Chen Chen

ASSOCIATION

Protecting wildlife.
Conserving the environment.
Uplifting communities.

The world we live in

The Tarangire Ecosystem is an area of pristine natural wilderness. Its lush vegetation, acacia shrubs and mixed woodland, dominated by the stately presence of huge numbers of baobabs, has for aeons been home to Tanzania's magnificent wildlife heritage. Its wide horizons include a diverse array of habitats, and the animals that roam its expansive terrain provide one of the world's most precious reserves . They are a living reminder of an untouched world in which the balance of nature reveals itself in stunning beauty.

Chem Chem Philanthropy & Safaris is committed to protecting this legacy alongside the communities of this land who have lived here for generations. Together, we stride towards a stronger future for all who live upon the land.



One touch of nature makes the whole world kin

William Shakespeave

Preserving the legacy

Founders of the Chem Chem safari camps and philanthropic Chem Chem Association, Fabia and Nicolas, know that the beauty of the land is something our generation has inherited. It is a treasured and fragile legacy which, if we do not continually work to protect, we will not be able to bestow upon our children.

The mission of Chem Chem is founded on the deep love and respect Fabia and Nicolas harbour for the tremendously delicate ecosystem in Tanzania. It is this passion that they share with their guests, donors, community, family and friends so that in the future, the communities they work to protect will build an ever-stronger connection to the land and continue the meaningful work of the Association themselves.



Conflict and resolution

As immaculate and expansive as the Tarangire Ecosystem is, it is surrounded by developing rural communities. Engaged in a daily economic struggle, the members of these communities often view their experience with the wildlife as a direct threat to their livelihoods.

There are no fences in Tanzania, and this leads to frequent interactions between the communities and the untamed land on their village borders. All too often, there is conflict between the interests of people and those of the wild animals which roam so close to them. Faced with the daily challenge of providing for their families, the temptation to rid themselves of wild nuisances or benefit from the abundance of wildlife is often too great to resist.

With limited access to education and economic opportunity, combined with a lack of understanding for the long-term value of the natural world in which they must find a way to live, it is all too easy for many in these communities to turn to poaching, timber-cutting and charcoal-making as a way of life. This ongoing conflict results in the diminishing of the wild spaces in Tanzania.

In order to resolve this, Chem Chem Philanthropy and Safaris has entered into leases with the local communities of the Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This is a region of key ecological value that includes a critical wildlife corridor linking two National Parks.

The WMA comprises 10 villages, and together they have set aside a portion of their land for conservation-related activities that bring revenue to them through wildlife tourism.

The result is that we are now responsible for managing 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres) of unfenced wilderness connecting the Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks.

The challenge is to protect the magnificence of what has been passed down to our generation, so that we, in turn, can confidently entrust it to those who come after us. The only way to do this is to provide knowledge and tools to the people whose lives are impacted most, the communities of this land, and to inspire them to want to live alongside the wildlife.

Fabia and Nicolas are committed to contribute not only to the conservation of the Tarangire Ecosystem, but also the upliftment and sustainable development of the villages that surround it. This is the calling of Chem Chem Philanthropy & Safaris.

Our ultimate goal is to secure the ancient Tarangire-Manyara wildlife corridor that connects the Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks. Additionally, we seek to increase the space outside of National Parks to which wildlife can have access, with the support of the communities.

If we want to protect and conserve wilderness areas and their wildlife, we have to firstly uplift and make a meaningful difference to the lives of the people who live adjacent to these areas. There is no point in trying to protect wild animals and their habitat if we don't take care of the people who surround wildlife areas. Only by involving ourselves and engaging with the local communities are we able to understand and support their needs. Until rural communities can see the benefit of wild animals to them, they will not protect and conserve them and wildlife will be lost forever.

Nicolas Negre



Engagement and empowerment

At Chem Chem, we recognise that the only way we can make the difference we envisage, is to actively engage with all the members of the communities. We want them to be a part of the decision-making process that will lead to the betterment of their lives, and the conservation of the precious wilderness in which they live.

We believe in the true empowerment of the people of the Tarangire communities for they are the traditional owners of the land. It is they who should take ownership of the process to preserve it.

We encourage every member of the local communities to know that they have a stake in the future for they are destined to be part of it. We encourage them to take responsibility for the long-term well-being of the animals and the habitats around them, and in doing so, to ensure and secure their own tomorrow.



Our projects

With our mission in mind, we have established a number of projects in order to make the greatest possible impact in protecting the countless animals and uplifting the thousands of people of our region.

These include:

- Anti-poaching
- Human-wildlife conflict resolution
- Research and ecological monitoring
- · Community development



To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children, the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them, amplified and developed.

Theodore Roosevelt



Protecting wildlife

Anti-poaching

Poaching is a scourge that not only threatens the wildlife that it destroys, but also the long-term sustainability of the region as a whole, including the people who live in it. Our antipoaching project focuses on the immediate need to protect the targeted animals which requires equipment, manpower and training.

