



FRIEDKIN CONSERVATION FUND | TANZANIA

Annual Report 2022



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Our Mission

Friedkin Conservation Fund Tanzania (FCFT) works to protect and preserve the southwestern flank of the Serengeti ecosystem to ensure its existence for future generations.

We do this through conservation programs, including anti-poaching operations, conservation-of-habitat and research-based wildlife projects, community-engagement initiatives, and program support.

To achieve this, we work in partnership with the communities sharing the land with us, the government of Tanzania, local partners and stakeholders.

Remote rural communities carry the cost of and pay the price for living with wildlife. Unless these communities can realize the benefits that protected areas and wild animals can bring, it will be difficult to protect them, and these fragile ecosystems will be lost forever.

The Importance of the Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti National Park is home to one of the largest and last mammal migrations remaining on the planet, also known as the Great Migration. Annually, vast herds of herbivores – wildebeest, gazelles and zebras – followed by predators migrate from the south of the Serengeti to the Masai Mara turning it into one of nature’s greatest shows on Earth. In fact, with up to 1,000 animals per km², the great columns of wildebeest can be seen from space.



Mwiba, Makao & Maswa

The areas that we manage – Mwiba Wildlife Reserve, Makao Wildlife Management Area, and Maswa Mbono and Maswa Kimali in the Maswa Game Reserve – occupy a unique geographic location in that they form the southern and western boundaries of the adjoining Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater ecosystems respectively, and function as a critical buffer zone for these globally significant conservation areas.

These wilderness areas are open, contiguous, and vast. Together they total 290 000 hectares (2 900 square kilometres) in extent, roughly the size of Luxembourg.

They are blessed with abundant wildlife, not only during the Migration but also during the dry season, when the area serves as a refuge for animals owing to its plentiful springs and water sources.

This report focuses on our achievements and challenges over the last year, and it is our pleasure and privilege to share our work with you.



Foreword by Jean-Claude McMenamin

Managing Director, Friedkin Group of Companies Tanzania

We are extremely privileged to manage Mwiba Wildlife Reserve, the Makao Wildlife Management Area, Maswa Kimali and Maswa Mbono in Maswa Game Reserve. These areas serve as an important link and buffer zone for wildlife from the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area. These are critical habitats for the protection and conservation of wildlife migrating between the surrounding national parks and our areas.

2022 has been a year of change, FCF has strengthened its community engagement projects with a focus on ensuring that children attend school by providing transport and school lunches. We also engaged with partners to provide health care and expanded the economic empowerment program. Through the habitat management work, over 400 hectares of invasive species were cleared restoring grassland for wildlife. We intensified our anti-poaching efforts, which led to a reduction of poaching and illegal activities. All of this was made possible because of the commitment and hard work of our teams on the ground. We will continue to consolidate our programs and expand them in 2023 with the aim to create long term and sustainable impact.

As a company we are fully committed to ensuring that the long-term vision and passion of the Friedkin family, to protect and conserve this critical ecosystem are fully realised through responsible, low-impact tourism, coupled with the implementation of collaborative community-development and research-based conservation initiatives.

I would like to thank our funder, partners and team, who ensure that we are able to leave a lasting legacy.

Our Team

Our FCFT team is a group of passionate, dedicated, professional individuals, and each member of the team possesses a distinctive set of skills and expertise. This knowledge ranges from conservation and environmental management to community development.



Team

Jean-Claude McMenamin | CEO

Aurelia Klassarah | General Manager

Julius Robinson | Anti-poaching Manager

Bwasama Sylvester | Community Program Manager

Leocadia Mshana | Community Empowerment Coordinator

Macarios Gisberth | IT and Operations Coordinator

Consultants

Mike Kirkinis | Strategy

Andrea Frey | Donor Relations

Dave Rudolph | Sustainability

Adam Makis Kossioris | Community Development

Our team is fully supported by Legendary and Mwiba Lodge team members, who work hand in hand with the FCFT team. What binds us all together is a common vision and passion for making a meaningful difference to our communities and for protecting the exceptional wilderness areas and wildlife around us.

Looking back on a busy year

In 2022 we focused on strengthening and expanding our community-engagement and conservation work by supporting holistic and long-term projects that further our mission.

These projects are part of an overarching strategy that aims at results and demonstrating a positive impact which benefits our neighbouring communities and the wildlife.



