

# The Mkomazi

The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust

# Project 2003/4

It hardly seems possible that yet another year has gone by and it is newsletter time again. Sometimes our world here is full of action and excitement. Sometimes the months go by and blend into the nitty gritty of maintenance, reorganization, planning and identifying the weak points.

The past year has been just that, but the projects have all developed their own strengths and have moved forward. We have received new grants, held successful fundraising events in Houston and London and are endeavouring to draw up an endowment plan for the Trust quite an ambitious undertaking.

So back to Earth. What has been going on in the field?

## Management and Development of Mkomazi Game Reserve, Tanzania

A great deal of time and resources were again directed this year towards the management of the game reserve. The machines were out for many months opening old road networks, constructing new road networks, desilting dams and opening up old water pans. Roads were constructed to link up the major water sources in the reserve thereby giving the rangers and Trust personnel the ability to move quickly between trouble spots.

The Wildlife Division (WD) worked with the Trust to rebuild and desilt Dindira Dam, the largest water source in the reserve. After the rains, both Maore and Dindira were filled and are still holding water. Permanent staff have been posted to protect these water sources. We are very grateful to US Fish & Wildlife and Tusk Trust for supporting these massive, yet critical, tasks that are so essential to the basic development of a protected area. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) also donated very generously towards this work.

Aircraft patrols took place almost daily, with the exception of the last quarter of the year when the aircraft had to go in for a major service. We are sincerely grateful to HRH Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands for funding this essential maintenance, as well as the aircraft insurance.

In June, the Director of Wildlife sent Mr Tarimo and Mr Mgonja from the WD to work together with Tony and Mr Lusasi on the management perspective prepared in 2001 by the Trust, Mr Lusasi and Dr Sommerlatte. This was reduced to a

comprehensive working document and a joint operating plan has been drawn up for both Trust and WD operations in Mkomazi. The plan focuses on the usual basics of roads, airstrips, ranger patrols, flying patrols, communications, construction of permanent ranger outposts, dam desilting, road maps, stone cairn road junctions and guard training in the rhino sanctuary, along with the ever important community aspects.

Following this meeting, the JCB and Grader were sent to Kamakota in the central part of the reserve to open up the road network there, and finish the airstrip that was started in 1992. Kamakota will have a permanent ranger outpost constructed by the Trust and staffed by Trust and WD personnel. The Grader then went on to open the road network to Ngurunga. The WD are now employing casual labour to open up the road from Kamakota down to the south of the reserve, and the Trust machinery will follow. Sitings of other strategically placed permanent ranger outposts have been discussed with Mr Lusasi and agreed upon.

The Royal Geographical Society sponsored Nick McWilliam to come and work on the GPS data and road mapping for the whole reserve. The GPS mapping software has been donated and is now loaded into our computers where it can be updated. Nick produced maps showing both old and new road networks and all the named water sources and hills. During the course of this exercise he also constructed and put in the numbered junction signposts, which form part of the map, and which number 104 in total. We will soon convert these to stone cairns.



Nick McWilliam, Royal Geographical Society and Maneno Myinga, mapping Mkomazi Game Reserve

As always, Tony held many meetings with Mr Lusasi and good relations continued. Mr Mungure, the original project manager, also visited and gave us all the benefit of his knowledge on Mkomazi-based field ops. Tony also held positive meetings with the Director of Wildlife, Mr Severre, and the Assistant Director of Wildlife, Mr Mdoe.

Cattle incursions were considerable, resulting in the Arusha Anti-Poaching Unit, the Same Police Field Force and Kenya Wildlife Services launching separate operations. Much of the problem with cattle comes down to the same four cattle barons, and a few renegade rangers doing consistent deals with them. This is obviously frustrating for both the WD and the Trust, but these rangers have now

been transferred by the WD. Mr Lusasi is now focusing on ranger foot patrols and an outposts system, to ensure that the rangers rely less on vehicles in the field and carry out their duties as proscribed.

The Kenya Wildlife Service bulldozer continued its work along the international boundary, which is also the border between Mkomazi Game Reserve and Tsavo National Park. After many months of breakdowns, it has now moved past Maore and is on its way to Kavuma. The newly bulldozed international boundary is an excellent patrol road.

MWEKA College for African Wildlife Management conducted their annual field trip in Mkomazi, and we gave talks to the students. TAWIRI (Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute) visited a couple of times to dart buffalo to check for rinderpest.

Nairobi and Arusha based tourist operators visited to recce Mkomazi as a future wilderness destination. The Honourable Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism responded positively to Peter Silvester on ideas for tourist development in Mkomazi, as well as the possibility of using Ibaya as a guide training centre for East African safari and driver guides. Brian Jackman visited to write an article on Mkomazi's tourist potential.

Mr Lusasi and Mr Mdoe attended many meetings with the District authorities of Same and Muheza districts to finalise the actual size of land set aside for the Masai as a result of the judgement of the High Court of Appeal, plus to construct the infrastructure promised. An academic book called Fortress Conservation was published by a young researcher, the main author of the DFID sponsored paper on Mkomazi, on which we are currently (wearily) obtaining funds for an official appraisal, based on the paper's inaccurate and biased data and the unreliable conclusions drawn.

