

# KRISSIE CLARK

TANZANIA, PAMS FOUNDATION

*"Don't let the system mould you into accepting too many compromises. Stand up for what you believe is right".*

## RANGERS: HOLDING THE THIN GREEN LINE. SERIES ONE

I work in various places throughout Tanzania. I am the executive director of the PAMS Foundation, my work centres on community managed wildlife areas. Much of Tanzania's wildlife exists outside formally protected areas (e.g. approximately 60% of Tanzania's elephants live outside of a protected area).

I have been in this job for 3 years. I studied botany, zoology & wildlife management at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. I got my first 'ranger' job in the Kruger National Park, South Africa.

I write funding proposals, lobbying for much needed funds to support rangers & conservation projects. When I am lucky I manage to spend some time in the field implementing these projects.

There are no fences, wildlife such as elephants, buffalo, wildebeest, sable, African wild dogs are free to roam with the rains. One of my best days was when I was 'swimming' in the 2cm of water in the Mbarang'andu river, & watched a majestic herd of elephants pass closely by. I had two vultures circling overhead. They decided to come soaring in at high pace, thinking I was prey & landing right next to me. Another would be the day I saw the expression on faces of village games scouts when they heard they could win a brand new out the box bicycle if they performed their law enforcement duties well. Something so simple meant so much to them. It made me cry.

Some of my worst days are when you have been working very closely with a colleague & friend, & you find out he is actually corrupt & involved in the horrible poaching & timber logging, that you are so desperately trying to halt.

My greatest achievement is still to come.....& it will be the day I can say that the amazing wilderness areas in southern Tanzania are free of poaching & are being managed in a sustainable manner which benefits not only wildlife but also the communities that are the custodians of the land.



*"I always wanted to be a ranger, & told my friends at school that I was going to be a ranger one day. When I finished school I wanted to go straight into the bush. I always loved the bush, saw how it was being abused & knew I needed to be part of saving it".*



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