



2022

ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER TO THE READER

It is with a heavy heart that we begin this annual report by acknowledging the loss of Anton Mzimba, our Technical Advisor and a dedicated field ranger in South Africa for over 24 years. Anton's legacy is a testament to his passion for wildlife conservation, and his loss is deeply felt across our organization and the conservation field at large. His leadership significantly reduced poaching activities in the Greater Kruger Region, making him an influential figure in the fight against wildlife crime. In honor of his memory, we are dedicated to continuing his work with renewed vigor and determination. His courage and dedication will forever inspire us to protect and preserve our natural heritage.

2022 has been a year marked by both profound sorrow and remarkable progress for GCC. Throughout 2022, we have made significant strides in our mission to educate and engage young minds in conservation efforts. Our Future Rangers program reached over 13,000 students through the Future Rangers App, sent 653 students on game drives, and engaged over 450 students with our Careers in Conservation initiative. We celebrated numerous milestones, including the first Careers in Conservation Expo, the introduction of the Wildlife Guardians conservation travel experience, and growing support for the RHINO MAN documentary. We fostered new and exciting partnerships to enrich our educational initiatives, broaden our reach, and deepen our impact.

Our programs have shown resilience and adaptability in the face of challenges posed by the pandemic. As we look to the future, we are committed to building on the foundation laid by Anton Mzimba and ensuring the sustainability of our programs. This will require innovative thinking, strategic planning, and a continued commitment to our mission. We have endured immense challenges, but we have also grown and strengthened our resolve. With the support of our dedicated team, partners, and community, we are ready to rise and continue our vital work.

Thank you for standing with us through these challenging times, and for your continued support and dedication to our mission. Together, we can honor Anton's legacy and create a future where wildlife and humans coexist in harmony.


Matt Lindenberg
GCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In Memoriam: Anton Mzimba



Anton Mzimba was the Technical Advisor to GCC. He has been a field ranger in South Africa for over 24 years, and he was the Head of Security for the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve.

On the evening of July 26th, Anton Mzimba was brutally murdered in his own home and in front of his family. The police are continuing to pursue three suspects whom we can only assume are hired hitmen. Anton's wife was injured in the attack and suffered a bullet wound to the abdomen, but fortunately was discharged from the hospital and back home. All of Anton's children escaped the attack safely.

Over the past several months, threats against Anton's life have been increasing, speaking to the influence and effectiveness of his leadership in reducing poaching activity and preserving rhino populations in the Greater Kruger Region. GCC and other area conservation organizations are in constant contact with the local authorities regarding the progress of the manhunt and the investigation.

Anton was murdered in the name of his life's passion - protecting rhinos, conserving nature, and fighting for a better future. We cannot find the words to express the depth of this loss. We are shocked, angry, discouraged, and hurting.

“ He always said he knew the risks. The risks of being a ranger. The risks of sharing his story. But that doesn't change the fact that his loss is devastating. He could have done so much more. His family could have had so many more years with him...All we can do now is mourn his passing. Thank him for his life's work. And honour his legacy by carrying his torch forward. ”

STRATEGIC APPROACH



The Global Conservation Corps (GCC) is dedicated to reversing biodiversity loss and mitigating climate change by elevating local communities through education and engagement in conservation efforts. Recognizing the critical role of local knowledge and practices, GCC's strategic approach focuses on inclusivity and community leadership in conservation. By delivering environmental education programs and leveraging technology, GCC aims to equip youth living near high-priority wildlife areas with the knowledge, passion, and skills necessary to become future conservation leaders.

Central to GCC's mission is the Future Rangers Program and Digital Learning Platform, which combines classroom and hands-on experiences to foster a deep connection between students and nature. This program identifies passionate learners through a unique digital interface that tracks student progress and engagement. These students are then engaged in interactive environmental education and hands-on wildlife experiences, such as game drives, field trips, career talks, and other opportunities,

building their enthusiasm, interest, and knowledge about nature. By providing a digital record of their environmental education, GCC ensures that these young conservationists are well-prepared to seek careers in the wildlife economy.

