



**Whatever ones personal view of global stability it must surely have changed forever in the wake of the September 2001 events. Yet another generation has had a rude awakening to the frailties of human behaviour. It will take years for those directly affected to come to terms with their loss while the rest of us move on in the knowledge that nothing is certain. For us in the Trusts, it shines a spotlight on the balance between the developed and the developing world and points yet again to the need for continued progress on our outreach programmes. Within the limitations imposed by resources, we hope we have fully played our part during the past year.**

But what of the natural world, whose voice has been ignored for so long? If there is to be a future for the human race, then the perceived silence and acquiescence to our demands on its resources – our mismanagement of its fragile environments – has to be addressed or we deprive future generations of wonders, insights and feelings that have been the spirit of the human race for so long. In light of world events, our latest news of work and progress, setbacks and recovery, politics and people may seem a trifle parochial. But life goes on and so does the need to keep working. Success is fragile and excuses abound in a field for which there are few criteria for measuring efficacy. One day it is there, the next it is gone.

So another extraordinary year passes, with its share of success and tragedy. But in spite of sadness it has been a year through which we are all the wiser. The return of a large herd of elephants to the reserve endorses the success

of the work of our Trust and the Wildlife Division Project Manager's over the past two years; four more black rhino are due here from Addo National Park in South Africa by Russian Antanov on 25th October 2001, bringing our founder population to 8 rhino; a set back and the beginnings of recovery on the wild dog breeding programme with an outbreak of a vicious strain of a canine distemper; community assistance being extended to the wider canvas of villages surrounding the reserve. HRH Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands awarded Tony the Order of The Golden Ark for conservation, and all the Trusts continued to shoulder the responsibility of this ever-increasing project, with all its varied disciplines. Our working partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, and the Wildlife Division, is on a strong footing and we are immensely grateful to all our Trustees and supporters for keeping this project in such good shape. 🐾

# THE MKOMAZI PROJECT

# Rhino Sanctuary

**Hot News!! On 28th October 2001 four more black rhino (D.b.michaeli) arrived safely at Mkomazi – a long awaited addition to the breeding programme. The two females, Lee and Marina, and the two males, Badger and Elvis were flown up from South African National Parks and first indications are that they are settling in well.**

Our existing rhinos are in great health, although no sign of a calf as yet. All being well, they should by now have settled down enough to start breeding.

The rhino sanctuary is a flagship conservation project for Tanzania and one of which we are all proud. The Director of Wildlife, Dr Emmanuel Severre, presented a favorable report to the Tanzanian Parliament on the Mkomazi Project as a whole, and specifically on the rhino sanctuary and this was reported on the radio. The Tanzanian Rhino Coordinator, Matthew Maige, is in touch on a regular basis and well advised of our operations.

A second internal fence was constructed, initially to create an area to hold 2 rhino from USA zoos. It transpired that the Tanzanian Government turned down this zoo offer, but we remain grateful to the International Rhino Foundation, our US Trust and KLM for pursuing this project with such commitment. So we now have a second introduction vacuum should we need to receive any further rhino from other areas. The Kenya Wildlife Services have expressed interest in helping out with one or two rhino and we await the endorsement of our Director of Wildlife in order to pursue this further.

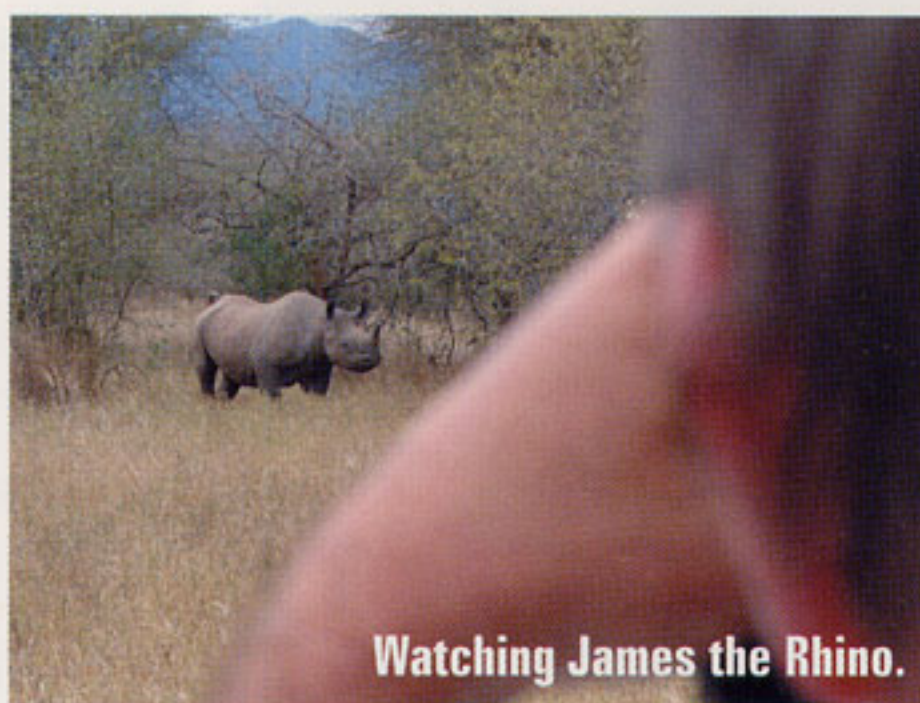
Preparations for the new arrivals involved much preparation of paper work and protocols, as well as the considerable physical logistics of ensuring that all was in good order