What we see

Heavy poaching has, over the last six years, decimated the elephant population of Tanzania. The country has lost 60% of its elephant population since 2009, with the total numbers plummeting from 110,000 to just 43,000 in 2015.

Tarangire has, thankfully, been spared much of this carnage, but we know if we are not proactive in addressing the general problem, the destruction we have seen in other parts of the country will soon engulf the Tarangire Ecosystem as well.

The Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem has become a refuge for these wonderful animals, a place where they can be safe from the cruelty and the wanton destructiveness of poaching. It now supports not only the largest concentrations of elephants in Tanzania, but also the highest numbers of big tuskers of Tanzania.

What we do

We conduct joint anti-poaching initiatives with government agencies and coordinate them throughout the ecosystem with intelligence-led operations. These operations are not only undertaken in order to protect wildlife against poaching for ivory and items traded on the black market, but also against the destructive practice of bushmeat poaching.

Working for tomorrow

Future projects we have planned include undertaking aerial patrols and training anti-poaching teams in state-of-the-art techniques.

How you can help

Funds raised will support: allowances for operations. rewards for successful operations, our information network and training. Chem Chem looks to purchase and maintain: new vehicles. a radio system, an ultralight aircraft, GPS systems, tents and torches. To properly enable our committed rangers to accomplish better work, we also need to be able to provide them with accommodation and a centralised, operational headquarters which is yet to be built.

What your contribution means

Conserving our elephants in the face of the poaching threat that confronts them takes more than just an idealistic commitment. It takes very material means to enable us to realise and maintain our efforts. You too can be part of our work in protecting one of Africa's most impressive and beautiful species through your donations towards our cause.



Pursuing harmony

Human-wildlife conflict resolution

As growing communities with nowhere else to go encroach on unfenced land, conflict inevitably arises with the wildlife of the area.

What we see

In rural Africa, herders face daily challenges in their efforts to protect their livestock from lions and other predators. In East Africa in particular, we face the disturbing fact that many lions are killed because herders have lost livestock to them.

The herders perceive threats from wildlife and inflict their anger and resentment by killing these animals because they want to eliminate the risk to their livelihoods, or they may simply be wanting to exact revenge. Whatever the reason, as long as the clash of habitats remains, the outcome is always the same – the loss of our common and ancient heritage.

In the region where we operate, traditional homesteads are called bomas These structures enclose the family's houses and livestock; built to protect them from predators.

The age-old technique is to make these bomas from acacia tree wood. To obtain the wood, however, the trees need to be felled. Over and above the initial damage to the ecology that this causes, the bomas then have to be renewed every six to eight months, with the result that the acacia growth cannot recover, and ongoing deforestation in these rural areas is accelerated.

Another of the issues arising from the close proximity of people and wildlife is the raiding of crops by elephants. This, for many villagers, is a matter of life and death. Without the produce obtained from the subsistence farming that is a salient feature of life in the rural areas, whole communities can be threatened with dire shortages of food.

What we do

Predator-proof bomas

We are supplying predator-proof bomas that protect livestock against hyenas, leopards and lions, thus in turn protecting the predators by removing the conflict.

Lion Sentinels

We have developed a team of local community members to monitor lion movements to prevent conflicts arising with the animals.

Crop protection

We have a programme in which we persuade elephants, which have crossed from the reserve to raid nearby crops, back into the reserve. This teaches that solutions exist, and that the elephants need not be viewed as a threat.

Working for tomorrow

Our aims are not just confined to the short term, however. We have planned for future projects in all our conflict areas, to strengthen our initiatives in preventing the damaging clash between people and animals.

Firstly, we intend to build many more predator-proofed bomas, with a target of bringing this security to 200 households.

Secondly, we plan to establish education programmes for all 10 villages in the WMA. Implemented in the school, they will teach children that peaceful coexistence with our wildlife heritage is both desirable and achievable.

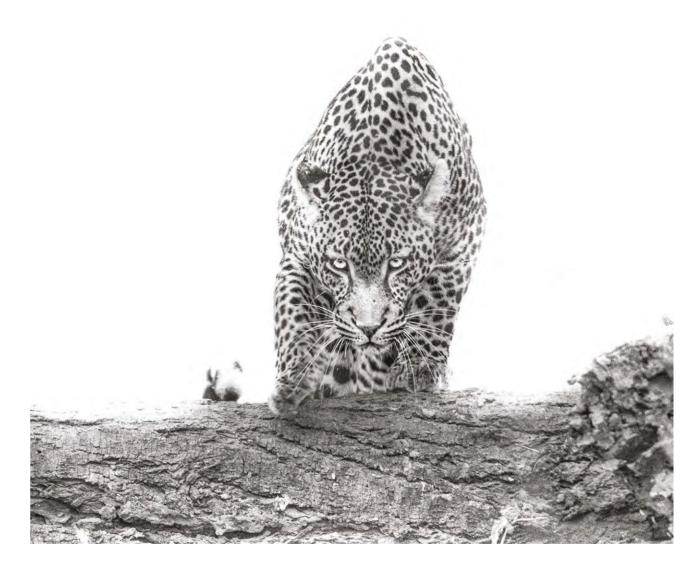
Our third and fourth goals are to expand our Lion Sentinel programme to a further five villages and to increase our cropprotection presence.