Much needs to be achieved over the next year, with machines moving down to the south of the reserve to grade and construct road networks in the Umba area, build an airstrip and outpost near the Umba River, maintain existing roads and airstrips, continue desilting dams and opening up old water pans, and permanently station guards at the upgraded water sources and continue extensive aircraft patrols.

It was very good news indeed therefore to hear from Sir Anthony Bamford at JCB, that they would be able to donate a JCB Fastrac 80HP tractor. This will make a huge difference to our ability to carry out all the heavy field work.

**SEE INSIDE...**  
**Mkomazi**  
**Rhino**  
**Sanctuary**  
**Arrival of four**  
**more Rhino!**



# Mkom

For the second time in five years, we found... and press, waiting anxiously on the airstrip... the massive amount of preparation, bureau... aircraft of that size with such a precious



Onlookers watch the Russian Antonov offload

During the offloading, all the guests were invited... Wildlife and our Chairman, Brigadier General H... guest of honour. Other dignitaries included th

## A Day in the Life of the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary Manager, Semu Pallangyo

It's 3.00 am and I have just got to sleep after a fence emergency. Steve is shaking me. Three rhinos have just walked right into our camp, in search of water, which they found in the form of one of our large 4,000 litre storage tanks. The tank is now on its' side with a big hole in the top. Tony will be cross, but first we have to get the rhinos out of camp and to their waterhole nearby. Luckily the tank was almost empty and the rhinos, James, Jonah and Rose, are blundering around the camp, leaving a large dent in our house, a few flattened bushes and saucepans and scattered clothes from the washing line. We quickly put our reserve water in the back of the Mule and head out to the water hole, calling and leaving a small trail of water on the road.

We know these rhino well, and they know us, and soon follow to their usual trough and drink peacefully before moving off into the thick bush on their nightly forays. Interesting, as Jonah is usually quite hostile to the younger male, James, especially if there are females around. But when water is scarce, there seems to be a temporary truce as long as the junior male makes the right whining and snuffling sounds.

We breathe a sigh of relief and grab a few hours sleep. The water has dried up at Kisima after a rains failure in April and May and the new Scania water tanker has only been in use for two days carting water from the reserve HQ borehole that the Trust put in a few years ago. We have all been on rations.

Up again at dawn. All the staff begin their daily duties. Tony was more amused than anything about the camp invasion but

concerned that we follow up on the giraffe that got caught in the fence cantilever wires a couple of hours before. It wasn't serious and as soon as the alarms went off we followed up and cut the wires and he freed himself quite easily. I send the tracker team off to confirm that all is well and go off on my daily rounds to check on the activity of the other rhinos during the night.

It is an easy morning as fresh tracks are everywhere and, after only a brief time on foot, we get visual sightings of them all. None of us are armed when we are tracking the rhinos. Firearms would be a hindrance and there are lots of trees to climb. Their eyesight is bad at close range, and we have become quite skilful at jumping out of their way at the last minute. I then go to the top of the mountain in the sanctuary to service the radio-repeater which is about to be colonized by an army of ants.

The fence gang is completing the new internal fence line, anticipating new arrivals and we need more materials from the main camp at

Kisima. The vehicle also needs servicing so I leave the sanctuary to go there and also to collect meat for Jipe, the lioness who is in camp with Zacharia and Ombeni, a few miles outside the sanctuary. She is expecting cubs and needs a top up every now and then, in spite of being a competent hunter. But game is scarce at this time of year. Her camp is an important external outpost for the rhino sanctuary and Zacharia is an alert guard.

Back to the sanctuary as the water tanker has come in to supply the three outposts and the four water holes for the rhino. As the Oscar Moja waterhole, Jonah has arrived with Charlie and Rose, the females. They drink as the tanker is offloading and are relaxed and looking very fit. Hard to tell if the females are pregnant. Evans and Gabriel will wait until they have moved off into the bush for the night before walking back to their small camp, about a mile away.

At the Main Gate, James comes along to water



Semu Pallangyo (centre) Rhino Sanctuary Manager, Penieli Laizer and Evans Goodlack (tracker)

with his new friend Marina. At Oscar Tatu, it is not until after 8.00 pm that Elvis and Lee come along to drink. Penieli and Eliudi wait up on a tree platform until the rhinos have gone and then call me to pick them up.

Zacharia has seen torches at night on the far side of the huge open area in front of his camp and soon after dark four of us are in position. Two of us walking down the road deliberately noisily and two of us creeping up on the poachers quietly with the light intensifiers. Two very surprised poachers are caught and arrested and Steve takes them to the reserve HQ at first light. They had been hamstringing lesser kudu, attracting them with a small horn from a Japanese motorbike activated by a battery that they are carrying, which makes a sound like a young kudu. What a horrible death. On

questioning had no p sanctuary the guards and took t

Back in ca long day, turning in guardians get to know us at ever We go to s best we ca another n

# Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary

...s, we found ourselves, 150 guests, dignitaries, Trustees, local communities at the airstrip for the arrival of a Russian Antonov, carrying 4 more rhino. For all the talk of bureaucracy, politics and money, it was still a thrilling sight to witness an aircraft carrying such precious cargo landing so close. Thanks to Marina Schreyer, Lee Baxter, Tusk, Save the Rhino and the Van Tienhoven Foundation, the rhino population of Mkomazi doubled. And thanks again to BP who paid for the majority of the fuel for the Antonov.



