



# 2020

ANNUAL REPORT







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# Letter To The Reader

As I sit down to write this letter of gratitude to the team, partners and donors that have gotten us through 2020, I am sitting in a coffee shop in London surrounded by people wearing masks and various forms of PPE. Earlier this year in March, the world as we knew it changed drastically, and we had to equally adapt the way we ran GCC. Our educational programs came to a halt as schools shut down and many of the families, students and communities that we work in came under increased pressure from a lack of tourism and income. We were able to tap into our generous community of donors and partners to launch a number of Covid relief programs, ensuring that we supported the communities who border parts of the Kruger Park. This was a year of holding the line, digging deep, and continuously reinventing ourselves in an extremely challenging and uncertain environment. Looking back on the last 12 months, GCC has endured, while still finding creative ways to instigate positive change. They say you truly see who your friends are when the chips are down, and through the most arduous of times, the GCC family has rallied together more than ever. With immense thanks and recognition to all who have made this year possible.



*Matt Lindenberg*  
Matt Lindenberg  
GCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## GCC & Covid

This year, the world changed drastically with the emergence of COVID-19, a virus sprung from humans' exploitative relationship with the natural world. This has given us a unique chance to reflect on the underlying causes of these issues, and why going back to 'business as usual' in conservation is simply not an option. More than anything, this year has caused a shift: a shift in priorities, a shift in our actions, and hopefully, a shift in urgency. This has opened up an opportunity to not only address the cause of COVID-19, but to also repair our relationship with the natural world, which has the potential to positively affect many of the global issues we are facing, especially within conservation. While the pandemic exposed weaknesses within our approach to conservation (a dependency on tourism and external funding, low government priority, neocolonialism, operating independent of other sectors, etc.), it also highlighted opportunities where conservation can pivot and improve its approach.

2020 has provided a very 'in-our-face' call to reconcile the damage that humans have done, both to our ecosystems and to ourselves. It has given us a pause to take a hard look at ourselves and our relationship with the natural world, and the realizations have been sobering. We have more problems on our hands than the number of times the word 'unprecedented' was used in email communications this year (hint... it's a LOT). However, we also have a very clear picture of how we need to proceed. If we can work together in conservation to diversify livelihoods, prioritize indigenous voices and needs, create stronger collaborations, and prioritize and finance conservation on a global scale, we've got a really solid start. It begins with an understanding that our survival is inextricably linked to a thriving natural world, and we must take this opportunity that 2020 has presented and do better.

Although 2020 was a tough year in a lot of ways, GCC took this time to identify opportunities for growth and improvement, and re-strategize the way we make an impact for both people and wildlife. We have emerged from this challenging time stronger, more resilient, and more ready than ever to make a difference.



## Realizing Strategy

GCC was fortunate enough to be accepted into the Morgridge Family Foundations's Accelerator Program (MAP), which lasted 7 months and culminated at the end of 2020. GCC was paired up with Ellie Milano from Impact by Design to create an advanced strategic plan and vision for the organization. Through this intricate process, Ellie and the GCC leadership team met with local stakeholders, community leaders, and GCC partners to redefine the impact we generate. Through an inclusive process, the strategic plan was unveiled to the GCC team at the end of 2020, and will serve as a North Star as we head into the new year. The following excerpt from the strategic plan unveils the four impact pathways that GCC will be committed to as we move forward:

Global Conservation Corps employs its core strengths to approach conservation solutions from a holistic and long-term sustainability perspective. GCC believes that conservation solutions lie with the local communities adjacent to wildlife and wild places, and that the only way to truly achieve sustainable conservation is to partner with those communities and enable them to become the guiding force for conservation solutions.

**AS A CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION,**  
we seek to protect wildlife and conserve wild places.

**AS AN EDUCATION ORGANIZATION,**  
we understand that youth need to be not only engaged in environmental and conservation education, but also connected to opportunities and inspired to see themselves in the solution.

**AS A TECHNOLOGY ORGANIZATION,**  
we have the capabilities to create powerful digital environmental education platforms that help enable learners to unlock their potential, document success and build careers.

**AS A MEDIA ORGANIZATION,**  
we shed light on local heroes in conservation, providing a new narrative for youth bordering protected areas, encouraging them to pursue careers in the greater wildlife economy. We invest in media which highlights and elevates local voices on an international scale to drive large-scale systemic change.



# 2020 By The Numbers



2,084

Learners reached in Future Rangers Program



10 k KG

food donated to 50 ranger families for CV19 relief fund



16

field ranger scholarships funded at SA Wildlife College



80 +

combined days filming two feature-length documentaries



36.1K

views

159.7

watched hours

180

new subscribers

Youtube Video Content



3,757

facebook followers

36k+

instagram followers

291

linkedin followers

28 %

total growth across all social media channels



# 2020 MILESTONES

JAN



MAP Fellowship Launch

FEB



International Women and Girl's Day

MAR



Android Phones Deployment



Keela Presentation

APR



EarthDay



Earth Optimism Talk

MAY



Garmont for GCC

JUN



CV19 Ranger Relief Fund Launched

JULY



Future Rangers Scholarship Fund Established



World Ranger Day

AUG



Earth Overshoot Day

SEP



World Rhino Day



Launch of Transformative Markets Book



Ranger Scholarship Recipients Graduate

OCT



Celebrating our MFF Anniversary

NOV



Ernest Hlati joins GCC board

DEC



GCC Accepted into ALU Accelerator

# Partners

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

GCC was able to develop incredibly strong partnerships in 2020 with local implementation partners such as the Southern African Wildlife College and the Africa Foundation, with whom we outreach events, game drives, and educational activities. The Morgridge Family Foundation (MFF) made a transformational investment into GCC, gifting us with a brand new vehicle, along with operational funds for 2 years. Additionally, we worked closely with MFF on strategic and development decisions to become more sustainable as an organization.

