

The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust

Report from the field for 2012



It's always busy, but this year has broken a few records, including Semu meeting the Queen and an orphaned two week old elephant pitching up in the middle of the night. ❖ ❖



Dr Mark Pilgrim, Director General of Chester Zoo, introduces Her Majesty The Queen to Semu Pallangyo. The Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs MBE, K.St.J in attendance. Photo Credit:- Chester Zoo



Thomas with the baby orphaned elephant in Mkomazi



Tony and Mugi the lion in Kora

Our great partnership and good-spirited working relationship with TANAPA in Mkomazi National Park (MNP) continues. The park is in good shape and it is always a pleasure to work closely with their managers, wardens and officers. The Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary (MRS) received three black rhinos from Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in the UK. We had to slow-move four other Czech rhino to make way for these English rhinos using the highly scientific ‘carrot and saucepan of water’ method. One of the Mkomazi females in the resident rhino population has had another calf but, tragically, we lost one to natural predation. Work in the MRS focused on continuing to upgrade the security as rhino poaching escalates. The African Wild Dogs have been breeding successfully and two reintroductions have taken place. Our staff in Mkomazi continue to work with the dedication, integrity and professionalism that we are all very proud of. Work in the Outreach Programme carries on, with assistance to Gonja Secondary School for the construction of science laboratories and we are now working with our friends the Suzuki Rhino Club to support Gonja in setting up a Vocational Training Centre, to focus on training up vehicle mechanics. The Environmental Education programme is going very well. Our bus and education programmes are a huge success and we are always thrilled to see the young students putting their hands up at the end of their day’s session with us when Elisaria asks them who would like to work in wildlife conservation.



Elisaria Nnko inspects building work on the science laboratories at Gonja Secondary School

Meanwhile, in Kora National Park in Kenya, the rehabilitation of the Park is underway in close partnership with Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS). The KWS Warden of Kora, Wilson Njue, is steering Kora to becoming a stand-alone Park. The tractor/trailer/water-bowser/scrapper blade has been working hard. The Piper Colt aircraft, which Jamie Manuel flies on patrol, has been of great use to the KWS rangers based at the airstrip. Jamie flies with them and the Commander of the Anti-Poaching Unit regularly. The whole park has been GPS’d by Jamie, providing the base-line data from which a new and

highly accurate map has been produced. Road maintenance is underway, radio communications are up and running and solar power systems are in place in Kampi ya Simba. Village programmes continue in both Asako and Boka villages focusing on water development and education. During the year, we collected a male lion cub, Mugi, who had been rescued and cared for at Ol Jogi on the Laikipia Plateau. Plans are underway to bring in other orphaned cubs from the Nairobi Animal Orphanage. Good meetings were held with the Director of KWS, the Assistant Directors and local and regional security officers on the development and security of Kora. These KWS men in Kora are a determined and gutsy lot and their courage is admirable.

The working relationships in place with both TANAPA and KWS have never been better. Shared visions and ideals are translated into partnerships that work. And the only question we ask ourselves is ‘Will it work?’ (and more often than not ... ‘Where’s the money?’) There are a thousand reasons and excuses why it might not, but it is actually all possible, as we have learned from history. It just takes a lot of determination.

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New map of Kora National Park



Piper Colt aircraft 5Y KSK at Kora. New hangar under construction.



Water bowser filling up the new water pans in the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary

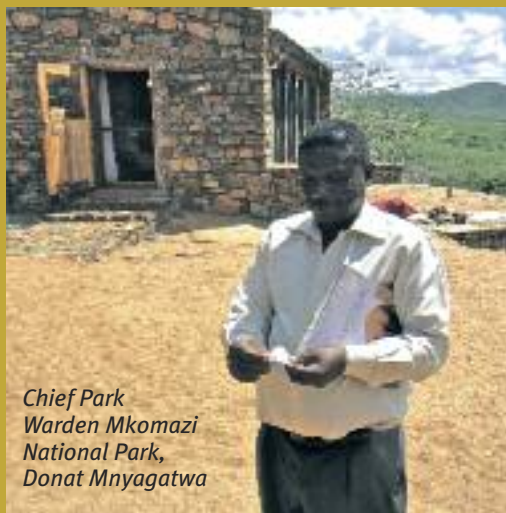


New TANAPA sign at the entrance to the Park

The park has benefitted enormously from the management, presence and conservation ethics of TANAPA. On regular flying patrols we see that wildlife numbers are steadily increasing, the domestic stock numbers have decreased dramatically and the commercial bush-meat poaching has almost been brought to a halt.

We continue to work very closely with their managers and wardens and spend a lot of valuable time together on all facets of the development of the infrastructure of the park. TANAPA have posted a small unit of well-armed rangers close to our camp and MRS, who are there for back-up and are under the Kisima chain of command. They have also taken over the manning of our security outposts at Maore and Kifakua from where they undertake regular patrols. We have a great working relationship with the Chief Park Warden, Donat Mnyagatwa, and we also receive regular visits from a wide range of TANAPA management with much information shared and strategy discussed.

Road maintenance, flying patrols, development of the Park, radio communications and community work are often undertaken as joint operations. As always, the task of maintaining all the equipment needed to keep the whole project in good shape is relentless. The workshop is the hub of all the field-work and Fred Ayo and his 'fundis' carry out professional maintenance and repairs. Sets of good quality, well thought-out workshop clothing were donated by the Suzuki Rhino Club, transforming the mechanics into a Formula One engineering team and giving them all a real morale boost.



Chief Park Warden Mkomazi National Park, Donat Mnyagatwa

TANAPA have made significant progress on the development of water sources within the park, which will help them further to encourage tourism. We have received visits throughout the year from the Regional and District authorities. It is always good to hold meetings with them, alongside TANAPA and discuss the work undertaken in the past, future plans and what a tiny organization like ours has been able to achieve over many years. We were pleased to hear that the Regional Commissioner described the project to one of his colleagues as one of the best projects he had seen in Tanzania.

The main work now remaining is to create the two new seasonal water pans at Norbanda and in the Superbowl. This will then help keep the elephants in Mkomazi for longer during the dry season as well as being a great tourist attraction. Somehow the presence of elephants makes many other animals feel more secure and brings them out from the wilderness where they are more visible.

It is great to see the area recovering so well, but with the enormous pressures on the elephant and rhino populations for their tusks and horns, especially from China and Vietnam, it is a constant battle to ensure the safety of these animals when the price of their teeth and hair has never been higher.

Infrastructural and development work are enormous and a huge part of what we do. We are indebted to Suzuki Rhino Club, The Aspinall Foundation, JCB, Peter Morton, Tusk Trust and the Friends of Mkomazi for supporting us on this daily grind.



TANAPA rangers meet with the Kenya Wildlife Service Wardens, Wilson Njue and Mark Cheruiyot, at the Mkomazi entrance gate during the rhino translocation



The Chairman and Trustees of WPTF visit Mkomazi to celebrate Brigadier Mbita's chairmanship of the Trust. Back row from left: Elisaria Nnko, Iddi Mbita, Charles Dobie, Alex Fitzjohn; middle row-Kinemo Kihomano and Rose Lugembe; Front-Brigadier General Hashim Mbita, Bernard Mchomvu and Lucy Fitzjohn



The 757 aircraft, donated by DHL, arrives at Kilimanjaro International Airport carrying our precious cargo.