The TUSK water tanker in action.

on the day they arrived. We had hired the Russian Antonov that brought the first batch of rhino here, and BP most generously agreed to support the majority of the costs of the aircraft fuel. BP have remained loyal to this project for many years and we remain very grateful. Thanks to Tusk Trust, Save the Rhino International, Van Tienhoven Foundation, Lee Baxter and Marina Schreyer we have been able to support the massive costs of this translocation. We are also very grateful to Jorie Kent of Abercrombie and Kent for supporting a camp to cater for all our visitors for this massive (for us!) event.


Tragically five rhino in the Ngorongoro Crater died, of which three were found to have a tick fever that emerges under extreme environmental conditions. Dr Piet Morkel, the veterinarian for the African Rhino Specialist Group, investigated and reported on these deaths with the Tanzanian Rhino Coordinator, and other officials from TANAPA and TAWIRI.



Watching James the Rhino.

US Fish and Wildlife, having supported the rhino sanctuary operations, training and equipment, invited us to submit a further application for funds. TUSK donated army great coats and field jackets for the security force. The Tanzanian Wildlife Fund supported the costs of uniports for all sanctuary personnel who were delighted to get out of their tents. The combination of new housing and operational training in Kenya has given a great (and well deserved) morale boost to these men. Richard Goldman's Environmental Foundation also gave very generous support for the full workings of the sanctuary. Matthias Deyle of GAWPT Germany started a sponsorship scheme for security force salaries.

Ian Craig of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, who helped plan the rhino sanctuary, visited with Charlie, Tim and Helen of TUSK Trust. Piet Morkel also spent time with us discussing the future plans.

As always, the day to day operations of the rhino sanctuary remain of paramount importance. Maintenance of the fence line, daily patrols, spot checks, tracking, water systems, communications, team-work and responsibility dominate our working lives. Semu Pallangyo heads up the development/maintenance teams and Steve Hyera the security force. Their dedication and professionalism is a source of pride to us all. 

# Outreach Programme

The Honourable Minister for Education visited the Kisiwani Secondary School and picked out Elisaria, our operations manager, from the crowd to publicly thank the Trust for the funds that they have committed to its overall construction. And thanks to Marina Schreyer, our contractors have now nearly finished the construction of a large furnished science laboratory for the school.

Mr Lusasi spends much time talking with District Officials and community leaders on many issues. Assistance continues to be given by our Trust and the Wildlife Division to the refurbishment of Kivingo Secondary School and Mnazi Primary School in Lushoto District. Tanga Cement have helped us out with a generous donation of cement for projects and we hope to distribute this as additional support for rehabilitating schools.

## Community conservation safari drive around the reserve.



We held talks with our Project Manager on how to best move forwards on the outreach work, within both of our own budget and time restrictions. We felt that the time was now right to expand the relationships with many communities around the reserve. One strategy is to fund maize grinding machines with diesel engines for many villages, on the basis that any profits raised by the operators of the machines are put towards the refurbishment of the village's schools. In this way we can assist with self-help, economic generation and education.

One of the main thrusts of outreach direction was through support from US Fish and Wildlife, who helped with a vehicle for community safaris to communicate with the villagers. This had to be a Government initiative, and not merely a Trust PR exercise. In July, Mr Muhuri of the WD and Elisaria set off with the District Director on an official community drive. During this time they met with village elders and spokesmen for many of the communities surrounding the reserve. Frank and open discussions were held, and the long term plans for Mkomazi were discussed at length, as was the WD and Trust involvement in the reserve. In this way, rumours and misunderstandings were laid to rest, friendships were founded, and the team received much encouragement for their work within the reserve from the villagers. Official reports on the questions and answers were drawn up and many priority areas which need assistance were singled out for help. The next safari to Lushoto District commences on 15th October.

In 1993, the Trusts funded the sinking of a borehole at the reserve's Zange HQ. In a joint project, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism recently paid for the electricity to be brought down from the main road to Zange. Thanks to the US Trust, we were able to fund a water pump for this borehole. It is good to see so many villagers collecting water from this borehole every morning.

The Inspector General of Police encouraged us to help with the construction of a new Police Station in Same. Thanks to a generous



**Above: Kisiwani Secondary School science laboratory under construction.**

**Below: The Monday morning test.**



donation from Tanga Cement, we were able to send in over 100 bags of cement. Later Tony was invited onto the Committee for this construction, and serves with many distinguished gentlemen from the Tanzanian Government, the District Commissioner Same, the Regional Police Commander, the Member of Parliament for Same and the Police Officer Commanding Same District.

