

ROBIN HURT

Wildlife Foundation





'For wildlife to survive in a changing Africa, it must be a competitive form of land use, benefitting human communities. Without the full support and cooperation of local communities, wildlife in Africa is surely doomed.' Robin Hurt





Who we are

The Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation, formerly known as the Cullman and Hurt Community Wildlife Project, is a non-profit organisation that has been at the forefront of conservation and Community Based Natural Resource Management in Tanzania since its inception in 1992.

Our Mission

Our mission is to secure the survival of African wildlife and habitats, by ensuring that they benefit the human communities with which they co-exist.



How we achieve this

- By developing links between sustainable wildlife utilization and benefits for the communities living in or bordering the protected areas.
- By working to eliminate commercial poaching within these same areas.
- By alleviating poverty amongst village communities, including material support to education, Healthcare, water and housing.
- By educating communities with regard to sustainable use of wildlife and habitat conservation.
- By funding strategic conservation of wildlife habitats in vulnerable locations in Africa.
- By facilitating research and relocation of key species such as leopard and elephant.





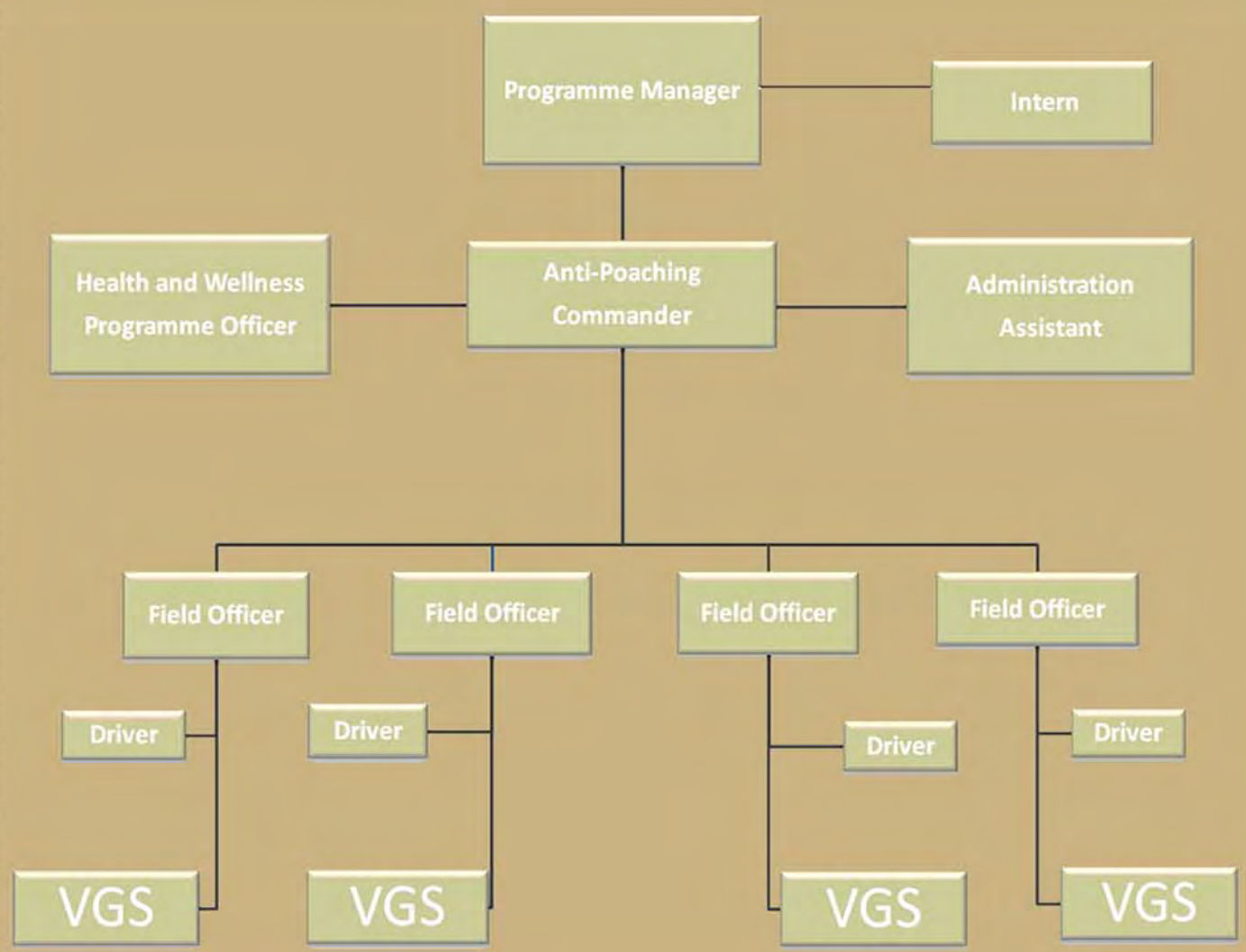
Work Zones in Tanzania

The Foundation operates in and around six protected areas located in Northern, Central and Western Tanzania, totalling in excess of 21 thousand square kilometres - more than 2.1 million hectares.





The Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation Structure





What we do

Anti-poaching



After consultation with local leadership, young men with the aptitude for this demanding and often dangerous work are chosen exclusively from the communities that border that protected areas.

This provides a vital income stream to these rural communities as well as building a direct and mutually beneficial relationship between the wildlife and its habitats, and the communities that surround them.



Operations

Our Field Officers and VGS conduct patrols and operations in the field for up to 3 months at a time. Patrols are conducted by vehicle, by foot and even by bicycle. They tackle everything from commercial ivory and bushmeat poaching to illegal logging and charcoal harvesting.



The teams use tried and tested tactics such as tracking, ambushes, observation posts, covert information gathering and informer networking. These tactics are made all

the more effective by the employment of local VGS and their unparalleled local knowledge.





What we do *Anti-poaching*

RHWF understands that effective law enforcement is a vital component of sustainable natural resource management. To that end, we support the Government of Tanzania's Wildlife Division by providing a highly effective anti-poaching operation in all the areas in which we are mandated to work.



Field Officers

Our highly experienced and qualified Field Officers operate in the field on a year round basis. In partnership with Tanzanian Wildlife Division Game Scouts, they co-ordinate, command and control RHWF's Village Game Scout teams and conduct targeted and routine



anti-poaching patrols throughout all of RHWF's areas of operation.

Village Game Scouts

In keeping with RHWF's core philosophy of community empowerment and ownership, the Foundation maintains a pool of VGS in all of its areas who work under the direction of our Field Officers.





What we do

Village Benefits

The Foundation is instrumental in ensuring that the communities surrounding the protected areas see tangible benefits from tourism activities conducted within these areas.

Tourist hunting and photographic clients pay a community surcharge which comes directly to RHWF. We then liaise with the communities in each respective area, to discuss

how they wish to spend the annual revenue raised, and oversee resulting projects.



Over the course of 16 years of operating this scheme, RHWF has helped build everything from schools, classrooms, clinics and dispensaries to village offices and water storage structures.





What we do

Development and Capacity Building

As well as the Village Benefits scheme, RHWF runs a highly successful and innovative 'Health and Wellness' program.



Overseen by a dedicated Program Officer this vital component of RHWF's work focuses on primary health care issues, conservation education and awareness and capacity building within the village leadership structure.





What we do

Development and Capacity Building

Our innovative and proven projects include a mobile film unit for conservation awareness training in remote area locations, material support and training for Village Health Workers.



We are also supplying fuel efficient stoves to reduce deforestation through charcoal production and initiating tree nurseries.





What we do

Education

The Education of young people in the communities around the Protected Areas is vital. In enabling future generations of Tanzanians to have real aspirations and real options in their lives beyond a subsistence lifestyle, we can ensure that African Wildlife and its habitats falls outside the demands of a growing population.



Student Sponsorship

To this end RHWF oversees a student sponsorship program, which works in partnership with private donors and other foundations to support orphaned children through their schooling. We aim to secure funding that guarantees individual student's security through primary and secondary schooling, and so avoiding the stop-start,



term by term funding that so many sponsored students experience.

Community Libraries

In addition to our Student Sponsorship program RHWF works in partnership with the OSU

Library Foundation to provide materials and training for the establishment of self-sustaining libraries. The libraries are for the use of communities as a whole, but they are located at village schools and managed by a designated teacher/librarian to ensure that these facilities become a core part of students' learning experience.





The Future

RHWF is planning to build on its successes and expand the scope of its components.



We are currently focusing on pilot projects for income generation schemes and micro industries within the communities.

This exciting new focus aims to provide vocational training as well as material and logistical support to participating communities.

This will enable them to generate their own income streams through sustainable and culturally appropriate harvesting of natural resources such as:

- Silk moth harvesting
- Beekeeping
- Dried fruit production
- Natural soaps and oils





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Gallery



Conservation Force
3240 S 1-10 Service Road W, Suite 200
Metairie, LA 70002-1746, USA
Tel: (504) 837 1233, Fax: (504) 837 1145
Web: www.conservationforce.org
Email: cjackson@conservationforce.org



The Project Director
Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation
P.O Box 8325
Arusha
Tanzania
Tel: +255 27 250 5024
Web: www.rhwf.org
Email: info@rhwf.org