Antonov offloading the Rhino

Getting the rhino to Mkomazi from South Africa was one thing, but off-loading them turned out to be quite another. The aircraft measurements were different to those of the aircraft used for the first translocation and the crates carrying the rhino were packed in side by side, leaving little room for manoeuvre. Each crate took an average of nearly two hours to offload, adding to the tension of the whole day, most especially the vets from South African National Parks (SANP) who had brought them up, Tony and the personnel here, let alone the stress of the rhino.

...were invited to lunch at a camp donated by Abercrombie and Kent. The Director of the National Parks, General Hashim Mbita, made speeches along with the Regional Commissioner, our guests included the South African High Commissioner, the Director General of Tanzanian National Parks, the Conservator of Ngorongoro Crater, the Tanzanian Rhino Coordinator, the District Commissioner and many other representatives from the region and surrounding districts and villages as well as from our Trusts and supporters.



Rhino Sanctuary Manager, with a tracker at Rhino Sanctuary hide

As the sun set, the great Antonov took off (narrowly missing some buffalo on the airstrip), the majority of the guests departed and we quietly watched the four rhino settling into their holding compounds. Simon Trevor, of the African Environmental Film Foundation, filmed the whole event and produced a 10 minute piece of the day for us. He will also be including more of this in an upcoming film on the rhino of East Africa.

Dr Markus Hofmeyr of SANP returned a couple of months later with Brian Beauchamp to work with Drs Wiik and Fyumagwa from the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute to insert the telemetry transmitters into three of the rhinos' horns and move them to their designated area. This was a text book operation, and Dr Hofmeyr said that the Trust personnel were one of the most conscientious and hardworking teams he had ever worked with. 24 hours later, the adult male chased one of the females out of this section straight through the electrified separated fence, into the main sanctuary which holds the four resident rhino. After a few days of concern, it transpired that



Scania truck donated by HRH Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands and Friends of Serengeti Switzerland

the female settled down and eventually linked up with James, the lone resident male. The three year old, Badger, remains in his own smaller section near the main gate. His rehabilitation to the wild will take some time as he has been hand raised, but he has proved to be a great mascot for his species.

We are now taking down a section of the internal fence that separates the resident and new rhino, in order to increase breeding potential.

Opening discussion took place with the Chairman, managers and vets of Port Lympne Wildlife Park in England who hold a number of female black rhino (*D.b.michaeli*, the correct subspecies for northern Tanzania). Although they expressed great caution at such an undertaking, they did feel that it is something that might be possible in a couple of years. Other informal approaches were made to Chester Zoo in England and Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic, both of which also hold female *D.b.michaeli*.

Tony held meetings with Matthew Maige, the Tanzanian Rhino Coordinator, on progress with the rhino project, as well as the necessity for negotiations to be continued with Kenya Wildlife Services for a possible translocation of a couple of their female *D.b.michaeli* to Mkomazi.

During the year, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority sent in 26 members of their rhino surveillance teams to undertake training in the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary. And MWEKA College for African Wildlife Management sent in their students of endangered species programmes, and we gave them a

talk and visit to the rhino sanctuary.

HRH Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands and Friends of Serengeti Switzerland donated a Scania water tanker / crane lorry, which was critically needed and for which we are most grateful. This has enabled us to deliver water to the rhino sanctuary with the detachable 10,000 litre water tank and use the crane with a sling to lift a rhino and a crate or palette either from a breakout or if there is a further translocation of rhino.

It was good to welcome the President of Friends of Serengeti Switzerland, Rosmarie Waldner, to camp to see the project on the ground.

Save the Rhino organised another great night at the Wimbledon Greyhound Racetrack, where some of the lads competed in their own race, wearing the rhino costumes. Funds raised will go towards the salaries of our key personnel in the rhino sanctuary. IFAW also sent in a donation for the security guards and trackers in the sanctuary, as well as fuel costs. Tusk Trust sent in another batch of Army boots for sanctuary personnel. We applied to US Fish & Wildlife Rhino Conservation Fund for assistance on water development in the rhino sanctuary, which will enable us to undertake a geophysical survey and sink boreholes within the sanctuary.

The sanctuary operations continue to be run to a high standard. **A Day in the Life of the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary Manager** makes for interesting reading and gives a glimpse into the working lives of these dedicated men.

# African Wild Dog Programme

The alpha female from the survivors of the canine distemper outbreak gave birth to eight pups, seven of which survived. Then fate struck again. A month after giving birth, the alpha female died suddenly within a 6 hour period of endometritis. After a couple of days of observation, we decided to separate her pups and hand-raise them. At the end of June 2001, two wild females had showed up at the compounds. After the death of the alpha female, the wild females spent the next two months going between the compound with the two adult males and the compound with the pups, sleeping at times at the edge of the external fence. A decision was made to try to introduce these wild females to the two adult males. One female walked in the open door of the compound. Her sister stayed close to the compound but still on the outside. Towards the end of September she was still there, and the two vets from TAWIRI, Dr Wiik and Dr Fyumagwa, darted her and reunited her with her sister. A new breeding pack was therefore established and the alpha female has now given birth to four pups.