Rhinos being off-loaded



Rhinos leave the aircraft and are lifted onto the waiting lorries for onward transport to Mkomazi.



Fred Ayo greets both vets - Dr Idrissa Chuma and Dr Pete Morkel - on the lorry just inside the gates.



First rhino crate being placed onto the trailer at the entrance to the holding compounds.

Translocation of New Rhinos. June 2012

In 2011, Damian Aspinall and Amos Courage of The Aspinall Foundation visited us with Guy Farley. They had a very good look around, were quiet for a couple of days and then Damian said 'I'd like to send you three rhinos and help you cover the costs to prepare for this.' We were a bit flabbergasted but, naturally, thrilled. Tony then paid a visit to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in the UK where this very professional captive breeding for the wild takes place. Much credit must be paid to Port Lympne, Howletts and Damian Aspinall for their wonderful philosophy and practical translocations into the wild all over the world.

Before they left, the Royal Patron of Tusk Trust, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, had been to see the rhinos at Port Lympne and had spoken out about the dramatic and devastating upsurge in rhino and elephant poaching and the urgent need to address the problem.

On 17th June, a dedicated DHL 757 aircraft carrying the three black rhinos touched down at Kilimanjaro Airport. Named Grumeti, Zawadi and Monduli, they were under the care of Dr Peter Morkel with help from rhino keepers Berry White and Claire Lupton. A BBC film crew was on board to film the translocation for world news and the Today programme. Tony Fitzjohn, Bernard Mchomvu (the new Chairman of the Trust in Tanzania), the British High Commissioner, Diane Corner, and her husband Peter Stocker, Blaise de Souza, the MD of DHL in Tanzania, and Dr Idrissa Chuma from TANAPA were all there to meet the aircraft. We were delighted that Mark Cheruiyot and Wilson Njue of KWS were able to join us as well.

The bright yellow and red 757 aircraft was a spectacular sight with a black rhino emblazoned on its side. The rhinos in their crates were off-loaded onto the waiting lorries loaned once again to us for two days by Grumeti Reserves, TANAPA and FZS. A long onward journey to MNP got underway, accompanied by a fully-armed TANAPA motor cavalcade. Pete Morkel had done a fantastic job and the rhinos had travelled very well. The Rhino Sanctuary personnel were ready to greet them and off-load them.

Charlie Mayhew of Tusk Trust had approached Phil Couchman, the Managing Director of DHL, to see if the company could offer any support to this translocation and they most generously offered to donate the entire flight. This was an extremely altruistic and benevolent gesture to all of us, but most especially to a species that needs all the help it can get. Throughout the preparations for the translocation, DHL were extremely helpful, considerate and professional, ensuring that all eventualities were assessed.

During the rhinos' journey into Mkomazi, the human VIPs had gathered together in the large TANAPA hospitality tents on the airstrip to welcome the rhinos. The Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism (Hon. Khamis Kagasheki), the Chairman of the TANAPA Board of Trustees (Mr Liliungulu), the Director General (Alan Kijaze) and managers and wardens of TANAPA, the Director of Wildlife and the Regional and District Commissioners all gave speeches of thanks to everybody involved. The British High Commissioner also gave a great speech... "The eyes of the world

are on this – for good and sadly for ill as well – and we all need to remain constantly vigilant. Your efforts to save the rhino benefit us all.”

As the convoy passed by the VIP tents, they stopped for a few minutes for the formal procedure of the handover from the British High Commissioner to the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism. The convoy then carried on up the airstrip and turned into the MRS, where the rhinos were off-loaded in record time. Each one took only a few minutes to edge cautiously out of its crate and into the new holding compounds. The BBC was broadcasting a live TV news-feed from next to the rhinos. A week later, Pete Morkel sedated the rhinos, fitted their horn transmitters and notched their ears for ID. This operation went extremely well and three TANAPA vets attended for training purposes.

The rhinos have now settled into their third reintroduction area and are adapting to a life in the wild. The MRS manager, Semu Pallangyo, and the rest of the personnel are to be commended for an excellent and professional job. All the staff worked extremely hard for many months to prepare to receive the rhinos, whilst also continuing with their daily duties. The reintroduction paddocks had to be opened up, the holding compounds had to be fortified, water troughs and feed-slabs built and water pans repaired. New big, heavy steel gates for each section were put up which have replaced the Robinson Crusoe flimsy old wire gates and are a seriously professional addition to the Sanctuary.

Before the April / May rains started, the Dvur Kralove Czech rhinos had to be moved to make way for the Port Lympne rhinos. Pete Morkel was working deep in Angola and out of comms, we had no capture truck with a suitable crane, and Deborah had a calf at foot. They were all doing so well that we didn't want to do anything too invasive. We decided to use the NASA technology of dragging an old saucepan of water behind a car to give them a good drink of water and to inch them forwards, with a few carrots thrown in to the bargain as well. Rather than filling up their water holes, we would meet them every evening and give them water, slowly moving them in the direction that we wanted them to go. It was the most amazing time. Jamie, the fairly aggressive bull, had calmed right down and would come close to the large saucepan of water. As we moved them, fences would go up behind so if they decided to head back, there was no access. We closed off a 2 km section with a new external fence. We laid down thousands of tons of murrum to make a good road by this new external fence line. The Grader also went through after the JCB had cleared a path, more for the smooth transit of the saucepan than for the rhinos! Many months and miles later, the day came when they reached their new water hole, happy and calm. At 0400 in the morning, Semu and his team fenced them into their new section with Deborah watching on.

So the rhino translocation went very smoothly and this is thanks to the wonderful generosity of all those who supported it either at the forefront or in the background, and the many combined years of experience of everyone who was involved. Most especially to our vet, Pete Morkel, for such a fantastic job. The thought of those rhinos munching away on lucerne and carrots at 38,000 feet certainly gives airline food a whole new meaning.

Our sincerest thanks to The Aspinall Foundation, DHL, Tusk Trust and Virgin Unite, for the rhino translocation. To the Suzuki Rhino Club for all their support of the day to day operations of this Rhino Sanctuary and for enabling us to get it all prepared to receive the rhinos.



Elisaria Nnko makes a speech to the VIPs gathered in Mkomazi to welcome the Port Lympne rhinos



Dr Pete Morkel drilling the horn to fit the horn transmitter



Being crate-trained at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park

The British High Commissioner to Tanzania, HE Diane Corner, her husband Peter Stocker and Bernard Mchomvu, the Chairman of WPTF, at Kilimanjaro Airport to welcome the rhinos to Tanzania.



Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary (MRS)



Port Lymgne rhinos, Grumeti, Zawadi and Monduli settling down in Mkomazi

Rhino Sanctuary

Never before have rhinos been under such pressure. We are acutely aware of this and have to take even greater measures to protect them. With the rise in prosperity in the Far East, many people are now in a position to afford these traditional 'medicines'. As a consequence, rhino poaching is the fast-track to easy riches and the value of rhino horn is higher now than it has ever been. It is no coincidence that this has come at a time when the Chinese road-builders and entrepreneurs are thick on the ground all over Africa. Within the wake of the slaughter of rhinos and elephants across Africa comes the deaths of dozens brave rangers and trackers, innocent civilians and desperate poachers. This is an issue that was addressed in the BBC Today programme, filmed in Port Lymgne Wild Animal Park in the UK and in Mkomazi during the rhino translocation.

