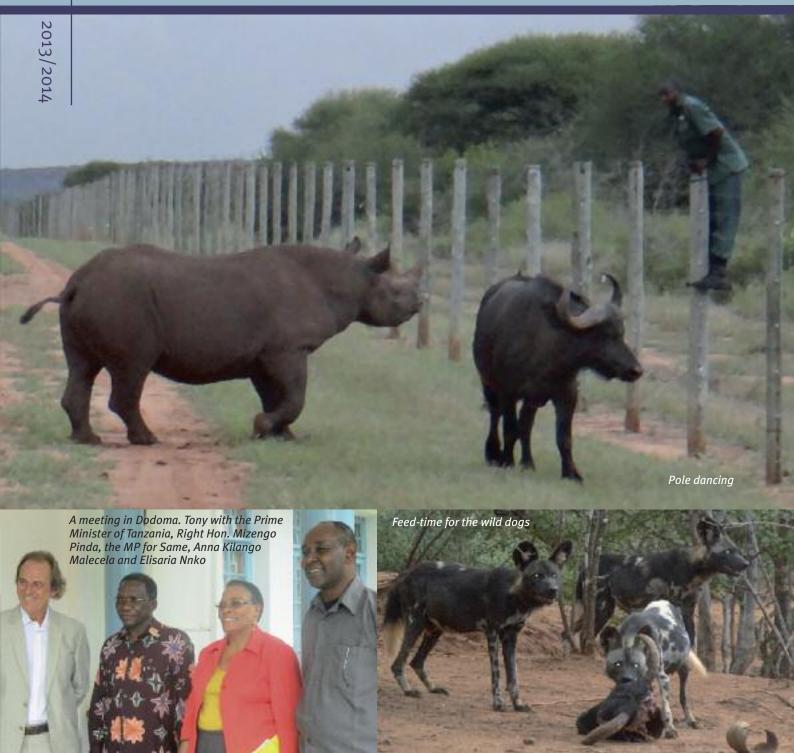
The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust

There have been times in the past when we thought our struggles were in vain. We never lost hope but sometimes wondered what the next day would bring. To see a country go from the third most impoverished place in the world to the more dynamic go-ahead economy and society that it is now has been an interesting adventure.





>>>> **Our Trust here in Tanzania** has been a tower of strength in times of adversity. The people we are now working with in the field and in the Tanzania National Parks HQ are a disciplined, professional bunch of men and women that we are proud to call our colleagues and our friends. We trust each other and that is what makes Mkomazi work and move forwards. Within the National Parks structure, we are working with some of the best wildlife people in Africa. But it means our standards have to be that much higher and we cannot afford to slow down or lose the impetus we have created and much is expected of us. No longer working from the 1950's handbook, we are now turning the pages on the 2050 one and management practices, operations and technology all have to adapt to keep up with the hypedup threats that the large mammals are now facing.



The Chairman of our Tanzanian trust, Bernard Mchomvu, visited us at the beginning of 2013 with Ambassador Ombeni Sefue, the Chief Secretary to The President of Tanzania, and Donat Mnyagatwa, the Chief Park Warden of Mkomazi National Park. The Chief Secretary asked us about the main challenges we faced. We told him that it was sustaining all that has been created thus far. We have made very good progress over a number of years to reach this stage and it is essential that this is consistently maintained at this standard. To that end, the work over the past year has continued to focus on consolidating and upgrading all the systems to keep everything in good working order. For those of us in the field who have to manage an operation of this size, depth and complexity, we are sincerely grateful to you all for your support in saving what we feel is a model for Tanzania's endangered species and community participation in wildlife and environmental programmes.

The Rhino Sanctuary continues to be well managed with security systems being constantly upgraded to combat the



gruesome slaughter of rhinos going on throughout Africa. Aircraft patrols took place over many months to back up the men in the field and then the aircraft was sent into lengthy maintenance for a mandatory engine replacement. Dr Pete Morkel has spent time in Mkomazi, produced a long-term breeding plan and has moved rhinos accordingly. Two rhino calves have been born, one named Bernard after the Chairman of our Tanzanian trust. Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) are now planning their own small rhino sanctuary in Mkomazi, close to their HQ, in order to encourage tourism. Wild dog sightings have increased in the Mkomazi / Tsavo area and we have three more litters of pups and have undertaken three reintroductions back to the wild. The relationship with TANAPA continues to be excellent with work on joint projects such as road construction and overall Park infrastructural development and security. The environmental education programme enabled us to bring in over 850 students, teachers and community leaders. We have completed the science labs in one secondary school and we are now embarking on an exciting new project to build a vocational training centre in Gonja village. An important meeting on The Mkomazi Project and the Trust took place in Dodoma with the Prime Minister of Tanzania, The Right Hon. Mizengo Pinda. We have also received many important visits this year from trustees, representatives of the Tanzanian Government, TANAPA management and our own supporters.