GCC's efforts are currently concentrated in South Africa, where socio-economic challenges intensify environmental issues. However, the organization plans to bring its approaches and Digital Platform globally, applying the lessons learned to other regions where social and environmental challenges intersect. By centering traditional knowledge, fostering community partnerships, and utilizing innovative technological solutions, GCC aims to create sustainable conservation practices that benefit both people and wildlife. The ultimate goal is to enable communities to take ownership of conservation efforts, ensuring long-term environmental and socio-economic benefits.

2022 MILESTONES

JAN

RHINO MAN final year of production

JUL

Honoring Our Fallen Hero: Anton Mzimba

FEB

Careers in Conservation Expo conceptualized

AUG

RHINO MAN awarded Honorable Mention Laureat in the 2022 Jackson Wild Media Awards

MAR

Future Rangers students embark on their First Safari with Coq en Pâte

SEP

Dr Jane Goodall Endorses RHINO MAN / GCC presents RHINO MAN at African Ranger Congress / Africa Foundation brings 20 schools online using GCC Education APP

APR

Earth Day with Garmont
(https://www.instagram.com/p/CN9X_pkqJWJ/)

OCT

United for Wildlife Summit London & Careers in Conservation Expo

MAY

GCC turns 7 / Environmental Awareness Day

NOV

GCC Presents at the UFW North America Chapter Launch in New York City

JUN

GCC Introduces "Wildlife Guardians" – Unique Conservation Travel Experience

DEC

GCC as an associate partner into the International Ranger Federation

OUR PROGRAMS



Future Rangers



The Pandemic - Recovery

In 2022, the Future Rangers Program underwent a period of recovery, confronting the challenges stemming from the global pandemic. The implementation of social distancing measures had a profound impact on educational systems, leading to carefully orchestrated school attendance and reduced interaction with learners. However, as lockdown restrictions gradually eased, a glimmer of hope emerged.

The program was successfully reintroduced in four primary schools and four high schools within the Manyeleti Circuit in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga province of South Africa. We are delighted to resume our efforts in empowering young minds and contributing to their growth and development.

World Environmental Day

We commenced the year by observing World Environment Day at Manyeleti Primary School, situated approximately 15 km from the nearest wildlife area, on January 31st. During this occasion, we conducted an experimental lesson on photosynthesis with the grade 6 class, which consisted of 67 eager learners. It was a captivating experience for the students, highlighting the practical applications of biological sciences in a memorable way.

Hoedspruit Reptile Center

Partnerships and collaborations are integral to achieving success. In the early stages of the year, we forged a partnership with the Hoedspruit Reptile Center and collaborated with Save the Snakes to implement the Snake Education and Conservation Awareness Program (SECAP) for our Future Rangers. This initiative aimed to enhance snake education and awareness among our participants.

SECAP focused on providing safe and informed ways to respond when encountering snakes both at home and in natural environments. It aimed to dispel prevalent myths and superstitions surrounding snake behavior, which often led to unfortunate incidents. To achieve this, the program included a live snake demonstration showcasing the behavior of common and venomous snakes found in the area, such as the Boomslang, Puff Adder, Snouted Cobra, and African Python. This hands-on experience allowed learners to interact closely with the snakes and understand how to react appropriately.



Following the demonstration, we assessed the learners' attitudes and perceptions towards snakes through our digital learning platform. This assessment was conducted both before and after the presentation and interactive experience, providing valuable insights into the impact of SECAP on the learners' understanding and attitudes towards snakes.

World Wildlife Day

To mark World Wildlife Day, GCC collaborated with Coq en Pate and Garmont to organize a memorable experience for Future Rangers: their inaugural game drive at the Southern African Wildlife College. Led by the College's registrar, Mr. Ashwell Glasson, the students gained valuable insights into nature's intricacies. This transformative outing created enduring memories, instilling a deep passion for wildlife conservation in the next generation of guardians.

Human-wildlife conflict and Illegal wildlife Debate

Operating in proximity to Kruger National Park, issues related to human-wildlife conflict and illegal wildlife trade are longstanding concerns in our area. To gauge our learners' understanding of these issues, we organized a debate on June 6th, which coincided with World Environment Day. High School Future Rangers convened at the Southern African Wildlife College to discuss these pressing matters.

