



HWC Mitigation Research Fellowship

The Grumeti Fund is a non-profit organization tasked with carrying out the wildlife conservation and community development work in and around 350,000 acres of the Ikorongo-Grumeti Game Reserve complex (IGGR). With a team of 170 dedicated staff managing and protecting the concessions, remarkable conservation accomplishments have been achieved since 2003, including a four-fold increase in elephants and ten-fold increase in buffalo. In 2019, Grumeti Fund launched a new research program and facility, Research and Innovation for the Serengeti Ecosystem (RISE), whose mission is to develop and support research targeting tangible solutions to benefit the people and wildlife of the Serengeti ecosystem and beyond.

In collaboration with government and other local partners, the Grumeti Fund is facilitating the re-establishment, monitoring, and management of a viable free ranging population of Eastern black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) in natural habitat in Ikorongo. As part of this reintroduction effort and given the species' critically endangered status, a 30km rhino security fence to prevent rhino movements into settlements will be established along the northern boundary of Ikorongo GR. The selected design for the security fence is what is commonly referred to as an 'elephant short fence'. This fence has the potential to serve two purposes – protect rhino, and, given the severe nature of crop losses to elephants in this area, reduce rates of wildlife-induced damage in adjacent villages.

Although using fences for the local protection of small populations of critically endangered species (eg. black rhinos) or for reintroduction purposes is widely accepted, the application of large-scale fencing for the more general maintenance of wildlife populations and the prevention of human-wildlife conflict is a subject of much debate. The rhino security fence in the western Serengeti will be the first of its kind in Tanzania, and it is therefore especially critical to monitor and evaluate the ecological, environmental, and social impacts of this tool, both in general and with specific regard to HWC.

The Grumeti Fund and RISE are requesting applicants for graduate students interested in collaborating on a research project, "Evaluating the efficacy, impacts, and perceptions of electric fencing as a human-wildlife conflict management tool in the western Serengeti". Specifically, areas of research may include one or more of the following: 1) Evaluating the efficacy of electric fencing with respect to preventing wildlife from entering settlements and reducing the risk of HWC, 2) Assessing community perceptions and support for electric fencing as a management tool, 3) Quantifying the ecological and environmental impacts of electric fencing. Research methods may



include the use of spoor surveys, compiling maintenance records, household surveys, animal movement data, camera trap data, and remote sensing.

Benefits and expectations

The Fellowship includes a one-year award of up to \$20,000. One award will be made. The award may be renewed for up to two additional years, subject to adequate research progress, funding requirements, and availability of funds. The recipient must use the funds to undertake research in the Ikorongo-Grumeti Reserves complex in the western Serengeti of Tanzania on the topic of fencing and HWC, and in collaboration with Dr. Kristen Denninger Snyder (RISE), Noel Mbise (Grumeti Fund), and Dr. Victor Kakengi (TAWIRI).

How to apply

Application packages must include the following components:

1. Personal statement
 - a. Briefly describe your career goals.
 - b. Describe your research interests and skills. Emphasize those that are of relevance to this project as described above.
2. Writing sample
 - a. Respond to the following prompt and support with relevant literature: *The use of electric fencing as a protected area management tool is a topic of much debate. Explain the potential costs and benefits of this strategy using relevant examples from published literature and within the context of social **or** ecological perspectives.*
3. Supporting documents
 - a. Timeline – coursework start dates, availability for field work and data analysis, time to graduation / completion.
 - b. Budget (non-research costs) - Provide costs for university tuition and fees and related expenditures. Indicate whether other funding sources have been obtained or if your university fees are waived (e.g. scholarship).
4. CV
5. a) Graduate program transcripts
OR
b) Undergraduate transcripts and one of the following: 1) Letter of graduate program acceptance, 2) Letter of support from future graduate program advisor.
6. Two reference letters (one should be from your current or future graduate program advisor or PI).

The personal statement should not exceed two single-spaced pages, and the writing sample three single-spaced pages. Use 12pt font and standard margins. Any photos or



maps count towards the total length. References, timeline, and budget information do not count towards the total length.

Applications and reference letters are due by March 15, 2020 and should be submitted as a single compressed PDF to apply.rise@gmail.com referencing “HWC Fellowship” in the subject line. Reference letter writers should email their signed recommendations from their organizational account and reference the full name of the relevant graduate student in the subject line.

The recipient will be announced by April 15, 2020. Start dates are negotiable, but no later than November 1, 2020.

Eligibility requirements

Applicants must:

1. Be a Tanzanian national.
2. Be enrolled, accepted, or applying for a 2020 start date in a research-based PhD or MSc program. The affiliated university or organization may be based within Tanzania or internationally.
3. Have very strong academic qualifications, with academic and career goals relevant to wildlife conservation.

Use of Fellowship Funds

The grant is intended to cover research-related expenses, university tuition and fees, and/or a modest stipend.

Reporting Requirements

Fellows are required to submit two written reports during their fellowship year. An interim report must be received by 7 months after the start date, and a final report by 13 months after the start date. Guidelines and requirements for these reports will be provided in advance of each due date.

For questions or inquiries, contact Kristen Denninger Snyder at apply.rise@gmail.com.