

CONSERVATION



OLIVIER GRUNEWALD / GORONGOSA

DEEP IMPACT

Africa's most successful wildlife conservation projects ensure that communities benefit too. There are few places where this is more evident than in **Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park**, which employs over 1800 local people. Virtually devoid of animals when philanthropist Greg Carr founded the Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP) in 2008, the park is now home to 102,000 large mammals. The stats relating to its surrounding human populations are equally as impressive. In 2023, GRP started a pre-school programme for literacy, numeracy and languages that will eventually reach 10,000 children and began building 26 schools for 15,000 pupils, using 'resilient architecture' so that communities have safe havens in extreme weather disasters. It provided healthcare services to more than 200,000 people, built 18 water wells for over 7000 residents, along with 175 "elephant-proof" silos to protect vital crops. GRP established community projects in beekeeping, ecotourism and fish farming that brought in nearly US\$200,500 and supported 307 community rangers. And 20 per cent of Gorongosa's entrance fees are paid to local communities. A perfect example of community and conservation symbiosis...
and all the more reason for you to visit!