The economic crisis has hit us as well and we appealed to many friends and supporters to come to the rescue so that we can see ourselves through to the end of this year ahead. The past two years have seen a mighty assault on African wildlife, in particular the elephant, rhino and lion. They have all been poached in such numbers that they are now threatened with extinction unless tough and immediate action is taken. Conservation projects are the front-line. The demands on our resources are immense.





With thanks to the management of TANAPA, Mkomazi National Park continues on its road to recovery. Poaching is down to a bare minimum, there are fewer domestic stock incursions and wildlife numbers are on the rise.

We have not had the same return of the elephants to Mkomazi from Tsavo National Park in Kenya as in past years. This could either be due to the good rains that the Tsavo National Parks have enjoyed earlier in the year, or more ominously and more likely, it is probably due to increased elephant poaching there. A few small elephant herds passed through our camp over the course of the year, a herd of eland was seen grazing just below the firebreak and lion have been heard and seen on the plains close by. TANAPA also report an increase of lion at the Dindira Dam area, which is wonderful news. TANAPA have worked very closely with the local communities and together they have struck a compromise deal with a few quid pro quos, whereby wildlife is allowed to drink from a dam close to the boundary without risk. This has resulted in increased wildlife sightings (including giraffe and eland) in that area and on the edge of the Park.



The Kisima base-camp and workshops underwent a deep industrial tidy-up in preparation for the new shipment of spares and equipment from the Suzuki Rhino Club. Containers were emptied and cleared and reordered. Every cupboard, shelf, vehicle, pile of wood and collection of spares was sorted out and cleaned up. All the overworked plant machinery was moved to another parking area with new shade-net roofing. The tidy up and construction of the parking area took many months and a lot of grit and determination, but a great job was done overall.

New under-ground and over-ground fuel storage tanks have been constructed in the workshop. The tanks were kindly donated by Puma Energy, although our guys had to do all the digging and construction! These fuel tanks are now full. The mechanics took advantage of the dry weather to overhaul all the machines. The next big acquisition has been the Fastrac and Grader tyres, as well as a replacement water bowser for the Scania and a total overhaul of the Scania from Friends of Serengeti Switzerland who have been our biggest local supporters for many years now.



We are working with TANAPA to re-murram the road between our camp and the Zange HQ and to build a new road from the Ngurunga Hills to Kavateta and then across to the Mbula water hole. This will help with increased ranger patrols and it will also give easier access to tourists or TANAPA staff who are going to Maore. The Trust personnel and TANAPA rangers undertook joint patrols in the Tussa Mountain areas.

Flying patrols took place throughout the first few months of the year. The aircraft is now in Nairobi as after 12 years and 2,000 hours, there is now a mandatory requirement for an engine replacement. A new engine was sourced and shipped from a highly reputable company in the USA and is currently being fitted by Mike Seton in the maintenance wing of East African Air Charters in



Nairobi. A massive amount of work has been done on the aircraft. It has been stripped down to its frame, wiring has been replaced and new radios have been fitted. The aircraft had a lot of corrosion which has all been treated and the windscreen apparently had no retaining bracket, which had to be hand-made in the USA. The new engine was then fitted and the aircraft is ready to fly again.

We are always pleased to welcome the TANAPA management here and it was good to see Alan Kijaze, Director General and

Martin Loiboki, Director of Conservation. We were also pleased to welcome the Parliamentary Committee for Natural Resources and Environment chaired by James Lembeli. Anne Kilango Malecela, MP for Same, visited as did the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources, Mrs Tarishi, with her senior directors and managers. We were pleased to welcome Dr Alfred Kikoti who has worked tirelessly for many years on trying to protect Tanzania's elephants, often with his life on the line. Hezekiah Mungure, a great friend and the first project manager of Mkomazi, who had worked on its restoration since the early 1970's, visited over Christmas with his family.

As noted earlier, we continue to enjoy a great working partnership with TANAPA. Donat Mnygatwa, the Chief Park Warden of Mkomazi, generates great respect amongst all his colleagues on all managerial fronts. We are pleased to be working with them on their planned rhino sanctuary and on a wild dog breeding and reintroduction programme in another national park. We also enjoy co-operating closely with them on our environmental education programme 'Rafiki wa Faru' (Friends of the Rhino) to which they bring so much enthusiasm. We have also welcomed three groups from MWEKA College for African Wildlife Management over the past months. These are the wardens and officers of the future so it is always good to show them the work going on here and to talk to them about their thoughts on the issues facing the wildlife conservation world.







We are up against highly-sophisticated and heavily armed poaching gangs, with established criminal syndicates reaping the rewards from this slaughter. A few individuals within the region benefit financially from this poaching, but these nations are becoming increasingly impoverished as their key wildlife species and therefore their tourism (one of their biggest foreign exchange earners) continues to be destroyed. Our TANAPA vet colleagues tell us that their friends call rhinos 'mobile banks'. People and wildlife are being killed to supply living-room clutter, status symbols and non-existent medical 'remedies'.

In the field, we have to react to this ongoing slaughter and continuously increase and adapt the security measures in place and uphold the integrity of the personnel and the fence.

