

Singita Grumeti Reserves

SASAKWA & FARU FARU LODGES

SABORA CAMP

Serengeti • Tanzania

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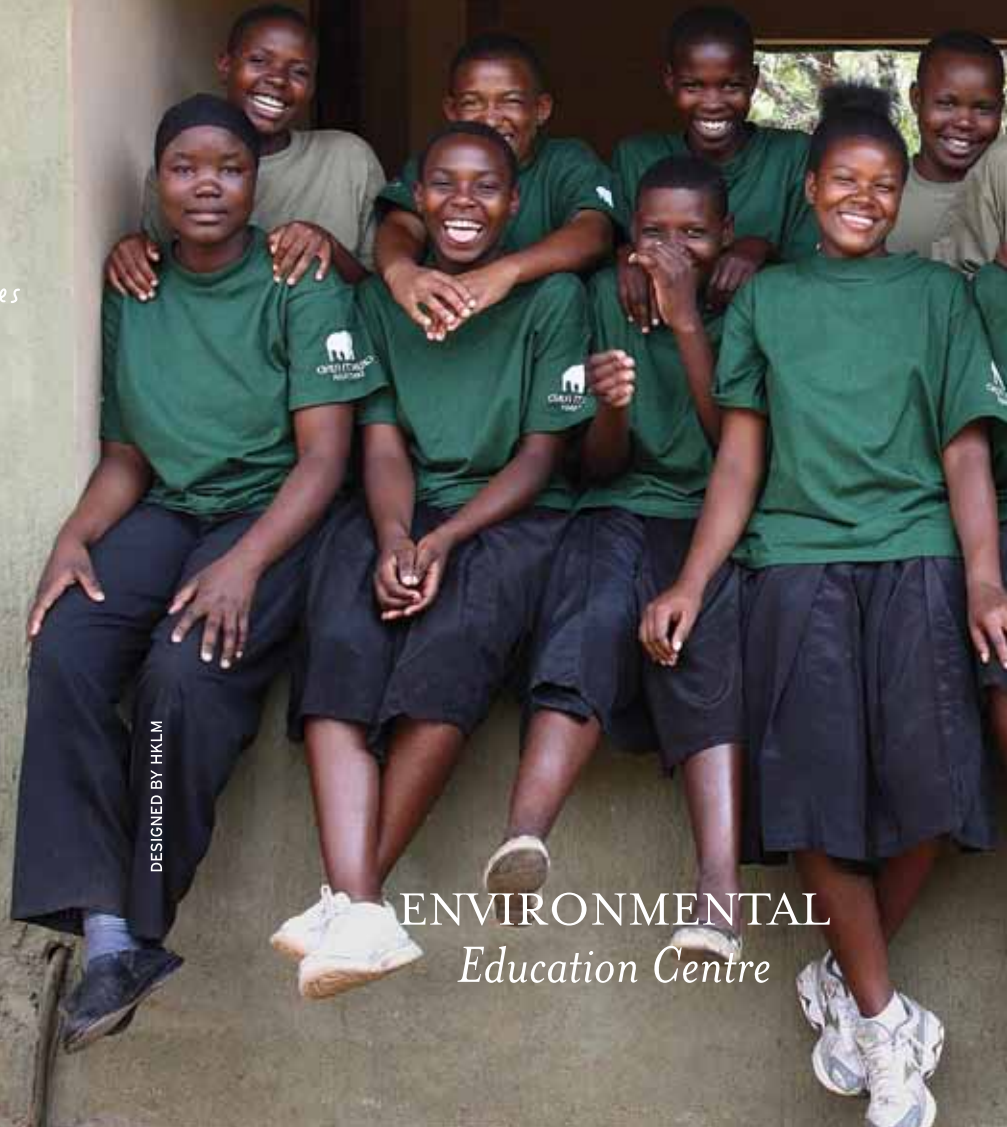
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ENVIRONMENTAL
Education Centre