A separate meeting followed between Mr Lusasi, the MP for Same, John Singo and Tony where the relationship between MGR and development in the Same district was discussed.

The Mkomazi Game Reserve Football Team received new shirts and footballs as well as funds to transport them to away matches. Recently we have sent our JCB to Same town to excavate for the local communities petrol station. Simon Trevor and the African Environmental Film Foundation are now a part of the Tanzanian Trust and are providing excellent educational materials for wide distribution. And the Marshall Andrews have generously agreed to support the university education of one student.



# African Wild Dogs

Shortly before Christmas 1999, a couple of pups from one of our packs fell ill and died within a couple of days. After Christmas the whole pack fell ill, showing symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, snotty noses and diarrhea. To our horror, one dog after another died, despite antibiotic treatment. Canine distemper was suspected and material from the deceased dogs was collected for research at the Department of Virology, Erasmus University, Rotterdam. It did not take long for them to confirm the canine distemper diagnosis and to isolate the virus. Further research showed that this particularly vicious strain was closely related to the distemper that caused the death of many lions and hyenas in the Serengeti National Park in 1994. As far as we know, this is the first time that this strain of canine distemper has been isolated from an African Wild Dog.

There was no treatment available, so all we could do was to apply antibiotic treatment to prevent secondary infection. Strict measures were taken to prevent the virus from spreading to other compounds, although it is almost impossible to stop a virus like this. Halfway through January, the disease had run its course in the Lendenai compound, but a couple of days later the disease started in all the other three compounds at roughly the same time. The nightmare continued and in the next four weeks, the numbers of dogs were decimated.

How had this been possible? The dogs had been vaccinated for canine distemper using an intensive vaccination schedule; antibody titers had been checked on a regular basis and titers were satisfactory. Either the vaccine that we had used had failed or the African Wild Dog differs from the domesticated dog. Canine distemper is a big underlying problem in the African Wild Dog.

After all the misery, it was a thrill to see the survivors united and, without any quarreling, a new pack was formed and 8 pups were born in July. A fresh start for a hopefully bright

future. Heartache and tragedy often stalk success in the wildlife world. But ultimately there has to be an ongoing and intensive captive breeding programme if these endangered species are to survive. At present their levels are just too low, even below that recommended by the IUCN Species Survival Program experts.

There were two lines of thought here 1) either to leave well alone, do nothing and let nature take its course or 2) to intervene. Mankind, since the turn of the century, and more especially in recent times, has followed an interventionist policy on domestic animals which many people feel has resulted in both



**New wild dog pups.**

viruses and endemic diseases mutating. Many species of wild animals are unable to cope with this. Much is conjecture, much is hard research and fact, but it is felt that as far as the wild dogs are concerned, things cannot be just left to nature anymore. This is maybe one of the few genuine cases where the much misused phrase "needs further study" really applies.

After consultation with the Department of Virology, a trial was established to investigate the problem. In future, the pups will be vaccinated with a canary pox vectored CDV vaccine and cell mediated immunity will be studied. It is our plight to find answers and solutions for these problems and contribute in this way to the conservation of the African Wild Dog.

We were pleased to welcome Dr Harald Wiik and Dr Robert Fuymagwa from the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute and also Roger and Jan Burrows.

Funding for the programme is still in place. Dr Visee has established the African Wild Dog Foundation in The Netherlands to concentrate specifically on this programme. And as always we are immensely grateful to the Ray Rowe Fund, Save the Rhino International and Gilbertson and Paige for their support and understanding. At this time, the programme has the potential for three (maybe four) breeding groups. Complex projects such as this often suffer major

setbacks in their early stages and hard lessons are learnt. Every disaster has its upside and this has precipitated both the development of a specific vaccine for this strain of CD and extensive research into the complete immune system of the wild dog and how it differs from that of the domestic dog.

Once the disease has been sorted out, the ongoing plan is to reintroduce the dogs into areas where they will have the most chance of success, and where they were successful in the past but have since 'disappeared'. Much planning has gone into reintroduction

and various methods have been discussed based on our own working principles and practices and the successes and failures of reintroductions in southern and east Africa.

Wild dogs are still a difficult political issue, due to both their predatory instincts and their recent susceptibility to disease. Slowly attitudes are changing and whereas previously local communities would not tolerate the animals under any circumstances, now there is more awareness of the vulnerability of these animals. However, the threat still remains to their survival which is why an areas that we have chosen for their reintroduction are eminently suitable, especially if the pastoralists that inhabit the neighbouring areas are fully briefed and enjoined in a consultative process on the release.