Ongoing fence maintenance is one of the keys to this. New fence posts, cantilevers and wire are being replaced and maintained throughout the whole length of the Sanctuary fence line. We are almost meeting our targets on this work. Rock has been laid down and a lot of work has been done of the contours and the western side of the boundary. All but two of the strainer posts along the full length of the 40 km line have been replaced and although we still have a long way to go, we are all feeling a lot happier about the security of the entire fence line. Apart from the extra security of the fortified fence line, by moving fence gangs from one side of the Sanctuary to the other and from one end of the Sanctuary to the other every three or four days, we also have the benefit of the added security of their presence and continuous movement around the place. Our major plan is of course to keep reinforcing and repairing the perimeter fence and concentrate on the integrity of this fence. It is one of our most important daily duties and this will continue through 2014 and beyond.

The plant machinery works continuously in the Sanctuary to keep the roads, tracks, fence line, water pans and all other systems in good shape. The JCB is currently following the entire 40 km Sanctuary line putting in massive drainage ditches prior to the grader attending to the whole line both inside and out when we have had the first few showers of rain. This is a huge task but if it is done properly, it should last for a good few years.



Pete Morkel tipping the horn of an immobilised rhino. The horn was tipped to prevent a potentially fatal fight between two bulls

We are now installing four more heavy-duty internal gates between all the separated areas within the Sanctuary. These gates are being constructed for access to the internal sections; for movement of rhinos into areas of better vegetation when necessary; for movement of the water bowser and tractor and other plant machinery between sections; and to move the translocated rhinos onwards into larger areas, thereby making way for new rhinos coming in.

Three further internal security outposts have been constructed and an external outpost has gone up with a commanding view of the main area where the rhinos move to in the wet season. This area also has access to a mountain range behind the Kisima area, a place of known poaching and encroachment activity. By having men posted here, it will deter any incursions. Three more security outposts are planned in strategic areas for 2014. Essential measures.



Evans Goodlack, senior rhino tracker

security against intelligence leaks and helps to improve the management of the Sanctuary with enhanced communications and GPS tracking of personnel on daily duties. This increases the capacity of the staff and managers to react to any poaching threats or incidents. In order to install it, we had to upgrade the entire solar power system in both the base-camp and in the Wounds now healed Sanctuary security outposts. These systems in the outposts supply the fence with power, charge a base-station radio and

the mobile radios, as well as providing lighting at the outpost. Simply adding on panels and batteries to the existing system would not have provided a reliable long-term power supply and would have been a false economy. The old system was an odd-ball selection of add-ons, unreliable local solar batteries and charge controllers. Some of the panels were seriously old (1979!) and on closer inspection were not even working. Everything had to be properly integrated and matched and we were lucky enough to receive the best advice from solar technicians in Switzerland and the USA. By upgrading this solar power, we have improved the integrity of the whole operation, so it has been a great step forwards. We also had to make, on site, a huge repeater housing-box, which was placed on top of the 4,000 ft mountain in the Sanctuary. And a road had to be re-

Earlier in the year, we were really pleased to receive a donation from USF&WS and Save the Rhino for a new digital radio system for the Sanctuary. This system provides a much higher level of

made all the way up to the top of the mountain to allow for access. A 'tech' room was built at the base-camp for this new system. With the benefit of a modem and a computer with a large screen, we can see at any time where personnel and vehicles are. This makes the checks and balances at times much easier as the distances involved are so huge. Mobile radios have been issued, base stations installed and all the supervisors' radios have private call and text capabilities. This has been a huge boost to all the personnel and came at a time when we really needed to have a lot more information at our fingertips a lot quicker, because of the increased sophistication of the rhino poachers.

We are now looking at CCTV systems, which are becoming a lot more affordable, to cover most of the fence line using a signal sent from a microwave system on top of a mountain back to base-camp. However, as informative as this new technology is, it doesn't mean we've got people sitting at desks all day long staring at screens. It's for quick checks, it's for management and it's for the re-grouping of personnel in areas close to the rhinos. There is no substitute for boots on the ground.

Semu Pallangyo, our Rhino Sanctuary Manager, has a new motor bike donated by the Suzuki Rhino Club – a Suzuki 4000Z – that has room for a (small) passenger and panniers which means he can carry a small amount of emergency kit quickly around the Sanctuary more easily. A new quad bike and trailer, also from SRC, has made an enormous difference to fence maintenance. Noah Levenson (the designated driver of the quad bike) is now able to carry six fence posts on the modified trailer, and can move people, wire and tools around with much more efficiency and speed.

Dr Pete Morkel spent a couple of weeks in Mkomazi and after a lot of thought and discussion, laid out a long term breeding plan for the entire Sanctuary. Within the majority of the Sanctuary, there is an already established hierarchy of rhinos in a large fenced area and it is incumbent upon us to ensure we don't upset this. New rhinos coming in from the outside go through a series of paddocks on the periphery of the main Sanctuary to initially both avoid confrontation and to be in the area where there are heavily maintained tsetse-targets. It is essential to keep this system ready for any incoming rhino.