Security is obviously the major issue. It's our biggest thing. New pre-fabricated security outposts, manufactured in Kenya, shipped down to Tanzania and put up in the MRS have added to our 24/7 monitoring. We feel we have an effective deterrent force and TANAPA have posted a small group of rangers, well armed, just down below our camp who are there if we need them but under the Kisima chain of command. TANAPA are manning our external security outposts at Maore and Kifakua, as well as conducting regular patrols from there.

New internal fence lines were constructed to make way for the new English rhino and to move the Czech rhino into larger areas. All the while, the main external rhino sanctuary fence is being repaired and maintained. This is a major undertaking as the original fence has come to the end of its functional life. Poles, wire and insulators need to be replaced and fence gangs work daily to keep the fence tensioned, electrified and in top condition. One further section was added through fencing off a new transition area and two further new internal fences were constructed. Water systems throughout the sanctuary were upgraded. Now each water pan has its own dedicated platform and 5,000 litre water tank. When the rhinos pitch up to drink, the guys turn on the tap and there is water on demand. Water pans in the sanctuary were increased to give options to the resident rhino; communications have been added for increased security; and extra solar panels have been added to existing systems for increased power.

The resident rhino are in very good shape. Charlie, one of the females translocated to Mkomazi in 1997, has given birth to



*JCB drilling
fence post holes
for the new
internal fence
lines*



*Fence gang
aligning the fence
posts before the
high tensile wire
is strung and
tensioned.*



*Deborah and
Hilla during the
move through
to their new section*



Jabu walks through into his section. Newly constructed heavy steel gates now in place.

another calf and our trackers are keeping a close eye on them. Sadly we lost a rhino calf to a pack of hyenas. We now have 18 rhino in the sanctuary and hopes remain high that breeding will steadily increase that population.

TANAPA sent in their Board of Trustees and the Chief Park Warden of Serengeti National Park to take an in-depth look at the systems required to run a well-functioning rhino sanctuary. Once again, Dr Peter Morkel and TANAPA requested two of the Mkomazi rhino trackers to help them in the Serengeti where they were ear-notching and fitting radio-tracking units on both the Moru Kopje rhinos and the diaspora. Free-ranging rhinos are obviously not as secure as within a fenced sanctuary, but strays can now be rounded up and the rangers, who are being run ragged at the moment, will have a much better idea of where there charges are and much quicker access to them. Semu selected Penieli and Joseph and they went deep into the Serengeti with Pete and Idrissa for two weeks, and as usual outshone all the others with their tracking abilities. We are very proud of them.

Dr Idrissa Chuma of TANAPA was based here for a few weeks and it was good to work closely with him on management issues. We were also very fortunate to have Dr Pete Morkel here, yet again, for a couple of weeks, post translocation. He had a long careful look at the existing situation and the breeding possibilities and it is always great for Tony, Semu and Elisaria to discuss all the different aspects of management and breeding with him. They had touted plans to move the breeding bull, hoping that the subordinate bull would then take-over, but his reaction as the new boss to the young bull calves in the Sanctuary would be totally unknown and possibly fatal for the youngsters. They worked out all sorts of combinations, shuffling the rhinos around like pawns in a chess game and ultimately and unanimously came to the conclusion that they would leave everyone where they were. When the Port Lympe rhinos had bred once, maybe twice, then would be the time to pull down the internal fences between the main Sanctuary and the new-arrivals sections.

As always, we rely on the dedication and integrity of the staff whom, under quite hard conditions, do so much to protect and care for these rhinos.

Our sincerest thanks to The Suzuki Rhino Club who have done so much to support the day to day operations of the MRS: to the Aspinall Foundation, The Swordspoint Foundation, Save the Rhino, Chester Zoo, Tusk Trust, Rufford Foundation, Friends of Serengeti Switzerland, WildiZe Foundation, Dr Pete Morkel, DHL, Newman's Own Foundation, Sir Anthony Bamford and the staff at JCB, Peter Morton, Tim Peet, the Gallaghers, the Zwicks, the Silvesters, the Millars and the Friends of Mkomazi.



Penieli at the newly constructed water hole for the Dvur Kralove Czech rhinos, Jamie, Deborah and Hilla



HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Patron of Tusk Trust, feeds the rhinos at Port Lympe before they start their journey to Mkomazi. Photo credit- Chris Jackson, Getty Images.



New water storage systems being put in place at each water pan in the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary

African Wild Dog Programme

We now have fifty-two wild dogs in the breeding programme, with fifteen due for reintroduction at the end of this year and a further twelve due for reintroduction six months after that. Over the past year, the alpha females have given birth collectively to over thirty pups. We have also been visited by, or are becoming a stopping point for, packs of wild dogs that move through our camp, rest up for a few days or weeks and then carry on. One night, getting out of the car in the dark, there was a tremendous sound of dogs close-by twittering and calling, and when we shone the torch, a big pack ran straight past our feet. One other pack recently went through the camp and four of their young males split off from this main natal pack and remained close by to our camp for many months.



Pack of 16 month old wild dogs in the breeding compounds in Mkomazi. This pack will be reintroduced back into the wild in December 2012.

Providing meat and supplementary feed for this amount of dogs is a major undertaking as there can be no failure in the daily supply. We have dedicated one of the Landrovers to these supply trips as the weekly cattle market is sixty miles away. We have extended the butchery by adding an extra room and more importantly, by adding an extra freezer. This has been a great help.

Our veterinary work, pioneered and originally undertaken by Dr Aart Visee, brought new insights into vaccination policy in a captive pack. Prior to reintroduction, the dogs receive a booster vaccination (their last), which will hopefully protect them for at least another year or more.

Two reintroductions on the Tsavo/Mkomazi order have taken place over the past year. The best time for a reintroduction is just at the end of the rainy seasons, so the dogs have a good supply of standing water. With park management now under TANAPA, prey species are more abundant and standing water is for wildlife and not illegal domestic stock. We are fortunate this year to have young dogs of the right reintroduction age ready to go both at the end of this year and then again during the April/May rains in 2013. With one of the last reintroductions, one group of brothers was held in the reintroduction compound for two weeks. On release, they took off and covered miles and miles of Mkomazi before heading off into the better-watered areas of Tsavo National Park. The guys followed up on foot and in vehicles with telemetry and Tony backed this up with flying patrols with a receiver on both struts of the aircraft. Four days after release they were pinned down many miles into Tsavo National Park. We are in touch with KWS, as well as wildlife managers and tourist camp managers, so news on packs of wild dogs is quickly received. Incoming sightings are spasmodic but we are confident that most of the dogs do well and are spread out over a vast range with some returning briefly on occasions.



Honey badger being moved to the other side of the rhino sanctuary in Fred's newly constructed leopard trap.



Wild dogs moved over to the reintroduction compounds on the Mkomazi / Tsavo border. Tony preparing the syringes to reverse the sedation.

The reintroduction of African wild dogs is a highly complex operation due to their unique and complicated social structure and their requirement of a large home range within which they can roam nomadically. The programme can encounter problems and sometimes failure, as long-term experience in free-ranging wild dog reintroduction is very limited. However, given the time and experience of our work with these animals, we are confident that our methods are leading to long-term success. No real success can ever be determined in programmes like this unless they are continuous and take place over a very long period of time. To re-establish a species in the wild takes time, perseverance and continuity.

