



## **GCC Launches a Food Drive to Support the Field Rangers**

**April 29, 2020, TIMBAVATI PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE** – GCC and Hoedspruit Spar join forces to spearhead a mission to raise funds to provide food to the families of field rangers during the COVID-19 crisis.

During these difficult times, African wildlife has come under increased threats and pressure. Due to the COVID outbreak, the tourism industry has crashed and there is little to no steady income to reserve management, which leaves rangers in a precarious position. The field rangers are the last lines of defense in keeping these animals safe, which also ensures a thriving future economy and industry for many. It is therefore up to the citizens of this world, to ensure rangers are supported throughout this crisis.

The Global Conservation Corps has joined forces with the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve and Hoedspruit Spar to support the families of rangers during this time. With rangers and their families being separated for months, combined with dwindling economic stability, it is up to us to step in with direct support. GCC is calling for donations to support this mission and provide food to the ranger families for the next six months (May - October). It costs R995/\$53 a month to provide an entire ranger family with the following essential food items:

- 10kg Rice
- 10kg Flour
- 10kg Protein (Chicken)
- 1kg Pasta
- 4 tins of beans
- Assorted Vegetables
- 2L Juice
- 2L Cooking Oil
- 100 x tea bags
- 5kg Brown sugar
- Soup
- Spices
- Bath Soap
- 3kg Washing Powder
- Toothpaste
- Dishwashing soap
- Tissues

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**Timbavati Private Nature Reserve's, Fikile Mathebula**, explains: "As field rangers, we are going through salary cuts, so we are not getting the money we usually get for our families. So this support of the food packages is going to be great, and we thank GCC and Spar very much. I just can't wait to see my two children. It's been a few months now, and this COVID lockdown is keeping us apart. It's very emotional for me."

**GCC's Founder Matt Lindenberg** says: "If we truly love, respect and value nature, now is the time to support the people and parks that ensure the continued existence of the natural world and her wildlife. For without the brave rangers on the front-lines of conservation, the iconic species we have grown to love since childhood will rapidly vanish. Now more than ever, it is time to take a stand beside our conservation guardians."

**Hoedspruit Spar Owner, Rowan Ferreira** notes: "Hoedspruit Spar is proud of our natural heritage and is making Conservation part of our brand story! Our business depends on nature-based tourism as it creates jobs, investment opportunities, utilizes rural areas, and supports the employment of women. It is therefore important that we play a vital role in the support of organizations on the frontline protecting and conserving our proud natural heritage."

For more information and donations: [www.supportrangers.org](http://www.supportrangers.org)

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#### **About the Global Conservation Corps**

GCC is a non-profit with the mission to bridge the gap between communities and wildlife. In order to have a world with wildlife, we must facilitate a mutually beneficial relationship between that wildlife and the people who live alongside it. Every child deserves the chance to fall in love with wildlife, but many young people are excluded from the benefits of the natural world. We address this challenge by working with youth in areas of conservation importance to promote conservation education and jobs within the wildlife economy. For more information, please visit <https://globalconservationcorps.org>.

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