Pete moved Jabu and Monduli to the extension area using a crate and palette unit which was built by Fred in our workshops. We will soon put up an internal fence in this extension area to separate them out, eventually with their own female each - they wish! The Port Lympne



rhinos' condition needed a boost after the long, unforgiving dry season, so it was a great relief to see all of them in larger areas with more abundant browse. Pete also fitted GPS satellite foot collars onto Jonah and James and tipped their horns, as they had been engaging in pretty brutal fights. Although the fighting is normal and actually essential, the tipped horns will hopefully prevent any fatal

Fence posts stacked for ongoing

quad bike and modified trailer

maintenance of the fence line. Noah

Levenson about to get to work on the Suzuki

exchanges. The foot collars gave feed to a satellite that we were able to access, and although Jonah was first pinned down in Johannesburg, the system got up and running within about 5 minutes of activation. However, both of the foot collars caused skin damage, picked up in record time by the trackers, so Dr Idrissa Chuma, Dr Maacha and Emmanuel Sisya came in to remove them. In conjunction with a UK based high-tech company, and a South African based wildlife tracking company, we are looking to see if we can improve the power

and capability of the rhino horn transmitters using VHF signals.

We decided that the two females from Port Lympne (Zawadi and Grumeti)

started off well. Semu, Penieli and Emmanuel - using the carrot trail and saucepan-of-water method - slowly walked Grumeti into the Dvur Kralove section, accompanied by Fujo the buffalo. She was then quickly chased back out by Jamie, accompanied once

more by Fujo at full gallop. We will now go through a slow 'familiarisation' process for the next attempt, but this also means putting up a new security outpost to protect the transition area.

We need to continue to develop the dedicated water storage and piping systems for each water hole. With the recent 'moves' of the male rhinos undertaken, we are building more water pans and storage systems in the new extension area to where they have been moved.

The rhino calves are all in good condition. The very young bulls, Frans and Dekker, have now been joined by another little bull calf called Bernard. And shortly before going to print, the first rhino born in Mkomazi, Suzi, had just given birth to a calf.

TANAPA have now started on a project to build their own small rhino sanctuary here in Mkomazi, but closer to their HQ. We understand that this will initially be stocked with bull rhino from the Serengeti National Park. They are basing this on our Sanctuary, including infrastructure and operating systems. This will enable them to raise tourist income and will also ensure that our Sanctuary remains undisturbed as

a secure breeding area. Rhinos are naturally shy and keep away from people, as well as being nervous and excitable, so they need plenty of space, peace and quiet to get on with their lives. The breeding is going well at the moment and with all the other pressures they face, we do not want to put any more pressure on them. We have been advising TANAPA management and their engineers on the construction of this new sanctuary, as well as operating procedures.

Early in the year when finances were really bad, TANAPA very generously responded to a cry for help on fence posts and tsetse target treatments and we are enormously grateful for their support on this. Emmanuel Sisya organized everything, including freight to Kisima and this is the first time in my experience of 45 years of field-work that a Government organisation has made such a huge donation towards the work of a wildlife trust. We are immensely proud of this partnership and long may it continue.

We are enormously grateful to everyone who has helped support this critically important endangered species programme. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, everybody is on the job looking after these rhinos as the street value of horn rises higher than the

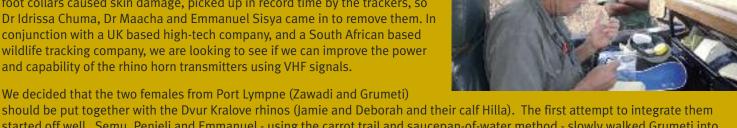
price of gold. What started off as a small and serious attempt to do something for the incredibly low population of rhinos in Tanzania has developed into a war-footing position against organised crime.

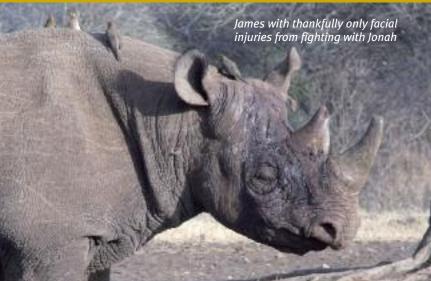




Pete Morkel preparing the dart for rhino immobilsation. Semu









Pete Morkel and Semu tipping the horn

The Kora tractor being taken to Nairobi for repair



Tony training up Rhino Sanctuary personnel on the new digital radio system at a remote outpost



Jabu about to come round from the immobilisation and be guided, blind-folded, into the crate to be moved to another fenced section in the Rhino Sanctuary



At Kampi ya Simba, Kora National Park. Alex Fitzjohn, Steve Kameti of Trust for African Schools, Tony, John Munuve, MP for Kitui North and the Rev. Mike Harries



Our orphaned elephant calf with the TANAPA and TAWIRI vets and Tony. His keeper, Thomas Nnko, is on the left hand side

Fred and Semu with the new Suzuki motorbike



Foundations being laid for classrooms at the Gonja VTC

Group of community leaders come to visit Mkomazi on the 'Rafiki wa Faru' bus



Tana River

Gerenuk in Mkomazi National Park

New litter of pups Young wild dogs at feed time

We have had a great year on the wild dog programme, making progress with this fascinating and complex species. We hope that our methods are helping towards restoring their numbers in the wild. An endangered species programme such as this one can only be successful if there is continuity and perseverance over many years. To this end, we have continued to manage the breeding and release of these wild dogs and to follow the systems established over all these years.