TANAPA wrote to us recently about their own wild dog project that they are carrying out with TAWIRI in the Serengeti National Park with source dogs captured in Loliondo where they are being poisoned and now burnt to death by pastoralists. They were asking for advice based on our accumulated practical experience and field successes – and maybe some dogs from our breeding facility to add to the numbers.

We have had two other visitors to this programme – a honey badger who has been raiding the wild dog butchery every night for nearly four years and terrorizing the night-guard. This honey badger was finally caught in Fred's newly-constructed leopard trap. The trap was loaded onto the back of our Mazda, driven to the other side of the rhino sanctuary, opened again and he shot off into the distance. An old male leopard became more and more confident around the camp over the past few months, breaking into the wild dog butchery at night and resting up in the day in the rocks behind the butchery. One day, he hunted and killed a lone male wild dog that was on the outside of the compounds. A couple of days after this incident, he was found dead on the airstrip. The guys did a quick post-mortem on him and he was full of worms. In his absence, another leopard has filled the gap, much more secretive and cautious, but we all remain on alert.

It has been an exciting and progressive year for this programme and we would like to give our sincerest thanks to everybody concerned. The Suzuki Rhino Club, The Swordpoint Foundation, Chester Zoo, WildiZe Foundation, Dr Aart Visee, Dr Pete Morkel, Merial Ltd (and Alonso Masias and Susan French of Merial), Dr Ken Mbogori of Metrovet, Olly and Suzi.



New pups in the Mshamba Compound



Yearlings in the Mshamba Compound

Photo credits-Jane Oliver



Brigadier General Hashim I Mbita, retiring Chairman of WPTF, greeting the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary security force, which he helped initiate.



Tony with Andy Mortimer, Hon. Treasurer of GAWPT, at Mill Hill School



Mugi the young male lion at Kora National Park



Fred Ayo and Damian Aspinall



The wedding of Mark and Ruth Cheruiyot in Kapsabet in Kenya. Tilly and Imogen Fitzjohn were the flower girls.



Students from our 'Rafiki wa Faru' environmental education programme visit the newly arrived Port Lympne rhinos in Mkomazi



Environmental Education Centre in Mkomazi



Dr Idrissa Chuma, TANAPA Veterinary Officer, delighted at how smoothly the whole translocation had gone so far, at Kilimanjaro Airport to greet the Port Lympne rhinos and work with Dr Pete Morkel on the next stage of the translocation.



New heavy steel gates being put in place inbetween sections in the Rhino Sanctuary



The Suzuki Rhino Club Board. - Bobberd van der Linden, Marten Loedeman, Dik Dekker, Ted van Dam and Martin de Wilt.



Eliyudi installing new water pumping and filtration system

Mkomazi Outreach Programme

Thanks to the GAWPT in Germany, we continue with the construction of the science laboratories at Gonja Secondary School and a classroom at Ndungu Secondary School. These upgrades are done in measured stages. As always, the building is done as a partnership between the school, the District authorities, the parent body and the Trust. We provide cement, roofing sheets, window and door frames; the school provides the labour, building bricks, building sand, the roof frame and furniture; the District provides the teaching staff and the educational materials.

The Headmaster at Gonja Secondary School is a dynamic and forward-thinking man. He gets on with the job, he always meets us half way and Elisaria enjoys working with both him and the local MP's assistant on this upgrade. A considerable amount of time and an enormous amount of cement was put towards building deep, strong foundations for the labs, as recommended by the District site engineers, because of the regularity of earth tremors in this area. After this was done, the classroom walls were built up to the height of the roof. With our most recent donation, roofing is soon to be underway. District and Regional officials who are really impressed by the quality of our building and fortifications have stressed that they would like these labs to become a model of good building practice for schools in the area. We shall see...

Based on our working relationship with Gonja, we have entered into discussion with the school board and the District authorities on the feasibility of creating a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) being constructed as an adjunct to the school. In turn, this has received the support of the Suzuki Rhino Club (SRC), who are really committed to the concept of training up mechanics. We all feel that this could be a great step forwards for future viable careers for the students in a country where there isn't much work available and hands-on training limited or miles away from the rural areas. This is a practical approach to work opportunities so needed in these communities, and everyone these days needs a vehicle mechanic in their lives. SRC responded immediately to this initial concept by sending out Evans Kirigia to undertake an in-depth survey on what was involved in both organizing and funding an operation like this.

We are now seeking more advice on this, both through Evans Kirigia and the SRC and other organisations who have undertaken similar projects before. If we can get this off the ground in Gonja, there really could be a better future for a lot of these young students around Mkomazi.

We have also helped with the construction of a classroom in Ndungu Secondary School, based way down on the Mkomazi border towards the Usambara Mountains. This project moves forward fairly slowly, with the recent setback of an earth tremor resulting in a landslide. We do feel that this school deserves our help, as it is based in a large community where there is little income. It is also close to a lake where wildlife from Mkomazi comes to drink, so TANAPA and the trust feel that we should work together with this community.

Our sincerest thanks as always to GAWeV, Simone Motzko, Moritz Borman, Erol Sander and the Suzuki Rhino Club.



Gonja Secondary School. Science laboratories under construction



Donation of materials to Gonja Secondary School



Boys from Gonja Secondary School help to offload cement and roofing sheets



Newly constructed classroom



Students at work

The aim of Rafiki wa Faru is to lift awareness within the villages closest to the park in order to ensure that communities clearly understand the nature of the conservation work being undertaken by the trusts on behalf of TANAPA. Rafiki wa Faru targets secondary schools and brings groups and their teachers into the park on the education bus for a semi-structured learning experience.

Rafiki wa Faru continues to be a great education programme which is having a demonstrable impact on the students. Over the past year we have brought in nearly 900 students and teachers. Other schools are queuing up to join. The brightly coloured Rafiki wa Faru bus is a wonderful sight, and with the tightly structured day designed by Dr Maggie Esson we are really pleased to see the positive impact the programme is having on the students, the teachers, TANAPA, the communities and, hopefully, on rhino conservation.

Although the students at Form One level have little of knowledge of wildlife issues, their day with us in Mkomazi is stimulating and educational and they come away with some knowledge of practical wildlife conservation, an

environmental rehabilitation programme and endangered species programmes. TANAPA support has grown for this project, with TANAPA staff taking an enthusiastic interest in welcoming the groups to Mkomazi at the park gates. Elisaria and Semu continue to be strong role models for these students and we are always delighted when we hear anecdotal evidence from Elisaria of the enthusiasm of these students. Increasingly he has noted that the students ask him what they need to study in order to be involved in wildlife conservation.

The success of Rafiki wa Faru is due to a number of factors, not least the willingness and dedication of the staff who act as excellent role models for schoolchildren and are figures of respect in the community. Inevitably a free opportunity like this one will be popular and demand will outstrip supply. By staying focused on the project aims and staying true to the target audiences, the project remains manageable and sustainable. Stability in the staffing of the delivery team means that they are able to consolidate their teaching and learning experiences (educators, rangers et al) and learn on the job. Because they are hands-on conservationists with ‘real’ jobs on the project, they have credibility and a presence. This aura could not be achieved by employing a full-time professional educator. It is the vision of GAWPT that has driven the Rafiki wa Faru project from its inception.