We now have fourteen dogs, two breeding packs, and have already separated the dogs to form the next two breeding packs, giving us a total of four packs.

The re-introduction programme is now coming back into focus. Matthew Maige of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is now keen to get this underway and Tony has had positive meetings with the Director General and Chief Ecologist of Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA). We have also

had discussion on site with Dr Wiik and Dr Fyumagwa of TAWIRI, and have benefited as always from the highly valued knowledge of Roger Burrows. Dr Markus Hofmeyr, who translocated the rhinos from South Africa to Mkomazi, also has undertaken



successful wild dog reintroductions in South Africa and was able to give us very helpful practical advice. Matthew Maige suggested a workshop to be held at Kisima Camp with all the relevant authorities, in order to move forwards with this reintroduction.

The main intention of this programme has always been the reintroduction of wild dogs into areas where they will have the best chance of success. In order to do this, we have to breed successfully on a continual basis, and we have to protect them from diseases, especially distemper. When we have solved the problem of distemper we will no longer need to continue any research into it.

So the vaccination programme continues, as we feel it must within a captive bred and isolated population. We hope we can find answers to the problem of disease in the wild dog. If we can attempt to protect them from disease and study the effectiveness of vaccines, we hope this will go a long way to reducing their susceptibility to disease. We are very grateful to Prof. Osterhaus and Marco van de Bildt of Erasmus University Rotterdam who have now made it their plight to investigate the immunity of the wild dog, and to find a solution to the canine distemper problem. We have

changed now to a canarypox vaccine for distemper which has shown a slight improvement in immunity levels, but this is only a step forwards in a disease DNA related vaccine once research is complete. We hope we can get to the root of the problem, and discover what the reaction is on a



The vaccinations in progress - protecting the dogs from disease

cellular level of the African Wild Dog to an attack of distemper. A study of cell mediated immunity might give the answer. but this This study was asked for by the IUCN Action Plan for the African Wild Dog.

Dr Aart Visee of the African Wild Dog Foundation in The Netherlands has produced a 1999-2001 veterinary report which is available from Trust offices.

Vaccination policy and results are also discussed in this report. An academic paper on the canine distemper outbreak was published in the journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Roger Burrows has visited our breeding programme on several occasions. It seemed only logical to

compare the behaviour of the captive Mkomazi wild dogs with the behaviour found in free-living East African packs. With observation and a few simple experiments, he was able to conclude that the social, sexual and feeding hierarchies of the captive Mkomazi packs parallel that of free-living wild dogs in the Serengeti ecosystem. This suggests that, in the short term, captivity does not change basic behaviour, although other studies show that hunting skills are acquired after release. For this reason, we believe it is important that a combination of a wild bred group and a captive bred group of the opposite sex be released together.

MWEKA College for African Wildlife Management sent in their students of endangered species programmes to learn about the wild dog programme.

A minor crisis arose when the Ministry of Agriculture in the UK refused to grant an export permit for the dried dog food supplement (poultry based) unless the Tanzanian regulations complied with their own. This new ruling has arisen in the wake of the Foot and Mouth epidemic in the UK. Despite the production of exhaustive paperwork from the Tanzanian Government, it still did not prove to be exact enough for UK regulations. A very frustrating and worrying time ensued, and thankfully we managed to find a substitute South African dried dog food, now available in Arusha supermarkets! Thanks to the African Wild Dog Foundation, we were able to start buying this food.

As always, we are very grateful to Duncan Forbes and the Ray Rowe Foundation for his consistent support of this project, Save the Rhino for yet another night at the Wimbledon Greyhound Racetrack in aid of the wild dogs and Gilbertson and Paige for the donation of dried dog food, albeit still in their stores.

It is at times almost unbelievable what we have been able to achieve over the past 14 years. But we don't take the credit for that. Without the solid individual and steady support that we have received from you all, none of this would have been possible. We thank you for all your commitment and also we thank our stalwart volunteers who somehow put up with us. We still have a long way to go but the base on which to build is now solid and the Trusts have taken on a life their own. In spite of the conflict in the world that affects us all, we are optimistic and confident that we can continue to play a necessary role in saving East Africa's wildlife and habitats and improving the lives of the communities who will be the ultimate guardians of these areas.

## Trusts, Trustees and Travel

We have had a great kalaidoscope of visitors this year and it is always a great pleasure to welcome our Trustees, friends, supporters and colleagues in the Tanzanian Government and wildlife world to camp. Meetings of the Chairmen, trustees and board directors were also held throughout the year.

Trustees from the Tanzanian, British, Dutch and Kenyan Trusts visited. After 14 years of exhaustive work as the Trust Treasurer, we were at long last able to welcome Andrew Mortimer to camp along with Pete Wakeham, Ronny Cohn and Pete Brandon all old school friends of Tony's, as were the Toulsons and the Kents who also visited. Alex van Heeren, the new Chairman of the George Adamson Wildlife Trust in The Netherlands visited with Franz Hakkenberg, another Trustee, and we prepared the documentation for the informal approach to the Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic who hold the D.b.michaeli subspecies of rhino. And a Tanzanian Trust meeting, chaired by Brigadier General Hashim Mbita, was held in Mkomazi to discuss the future. John Millard, now in his 90's, visited and we were very pleased to show him the project. Many other colleagues, friends and supporters came in during the year.