Wild dog sightings have increased in the Tsavo / Mkomazi ecosystem. This ecosystem is fortunately one

Vehicle arrives at the reintroduction compound with sedated wild dogs in the crate. Mshamba stands by the crate door keeping a close eye on the dogs

of the largest protected wildlife areas in Africa and one of the few where the wild dog could have a chance of success. We received reports that a pack of 'at least 20 wild dogs' had been seen in Tsavo West National Park in Kenya (Ngulia area), one of which was wearing a collar. As we are the only ones collaring in this region and the collar colour is distinctive, we have to assume that this is a pack that has been reintroduced from Mkomazi and that has either bred up in the wild or joined another wild pack. Throughout the year, we also received reports of wild dog sightings

in Mkomazi from our own guys, TANAPA personnel and various visitors. We also currently have three pregnant females in the breeding compounds.

Recent discussions with Dr Emmanuel Masenga and Dr Robert Fyumagwa of the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) on their project to reintroduce wild dogs to the Serengeti National Park have been very positive. Dr Massenga has already established two packs of wild dogs on the Serengeti, which have bred and are hunting successfully. We have shared our experiences with TAWIRI and TANAPA for the betterment of their project and we are keen to help their efforts.





We reintroduced another pack of ten wild dogs on the Tsavo / Mkomazi border in February 2013 and nine were pinned down through telemetry over the first month of release in the Umba, Kasigau and Mlima Jipe areas and at Maore water pan before they headed into Tsavo West National Park.

In early 2014, after the rains, we started on the next set of reintroductions. Firstly, eight wild dogs (four females, four males) were moved over to the Tsavo/Mkomazi border in mid January and reintroduced to the wild after being held for three weeks. They split up into two single sex packs on release. Whilst moving them over to the reintroduction compound, we passed a pack of at least fifteen wild dogs close to the Rhino Sanctuary. A pack of seven sisters was then moved over to the reintroduction compound and were seen hunting on day two of release. Then a pack of six sisters and two brothers have just been released and we are tracking them now. Thanks to TANAPA's management, there is a lot of standing water in Mkomazi, no domestic stock and abundant prey species, so conditions are good.

When the dogs are reintroduced, the keepers are based with them at the compounds on the Tsavo/Mkomazi border. After release, they will continue to be fed and given water if they need it. Each pack is different and our philosophy is that these reintroductions cannot be done as on 'open the box and let them go' basis. Some of the released packs need post-release care until they become self-sufficient. Other packs are self-sufficient from day one.

We have started to establish two new breeding packs in the compounds at the base camp, as two of our alpha females are coming to the end of their breeding lives. We would love to release these old retired breeding pairs back to the wild, but it is not possible as even though they might remain close to our camp they would be extremely vulnerable to predation.

We lost one of our precious alpha females after she aborted her litter of pups a month before they were due. We treated her with antibiotics but were unable to save her.



We are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported this programme for this highly endangered and fascinating species. The increased sightings in the Tsavo/Mkomazi ecosystem are heartening. We are here for the long-haul to help re-establish them in the wild. We are sometimes asked how much longer we intend to continue. The answer is that if we are ultimately going to make any difference in these highly pressurized times to a species such as this, these programmes have to continue forever. For endangered species there are no new beginnings, only an empty end.







Dickson Kaaya



Imogen and our bush baby, Tontoloki



Tony with Catrien and Ted van Dam



Gill Marshall-Andrews in a Trust for African Schools meeting in Nairobi discussing Asako Primary School. Kenneth Ochieng, KWS Senior Warden Meru National Park, at the head of the table



Dr Emmanuel Maacha, Fred Ayo and Emmanuel Sisya with hands on the sedated rhino, preparing to remove the GPS foot collars, assisted by Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary personnel



Martin Clunes and the baby elephant with Thomas watching on



Peniel Mbise, senior rhino tracker, admonishes Fujo



A meeting with the TANAPA vets and the TANAPA Director of Conservation. From left: Dr Emmanuel Maacha, Emmanuel Sisya, Martin Loiboki, Tony and Dr Idrissa Chuma

Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary personnel



Mugi looks out over the Tana River



Thomas, Tom Hardy and Suzi with the ele

Our little orphaned elephant calf is now just over two years old and is still doing well. We feel that he must have been no more than a month old when he arrived on that memorable day at the guard-house on the airstrip and pushed his way in. He is firmly attached (as are all elephant orphan calves) to his two keepers, Thomas and Zacharia, and has adapted well to his life at our camp. Mr Tembo, also called Mr Brrrr by one of his keepers, is a wonderful addition to all of our lives here. There are a few bull elephants around the Kisima area, as well as the odd herd of females and calves that pass through, but a proper encounter has not yet taken place. He generally moves off quietly in the other direction if he hears elephant activity. His appetite for browse increases daily which keeps him occupied in the bush for most of the hours of the day and night, although he is still milkdependent and gets through about sixteen litres of milk per day. He will continue to be milk dependent for at least another year and a half. Although he still has his small stable to rest up in at night, he also now has the run of the big elephant compound (along with a newly installed shelf for his transistor radio) that was originally built for Nina, a twenty seven year old female elephant that we had taken from a 'zoo' life in Arusha and released back into the wild. We are now building a keeper's room at the back of the compound so he will always have company there too. His well-being and peace of mind is a fundamental part of everyone's daily routine here as we just have to try our best to mimic aspects of his natural upbringing. It is a long, intense and difficult process, and it will take many years for him to move away naturally from this camp to be a young elephant bull surviving out there in the wild. We will continue to do our very best for him on his long walk to freedom over the coming years.



Tom Hardy interviews Elisaria Nnko about educating communities and the systems needed to combat rhino poaching



Martin and Philippa Clunes filmed in Kora for 'A Lion Called Mugi'. With Dominic Ozanne as director, they have been filming for this programme over the past two years and have had to face a plethora of delays as well as the tragedy of the death of Mugi to a pack of hyenas. What started off as a two part series chronicling the re-building of both George Adamson's old camp and re-establishing a pride of lions, ended up as one episode owing to the withdrawal from the area by the Trust until security is improved and an agreement with the Kenya Wildlife Services is signed. We enjoy working with Martin and always love his take

on things that are happening, so we are enormously grateful that he decided to come out with this one episode, even if it wasn't the happiest story in the world. But there's always next time and we are not giving up.

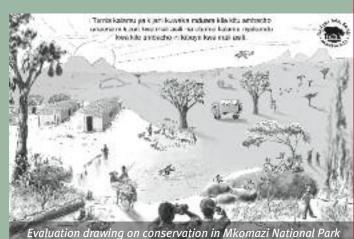
There is no greater 'spirited debate' in the wildlife world than 'To Trade or Not To Trade' especially amongst endangered and dwindling species. Some recent newspaper articles were entitled 'You've Got To Kill It To Save It.' Kill them rather than count them, move them and settle them? Did we miss something here? Tom Hardy was embarking on a documentary entitled 'Poaching Wars' and looking at the poaching crisis in several countries in southern Africa. He had to cover the opinions and entrenched positions of Government and private protection programmes, and the feelings on both the selling of the horns (mainly to Asian markets) and what do with the excess animals on 'farms'. Our great friend Olly Williams - an old mate of Tom's - insisted that Tom come and have a look at what we are doing up here in Tanzania and very kindly the production company agreed. We were expecting a pleasant, agreeable "well-l'm-sure you're-right" interviewer and instead got a well-researched, worldly-wise and intuitive Tom, with all his inherent sensitivities, who was probing for what would actually work amongst all these disparate groups and what would work for the rhino most of all. He ended the programme by saying "I came looking for answers and all I got was more questions". One more visit, Tom?



We continue to cover the four main issues identified as important to The Mkomazi Project: habitat restoration of Mkomazi National Park; water conservation; the black rhino breeding programme; and the wild dog breeding programme. Dr Maggie Esson has continued to advise on the choreography of the day and, together with her team in the education department at Chester Zoo, has produced reports on the progress the project is making. Maggie also ran a basic education evaluation course at the Latin American Zoo Educators' annual conference in August 2012, just after the end of the reporting period, so the methodology is being rolled out to other zoos and field programs. Cathy Dean of Save the Rhino continues to prepare the fundraising proposals and subsequent reporting, and we are really grateful for her commitment to this project.

A series of wildlife environmental clubs have been created at some of the schools that we work with, as a direct result of their field trips into Mkomazi. The students and teachers at these schools have made up their own songs about Mkomazi and now sing them on their way home. The pupils remain amazed at the electric fence, the armed guards at the gates of the Sanctuary and at the courage and fitness of the trackers. They enjoy looking at the pictures and reading the informative signs about rhinos (produced by Chester Zoo) that are now up in the bunker.

Chester Zoo designed, printed and shipped 3,000 more activity books. The Swahili version is handed out to all the students and the English version is handed out to



teacher groups, VIPs or TANAPA
Trustees. These books are a
wonderful addition to the

programme and it is always heartening to see how gratefully they are received and how thoroughly they are read.

So overall, the Rafiki wa Faru programme is running very well and is greatly enjoyed by the students. They convey their experiences, amazement and enjoyment of the day to their families when they go home. This demonstrates the legacy of this programme as the years go by. We are very pleased that the Community Conservation Wardens of TANAPA have looked at depth at this programme and are keen to adapt it to other parks.





We have always wanted to build a vocational training centre (VTC) to help the youth of this area to be trained in practical skills. Having tried to find the best way forwards on this project over a few years, and through a combination of good timing and good luck, we have managed to put together a dynamic partnership to make this a reality.