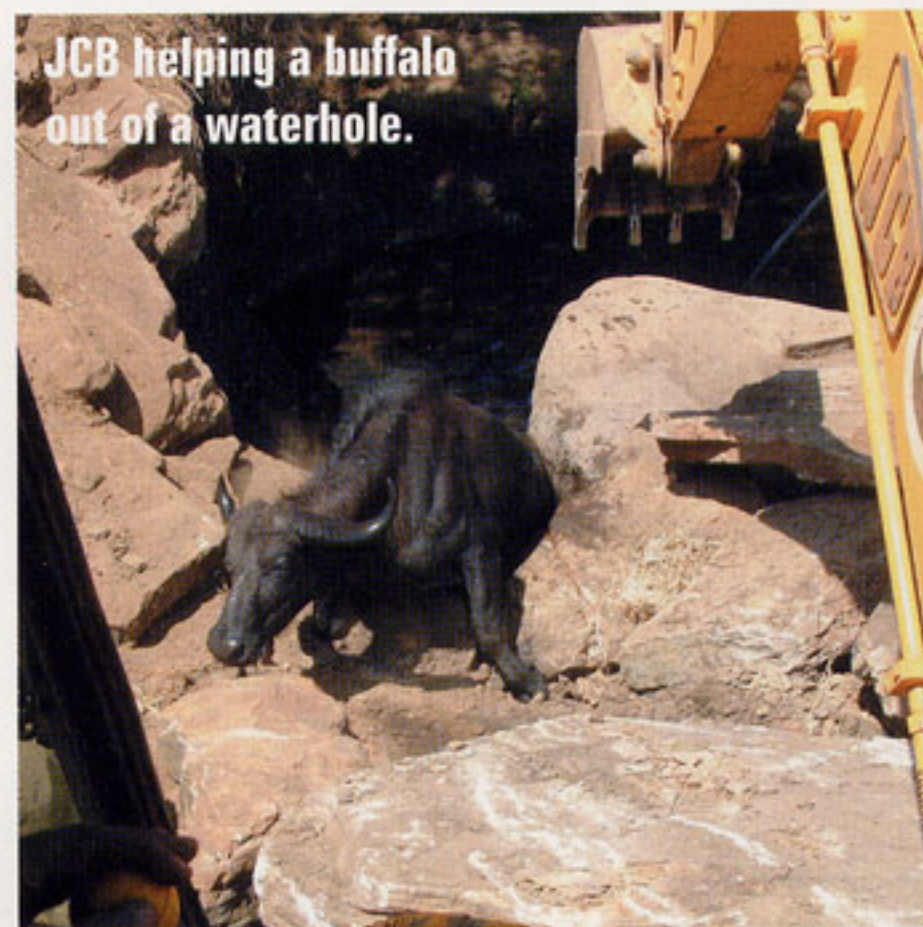
# Out and about

With generous help from TUSK Trust, the Born Free Foundation, Save the Rhino International and the Barbara Delano Foundation, we were able to get a new engine for the aircraft as the old one was out of hours. This was a much appreciated joint effort and the aircraft is now back on patrol virtually every day.

Moritz and Hilla Borman generously donated considerable funds to all aspects of the project, including the backing for a complete fundraising operation, a new mess tent, maintenance of the water pump at Zange HQ, computer and mapping equipment. Lee and John Baxter and Georgianna and Dick Regnier purchased a huge generator, pinned down in Ireland by Christian Werner, which will revolutionise the power supply systems for the whole project. And Larry and Gail Freels, as always, donated a massive amount of solar equipment, communications equipment, workshop equipment, vehicle spares, a small generator, flailmowers, and so much else to support the high levels of maintenance that takes place here 24/7. Corey Goin and Frank coordinated all of this. Gail also sent over fantastic educational equipment for the

children. Susanne Malim sent over quality working clothes for all the personnel in the project. Marina Schreyer gave an incredible donation towards the general running of the whole operation. Laura Utley of GCCI and Tom Garvin also gave generous donations. We are indebted to you all, and to the Friends of Mkomazi who support the infrastructure of this project.

BP extended their support of the project with another great donation of fuel to supply the base camp. Leon Hooper of Tanga Cement gave a generous load of cement again for the rhino sanctuary and base camp.



JCB helping a buffalo out of a waterhole.




Jipe.

MWEKA College for African Wildlife Management held a conference for wildlife management in the millennium and Tony was invited to present a paper there. The KWS Warden in Tsavo and KWS Chief Pilot flew in with the East African representatives from the International Fund for Animal Welfare. An FOC plaque was placed at the Zange Information Centre by the Royal Geographical Society. Paul Chaveau sent out his top man Ian Myers to repair and revolutionise our communications systems.

Our orphans, Jipe the lioness and Nina the elephant, continue to do really well in their slow return to the wild.


We have received many visitors this year, representing a wide range of Trustees, Friends of Mkomazi, Government officials, supporters, family, friends, advisors, technicians and colleagues. You are all always welcome.