It was a great honour to welcome HRH Princess Michael of Kent to our camp.

Princess Michael has been active for many years in support of the Trust's work in Tanzania, and has now generously helped with introductions during Tony's fundraising trips to USA, one of which resulted in a very successful fundraising event.



HRH Princess Michael of Kent with Elisaria Nnko and Semu Pallangyo at Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary

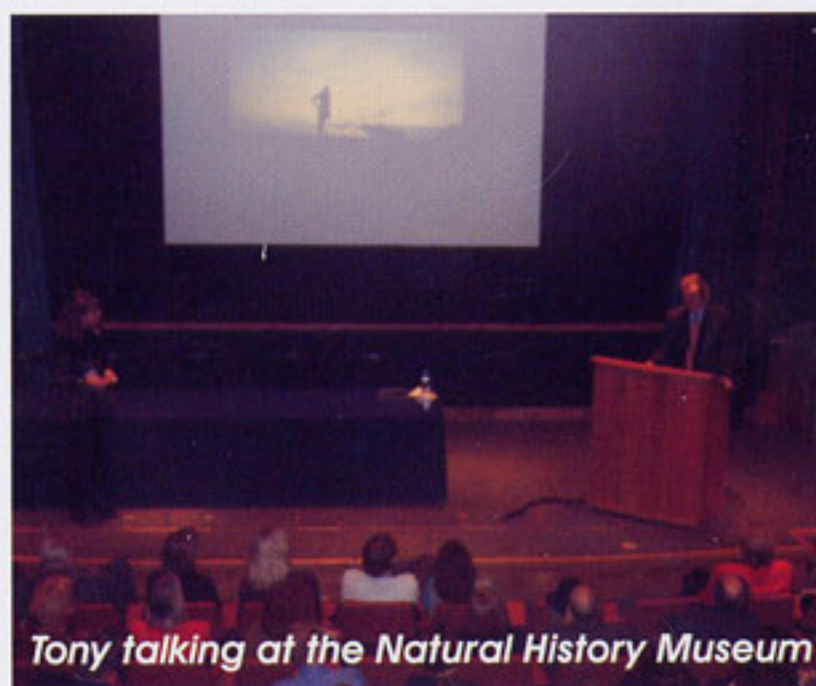
Bernard Mchomvu, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, visited with his family and the Police Officer in Command of Same District. Along with Mr Lusasi, we all discussed the future of the Mkomazi Game Reserve.

Tony was invited to give a talk on predators at the Natural History Museum in London. This had been organized by Olly and Suzi and proved to be an entertaining evening.

Marina Schreyer, Tim Peet, Edith Brinkers, James Baker III and all the Friends of Mkomazi gave incredibly generous donations during the year,

towards the general running of the whole project. Our sincerest gratitude as

always to Moritz and Hilla Borman who continued to support the costs of the US Trust office and many other aspects of our lives besides. And Larry and Gail Freels once again donated fantastic equipment for the project and many educational aids for the children. Bonuses for all the Tanzanian personnel employed by the Trust were sent from the German Trust, and proved to be a great



Tony talking at the Natural History Museum

morale boost. Tony traveled to the UK, USA and Holland on two occasions to continue raising funds and meet with existing and potential supporters, and also to start drawing up a plan for an endowment fund for the Trust with Conservation International. Our thanks to the Park Hyatt in Washington who offered Tony such hospitality, smoothing away much of the travel stress. Elizabeth Winston Jones organized two wonderful events in Houston, one of which was held by with the Mosbachers, which proved to be a very successful evening, resulting in us being able to increase all the Tanzanian staff salaries two years overdue. The Baxters held a great event for Tony in San Francisco and the Regniers continued their sterling support of the US Trust base. Andy and Georgina Mortimer as always shouldered the massive responsibilities of the international Trusts' operations. The Brandons and the Ballards most generously organized a Quiz Night in London, hosted by Jeremy Beadle, which raised a large amount of money and was a very funny night. We remain sincerely grateful to all of you who have given of your time, money and expertise to keep this project moving forwards.

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# Mkomazi C

Much of the year's outreach activities were a continuation of projects set in place in the previous year. We have focused much of our work on education and communication with the communities in the villages surrounding the game reserve.

The community conservation safaris, originally funded by US Fish and Wildlife, were continued into Lushoto District. The safari took place with an officer from the Wildlife Division, the Lushoto District Development Officer and Elisaria Nnko, the Trust operations manager. Long term plans for the reserve and the work of the Wildlife Division and the Trust were discussed at length, and priority needs identified. We have identified seven major secondary schools in the three districts surrounding Mkomazi Game Reserve all of which need help with refurbishment, construction of more classrooms and basic development. Thanks to Tanga Cement, we are able to initially donate bags of cement to each school.



Lucy Fitzjohn and Mohamedi Chico, Regional Police Commander - Kilimanjaro Region

The Kisiwani Secondary School science laboratory was completed and represents a most welcome and necessary addition to the education of the students.