Suzuki Rhino Club commissioned a feasibility study for the VTC project in Gonja village. This study was undertaken by Evans Kirigia. Then came an introduction to Noud van Hout of the Watoto Foundation, who has extensive experience and a great track record in setting up and running VTC's in Tanzania. The Watoto Foundation has helped street children from all backgrounds and regions across Tanzania start a new life by firstly helping them complete their education at primary and secondary level and then through training them at the Foundation's VTC in Arusha town. This education and training qualifies them to start a well-paid job and become independent. Through the Watoto Foundation, we were introduced to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Same,



Rogarth Kimaryo, who has now become a key player in this project. The District Commissioner of the area, Herman Kapufi, is a dedicated and energetic man who has now put the full weight of his department behind it and brought water and electricity to the site. The MP for Same, Anne Kilango Malecela, is also fully supportive of this project and another key to its future success. Rineke van Dam put a lot of time and effort into a successful fundraising initiative.

The goal is to build and run a fully sponsored private VTC for boys (initially) with a hundred boarders and two hundred day school boys. A step-wise strategy is necessary as boys and girls require separated boarding facilities and demand different courses. By focusing first on boys, it will help to get the school running, and will then expand to include girls' courses and boarding facilities. The school will be a trust with board members from the local/district government, donors and the Roman Catholic Diocese



of Same. The Diocese will be responsible for the day to day management and administration. The district government authorities will ensure that the school works within the appropriate government regulations and will also supply two qualified teachers, as well as electricity and water. The subjects to be taught initially are welding/metal work, carpentry, masonry, electricity, car repairs and mechanics, farming and agriculture, and computer lessons. Construction work has started and the first pupils are expected in mid 2015.

Suzuki Rhino Club had originally committed to build and equip a dedicated mechanics' training classroom. However, this has now evolved into a huge project for a well-designed, well-constructed and fully equipped VTC for this rural community. In February 2014, they invited the Mortimers and the Marshall-Andrews and us to a highly successful fundraising dinner at the Louwman Museum in The Hague, specifically for the VTC. Funds were committed during the course of the evening by Suzuki Rhino Club and its ambassadors, the Watoto Foundation,



Wilde Ganzen, the Fentener van Vlissingens, Schlumberger BV., as well as other generous donations. A classroom made out of fibre-glass bricks was constructed in the dining hall as the funds were raised! It was a remarkable evening and exceeded all our expectations.

Although we are all very realistic about the challenges that lie ahead, the team has many years of practical experience between them all and we are all really looking forward to the next stage.

The MP for Same, Anne Kilango Malecela, kindly set up a meeting between the Prime Minister of Tanzania, The Right Hon. Mizengo Pinda, Tony, Elisaria, Noud van Hout, the District Commissioner for Same, Herman Kapufi and herself to discuss the VTC issues in detail. The Prime Minister also expressed an interest in laying the foundation stone of the VTC.

We are all really pleased that we can play a large part in this initiative to provide youngsters with practical training that will move them into the job market, rather than heading unskilled to the towns, being disappointed or overwhelmed and then drifting back to the villages again.





The two science labs, each with its own administrative office, have now been completed at Gonja Secondary School. The funds for this programme were raised by the GAWeV in Germany through the efforts of Simone Motzko and Erol Sander.

It has taken two years to complete these labs as initially very deep, strong foundations had to be built because of the regularity of earth tremors in this area. We have helped with cement, roofing frames and roofing sheets, reinforcing bar, windows and doors and frames and all the attendant hardware needed. The desks and chairs have been purchased and the students are now using the labs. The Ministry of Education is now providing lab equipment through the District Commissioner's office. The Headmaster, councillor, school board and building committee are all thrilled and have extended their thanks to the GAWeV. These are the first science labs in this school, even though it has been running for many years. The school, the community and the district could not have done this on their own. Our support has made this project possible and with our donation and the support of the very energetic headmaster and councillor, more help was received from the municipality and the district to complete the project.

Ndungu Secondary School is nearing completion but at a much slower pace. The village is poor, the school is remote and the Headmaster is isolated. He has therefore had to work hard to match our support and complete the project. As with Gonja, we have donated the basic raw materials. When these materials are received, the work is done but the Headmaster does not have the benefit of an energetic school board to help him on this. The school has constructed two standard (fairly small) classrooms out of the originally planned one large classroom, so this is a bonus. Together with TANAPA, we feel that this school needs our support as it is in such a poor area and close to Lake Kalimawe where wildlife comes to drink.



Phil King and his technician work with Fred Ayo to install the digital radio repeater on the top of Hafino Hill



Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary fence repair – a daily undertaking



Tusks coming through at 2 years old



VTC administration office being built



Meeting of the board directors and fundraising team of the USA trust. From the left: Tom Garvin, Moritz Borman, Jeff Stein, Georgianna Regnier, Jeanne Goldsmith and Pam Solomon



New security outpost in the Rhino Sanctuary



Students in Ndungu Secondary School in a classroom constructed by GAWPT currently nearing completion. Fulfilling a real need.