How you can help

Funds raised will support the building of predator-proofed bomas as well as the costs of our educational programmes. We also require a vehicle to enable us to extend and maximise our crop protection activities and to utilise equipment such as cameras, torches and GPS devices to enable our Lion Sentinels to be as effective as possible.

What your contribution means

Preventing human-wildlife conflict means taking a long-term view that requires radical changes to traditional attitudes, fears and perceptions. The funds we raise will be put to lasting and positive use. By donating, you will be part of making a meaningful change that will support not only our rural communities in the long run, but also preserve our irreplaceable natural heritage.



Learning more

Research and ecological monitoring

Our conservation must be not just the classic conservation of protection and development, but a creative conservation of restoration and innovation. Its concern is not with nature alone, but with the total relation between man and the world around him. Its object is not just man's welfare, but the dignity of man's spirit.

Lyndon Johnson

What we see

Chem Chem is surrounded by a grand ecosystem, an organism far greater than the sum of its interdependent parts. But to preserve this natural world, we must first understand it.

What we do

Researching our environment

The necessity to study our environment is something we recognise. Chem Chem has already put in place a research project to help us better comprehend what happens on the ground, how to approach what still needs to be done, and to monitor the sustainable rehabilitation of the wildlife corridor.

The first step was to place a collar on one lion to properly monitor its movements and prove that the Tarangire-Manyara Corridor is working. In addition, our rangers are continuously collecting data on wildlife movement.

Expanding our knowledge

We have plans to expand our lioncollaring project to better monitor the movements of the prides that are moving into areas hitherto empty of lions.

In addition, because the area in which we operate also hosts the last big tuskers of Tanzania, it is crucial to properly monitor their movements in order to protect them, and to show that the corridor is working as a safe space for them.

How you can help

Funds raised go towards paying the salaries of our team leader and the team. In addition, we need to fully support our monitoring programmes which require sophisticated collars and associated equipment as well as vehicles to function with maximum effectiveness.

What your contribution means

Your donation will help ensure that all of these initiatives will bear fruit in increasing our knowledge and understanding. This in turn will enable us to plan our conservation and upliftment activities adequately for the future, and impart their necessity, techniques and value to the people who live in this delicately-balanced environment.



Changing lives

Community development

If you want to achieve conservation, the first thing you have to do is persuade people that the natural world is precious, beautiful, worth saving and complex.

David Attenborough

What we see

The Tarangire Ecosystem is home to a number of culturally rich, but underresourced villages. With limited access to education and economic opportunities, it is difficult to both support one's family and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the land.

What we do

Promoting community well-being

In helping to bring balance back to the area, we are currently committed to supporting one local school and have also donated a school bus to enable children from outlying areas to reach the school.

We provide English courses for the youth and women as well to widen the scope of their education. The introduction of an MPL course – Marketplace Literacy – for women has been well received. This is a basic programme which teaches the fundamentals of business, and how to start a small entrepreneurial enterprise. In addition, we have established a soccer tournament to promote social involvement and community interaction within a much-loved sporting framework.

Providing access to the future

Supporting schools in some of the villages is a great place to start, but we have plans to widen our reach. We hope to give as many people as possible an equal chance to expand their knowledge and skills in order to amplify their opportunities. Our intention is to expand our reach to include all 10 villages across the WMA, bringing as many people as we can:

- Enhanced support for their schools
- Our English courses
- Our newly introduced MPL course Marketplace Literacy – for the youth and women
- New schools to help widen opportunity and knowledge for the children of the region
- A vocational training center to offer the chance of a profession to youth who will otherwise have no access to skills such as motor mechanics, plumbing, carpentry or computer literacy
- Water wells through a development programme

How you can help

Sustaining our existing projects and engaging in new ones requires funding; the schools are in need of books and supplies.

What your contribution means

We have plans to make a real difference to the lives of the people who live in the Tarangire Ecosystem. In doing so, we believe their chances increase to become active participants in helping to preserve the magnificent natural heritage in which they live.

Your donations will help make this possible, by enabling us to provide the necessary funds to secure a full and effective implementation of our initiatives.



About the Artist

Riccardo Tosi Executive Director Chem Chem Association

Having come to Tanzania at an early age, Riccardo was inspired by his father's important work as a conservationist in the areas surrounding Chem Chem. Following in these progressive footsteps is an honour Riccardo continues to uphold through his work with Chem Chem which aims to nurture a long-lasting balance between the communities, wildlife and land that they share.

At Chem Chem, we work together with the people of this land towards a better future. We value what the land has given us, and believe in our journey to conserve this cherished heritage because it is an integral part of us all.

We invite you to join us on that journey.

To learn more on how you can get involved, visit www.chemchemsafari.com/philanthropy or mail conservation@chemchemsafari.com

The Chem Chem Association is a fully registered NGO. Donations made via The Bodhi Tree Foundation are fully tax deductible in terms of USA 501(C)(3) legislation.