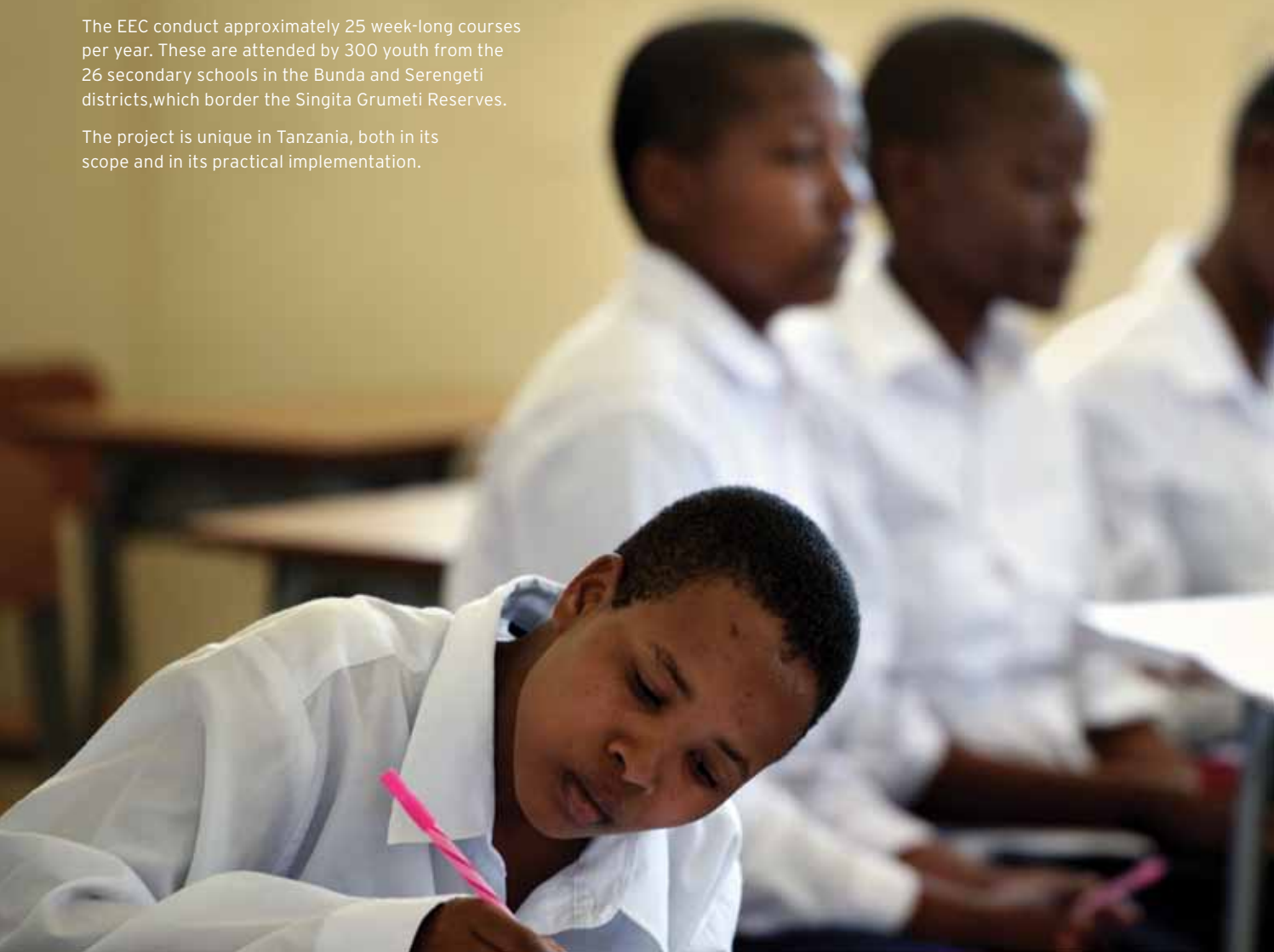
OUR PROGRAMME

In August of 2009 the first group of students entered the Singita Grumeti Reserves' Environmental Education Centre (EEC), a facility established to develop, amongst young people from local communities, an awareness of the importance of preserving the bio-diversity of their communal lands and of their neighbouring reserves. Allied to this was the imperative to share with them effective and practical ways to adopt a lifestyle that would result in a harmonious environmental balance.

To accomplish this a fully equipped training centre was set up with two full-time trainers to manage the programme.

The EEC conduct approximately 25 week-long courses per year. These are attended by 300 youth from the 26 secondary schools in the Bunda and Serengeti districts, which border the Singita Grumeti Reserves.

The project is unique in Tanzania, both in its scope and in its practical implementation.



THE WAY IT WORKS

Twelve students, in their second to last year of secondary school and from two different secondary schools, attend a five-day practical training course. They are transported from their schools and accommodated, on a full board basis, at the Training Centre for the 6 nights of the programme.