## BRAND PARTNERS

Our premier Brand Partners include Swiza, Tissot & Garmont. All of these corporations donated a combination of product and financial support to GCC's efforts on the ground, specifically in support of the field rangers at the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A special thank you to the Spencer, Renehan, Kratter, and Morgridge families for their anchor donations to GCC. These large investments have been critical in maintaining GCC's operations on the ground, and driving our success through the height of CV19.







## Our Financials

On a financial level, 2020 was a challenging year for GCC, along with many other nonprofits and businesses around the world. We were blessed with a committed group of donors who continuously supported our work.

Cash on hand at beginning of 2020:	\$155,358
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Income/Donations	
Future Rangers:	\$51,370
Rangers:	\$67,563
Admin/Operations:	\$36,425
<hr/>	
Total Income/Donations:	\$178,837
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Expenses by Category:	
Admin/Operational Expenses:	\$72,776
Future Rangers:	\$94,068
Rangers:	\$74,692
RHINO MAN:	\$49,134
Total Expenses:	\$290,670
<hr/>	
Cash on hand at end 2020:	\$43,525



# Our Programs

## RANGERS

GCC was founded to support the rangers on the front-lines of conservation, and while our primary focus has shifted intently to educating the next generation of conservation leaders, rangers will always remain close to our hearts and efforts. 2020 saw the emergence of a second wave of mass poaching (both meat and commercial) with rangers facing even greater pressure at home and in the field. It was up to GCC to find additional support for our partners at the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve.

At the beginning of the year, GCC (through the Renehan family) was able to donate 50 bulletproof vests to the rangers, along with advanced early warning detection systems. Throughout the year, Garmont made several donations of tactical boots, and Swiza ensured that every ranger had a tactical multi-tool in the field. However, things really changed when CV19 struck, and an emergency plan needed to be made.

On April 30th, GCC set up a GoFundMe page to raise the necessary funds to feed 50 ranger families for six months, as the rangers salaries were decreased

through zero tourism income. The incredible response from our community was beyond anything GCC could have imagined with the target sum of \$15,900 being met in under 24 hours. Donations continued to flood in with over \$22,000 being raised in total. These additional funds have enabled GCC to extend the goodwill to the staff of the Timbavati Foundation, the general staff of the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, and the rangers working in the neighboring Thornybush Private Nature Reserve. Over 300 people benefited from the initiative with over 10,000kg of food distributed in the course of 6 months, during the height of the CV19 pandemic.

## FUTURE RANGERS

With schools closed due to COVID, GCC used 2020 as an opportunity to hone in on where we could be the most useful to the communities and nonprofits we partner with on the ground. We took a step back to work with our community liaisons and school-based stakeholders to determine our problem statement, and identify our strengths as an organization, and our partners' strengths.





We redefined our vision and mission for the Future Rangers Program:

## VISION:

Systemic change around natural resource decision makers to create pathways for careers in conservation while enabling passionate, engaged local youth in conservation.

In exploring our strengths, we identified three impact pathways;

### 1) VALUES

Improving local perceptions around the value of nature and wildlife

### 2) BENEFITS

Increasing tangible benefits from, and reducing barriers to nature/wildlife (through experiences, access, employment, etc.) that community members have access to

### 3) SCALE

Increasing or amplifying the impact of environmental education programs globally, particularly around values and benefits

This helped us to outline our programmatic focal areas, and identify our niche program elements:

### 1) LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

- a) Experiential and place-based learning
- b) Mentorship
- c) Service learning capstone project

### 2) THE TECHNOLOGY ELEMENT

- a) Monitoring and evaluation
- b) Lesson sharing + scaling
- c) Student self-efficacy

### 3) PATHWAYS TO CAREERS

- a) Internships and job shadowing
- b) Higher education
- c) Scholarships

As schools are opening back up slowly, GCC is leaning into our strengths, and rolling out this new approach to Future Rangers, thanks to our amazing facilitators, Lefa and Promise.

# Meet The Team

## BOARD MEMBERS & ADVISORS



**Josh Lumsden**  
Board President



**Justin Walker**  
Board Treasurer



**Michele Sofisti**  
Board of Directors



**Lee Godown**  
Title



**Anton Mzimba**  
Technical Advisor



**John Jurko**  
Creative Director



**Ellie Milano**  
Vice President, Board of Directors



**Ernest Hlati**  
Advisor to the Board



**David Raper**  
Advisor to the Board

## WORKING TEAM



**Matt Lindenberg**  
Founder / Executive Director



**Kate Vannelli**  
Board of Directors



**Lefa Malapane**  
Facilitator



**Promise Mkhathshwa**  
Facilitator



**Rebekah Wortman**  
Digital Manager



**Beatrice Asuncion**  
Marketing Associate



**Sophie Furley**  
Chief Editor



**Mbhoni Mzamani**  
Producer



A close-up photograph of an elephant's face, partially obscured by green leaves and branches in a forest setting. The elephant's trunk is visible at the bottom, holding a piece of fruit.

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FACEBOOK @RHINOMANRANGERS  
INSTAGRAM @THEGLOBALCONSERVATIONCORPS  
LINKEDIN @GLOBAL-CONSERVATION-CORPS  
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