The debate on human-wildlife conflict delved into the possibility of coexisting harmoniously with wild animals, highlighting the challenges and complexities involved. The discussions captivated the audience, as learners articulated insightful perspectives and raised valid points. For instance, one learner expressed, "The presence of fences has created a barrier between humans and wildlife, hindering our ability to adapt to potential conflicts. This separation fosters a mindset of division, making it difficult for us to live in harmony with nature."

The debate provided a platform for our learners to showcase their knowledge and critical thinking skills, shedding light on the multifaceted nature of human-wildlife interactions and the importance of finding sustainable solutions to mitigate conflicts.

Game Drives

In collaboration with the Southern African Wildlife College, we facilitated an opportunity for 643 grade 8 students from all four high schools to embark on a game drive. For many of these students, it was their first encounter with wild animals, aligning perfectly with GCC's mission to bridge the gap between wildlife and local communities. These immersive experiences not only cultivated empathy towards the animals but also instilled a sense of responsibility to protect and conserve their natural habitats.

GCC Offering

In 2019, GCC forged a strategic partnership with Africa Foundation as a scaling partner, with the shared goal of developing a comprehensive grade 8 CAPs-aligned curriculum tailored specifically for implementation within the Future Rangers schools network. This curriculum was designed to not only meet academic standards but also to instill a deep appreciation for conservation and environmental stewardship among students.

Building on this foundational collaboration, the Future Rangers Program took a significant step forward this year by joining forces with Africa Foundation's ECHO Program; a well-established initiative dedicated to environmental education and community engagement.

As part of this partnership, GCC's expert team conducted intensive training sessions for over 210 ECHO interns. These sessions were designed to equip the interns with a diverse range of skills, including effective communication, engaging teaching methodologies, and practical knowledge about local wildlife and ecosystems. The goal was to empower these interns to become proficient environmental educators who could inspire and educate the next generation of conservationists.

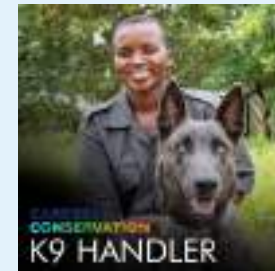
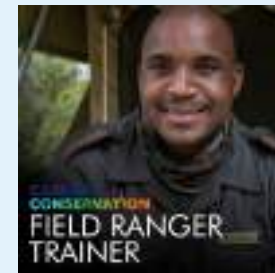
Following their training, the ECHO interns were strategically deployed across key regions within the Kruger National Park area, notably the Manyeleti and Sabi Sands regions. This strategic distribution ensured maximum coverage and impact, allowing the program to reach a broader spectrum of schools and communities.

As a direct result of this collaborative effort, more than 20 additional schools were seamlessly integrated into the GCC Future Rangers Platform. This expansion marked a significant milestone, as it enabled the inclusion of over 2,000 new learners within the program's reach. These learners are now actively engaged, participating in a range of educational activities, conservation projects, and community initiatives that are tracked and monitored through the Future Rangers Platform.

This strategic collaboration not only magnified the reach and impact of both the Future Rangers Program and the ECHO initiative but also fostered a deeper sense of environmental awareness, empathy, and responsibility among the youth in the Kruger region.

Careers in Conservation

The Careers in Conservation Expo and Fun Day is an annual event orchestrated by GCC, providing a platform for learners from the Future Rangers' High Schools Program to closely interact with conservation leaders and professionals, inspiring them to consider a career in conservation. This year's event took place on October 27th at Mahlale High School, near Kruger National Park, and drew participation from over 450 students in grades 9 and 11 from eight high schools, in partnership with the Timbavati Foundation. Esteemed organizations such as the Endangered Wildlife Trust, Southern African Wildlife College, Tanda Thula Lodge, Wild Dream Recruitment Agency, Umlani Lodge, and the University of Pretoria actively contributed to the expo.