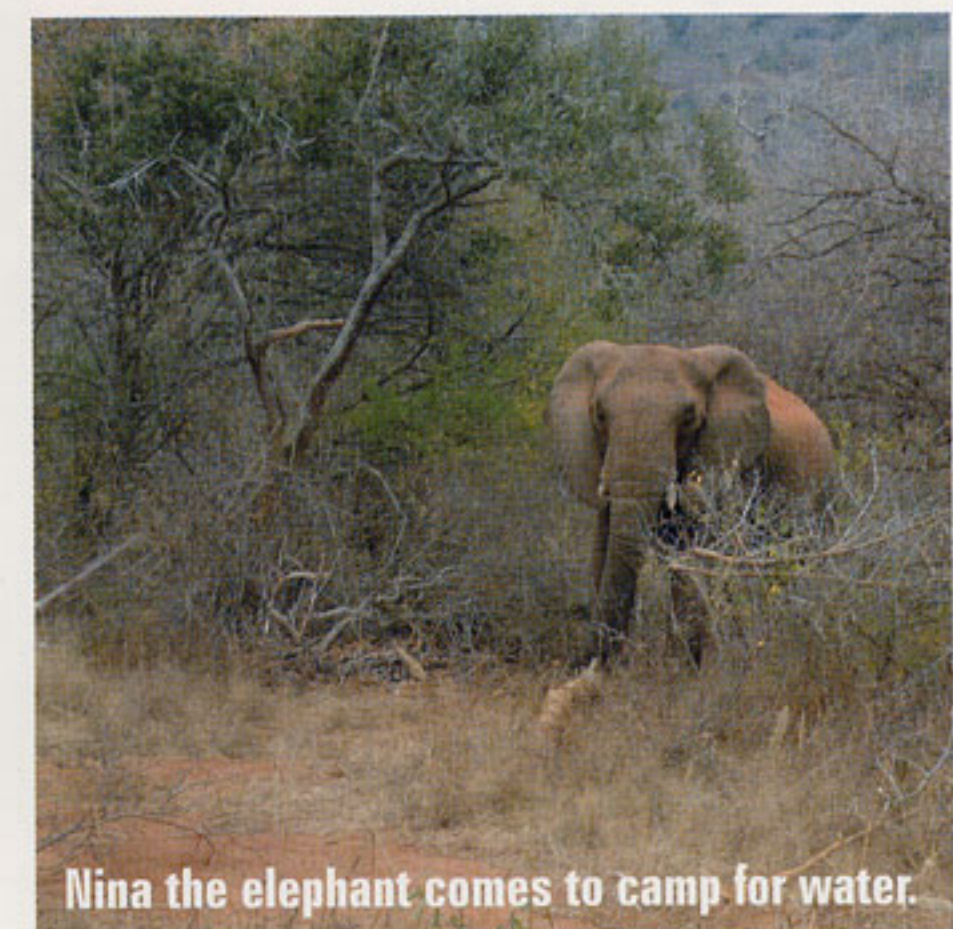
As our list of supporters and visitors increases it becomes difficult to ensure that everyone is mentioned – we have to continue confining this newsletter to a peppering of names. All supporter lists are available from Trust offices. 

## Trusts, Trustees and Travel

**We were delighted to welcome Trustees from the UK, USA, Holland, Germany, Tanzania and Kenya. It is always a pleasure to show them the physical work on the ground that they so wholeheartedly support... and then burden them with yet more undertakings that need to be accomplished, either whilst they are off-guard enjoying lunch, or just as they are leaving. Maybe this is why they confine their visits to once every two years. We are immensely grateful to all our Trustees for their incredible support, advice and friendship. Brigadier Gen. Hashim Mbita, Costa Mlay and Charles Dobie continue to steer this project with great wisdom.**

**Tony undertook a huge fundraising schedule in the US, UK, Holland and Germany, and we would like to thank all those Trustees who helped put this together. He was able to attend board meetings in the UK, US and Tanzania and link up with present and hopefully future supporters. Brigadier Mbita was able to attend the Friends of Mkomazi dinner in London, and other dinners were held in the UK and US to raise awareness for the work of the Trusts.**

**The US Trust's fundraising operations, so kindly supported by Moritz Borman, were transferred to the offices of our Director and Legal Counsel, Georgianna Regnier and we thank them both sincerely for continuing to support the fundraising base. The Mortimers continue to run the Trust in UK, Simone Motzko in Germany, Aart Visee in Holland and a revived board of Trustees in Kenya. **



Nina the elephant comes to camp for water.

# Kora National Park and Asako Village Kenya

With the majority of time committed to Mkomazi, we are fortunate to have formed a friendship and working relationship with the KWS Senior Warden of Meru and Kora NPs, Mark Jenkins. Tony and Mark held meetings with the Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, directors of AMREF and the Flying Doctors Service and the community leaders in Asako. These resulted in the continuation of monthly medical clinics and the proposed posting of trained medical staff. GAWPTs have donated funds to support these medical clinics as well as the refurbishment of the KWS ranger lines in Asako to act as living quarters for the medical dispensary staff. GAWPT also hope to purchase a windmill pump for Asako for their irrigation, agriculture and clean water systems. We are very grateful to Marina Schreyer for supporting these projects and to Nicky Blundell Brown and Tom Noel at AMREF.

