly enhanced their employability within the hospitality sector.

Conservation

It goes without saying that conservation is most critical in areas where humans and wildlife frequently come into close contact. This is especially true of the areas we manage, where poaching, encroachment, and HWC are a daily reality. As the conservation arm of Legendary Expeditions, we are privileged to be embedded in a structure that enables us to coordinate our efforts to ensure a greater impact.



Elephant collaring project: facing HWC in our areas

Given the efforts in place to protect them, we are seeing an increase in the number of elephants within the areas we manage. With that comes an increased risk of HWC. Taking a proactive approach to this problem, we collaborated with the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) to fund a program that fitted 10 elephants in Maswa and Mwiba with GPS satellite collars in 2023.

The consequences of elephant crop raids can be devastating, and the collars — which allow for real-time monitoring of their movements — are vital tools in enabling us to respond to incidents of human-elephant conflict (HEC) and support communities when they occur. This critical project will give us invaluable insight into elephant distribution and home ranges, their seasonal movements, as well as threats — such as changing land use — that face them. This, in turn, will help us improve our measures to mitigate HWC.



Rhino monitoring project

An extension of the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem, Maswa is among the last safe havens for black rhinos in Tanzania — and, with each passing year, we're thrilled to see an increase in the number of resident rhinos. As part of our commitment to protect these critically endangered animals, we continued our support of the Serengeti Rhino Repatriation Project (SRRP) in 2023. This project, a collaboration between TAWA, TAWIRI, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), and other private stakeholders, protects and monitors black rhino populations within the Serengeti.

FROM THE FIELD

Safeguarding a species

Microchips were inserted into the horns of 4 resident Maswa rhinos which enables us to:

- Track and monitor rhino movements in real time.
- Track poached rhino horns as they move through illegal trade networks.
- Use confiscated horns to determine the exact location where the rhino was killed.



FROM THE FIELD

An anti-poaching triumph: the Vulture Head case

In our most successful anti-poaching operation to date, we supported the police, Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), and the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), in dismantling a larger-scale poaching syndicate, believed to be specializing in vulture heads for medicinal use, in February 2023.

With the support of our spotter plane, 3 poacher camps on the Serengeti National Park boundary were identified. This led to 15 arrests and the confiscation of 90 vulture heads, 35 wildebeest, and 3 zebras, as well as the location and removal of 110 snares.

A data-led approach to anti-poaching

Special Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART): letting data lead the way

In areas such as the ones where human settlements and wildlife overlap, poaching is an ongoing crisis. To support and ensure the effectiveness of our ‘boots on the ground’, we work closely with our tourism arm, Legendary Expeditions, to monitor conservation activities, from natural resource usage and team performance to threat-level assessments, using the Special Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART).

Aerial reconnaissance: our ‘Eyes in the sky’ make an impact

When combined, Maswa and Mwiba form an immense area for anti-poaching patrols to cover, which is why we needed to take our efforts to new heights. To enhance efforts to safeguard our wildlife, we collaborated with Legendary Expeditions to conduct bi-monthly aerial patrols to support our ground teams. These patrols have enabled us to cover remote areas and identify more illegal activities. This, in turn, has led to more arrests by the authorities on the ground.

FROM THE FIELD

Tackling the whistling thorn acacia problem head-on

Whistling thorn acacias were growing unabated in Mwiba and Maswa's grassland, choking up vital grazing grounds for the region's wildlife. To open up this wilderness for grazing once more, we employed and trained a team of habitat workers from the surrounding communities to take on this mammoth bush-clearing task. To date, the team has cleared over 2,000ha and we're thrilled to see the return of grazers to these areas.



Preserving our areas

Habitat management: restoring ecosystems

As extensions of the Greater Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater ecosystems, the areas we manage are crucial habitats for wildlife, including the Great Wildebeest Migration. Protecting the ecological well-being and integrity of these habitats is therefore a key priority for us. To achieve this, we coordinate with Legendary Expeditions, on 3 key habitat management initiatives:

- 💡 The management and selective clearing of invasive Whistling Thorn Acacias from traditional open grassland areas.
- 💡 The management of the water resources by improving the functioning of the natural springs/watering holes.
- 💡 The management of erosion, by rerouting and management of the road infrastructure.

Community-owned land: helping to set a strong precedent

As we are not an island, supporting the sustainability of the community-owned land that surrounds us is vital to our own conservation efforts. In 2023, we facilitated the formulation of a General Management Plan for the Makao Wildlife Management Area, with the goal of ensuring effective resource management and the land's long-term viability.



A clear purpose to guide our future

With protected wildlife areas across the continent shrinking rapidly and HWC on the rise, the challenges facing conservation are mounting. And yet, with each new challenge, new opportunities arise to make a tangible impact in protecting these wilderness areas and the wildlife within. This is an era of opportunity, innovation, and collaboration in the name of conservation.

Our vision for the future must be viewed through the lens of Mwiba Foundation. Primed for launch in 2024, the foundation is poised to inject renewed energy and purpose into a conservation legacy spanning 35 years. Guided by a comprehensive 5-year strategy, our key focus as a foundation will be turning the tide on HWC and creating economic opportunities in our communities, specifically for our youth — the future custodians of this land.

It's clear that buffer zones, such as Maswa and Mwiba Reserve, will play a pivotal role in identifying effective conservation methods that can be used not only in Tanzania but across the African continent. It's our responsibility, then,

given the ecological significance of the areas in our care, to rise to meet this challenge.

To do this, we must continue to engage with our communities as partners in conservation, with shared responsibility and shared incentives for success. Collaboration with government agencies such as TAWA, TAWIRI, and TANAPA, as well as partners such as Hand In Hand Tanzania and Honey Guide, will also play a crucial role in our efforts going forward.

Ultimately, our goal is to create a conservation model that leads the way in fostering peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife. This, in turn, will enable us to secure the areas we manage and play our part in protecting the Serengeti National Park and the Greater Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater ecosystems, ensuring their survival for generations to come.

To find out more about what we do and to contribute to our projects, please contact andrea.frey@friedkinfund.org