Dr Maggie Esson, Education Programmes Manager,
Chester Zoo. August 2011



Rafiki wa Faru students. What better way to learn about an elephant than from an elephant?

Rafiki wa Faru was presented at the European Zoo Federation Conservation Forum in May 2012 by Maggie Esson. It was presented again at the International Zoo Educators Symposium in August 2012 by both Maggie Esson and Cathy Dean of Save the Rhino. Maggie has prepared a number of reports on the programme and Cathy

helps coordinate the fundraising and subsequent reports. Chester Zoo also provided laminated A3 sheets of regularly seen mammals within the park, which work really well with the bird identification sheets. Chester Zoo then worked on the production of a Rafiki wa Faru Activity Book for each student. This has been produced in Swahili, the teaching language of the schools, and has been a real hit with all the students. It gives a history of Mkomazi, the trusts, TANAPA, Tony, Semu and Elisaria. We also have informative colour drawings of black rhino with simple text about the species in Swahili and rhino identification sheets placed in the Observation Bunker for all the students to look at. Students from MWEKA College for African Wildlife have visited as have a group of TANAPA Chief and Deputy Park Wardens.

With rhino horn now worth more than its weight in gold, poaching is dramatically on the increase, we are under no illusions about the problems we face. By sending out a strong message about the dedication and expertise of the rhino sanctuary personnel through those taking part in Rafiki wa Faru, we hope that poachers will be deterred from targeting the sanctuary. Those who visit are all impressed by the measures and strength of the security systems that are in place. They have more understanding about the conservation status of the black rhino, the threat that these rhino are under and that protecting them is an enormous duty and challenge.

We are sincerely grateful to Chester Zoo, Save the Rhino, US Fish & Wildlife Services for all they have done for this programme. And to Jane Oliver for hand-stitching great rhino prizes for the students.

Visit by Semu Pallangyo, Manager of the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary, to Chester Zoo

In the early part of the year, Dr Mark Pilgrim visited us and told us that Chester Zoo would like to invite Semu Pallangyo to England and the Zoo on both a work and educational basis, but also for a very special reason. In May 2012, Her Majesty The Queen officially opened the new entrance to the Zoo and Semu was introduced to her as a rhino keeper in a field programme that Chester Zoo support. It was an enthralling trip of extraordinary memories and accomplishments for Semu. Mark Pilgrim, Maggie Esson and the staff at Chester Zoo looked after him extremely well and he had a packed schedule every day, including working with rhinos, elephants and wild dogs, spending a day with the education officers, and attending talks and presentations.



Semu takes questions from the local school children at Chester Zoo



An auspicious moment for all of us



Semu with the Chester Zoo keepers

We had also added on a couple of days before the Chester trip for Semu and Tony to go to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park and meet Amos Courage, Adrian Harland and Bob O'Connor of Howletts and Port Lympne, Phil Couchman, the managing director of DHL, Charlie Mayhew of Tusk Trust, and Kate Silverton and her crew from the BBC to fully discuss the logistics for the upcoming rhino translocation and to meet the rhino destined for Mkomazi.

He then travelled up to Chester Zoo with Tony for an incredible few days, culminating in his introduction to HM The Queen. The Natural History Museum and the London Eye completed what must have been a mind-boggling trip and after ten days, Semu looked just fine and dandy on the streets of London. A week after he got home, he was heard to say that 'it was all just a dream, wasn't it?' But the pictures are there in the glass-fronted notice board outside the Rhino Sanctuary control centre, of Semu with the "Malakia ya Ulaya" for all to see. He had taught himself enough English to get by with from some of the ex-Army rhino sanctuary guards and was a wonderful ambassador for Tanzania and a huge hit wherever he went. Well done Semu and thank you Chester Zoo.



Filming

Martin and Philippa Clunes, through Buffalo Pictures Ltd, are making a two programme documentary about Kora and Mkomazi for release in 2014 and it was great to welcome Martin, the director Dominic Ozanne, and the film crew Richard Ranken and Kuz Randhawa to both projects for some great, funny and serious days of filming.

Elephant Orphan

In February, we received a radio call from our night guard at the airstrip, who was having a quite snooze before going on duty, to say that a baby elephant had shoved open the door to his house and was pushing at his bed. We rushed down there with the van Dams and found a frantic, dehydrated and distressed baby elephant, not more than 2 weeks old at most.

We immediately set out to look for his mother. Tony flew the aircraft and the National Parks rangers and our staff went out on foot and by vehicle. We found no sign of a herd or of a carcass. We will therefore never know what happened to his mother but there are several possibilities including death by poaching. With the dramatic upswing of elephant and rhino poaching throughout East Africa, this option is quite feasible.

With advice from our friends at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust who run an elephant orphanage in Kenya, we have cared for him for the past nine months. He has done well here with us in Mkomazi. This is, after all, his natural habitat and we are well placed in the middle of the park. We are all devoted to his care and his eventual rehabilitation back to the wild here in Mkomazi. His keepers, Thomas Nnko and Ombeni Kitomari are doing a great job, fully covering the 24/7 care that he needs. Recently he became very lame on his front leg and we have been looking into the causes of this to do our very best to ensure he fully recovers. Thankfully he is on the mend and we are grateful to Dr Felix Lankester who responded to our cry for help and who has helped us with his recovery. We have also received a lot of help from vets and friends in the wildlife and elephant world during this time.

The specialized milk formulas that work with these baby elephants have been tested out over many years of trial and error by the Sheldricks and the Zambian Elephant Orphanage Project, so we are very grateful to have these guidelines.

We have received an enormous amount of help from friends from all over, who have scoured the shelves of supermarkets and chemists for the right milk formula for him. No more so than John Dixon who has taken this elephant under his personal care and has been doing so much to gather the milk and supplements from all over Africa and England and get it to us in Mkomazi. Without his help, our poor little ele could have died and we'd have gone broke. Damon Albarn wrote a beautiful song for this little elephant, which he and Paul Simonon played to him one evening.

We would also like to thank the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and Angela Carr-Hartley; Dr Pete Morkel, Dr Sanjay Gautama, Dr Michelle Miller; Jenny Webb, Rachael Murton and Marleen Le Febvre for all their time and advice; to Hanneke Louwman; DHL; Suzi, Damon, Serena, Paul, Jacqui, Jane and Missy; Martin Clunes; Sophie Menzies, Jim Kent, Claire Hill-Hall, Nick Tims, Gill Marshall Andrews and CrowdRise – all of whom gave direct donations or brought the formula milk in. And the local communities in Dar and Arusha who came to the rescue; Tina Sutton, Serena Mason, the Wards, Belia Klassen and Ype Smit, Coastal Travel, Ray Ringea, the Bakers, Sara Ashby, Away to Africa Safaris and Roy Safaris.



Doors to manual and cross check.



Growing up – about five months old

Photo credit-Sheels Ballard



Playing with our girls in the sand



Report on Kora by Tony Fitzjohn

When we were invited to go back to help Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) with the rehabilitation of Kora to become a stand-alone National Park, an effective security buffer-zone, a stable area to encourage tourism development, and to start up the lion programme again I could hardly say 'no'. It was a huge recognition, not just of the past but also the work that has been done in Mkomazi over the past 23 years. We had to find a way and somehow we did.