The future of Kora NP looks good. With the bridge now built across the Tana River, joining together Meru and Kora NPs, tourists come in on day visits. The proposal for the construction of a top quality lodge is nearing its final stages



**Alexander and Jemima Fitzjohn.**

of approval. Mark Jenkins and Tony will use the funds donated to GAWPT by HRH Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands and TUSK to rebuild George Adamson's camp to act as both a memorial and an adjunct to the proposed lodge. KWS have agreed to loan their tractor for this task, and GAWPT agreed to fund the spares. We hope also to find funds to overhaul George Adamson's old tractor and trailer for airstrip maintenance, local road grading and water supply to camp. The graves of George and Terence Adamson have been cemented over at someone's request and now look stark, clinical and out of place. These graves will be recovered with white quartz more fitting to

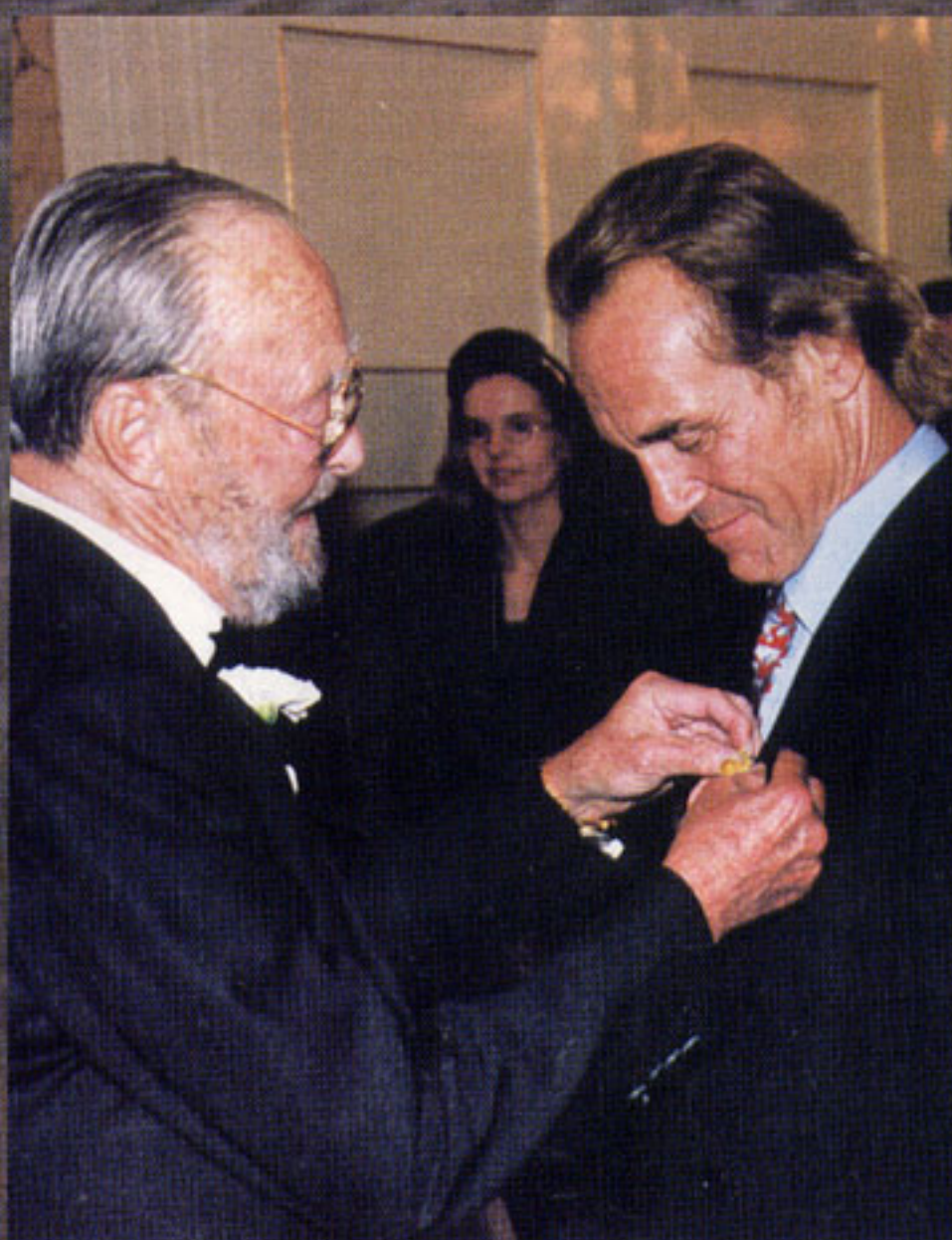
the natural beauty of the area and the 14th century Galla graves that are scattered over Kora that George was so interested in. A labour gang needs to be funded to cut tracks and new roads, as does an VHF radio repeater system. We hope to find funds for these needy projects. The KWS HQ in Kora will also be moved to George Adamson's old airstrip.