Tony, Mr Lusasi and Elisaria held meetings with the MP for Same West, John Singo. Many issues were discussed including cattle incursions into the game reserve, assistance to the water systems in Same District and the importance of rebuilding Chatto Dam near Vumari outside the reserve for cattle use. We are trying to raise funds for a surveyor to quote for this. Two further secondary schools were identified by Mr Singo as needing assistance with



# Outreach Programme

construction, which the Trust has agreed to. Tony was also invited to be the guest of honour for Graduation Day at Shigathini Secondary School in Mwanza District

In February, the Same Education Board invited Tony to attend an educational fundraiser hosted by His Excellency President Benjamin Mkapa. We attended the lunch held in the President's honour, and the fundraiser that followed, and pledged further funds to the Same Education Board. Many Regional and District officials were present, and it was a very successful day for Same District's education priorities. We made a substantial (and public) pledge to the Same Education Board.



*His Excellency, President Benjamin Mkapa at Same Education Day*

Secondary school students from Same, Kisiwani and Mnazi visited our camp to hear talks from Tony, Dr Pieter Morkel and Dr Aart Visee on the management of wildlife areas, and endangered species programmes for the black rhino and wild dog. Other students from Kisiwani also visited to look at our workshop operations, use of mechanical tools and carpentry workshops. We organized the introduction of all of these students to a group from the US State Department of Education who are working on a programme called OPEN (One Planet Education Network). This is an international multimedia-based education service concerned with environmental issues all over the world. They are now able to integrate The Mkomazi Project, MWEKA College for African Wildlife Management and the Same and Lushoto District Secondary Schools into this programme.

The Scania water tanker / crane lorry will also be converted with fitted benches to help bring in students to the reserve from the surrounding areas.

Our District Commissioner received assistance from the Trust with use of our JCB to excavate the site in Same for the community's fuel tanks. We also donated a photocopier to the District Commissioner's office. Our District Commissioner and other officials visited to look at the rhino sanctuary.

The Trust provided funds to launch the Same Women's Group. Also, during the course of the year the Trust funded university fees, secondary school fees and primary school fees for identified students. The Trust also funded the Mkomazi Football Team to play at home and away matches.

The Zange HQ borehole, sunk by the Trust, continued to provide water on a daily basis for the villagers of Majevu.

In October 2002, Elisaria Nnko, the Trust operations manager, was invited to be the guest of honour at the graduation of the students from Shigathini Secondary School, in Tony's absence. Many regional and district authorities were present and Elisaria gave a great speech on the importance of education and the huge part that wildlife plays in the economy and employment of the country.

The joint operational plan that has been drawn up recently between the WD and the Trust also focuses on community conservation programmes, specifically education and awareness. Simon Trevor of the African Environmental Film Foundation has produced an excellent film (translated into 10 languages) on elephants, covering a wide range of issues and information. We hope to show this film to villagers.

## Nina and Jipe

Our two orphans became mothers. Nina the elephant, who we rehabilitated to the wild after 27 years in a zoo, went missing for a few weeks, and then one morning we found an adult elephant and a baby elephants' tracks next to her water drum near the workshop. We didn't see them, but then it was unlikely that any other single mothers with a baby would come that far into our camp, specifically to drink from her water drum. Tony and the guys flew and walked extensively for weeks to try and find her but with no success. We have not seen her again, and we hope that she linked up with the wild herd of cows and calves that passed near the camp a few days later.

Daphne Sheldrick felt that captive-raised

elephants taken away from their mothers at an early age had a tendency to take their calves as far away from humans as possible, to avoid the calf being taken away. So with a deep breath, all we can do is wish her luck as she takes her own chances, as she must, and hope we see her again one day soon.