Kampi ya Simba has fully returned to life with the arrival of Mugi, a male lion cub, now nearly a year old. Although he does well on his own, he has had encounters with elephants and porcupine, seen lesser kudu and waterbuck along the river and had less friendly encounters with large troops of baboon. However he does need more lion company and we are expecting a couple of lioness cubs from the Nairobi Animal Orphanage soon. But time is running out to integrate them as the first new pride here so we hope it happens sooner rather than later.

The Piper Colt aircraft has done some sterling work in Jamie Manuel's hands. He flies regularly with the KWS Commanders showing them poached elephant carcasses, intrusions and the opening up of inland water holes. More recently he has been assisting in the capture of the Mbalamballa/Asako elephants by 'spotting' them for the KWS helicopter when their SuperCub is unavailable. They are grateful for the help Jamie is giving them and it is also invaluable to see what is going on across the river as regards 'shamba' development and domestic stock looking to cross into Kora. Forewarned is forearmed and KWS can deploy to areas that need attention. Eyes in the sky are paramount in country like this and we are most grateful to Tusk Trust for helping us to play our part in the crucial early recovery days of Kora. The tractor also plays a large part in the rehabilitation of the park with essential works. Jamie's updated GPS map of Kora has been of great use and a great template for future tracks to inland water holes, camel paths and known areas of illegal activity.



Tony with the KWS Deputy Director, Peter Leitoro (3rd left front row) and senior KWS personnel involved in Kora, at the main airstrip close to Kampi ya Simba.

KWS have been doing a highly professional job capturing elephants in the Asako/Mbalamballa Island area. There has been very heavy poaching there, along with gunfights, and only a few adults remain, with a lot of juveniles running around motherless - a sad and scary sight. They are being moved to the fenced Aberdares National Park. When Jamie and I flew in to visit the capture team, they had already caught and moved 33 elephants that day and the helicopter already returned to Nairobi for other duties.

Nothing will really be safe in Kora until it is fenced. KWS are now in the process of preparing and undertaking the environmental impact assessment needed and working out the costings for this fence project. It makes great sense in terms of security, law enforcement and peace of mind for the local communities. The fence would be along the Kora eastern boundary, starting at the Tana River, continuing to the south to link up with the Mwingi National Reserve boundary, along the western side, which would then be fenced back to the river again. Only the river section of this Kora triangle would be unfenced. This would probably be around 150 kilometres of fence line and would need big international donor support, but is sadly the direction all National Parks in Kenya will have to go in the future. We cannot think about a rhino sanctuary here or a safe tourist



Fred Ayo installing the solar power systems for the butchery in Kampi ya Simba



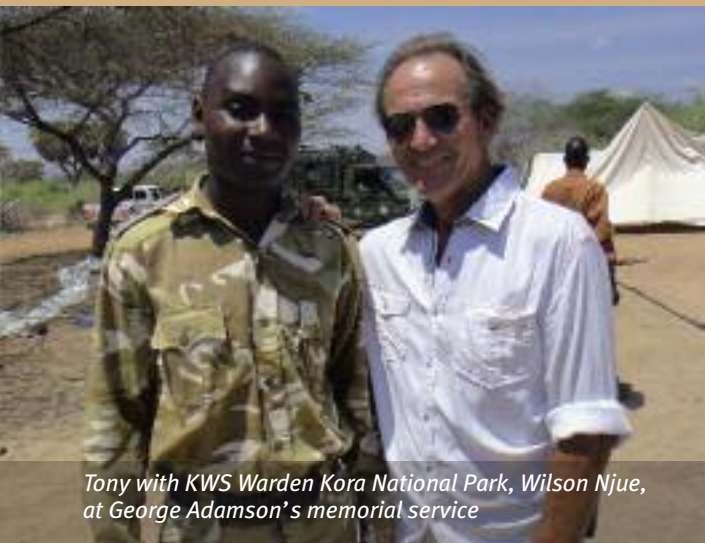
Cubs at the KWS Nairobi Animal Orphanage

infrastructure until this fence is completed. Positive meetings have been held on this major fencing project with Kenya's Vice President, Honourable Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, EGH, MP – a long standing trustee of the George Adamson Trust in Kenya - as well as with KWS authorities in the region as to where funding for this could be sourced. KWS will carry out the environmental impact assessment and work out the costings. In partnership with KWS, we are hoping to play our part in this as well.

The KWS rangers, ably led by the Warden, Wilson Njue, continue to do as much as they can to move illegal grazers out and tackle the greed and horrors of the elephant poachers. There have been several engagements and the commanders of the Field Force operate under regular death threats but somehow manage to carry on with their unenviable task. KWS have been both professional and courageous in tackling these problems and the Park, incorporating over 50 miles of pristine, fragile riverine forest has been recognized as one of the last and most

beautiful sections of Kenya's rivers that, both protected and managed properly, will serve Kenya's tourism industry and local villagers for decades to come. My respect and admiration for them is immense.

We have met with the Provincial Commissioner of North Eastern Province, Ernest Munyi, and the District Commissioner of Mbalambala, James Kianda, to discuss the environmental destruction taking place in and around Kora. George Osuri, KWS Assistant Director Eastern Parks and Reserves is working with these authorities and KWS are determined to stop this destruction and in doing



Tony with KWS Warden Kora National Park, Wilson Njue, at George Adamson's memorial service

so, save Kora. We hope that the various government and regional authorities continue to come together on this with a single purpose, for the benefit of many Kenyans in the years to come.

Mike Harries has been a tower of strength and an ardent supporter of Kora. He tirelessly brings the attention of The President's Council to what is going on in the area as well as The Chief Secretary and the National Economic and Social Council. He has also been instrumental in getting some prestigious press coverage on the major issues here. His contributions to the project are appreciated by all of us.

When Philippa and Martin Clunes heard, with four days notice, that we had been given the go-ahead to collect our first lion cub and that we needed a large aircraft to help bring him to Kora, they didn't miss a beat. Rounding up their regular film crew for the two-piece documentary they are making about Kora and Mkomazi, they shot off to Nairobi, collected some kit and flew into Kora. We collected the Kora warden Wilson Njue, and flew onto Ol Jogi, a private ranch on the Laikipia plateau, where Jamie Gaymer was waiting for us with Mugi. We left with Mugi and headed to Kora.

Stephen Kameti of Trusts for African Schools (TAS) is a pragmatic Pentecostal preacher highly respected for his understanding and balancing of issues and assessments of situations and events. With a build like Mike Tyson (well, almost!) and softly spoken, we know we can rely on him to make decisions that we will abide by. Although he is attached to KWS (who provide him with a car and driver) his loyalty to TAS, Gill Marshall-Andrews' brainchild now taken to national levels, is unquestionable and work goes on all around Kora; from Ukambani to the south, Madogo, just outside Garissa on the south bank of the Tana to Asako and Boka. We are very grateful that so much of the outreach work that we just cannot do at this time is covered by TAS and we hope this link up will last into the future.