GAWPT Kenya has been revived and an excellent, skilled board of Trustees have agreed to take on this responsibility. We are grateful to them all.

John Donne said No Man is an Island. And that is a truism for this project. From the non stop efforts of the project staff and the enormous support we receive from friends and organizations, scientists, laboratories and vets, behaviourists, teachers, technicians and artisans from around the world, the clock keeps ticking. As a small Trust we have been able to carry out a large and complex project with a measure of professionalism that belies our size and funding. There is no end to work in the protection of the natural world. We thank you all most sincerely for everything you have done over the years. 🐾

## The Golden Ark Award

It was a great honour for all our Trusts when Tony was called to the Soestdijk Palace by HRH Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands and given the prestigious Golden Ark Award for his contribution to conservation. The citation was as follows: "The Honour of The Golden Ark is awarded to Tony Fitzjohn for his outstanding work in the field of lion and leopard rehabilitation in Kenya and reintroduction of rhinos and wild dogs in Tanzania. His work is a continuation of the work of George Adamson."



**Tony receiving the Golden Ark Award from HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.**

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# Management and Development

**Looking back over notes and reports for this year, much of the focus of Tony's work was with the overall management of the reserve with the Wildlife Division for its long term development.**

We have a good friend and working colleague with Mr Lusasi, the WD Project Manager, whose straight forward and level headed efforts on field operations and maintenance have resulted in a return of the elephant to Mkomazi, along with fragile herds of oryx, eland, lesser kudu, buffalo and zebra. After the difficulties of the years from 94-99 his practical work with the Trust has demonstrated the rejuvenating capacity of nature. The hard work continues and there is still so much to accomplish every day. Politics abound, problems surface and subside, and so many projects need support.

Maore water pan was desilted, with funds from US Fish and Wildlife, and has held water up to the present time. We have constructed and staffed a tented ranger post at Maore to protect the water source. We hope to continue this pattern with all upgraded water sources. We started desilting Kavateta Dam again with funds from USF&W, but had completely

**Fred Ayo and Jumanne, master mechanic and master builder.**



**Cattle at Maore Water Pan.**

underestimated the amount of silt that had been compacted there since 1960. An ongoing task, with Dindira Dam to follow.

Flying patrols took place almost daily, with relay of information to the Zange HQ. Ranger patrols were sent out on a regular basis and in response to information. The cattle encroachment, burning and commercial meat poaching continue. As always, it comes down to 3 or 4 local cattle barons, and 2 well organized commercial meat poachers.

The Trust sent the JCB and Grader out to grade new road networks (Kisima-Zange direct, Maore-Kavateta direct) and maintain old road networks (Kisima, Ndea, Dindira, Ibaya, Zange). This was a massive task that took many months. New strategic airstrips were completed and existing airstrips maintained. We hope to move the machinery down to the southern section of the reserve to grade the road from the Uмба River to Kisima.

Our Permanent Secretary, Philemon Luhanjo, sent the Trust a letter of commendation and encouragement and it was an honour to receive him at Kisima with the

Director of Wildlife, Dr Severre, Mr Tarimo from the WD, Mr Lusasi and the MP for Same, John Singo. Charles Dobie, a Trustee of the Tanzanian trust, was also there by coincidence and a long discussion ensued on the future plans for the whole project and reserve. The Trust and the Project Manager were challenged to put together a management perspective for the reserve and all its programmes, as a contribution to the management plan. Thanks to the US Trust and help of a practical and skilled wildlife management consultant, Dr Sommerlatte, the management strategies were detailed and put in proper format. Meetings in Dar es Salaam with the Chairman and Trustees of our Trust and the Director of Wildlife and his colleagues followed, and currently we are working through the document with the Wildlife Division.


The Director of Wildlife stated categorically that there would be no hunting in the reserve and that photographic tourism was the only way forward. Tourism is a critical development for the long term future of the reserve, and for

# ment of Mkomazi

self-sustainability. We have encouraged colleagues in the tourism business to discuss their ideas with Mr Lusasi, and now hope to move forwards on this essential undertaking. We were pleased to revive Peter Silvester's enthusiasm for the long term development of tourism in the reserve.

Close cooperation continued between the WD reserve management, our Trust and the Kenya Wildlife Services based in Tsavo National Park on our northern border. The KWS Senior Warden of Tsavo West NP, James Isiche, flew in with Chief Pilot Julius Leperez as did other KWS personnel. The KWS is presently demarcating the international border which is also the Mkomazi GR/Tsavo NP border, with help from Born Free. The Wildlife Division has helped with allowances for the bulldozer operators and the Trust are hoping to commit fuel to enable the bulldozer to continue. When it reaches the end of the

Tsavo NP border line, we hope to raise funds to enable it to continue to the end of the Mkomazi border line. To ensure an efficient working partnership, joint ranger patrols and flying patrols are in operation. Strategically sited road systems and permanent ranger outposts at the border are soon to be constructed by the Trusts.

