

British helicopter pilot 'shot dead by Tanzania poachers'

🕒 21 minutes ago | [UK](#)



PA

Mr Gower was shot in Maswa, where ivory poaching is said to be "especially prevalent"

A British helicopter pilot has been shot dead by elephant poachers in Tanzania, the conservation charity for which he was working has said.

The Friedkin Conservation Fund said Roger Gower had been tracking poachers, who fired on his helicopter fatally wounding him.

Charity founder Dan Friedkin said the organisation was "profoundly saddened by the loss of our dear friend".

The Foreign Office has confirmed the death of a UK national in Tanzania.

It said it was providing assistance to the family.

Mr Gower is reported to be a former accountant who qualified as a pilot in 2004.

Mr Friedkin said: "We are committed to honouring Roger and his work. We are also committed to ensuring that those responsible for this attack are found and brought to justice.

"We believe that Roger can best be honoured by redoubling our commitment to protect elephants and our priceless wildlife heritage.

"This tragic event again highlights the appalling risk and cost of protecting Tanzania's wildlife."

'Fine-hearted individual'

Tanzanian MP Lazaro Nyalandu, a former minister for natural resources and tourism, **said in a tweet** that the incident happened on Friday as Mr Gower tried to locate a group that had killed an elephant in the Maswa Game Reserve, which borders the Serengeti National Park in northern Tanzania.

He said Mr Gower had managed to land his helicopter, but died before he could be rescued.

Mr Nyalandu said: "RIP Capt Roger. You loved our country and I knew you on many flights we took together in defence of our wildlife heritage.

"Those poachers who killed Capt Roger are coward[s], evil, and sad people. A fine-hearted individual gone too soon, and our hearts are broken.

"Capt Roger's body was flown into Arusha early today, as those who killed him are still at large. Everything must [be] done to bring them to justice."

The Friedkin Fund says elephant poaching is "especially prevalent" in Maswa, with rangers encountering ivory poachers "on a fairly regular basis".

Share this story About sharing



More on this story

Elephant poaching hotspots identified

18 June 2015

Elephant poaching deaths reach tipping point in Africa

18 August 2014

Africa elephants 'face survival threat' from poaching

13 June 2014

Can drones help tackle Africa's wildlife poaching crisis?

21 July 2014

Related Internet links

Friedkin Fund

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external Internet sites

UK >



Proton cancer therapy 'proves effective'

🕒 30 January 2016 | [Health](#)



Three held in anti-immigrant clashes

🕒 30 January 2016 | [Kent](#)



SPORT Murray & Soares win doubles final

🕒 30 January 2016 | [Tennis](#)

Top Stories

Russia 'violated airspace' - Turkey

Dozens dead as migrant boat capsizes

Britain's Murray wins doubles final

Features



Just in time

Dads tell of race against the clock to witness baby's birth



10 Things

You could probably outrun a T-Rex, and more news nuggets



Sex imbalance

Why does Sweden have more teenage boys than girls?



Bearing witness

Why the stories told by survivors are so important



▶ 3:01

Action Man turns 50

Landmark birthday for GI Joe's British cousin

Politics and pie

In Iowa, voters bake and talk about the election



Appliance of science

The steps Brazil is taking to counter Zika

Audacity of hope

Tea, rivalry and money-making schemes in the Calais "Jungle"



Frozen and forgotten

Why Iowa is like the luge

Most Popular

Read

Watched

Tanzania poachers 'kill British pilot'	1
German police 'should shoot migrants'	2
Girl, 9, among three dead in M9 crash	3
Russia 'violated airspace' - Turkey	4
Tax sales not profit, says Lawson	5
Swedish masked gang 'targeted migrants'	6
Bowie leaves \$100m fortune to family	7
Why does Sweden have more boys than girls?	8
Three held in anti-immigrant clashes	9
Coldplay and Beyonce video causes culture row	10

Sections



BBC News Services

 On your mobile

 On your connected tv

 Get news alerts

 Contact BBC News

BBC Taster



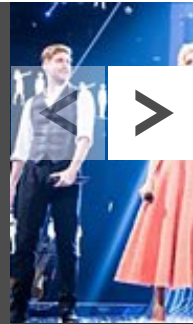
What happened the year you were born?

BBC TASTER



Experience Ai Weiwei's work in 360

BBC TASTER



The Voice on a show

BBC TASTER

News

Weather

TV

CBBC

Food

Bitesize

Music

Arts

Taster

Sport

iPlayer

Radio

CBeebies

iWonder

Travel

Earth

Make It Digital

Local

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Accessibility Help](#)

[Contact the BBC](#)

[About the BBC](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Parental Guidance](#)

Copyright © 2016 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. **Read about our approach to external linking.**