Rev. Mike Harries addresses the crowd at the KWS memorial service for George Adamson



Asako

Desperate for good clean water for drinking, domestic use and crop production during the dry season, the Asako elders turned to us for help. We were happy to do so as self-sufficiency is everyone's dream. Many years of hard work and effort were spent by GAWPT to try to provide this water. Although the first well was sited incorrectly, we re-dug a new well with the help from Kijito Windpower Ltd and Catholic Relief Services and moved the windmill with Mike Harries' men and the Kora tractor and trailer. Good, sweet water poured forth – the best in the village. The villagers' job was to clear the invasive bush around the well and dig up the old pipeline so we could re-route it. It was never done, by people I have known for years and whom I've always got along with. We were puzzled. But then we found the culprit - Food Aid. So much free food was coming into the village that they didn't have to toil in the hot sun to provide for themselves and their families. The windmill still pumps almost perfect water when the wind is blowing and many people make the half mile trek with donkeys and jerry cans to avail themselves of it, but there are no farms being created and it is not being piped to the huge holding tank of fairly brackish water at the KWS ranger lines for village use.

Asako villagers dancing at the KWS memorial service for George Adamson. Mark Cheruiyot, Senior KWS Warden, to the right



I guess in time we will undertake to do this but at the moment we are a little discouraged and disappointed and wonder what will happen if the day comes when free food dries up or the roads are impassable for long periods due to rain or insecurity. At this point however, as an example to the inheritors of the village, it is a sad legacy.

Boka

GAWPT has built a new office for the Chief at Boka, who was previously in a crumbling mud hut. We hope that this will empower him to greater co-operation with KWS and the issues facing Kora and Ukambani. Relations are good and dialogue is ongoing and there is a firm foundation on which we can build as new projects such as the fence, airstrips and outposts are planned. We live in hope! TAS has recently funded dormitories for the Boka Primary School and this has opened up the benefits of education to many more children, previously never destined for schooling.

The amount of work to be done in Kora and these communities, the challenges to face and the money to be raised is daunting but I feel we are in working in a dynamic and supportive partnership with KWS and that Kora, like the world, will get a little worse before it gets better.

Our sincerest thanks to Tusk Trust, WildiZe Foundation, Olly and Suzi, Moritz Borman, Stuart and Teresa Graham, Ben Simpson, Gary Praglin, AFEW, Pete and Julianna Silvester; Gill Marshall Andrews and Steve Kameti of Trust for African Schools, Ed Woods, Ramani Ltd, Rachel Rosen, Sandy Simpson and Janet Hurt.

Steve Kameti of Trust for African Schools with Jamie Manuel at a chief's meeting in Boka



Jamie Manuel is in the hot seat in Kora. A young man of considerable experience and understanding of wildlife and Africa, he brings an up to date dimension of modern wildlife practice to a venerable, if slightly pressurized, profession and his contributions are enormous.



Piper Colt aircraft 5Y KSK on the Kora airstrip. Jamie checking the tyres



KWS personnel at the top of Kora Rock on the morning of the memorial service for George Adamson

Report on Kora by Jamie Manuel

Mugi the Lion

Kora has, at present, less than five wild lions roaming within the National Park. Wild lions roaming beyond its borders are currently at unknown numbers. This is due to the trade in lion skin and poaching on the rise, with livestock owners now poisoning predators with farm chemicals. Numbers are decreasing at such an alarming rate that the African lion has suffered a staggering 80-90% population decline in less than 30 years. From 200,000 to 30,000 wild lions left across Africa, populations are now fragmented and isolated. The lion has also been extirpated from 83% of its possible range in Africa. No other species known to man has declined by such a rate in such a short space of time.

Mugi, our young orphaned male lion, who was found as a very young cub at Mugi Ranch in Laikipia, washed down a swollen river to be found on an island with his mother nowhere in sight, has come to continue the legacy of George Adamson's wild lion reintroduction programme. This amazing young lion has gone from strength to strength, with his bush knowledge so vast that he seems to be a true wild lion - and at heart he is. He spends each and every day out and about in the vast wilderness of the 1,700 square kilometres of national park at his disposal. He has had various encounters with Kora's wildlife, yet is too young to hunt and defend himself against certain species, such as a pack of hyenas. He shows the true colours of being a wild lion; quick on his feet and swift on the scent, he picks up each and every movement and smell in the bush. It will take him under a year from now to build up his strength and knowledge to be able to hunt alone the elusive prey of Kora and survive as a true wild lion. Naturally, in the wild, his pride would have been hunting to sustain his vast meat-eating diet. When he reaches one and a half years old, the dominant male lion of what would have been his pride would have started to kick the young males out of the pride to ensure that they do not reproduce with their own set of genes. He would then become what we call a nomad, one who wanders freely, finding his ways and becoming who he will be in the future - an alpha pride male that roams freely - and that is our goal.



Estelle Morkel who helped raise Mugi after he was rescued.

Kora will be receiving a second set of orphaned lion cubs and this will help establish a pride. With Mugi being one of the only male lions left in the National Park, the stakes are high that he will be the king of the pride and with the cubs being a separate gene-pool, it is the chance that Kora has been waiting for.

Kampi ya Simba

Kampi ya Simba has undergone some new refurbishments with its new era arriving. Each day has new challenges and these test one's strength of character. With our remote camp and lifestyle, we take on George Adamson's way of life 'that each day you must wake up and make one step forward.' This is the way we work and how George worked.

The camp is a replica of how it used to be in the old days, but as it is a working camp, we have had to change to adapt to the times. New solar equipment has been installed through all of the camp with LED lighting, new outside showers and loos have been built, with a replica of the old 'elephant jaw' loo on stand by if someone is caught short. The mess area has a new look, and an aquarium has been built for the ongoing study of the freshwater fish species of the Tana River. Terence Adamson would have loved this. As a man of great knowledge of the species of Kora, he was also a great naturalist and would have loved to have seen such a sight after a day's work

Mugi has his new private butchery with a state-of-the-art solar deep freeze for the large quantities of meat he eats. Some new indigenous trees that occur in Kora have been planted in the camp to mark the re-birth of Kampi ya Simba.



Jamie and Mugi

Kora National Park

25,000 elephants have been killed for their ivory throughout Africa, and that is just the count so far. We in Kora have some of the last remaining herds of the Northern Frontier District, with Kora being the last national park before hitting the Somali border. We aim to save these last herds. This year has proven to be very tough with fresh elephant carcasses littering the park. With the men who risk their lives to protect the last of the Northern Frontier elephant herds, we battle each and every day against the poachers. There are less than 100 elephants left and with the matriach and all of the older elephants in the herd having succumbed to the poachers' bullets, the young ones left are confused and stranded in a dangerous spot. Our small aircraft 5Y KSK works long hours trying to ease the situation, working as a deterrent against the poachers who don't like to be spotted and flee out of the park. KWS is now translocating these elephants very professionally to the Aberdares.

Tractor and trailer at work



The KWS team, led by Wilson Njue, has gone from strength to strength and it has been tough-going for these teams with very challenging days. The elephants rarely stray far from these courageous men. It is if they know whom to trust with a gun. Elephants are one of the most advanced species on our planet and they know more than we think they know.

Livestock has invaded in wave after wave and as we draw to the end of the dry season, the battles get harder. Behind the vast herds comes land degeneration, soil erosion, contaminated water, large trees felled for browse in the dry season, disease passed from livestock to wildlife,

increased poaching and then the wildlife leaves the National Park as the invasion gets worse. This must change as we cannot continue our conservation efforts anymore with every step we are taking forwards, someone else is making us take three steps backwards.