*Nina (right) brings her boyfriend back to camp*

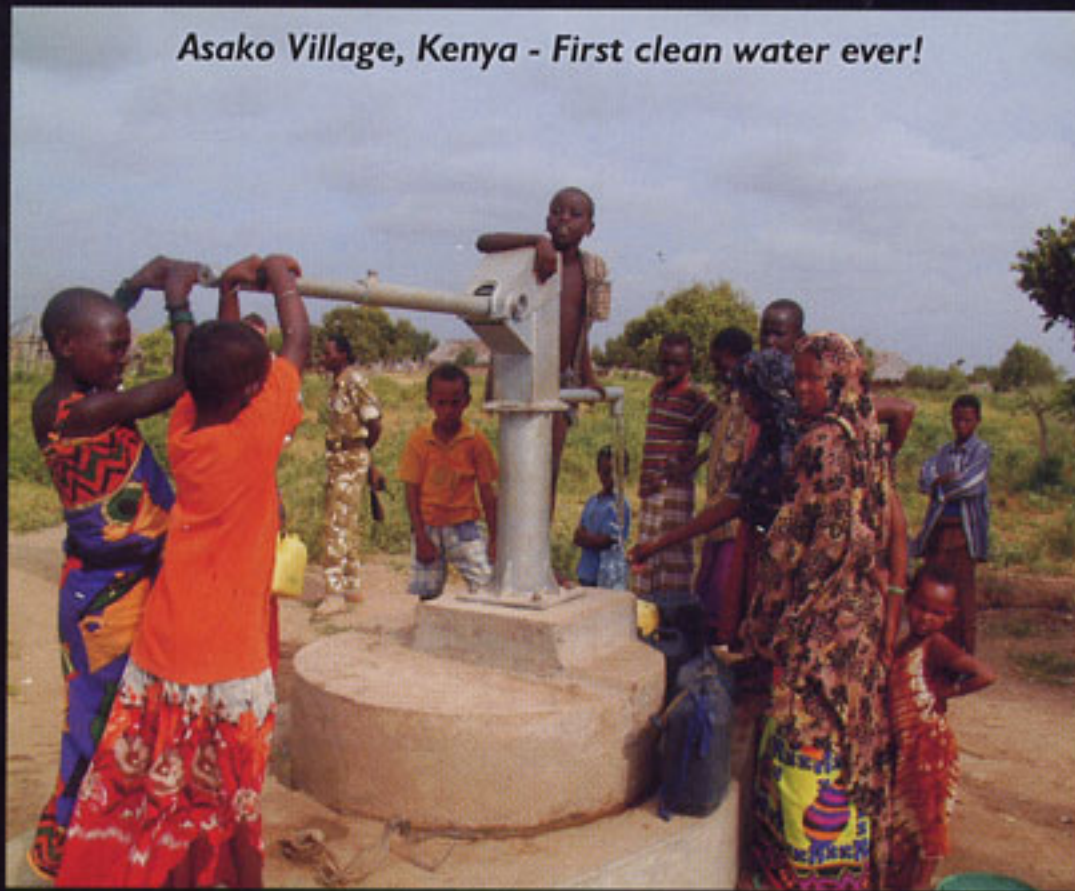
Jipe had two sets of cubs. The first set of three must have been a bit of a shock to her, and she didn't feed them or take much notice of them at all. We intervened with bottles, antibiotics, and intensive care, but they didn't survive beyond a couple of weeks. Hand-raised lions don't





# Kora National Park and

The GAWPT has been officially revived in Kenya with Palle Rune, Anthony Gross, Nehemiah Rotich and Rupert Watson agreeing to stay on the Board. New Board members include the Rt Hon Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka Kenya's new Minister for Foreign Affairs; Stuart Armitage CEO of the Commercial Bank of Africa ; Nicky Blundell Brown of AMREF; Mark Jenkins Senior Kenya Wildlife Services Warden of Meru and Kora National Parks; Peter Silvester CEO of Royal African Safaris; and Charlie Simpson MD of Film Studios Kenya. Lindsay Bell has kindly offered to help out with administration.



Asako Village, Kenya - First clean water ever!

We are grateful to all of these people who are concerned with the continuation of Kora and the very real assistance being given to the local communities, neglected for years for just being off the beaten track of the more trendy aid runs. We are especially grateful to HRH Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands and his Foundation, and to Marina Schreyer, for funding so much of this critical aspect of the Trust's work. In the past, the closest the village of Asako got to assistance on many desperate occasions was looking at the vapour trails of the big transport aircraft at 35,000 feet heading for the huge towns that have sprung up on Kenya's borders to the North.

Charlie Simpson donated the proceeds of the Nairobi premier of To Walk With Lions to the Trust. And we are also indebted to AMREF, especially Gerald Rukunga, Issac Isika and Jane Carter for continuing the work that Dr Anne Spoerry initiated in Asako before her death. Funding for these necessary programmes has been received from ourselves, AMREF's proceeds of the UK premier of To Walk With Lions (thanks to Tom Noel for ensuring this), and AMREF's own resources. To date, a dispensary has been established, training and medicines provided, a Flying Doctors Service aircraft visits every 5 6 weeks and clean water is now available to the villagers from an inland well, saving the women hours of back breaking drudge carrying water from the Tana River.

Large windmill pumps, for the creating of inland plantations close to the river, are still needed next as the El Nino rains covered their traditional seasonal silt growing areas with several feet of river sand, thus making them useless for growing maize. No doubt the many hydro-electric dams upstream did little to help. We also wish to help the school develop and assist the teachers aswell. There is also much that we can do on the Ukambani side of the Park and we will be working closely with the Rt. Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka on self-help projects in the area and the involvement of the local communities in safeguarding the National Park.

George Adamson's camp is nearly finished, with thanks to HRH Prince Bernhard. Mark Jenkins, the senior KWS warden of Meru and Kora NPs, has been keeping an eye on the



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Mess hut under construction, Kampi

necessarily make the best mothers initially, but eventually they do, and in November, she gave birth again to two cubs, and is now feeding and caring for them without any problems at all. The father of the cubs spends more and more time with Jipe and the cubs, as her keepers, Zacharia and Ombeni, slowly retreat.