200

children received **bikes to travel** to and from school



600

children received **daily lunch** at school



20

children with **mobility problems** receive **treatment every year** so they can attend school

What we achieved in 2022



17

beekeeping groups established (number of community members is increasing)



First batch of honey

will be harvested in Feb 2023 (new income opportunities)



+400

hectares of **invasive species** was **cleared**, restoring grasslands for wildlife



Anti-poaching

patrols increased, leading to a reduction of poaching and illegal activities (tree cutting and cattle incursion)



Existing partnerships strengthened
and new partnerships forged



Community Engagement, Projects & Initiatives

We believe in collective action – our community-engagement programs are conducted in a collaborative manner. The communities themselves prioritize and decide on projects that they require, based on their specific needs. This approach gives communities ownership of these projects and initiatives, while FCFT assists with project funding and implementation.

Our community initiatives focus on three main areas: education, health, and income generation.



1. Education

At the core of our education initiatives are the school-transport and school-nutrition programs. These programs aim to encourage children to attend school; we are committed to helping them overcome challenges and barriers to school attendance.

1.1 School Transport

The school-transport program commenced with the handover of 200 bicycles at Paji School, and these were received with great excitement.

Children living in these communities travel long distances on foot, up to 18kilometres each way, to attend school. These children regularly miss school and over time often drop out of school as they cannot keep up with the curriculum.

To ensure that these children no longer miss school, the FCFT team and the school identified 200 children who travel long distances to school, and we provided them with bicycles.

Impact is something that we constantly monitor and measure, to ensure that our projects achieve the desired outcomes. Our project has already made a meaningful difference, and teachers have reported a noticeable increase in attendance rates.

A testimonial from Nkinda Dadu Sanagu, a 17-year-old student from Paji School, demonstrates the difference.

“

I'm coming from Irambandogo village, Wimate sub-village. The distance from my home to the school is 14 kilometres. For the last two-and-a-half years, I was walking a distance of 14 kilometres from home to school on foot, and had to wake up around 4:30am to arrive in time and I was always late. **Through this bicycle support, I'm very grateful because as of now I wake up at 5:30am and arrive early to school and attend my class sessions on time.** My family and I are very grateful to Friedkin Conservation Fund for this support.”

Teachers' Accommodation

Our educational support also includes the construction by FCFT of suitable teachers' accommodation. This commenced in 2022 and will be completed in the early 2023.

1.2 School Nutrition

Another project initiated by FCFT in consultation with the schools is the school-nutrition project which has started at Makao Primary School to encourage parents to send their children to school. Many families struggle to provide meals for their children. The school program will ensure that 1400 children from Makao Primary and Secondary School will receive one nutritious meal a day.

This program aims to enhance children's active learning capacity by alleviating short-term hunger and providing school meals. Another goal is to teach students biological food-growing methods, thus increasing agricultural skills, self-sufficiency, and advanced environmental literacy,

and spreading this knowledge throughout the community by bringing together schoolchildren, families, and the community in a common endeavour.

In 2022, we commenced with the construction of a school kitchen at Makao Primary School to serve daily meals to 954 students. The attendance rate of children will be monitored to evaluate the impact.

1.3 Water Harvesting

In addition, we have implemented a water-harvesting system, including the installation of gutters and water-storage tanks at both Makao primary and secondary schools, as well as at the community centre and the village dispensary.

1.4 School Stationery

We are supplying school stationery to enable teachers to deliver the curriculum and assist scholars to write lessons and exams.





2. Health

FCFT partners with Plaster House in Arusha, which provides holistic care to 700 children every year.

This focuses on treatable disabilities such as foot and facial deformities and other interventions that will enable children to participate in daily life. From planning and organizing surgeries to evaluating for additional and often overlooked health issues, this program is dedicated to giving each child the best chance of success.

FCFT works with the communities to identify children who need treatment and provides support by covering transport costs from rural areas to Arusha as well as covering the accommodation costs pre- and post-surgery and during rehabilitation periods.

Doctor's Accommodation

Our health-support work in 2022 also saw FCFT fully funding the construction of a doctor's house in one of the more remote areas. The construction work started in 2022 and the house will be completed in early 2023.



3. Income Generation

One of FCFT's primary goals is to economically empower and create an environment for communities that assists them in alleviating the conditions that contribute to poverty.

3.1 Employment & Internships

Mwiba Lodge provides employment and training opportunities to people from our surrounding communities.

3.2 Community Conservation Bank (COCOBA)

We fund the COCOBA groups and provide training in micro-financing and small-business administration to community members and thereby helping them diversify their income opportunities to ensure that they can provide for their families.

3.3 Beekeeping

Beekeeping is a powerful way to tackle poverty at grassroots level, empowering people and protecting trees and forest products. We actively create and support sustainable rural income-generating social enterprises based on beekeeping, its products, and by-products, while enhancing conservation awareness and the associated benefits.

In August 2022 we initiated a pilot beekeeping project with 30 beehives at Legendary Lodge in Arusha, which was rolled out to Makao setting up 17 beekeeping group members. The project is guided by deep respect for this old tradition aiming to instil the love for beekeeping. It is our novel training and implementation approach, which makes this project unique and different to other beekeeping projects in the region. We expect the first batch of honey to be harvested in February 2023.