The exchange between learners and conservation professionals during the expo was dynamic, characterized by the students' focused attention and active engagement. This level of involvement is a promising indicator of the potential transformative impact the event can have on their career aspirations in conservation.

The day culminated in a lively "Color Splash/Run" event, themed "The path to success is the community," symbolizing unity and celebration. Participants, including learners, teachers, principals, and conservation leaders, united in colorful paint splashes and traditional dances to mark the success of the day. The event's positive outcomes are evident in the notable shift in perception and attitude toward conservation among both learners and educators, fostering a ripple effect of positivity within the broader community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors whose support was instrumental in making this memorable day a reality.

Anton Mzimba Education Fund

The Anton Mzimba Education Fund (AMEF) is a collaborative initiative created by three organizations; the Global Conservation Corps (GCC), the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC), and the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve (TPNR), to honor the legacy of Anton Mzimba, a dedicated conservationist and Technical Advisor to GCC's Future Rangers Program.

AMEF's primary mission is to continue Anton's dream of fostering a new generation of conservationists by connecting youth with wildlife and nurturing their passion for nature. The Fund aims to provide higher education for Anton's children and to support other emerging top candidates in conservation identified by the Trustees of AMEF.

AMEF embodies the collective efforts of these organizations to bridge the gap between education and practical conservation careers. GCC offers educational programs and hands-on experiences from early childhood through secondary school. SAWC provides

higher education and training for passionate youth to begin careers in conservation. TPNR and its associated Foundation, supports education, training, and sustainability programs for underprivileged communities, along with providing a large amount of employment opportunities in the tourism and conservation sectors. Together, these organizations aim to fulfill Anton's vision by providing the necessary funding and opportunities for dedicated students to achieve their dreams and become future wildlife guardians.

RHINO MAN the Movie

By early July of 2022, RHINO MAN was in the final stages of its completion. The team had completed a color grade, the music score, and they were reviewing the final sound mix. They also managed to commission a beautiful poster by the Dutch artist, Marcel van Luit. In a tragic turn of events, our friend and the lead ranger in the film, Anton Mzimba, was killed at his home by hitmen.

The devastating loss sent this project on a new course. Through the second half of 2022, the team reconnected with Anton's family and team at the Timbavati. They received permission to continue on with the film and the family allowed the team to capture additional footage, as a way to incorporate Anton's tragic end into the movie.

The team was also connected to Prince William and United for Wildlife, due to Anton having met with Prince William the previous year. Matt and John were invited to London to present on the rangers, Anton, and RHINO MAN at the United for Wildlife Global Summit. There they also met Prince William and were connected to more of his team. After the presentation, UfW pledged support for the film and the rangers.

Matt and John were asked to present again at the United for Wildlife North America chapter opening in November. There they gained further support and connections who were inspired by Anton's story and wanted to help get the film out to the world. By the end of 2022, RHINO MAN had been updated with Anton's death and Memorial, and the team was preparing for an updated color grade and additions to the score come 2023.

OUR PARTNERS

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

GCC was able to develop incredibly strong partnerships in 2022 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 and Morgridge families for their anchor donations to GCC. These large investments have been critical in maintaining GCC's operations on the ground, and is the cornerstone of our staff's ability to complete our mission at the highest level.



FINANCIALS



On a financial level, 2021 was a challenging year for GCC, along with many other nonprofits and businesses around the world.

We were blessed with dedicated anchor donors and partners that saw us through challenging times.

CASH ON HAND AT BEGINNING OF 2022: \$99,072

Income/Donations: \$121,745

Anton Mzimba Educational Fund (AMET): \$64,000

RHINO MAN: \$2,000

Grants/Fellowships: \$214,930

Wildlife Guardians: \$35,000

Total Income/Donations: \$437,675

Expenses by Category:

General Operating Expenses: \$50,669

Future Rangers: \$217,308

Rangers: \$500

RHINO MAN: \$12,000

Total Expenses: \$280,477

CASH ON HAND AT END 2022: \$256,270

THE TEAM

BOARD MEMBERS

ELLIE MILANO
MICHELE SOFISTI
KATE VANNELLI
JUSTIN WALKER
MICHELLE MORGRIDGE

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

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