*Jipe and her cub at just a few hours old*

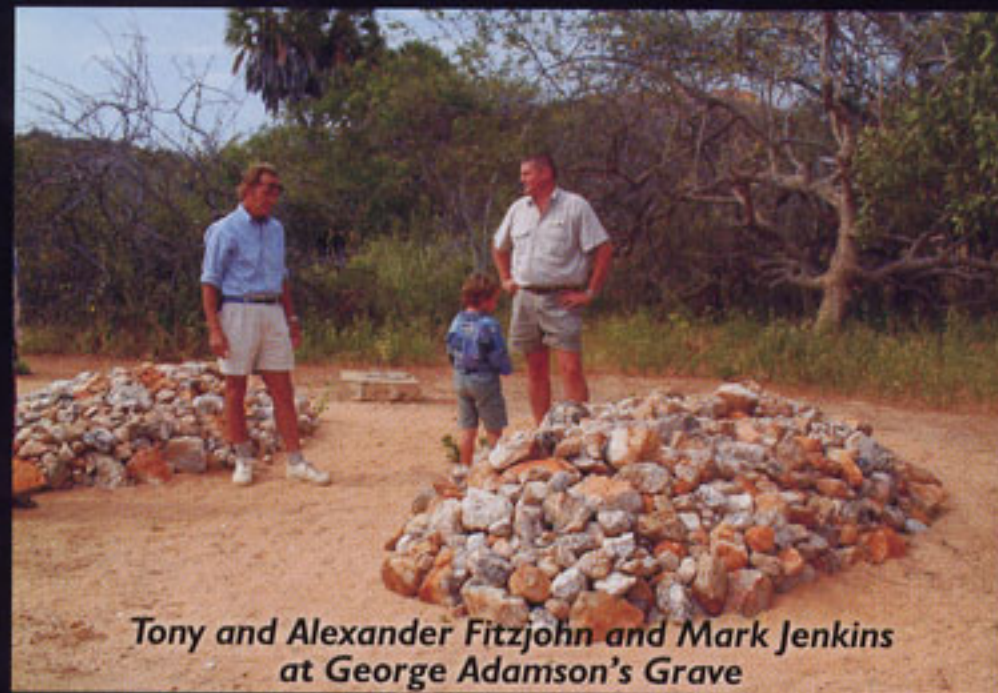


# nd Asako Village, Kenya



*Preparing palm leaf for Kampi ya Simba*

building, which he described as "not an architectural delight." Great, thus authentic. Built by the people of Asako and including many ex-staff of George's, it has meant much needed employment and development in a

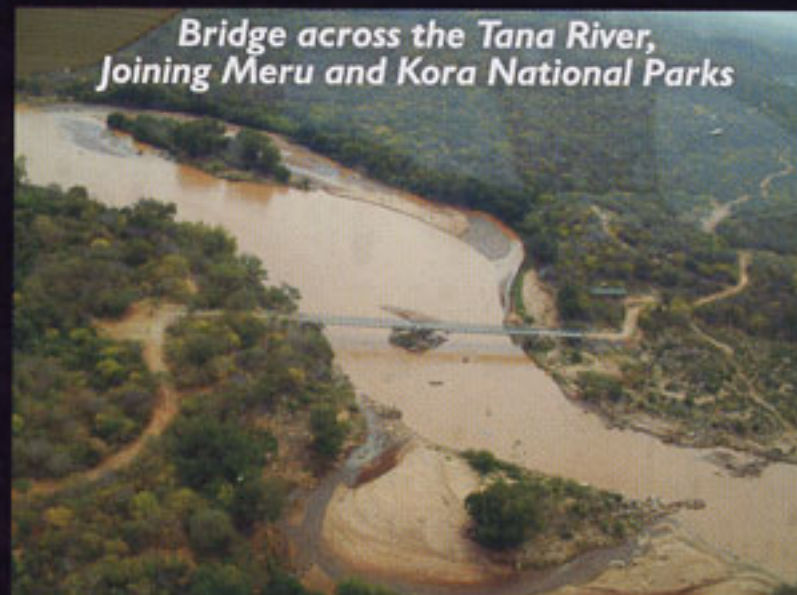


*Tony and Alexander Fitzjohn and Mark Jenkins at George Adamson's Grave*

news for all concerned with the future of wildlife in Kenya. Michael was previously in KWS as head of intelligence and he brings several years of experience from the Private and NGO sector into government again, with determination, youth and vigour. We wish him whatever he needs to handle the intrigues, intricacies and day to day problems associated with the conservation and environment sector in these complicated times.

period of quiet, as Kora beings to take off again, this time in conjunction with Meru NP. The main labourers on the road clearing are from Ukambani side of the park. Mark has decided to locate the HQ near the bridge site across Tana River and have a small outpost near George's camp.

We are very grateful to Mark Jenkins for overseeing this. As senior warden of Meru and Kora NPs, he is a busy man, but I cannot get away too often. It also means he is less subject to interference from me and some maybe old fashioned ideas.



*Bridge across the Tana River, Joining Meru and Kora National Parks*

And the recent landslide victory by the opposition Rainbow Coalition in Kenya after 40 years of KANU rule has produced a quiet euphoria of hope from an exasperated, hard working and overstretched urban population. The atmosphere in the country has changed overnight. President Mwai Kibaki's new cabinet has been set up without regard for ethnicity, only competence and experience. There is a professional society in Kenya now that demands

It is crucially important that all these projects initiated are maintained on an annual basis and do not take on that rather familiar flash-in-the-pan approach.

Michael Wamithi, who until recently was the director of IFAW in Kenya, has been appointed the new Director of the Kenya Wildlife Services. This is great

accountability and many of their number are now in a position to effect the changes to a free and fair society. As the old order changes, yielding place to a new, all the countries in the region are looking to Kenya's transition to see if, once again, they can be an advanced role model for the whole of Africa.



*ction, Kampi ya Simba*