Based on the positive results, we were able to roll out the project in Makao village, using specialist, qualified Tanzanian trainers, with a tailor-made long-term training program for local beekeeping groups.

Our aim is to grow the number of beehives in the region and to enhance the conservation and community engagement around honey production and its by-products.

Our recently launched beekeeping project is an all-encompassing initiative with significant conservation and community-engagement value. This also covers Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation through the installation of bee line fences to keep elephants away from farmers' crop fields. The project brings together income generation, education and biodiversity preservation.

Conservation Initiatives

We recognize the need to manage and protect our areas. The biggest threats we face are posed by the spread of invasive plant and tree species, poaching of wildlife, and cattle grazing. We work relentlessly to address these challenges and are driven by our commitment to preserving and protecting this critical ecosystem.



1. Habitat Management

The clearing of invasive plant species has begun, and in excess of 400 hectares have so far been cleared in 2022, leading to the restoration of grasslands for wildlife.

A clearing project to remove years of accumulated silt was initiated at the Mwiba weir to widen and restore it as a sustainable watering source for wildlife.

The maintenance and management of water sources and springs is critical for wildlife, especially during the dry season.

2. Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)

HWC is a serious concern in Africa. We work to mitigate it by supporting communities and ensuring a harmonious co-existence between them and the wildlife that surrounds them. This includes training, provision of HWC kits, and installation of bee line fences for local farmers to deter elephants and other wildlife from damaging crops.

3. Research

Our work is research-based – this is at the heart of what we do. Our current conservation projects include the monitoring of wildlife populations and protection of endangered species, including black rhino, wild dog, lion and elephant. FCFT continues to work collaboratively with the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), the environmental research arm of the Tanzanian Government.



Anti-poaching Initiatives

Most of the poaching in Mwiba and Maswa is commercial bush-meat and timber poaching.

FCFT works in collaboration with our communities and the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), sharing information to ensure that, as far as possible, we can pre-empt and anticipate poaching incidents, and can react and respond before these incidents occur. Our anti-poaching units conduct joint patrols with TAWA to ensure that illegal activities are stopped.

1. Air & Ground

In 2022, FCFT focused on improving coordination of air and ground anti-poaching operations through cutting-edge technologies. We implemented the Special Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), along with regular aerial patrols over Mwiba, Makao and Maswa. This has been a game changer for our anti-poaching work and has led to better coordination and deployment of the anti-poaching teams on the ground. It has also ensured better sharing of information and more alignment on an operational and communication level with our partner TAWA.

The anti-poaching unit is made up of 50 scouts. Through the dedicated work of our anti-poaching teams, poaching and cattle incursions were reduced considerably.

We've seen a drastic reduction in elephant poaching as well as an overall reduction in meat poaching.

2. Science-led Approach

Both SMART and the aerial patrols support a broad range of conservation-management activities beyond antipoaching. These include biodiversity conservation, tourism and visitor management, natural-resources use, and threat-level assessments. We have seen a great improvement in 2022, which has led to a more targeted and focused operational and decision-making process.

We are continuously upgrading our technological capability to be able to support our anti-poaching teams on the ground and to use a science-led approach in our conservation projects in cooperation with the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI).

In 2022 we carried out regular aerial patrols and as a result, we've managed to **locate and destroy several poachers' camps** and deploy anti-poaching teams in real time.



Our ongoing commitments for 2023 & the future

Our work to increase children's school attendance will continue and scale to reach more children every year and help them finish school.

We will continue to expand our economic-empowerment projects, which help build capacity, create employment and in turn enable families to earn an income and send their children to school. Through targeted initiatives, our goal remains to strategically empower communities to be economically self-reliant, and to create an environment that helps alleviate rural poverty.

Our commitment to protect and preserve the areas we work in remains a priority for the future and we are committed to continuing to work closely within the Serengeti ecosystem, with our partners and other stakeholders for the greater benefit and protection of the fauna and flora of this exceptional wilderness.

Donations

Friedkin Conservation Fund has been working in Tanzania for over 25 years. We are committed to supporting Tanzania's wildlife for many more years.

The challenges are constant and real; however, we can overcome these by partnering with like-minded individuals, people who share our firm belief that Africa's wildlife must be protected for future generations and our passion for ensuring the survival of Africa's exceptional biodiversity.

We cannot do this alone. Your donations are important to ensure that we continue our community and conservation projects and initiatives.

Friedkin Conservation Fund USA covers 100% of FCFT'S operational and running costs.
This ensures that 100% of funds donated by donors flow directly into projects.

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