It is not all doom! New roads have been re-opened after 22 years of neglect, other roads are under construction, river-beds that were once un-crossable with a good 4x4 are now in good condition, with our grader working over-time. Bush maintenance is at its height as we work through the relentless heat, with one vision – that Kora will one day be a safe haven for all its' wildlife species to co-exist in a harmonious environment.

The new vision of Kora is the KWS predator-proof livestock fence. This will give Kora the advantage it needs to combat its many challenging problems including the heavy livestock invasion that



Captain Jamie Manuel with the old bird - 5Y KSK



The devastation of elephant poaching – Mike Harries takes a photo for his report to the NESC



brings in diseases, land degeneration and poaching. Human wildlife conflict is on the rise with elephants roaming outside the park on community land and again, this is due to the heavy poaching problem inside the park. With the rise in wildlife poaching and poisoning within the park from poachers and livestock owners, this fence is both the future and a solution for Kora. 150 kilometres of fencing is a short distance for such a large area. This is because the longest boundary of Kora is the mighty Tana River, which will be left open for a migratory route for the elephants. We will in turn combat our problems and protect Kora. 1,700 square kilometers is a perfect area for large herds of elephants and other wildlife to roam freely. It is also the future of many national parks in Kenya that have heavy community pressure. Kenya is already leading in conservation of its national parks and heritage sights and reserves.



Tana River in spate after the rains



Somali stock moving into the Boka water holes on the Kora eastern boundary, often prior to invading the Park

Community Programmes

Boka Primary School has all the makings of a new era school. Boarding houses being built for the local nomadic Somalis headers will give a chance for this new generation to be educated at a national level. A library is being built and books have been supplied. Once the school is established, new projects are in the pipeline such as wildlife clubs and a wildlife classroom. This is really important, so that these schools understand that the future of this fragile country and the preservation of its heritage rests on their heads. Water projects are underway in Boka, with sealed wells and solar pumps to supply the village with fresh clean water. And a tree planting exercise is to take part each year before the rains.

Asako Primary School has new 'Farmer' projects to teach the youth new skills. Asako's new green house is based at the pre-school. Water has been found and pumped by Kijito Windmill

Power that will reach the small farm that will be set up. We can go from strength to strength with these schools and are really grateful to Trust for African Schools for leading the way with their support.

Eral is a small nomad village on the boarder of the east side of the park. New funds have been raised by KWS to set up a new primary school. This will be a step in the right direction, as this village at present has no proper form of education for the youth.

Kaningo is a small village of the Wakamba tribe who border the outskirts on the western end of the Park. This village has benefited hugely this year with lots of work being made available to them and many new jobs being created from this.





The hangar in Kora - completed at last



Fred Ayo and Hamza Bakari in their in their Suzuki workshop uniforms



With Brigadier General Hashim Mbita in Mkomazi



Elisaria Nnko meets villagers to discuss how the Mkomazi Outreach Programme can play a part in their future plans.



'Rafiki wa Faru' students holding up their new Activity Books developed by Chester Zoo



John and Penieli with new Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary security guard trying to catch the quad bike



Kora tractor helping out a KWS vehicle stuck in a stuck in a seasonal river crossing



Storm damage to the solar power system at Kisima Camp



Ear notching a Port Lympe rhino for ID and telemetry tracking device fitted into the horn



Suzuki diagnostic room in the workshop. Suzuki Quad Bike in for analysis for maintenance. Fred Ayo looks at the computer read out.



Aerial photo of the KWS outpost at Asako village, showing some of the capture equipment for the elephant translocation.

General

We have a new Trust Chairman in Tanzania, Bernard Mchomvu, and new Trustees Kinemo Kihomano and Iddi Mbita. Trustee and board director meetings took place in the UK, the USA and Tanzania. The US trust are doing all they can now to help fundraise for the rehabilitation of Kora. Suzuki Rhino Club continued their tremendous support and also held another wonderful fundraising event in The Netherlands for the project. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Trust and SRC has now been signed. The US board of directors, Jeanne Goldsmith, Pam Solomon and Tom Hulick put together a great fundraising trip in California. Eli Weiss of WildiZe Foundation flew Tony to Denver and Aspen where she had organized fundraising events for both the Kora and Mkomazi. These were all fantastic trips with a huge amount of logistics, effort and kindness behind them.

We are grateful to our Patron, HRH Princess Michael of Kent, all our Chairmen, Trustees and Board Directors in the UK, USA, Tanzania and Kenya. To Andy and Georgina Mortimer in London who have kept the ship steady for the past 23 years; to Jeff Stein in LA; Ruth Ng'anga and Lindsay Bell in Kenya and our Tanzanian Trustees here, our sincere thanks for doing all they can to keep the projects well administered, advised and structured.

Generous donations were given by Moritz and Hilla Borman, Jeff and Annie Stein, Tom Garvin, Bill Benenson, Hon. Lee Baxter, Georgianna and Dick Regnier. We are also very grateful to Stowe School and Pembroke House for helping us. Our thanks to Ant Marrian for maintaining the website and fielding the incoming queries; and to Josh Sussman for help on sourcing of key equipment and spares. Neumann's Coffee Gruppe / Mazao Ltd and Indigo Telecommunications continued to support our communication costs. And DHL kindly supported our freight costs.

The rhetorical questions asked by so many conservationists and environmentalists these days are



Dr Peter Morkel checking on a Port Lympne rhino at the end of a very long journey and prior to the rhino being released into the holding compounds

“Am I on a fool’s errand?”

“Is the massive population explosion of both humans and domestic stock just too great for wild, natural areas to continue to exist?”

“Is the poisoning of predators passing the point of no return with the availability of the insecticide Furadlan, and with the price of rhino horn on the streets higher than the price of gold, what chance do we have?”

“Does the new demand for small pieces of ivory, rather than complete, harder-to-smuggle tusks signal the end of the species?”

“Why are the Chinese, now in Africa in such great numbers on the clamber for natural resources, allowed to get away with so much?”

As a friend of mine once said, “Never waste a good crisis.” It makes us think, become innovative and more determined to save what little is left. We are optimistic. The new generations that are beginning to take over have a drive, dedication and attitude that transcends short-term gain and looks at the future. Tourism, which relies on wildlife, has become such an integral part of many Nation’s economies that the tinkering and eating away at it creates anger and action.

So where do we go from here? We enter, invited, into these partnerships with Government because there are certain things they either cannot do or would take forever to get off the ground with the bureaucracy and internal politics that exist. For us in the more private world it is easier to find emergency funding, run tighter ships and take on the responsibility of projects that need continuity rather than transfers, and dedication rather than desks.

We are losing the natural world and we must fight - and pay - to save it. We are trying as hard as we can but we cannot do it without your help. Our sincerest thanks to all of you who have helped get us this far, but the ride is not over yet. We hope you’ll stay on board.

**Tony Fitzjohn, Field Director,
George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust**



Satellite and VHF communications installed at Kampi ya Simba, Kora.



Wild dog in the Kisima Compound



Bull elephant at Kisima Camp



Fujo and Jabu - an unlikely friendship



Water windmill pump working well in Asako village.

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