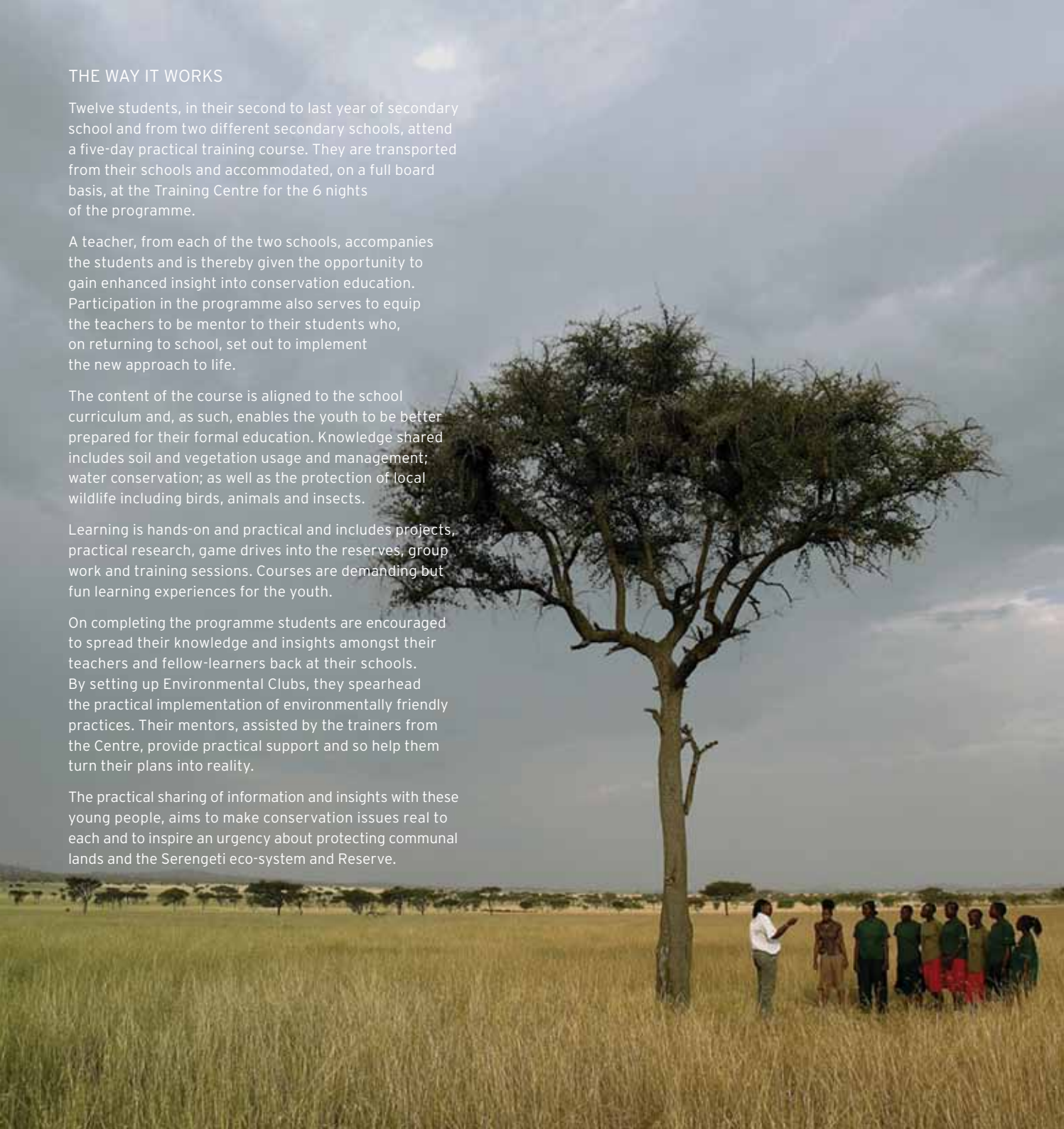
A teacher, from each of the two schools, accompanies the students and is thereby given the opportunity to gain enhanced insight into conservation education. Participation in the programme also serves to equip the teachers to be mentor to their students who, on returning to school, set out to implement the new approach to life.

The content of the course is aligned to the school curriculum and, as such, enables the youth to be better prepared for their formal education. Knowledge shared includes soil and vegetation usage and management; water conservation; as well as the protection of local wildlife including birds, animals and insects.

Learning is hands-on and practical and includes projects, practical research, game drives into the reserves, group work and training sessions. Courses are demanding but fun learning experiences for the youth.

On completing the programme students are encouraged to spread their knowledge and insights amongst their teachers and fellow-learners back at their schools. By setting up Environmental Clubs, they spearhead the practical implementation of environmentally friendly practices. Their mentors, assisted by the trainers from the Centre, provide practical support and so help them turn their plans into reality.

The practical sharing of information and insights with these young people, aims to make conservation issues real to each and to inspire an urgency about protecting communal lands and the Serengeti eco-system and Reserve.



A STORY OF SUCCESS

The programme is clearly having a positive impact. By way of example: six students from the *Dr Nchimbi School*, after completing their course at the Environmental Education Centre, presented their new found knowledge to their teachers and fellow pupils. The school management was inspired to make changes to the way the school was run, with some very tangible results. Soil erosion in the local area was addressed through the planting of grass, itself facilitated by the initiation of a deliberate process of capturing rainwater.

The result was a new green footprint for the school, making it both a more attractive place to attend school and a source of pride for the community. An Environmental Committee was also established at the school and ensures a continuously improving awareness and implementation of sustainable practices at the school.

These developments represent positive proof of the change that can be brought about through enlightened education and inspired young learners.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can become a funding partner of the SGR Environmental Education Centre by sponsoring a five-day course, to be attended by 12 learners and two teachers. The cost of this is \$2,000, or just under \$150 per person for the 5 day course.

Funds received enable the Centre to implement an increasing number of courses and so maximise the impact of the programme on the preservation of the Reserves and of the community lands.

For more information on how you can become a funding partner to this very valuable programme, please contact one of the Lodge Managers of Singita Grumeti Reserves. Further information can also be obtained from Pam Richardson, the Singita's Group HR and Community Development Manager: Pam.r@singita.com and +27 21 683 3424.

Banking details are as follows:

National Bank of Commerce Ltd, Tanzania

Branch: Arusha

Branch code: 15107

Account name: Grumeti Community and Wildlife Conservation Fund Ltd

Account number: 0141 0500 8628

Swift code: NLCBTZTX

For US donors a tax effective conduit for funds can be accessed electronically at: www.thebodhitreefoundation.org

