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 - [West Country \(E\)](#)
 - [West Country \(W\)](#)
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 - [Technology](#)
 - [Sport](#)
 - [And Finally](#)
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 - [Travel](#)
 - [Religion](#)
 - [Economy](#)
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1. ITV Report
2. 30 January 2016 at 5:22pm

British helicopter pilot 'shot and killed' by poachers in Africa



A picture of the helicopter wreckage was posted on Facebook by Wildlife At Risk. *Credit: Wildlife At Risk*

A British helicopter pilot has reportedly been 'shot and killed' by elephant poachers in Tanzania.

Roger Gower was said to be taking part in an operation with the Tanzanian wildlife authorities to 'track down and arrest active elephant poachers' when 'his helicopter was fired at and he was fatally wounded', according to the [Friedkin Conservation Fund](#).

In a statement the Friedkin Fund's Chairman, Dan Friedkin, paid tribute to Mr Gower who he called "our dear friend".

Roger was killed while piloting a helicopter during a coordinated effort with the Tanzanian wildlife authorities to track down and arrest active elephant poachers. In the course of this action the poachers fired upon the helicopter and Roger was fatally wounded.

We are committed to honoring 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 honored 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.

– *Friedkin Conservation Fund, Dan Friedkin*



British helicopter pilot Roger Gower was working in Tanzania. *Credit: Google maps*

Animal charity Wildlife At Risk International also paid tribute to Mr Gower on [Facebook](#): "We are shocked by this unbelievably sad news and we extend our condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Capt. Roger.

"This is a devastating loss that can never be replaced. We thank him for his commitment to the fight against poachers."

Mr Gower originally qualified as an accountant before becoming a helicopter pilot in 2004. He moved to East Africa in 2008.

Last updated Sat 30 Jan 2016

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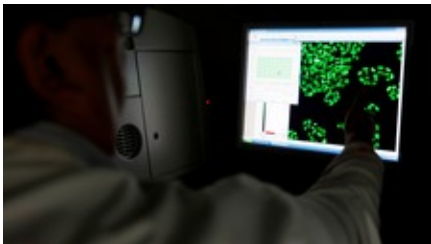


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