The Wildlife Division officially approved an approach to DFID to fund a response to inaccurate and biased documents that were written about the reserve and its environs. We were visited by the students of MWEKA College of African Wildlife Management and gave talks and a slide show. Also, teachers from the school wildlife clubs (Maili Hai Clubs) visited to learn about rehabilitation of wildlife areas and endangered species programmes. And we were pleased to hand a computer and printer to Mr Lusasi from our US Trust. 



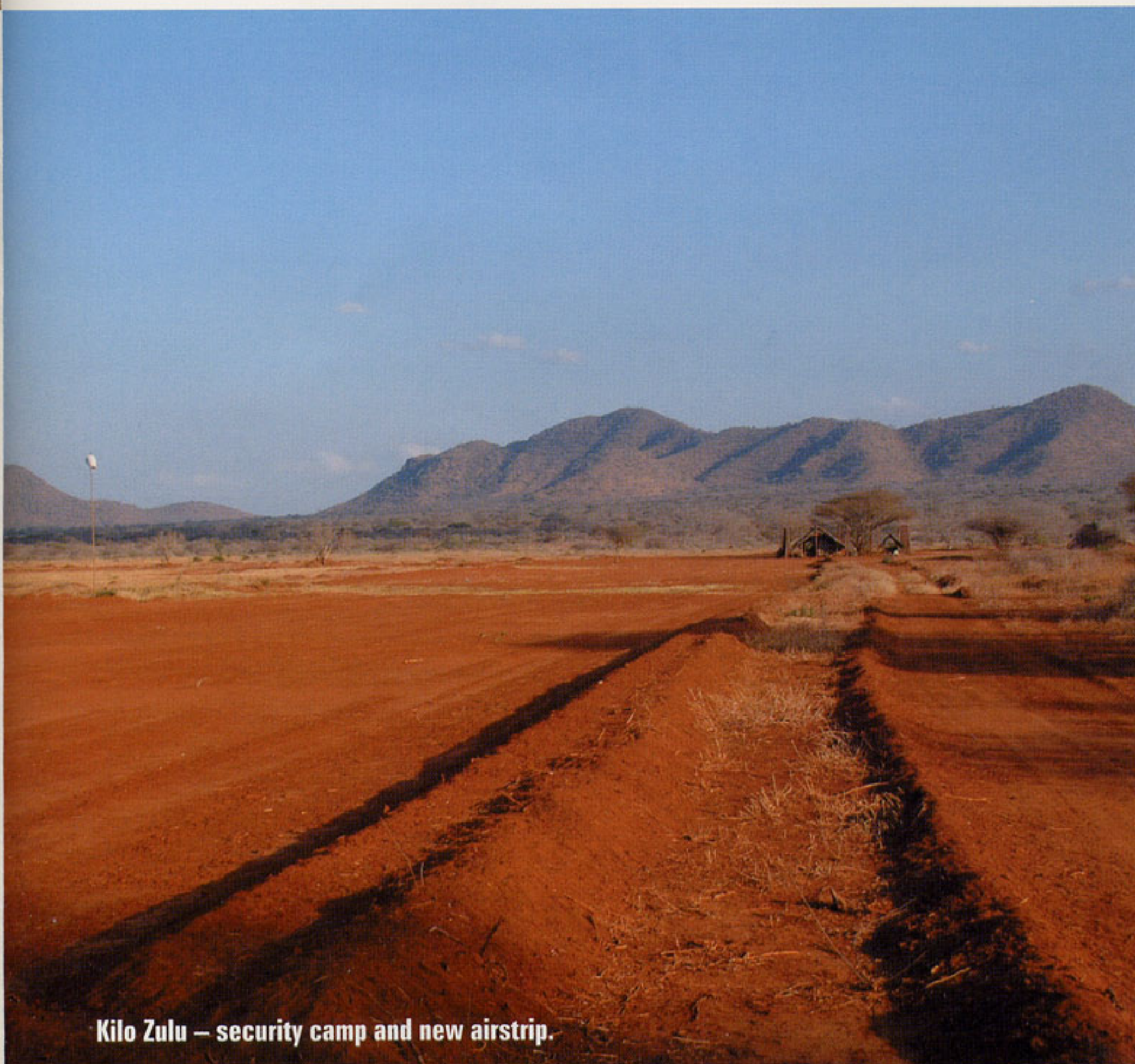
**Above:** Wildlife Division Project Manager Salum Lusasa, with Dr Malte Sommerlatte discussing the management strategy.

**Below:** International boundary clearance.



**Above:** KWS cooperation – James Isiche, Senior Warden Tsavo West NP with Julius Leperez, KWS Chief Pilot and Michael Wamithi and Steve Njumbi from IFAW.

**Below:** Pastoralist burning of the north of Mkomazi – hot and disastrous.



**Kilo Zulu – security camp and new airstrip.**