

The conservation world bereft of a champion

By Sue Stolton, August 2017

We are deeply saddened to report the murder of WCPA member Wayne Lotter. From the over 700 people who left personal comments when the news broke on Facebook, to moving tributes from an array of conservation personalities and international news coverage, he is one casualty of the poaching crisis that will not be forgotten.

Wayne's career progressed from being a ranger in South Africa, to becoming a vice-president of the International Ranger Federation, to setting up PAMS ([Protected Area Management Solutions](#)) with his partner Krissie Clarke in 2009. Wayne also supported many other likeminded organisations; he had been on the board of The Thin Green Line Foundation, and was a valued member of the *PARKS Journal* editorial board.

With equal measure of knowledge and tenacity Wayne, Krissie and partners worked hard to develop PAMS into a unique not-for-profit organisation. Based in Tanzania, PAMS works closely with the country's National and Transnational Serious Crimes Investigation Unit, to combat wildlife crime.

Wayne was deeply concerned about the impact of poaching and anti poaching on communities and in recent years, [PAMS trained hundreds of village game scouts](#) throughout Tanzania to work with protected area staff on protection strategies.¹ PAMS developed an intelligence-based approach to anti-poaching, leading to the dismantling of some of the most important ivory trafficking syndicates in Africa.

PAMS' success won friends locally and from conservationists around the world, but also enemies from those involved in one of the world's largest, if often overlooked, criminal activities. Wayne had received previous death threats and was shot and killed by an unknown gunman in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 16th August 2017. The police in Tanzania are actively investigating his murder.

Wayne had a twinkle in his eye and the driest sense of humour possible, and most of all he had a tireless passion to ensure the wild animals of his home continent continued to roam freely. He will be terribly missed, but the work he was involved in and the organisation he set up will continue. Wayne leaves a wife, two daughters, his parents, Krissie and all his colleagues in PAMS and the whole conservation world bereft of a champion. [A fund](#) has been set up in his memory.²

Also read: [IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas mourn the loss of wildlife defender Wayne Lotter](#)

¹ PARKS Journal: [Community involvement and joint operations aid effective anti-poaching in Tanzania](#), by Wayne Lotter and Krissie Clark

² [Fund For Wayne Lotter, Leading Elephant Conservationist Killed in Tanzania](#): fundraising campaign by Krissie Clark