Coming back with Mugi from a 6 mile walk



Fight between two rhino bulls, James and Jonah



Presentation given by Tony and Ted van Dam to the Ambassadors of the Suzuki Rhino Club at the Louwman Museum in The Hague

Elisaria by the 'Rafiki wa Faru' bus, showing sponsorship of this exciting programme



In the aftermath of the Westgate disaster and the seeming reluctance of the wildlife authorities to realistically fully commit to fully securing the marginal areas such as Kora National Park against the Somalis and their domestic stock, we have decided to take a step back for a short while and keep Kampi ya Simba on a maintenance basis for the next year. Whilst adopting this position in the field, we are working on a long-term plan and vision for Kora with the devolved regional authorities, local communities, representatives of the herdsmen and agriculturalists, as well as highly respected individuals originally from these remote villages who now hold senior Government positions. Together with Mike Harries, excellent meetings have already been held with key people who are keen to help put together a plan for a thriving Kora into the future, but which include the aspirations of people who wish to utilize the area.

One of the trustees of GAWPT in Kenya, the ex-Vice President, Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka EGH, is now working hard on the project GAWPT has initiated to fence the eastern and western boundaries of Kora. We have raised the funds to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this Kora fencing project. This is now being carried out by James Thiane, his assessment team and a Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) team who are discussing the fence with the Kora local communities, and so far the feedback has been positive. The EIA is of critical importance, and should there be a full return to Kora at a later date, it will invaluable to have as a starting-point for further progress, saving months of bureaucratic wrangling with central and regional government. Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka is also working hard to bring together the regional and local authorities with GAWPT to work on the long-term plan.

The situation in Kora itself had also become increasingly dangerous. Jamie Manuel, my assistant in Kora for two years, was shot at whilst driving out of Kora at the end of November. Mugi's death to a large pack of hyenas was another awful turn of events and this was coupled with HQ in Nairobi showing reluctance at the time to release some of the many orphaned lion cubs from their orphanage, which we had offered to take on to help Mugi form a pride and to reintroduce them back into the wild in Kora. The new Toyota Landcruiser donated by Tusk Trust and The Aspinall Foundation was left unattended, stolen and rolled, and has now been repaired to its former condition in Nairobi. Ruth Ng'anga has been enormously helpful on sorting this all out. A new Massey Ferguson tractor was brought in thanks to Eli Weiss and Moritz Borman and with Fergus Robley of Ndume Ltd helping us out with supply and transport.

Over the past five years there has been a massive decline in wildlife in Kora. It is devastated. Drought, disease brought in by domestic stock (leading to a massive die-out in wildlife which has never been investigated), burning and tribal conflicts between pastoralists and Ukambani have all taken their toll. A canal has been dredged on the north bank of the Tana River by aid agencies working on irrigation schemes, which will remove the fragile and highly important riverine forest there. No one really seems to know much about this project and it is being carried out without consultation with the KWS authorities.

By taking in Mugi, the orphaned lion cub who was desperately looking for a home, we thought that this would be the kick-start that Kora really needed. Even now, with the go-ahead for more lion cubs from the Director of KWS, William Kiprono, I feel it would be an irresponsible move until the bigger issues have been openly discussed and attended to. I have an enormous responsibility to those very generous supporters who have followed along in my optimism that we could make it work under the existing parameters. We haven't quit, we've just pulled back for a bit and the more important equipment is going into storage locally or being locked in the aircraft hangar at the KWS Kora base.

We are really heartened that Trust for African Schools (TAS) still continue to support the schools around Kora and I still attend the meetings held in Nairobi on Asako and Boka as well as visiting the villages in the field when I am in Kora. Just because the bigger picture needs time to be worked out, there's no excuse to ignore people who rely on our support. It's wonderful to see the progress being made by the inspirational programme set up by Gill Marshall-Andrews of TAS, which has both produced better

results in the schools and brought the communities together. They are also enlarging the programme initiated by TAS and ourselves.

In Asako, the dynamic Senior Warden Meru National Park, Ken Ochieng, agreed to re-lay the pipe line from the water windmill pump we donated to the holding tanks in the village. There is good, plentiful water and it is great to be able to work with Ken, who is both a fellow pilot and a man who makes things happen.



The new Massey Ferguson tractor and the new Toyota Landcruiser at Kampi ya Simba. Really getting a move on at last

We undertook this work in Kora at the request of KWS with the intention of rehabilitating Kora to function as a standalone park. This included the rebuilding and expansion of George's old camp, installment of radio and satellite communications, new solar power systems, many hours of aircraft patrols, road repair and construction, acquisition of plant machinery, the aircraft and vehicles. The partnership with KWS in the field continues to be good and it has been a pleasure to work with the KWS Kora Warden, Wilson Njue.

This is not a time to be gung-ho; there has to be dialogue with all concerned and I feel we need to be part of a bigger partnership before we can get going again and any real progress can be made. Talks are now in progress with the senior Somalis in Government who realise the importance of Kora remaining intact, but who are also firm on the other

needs to be addressed. We are also in dialogue with the new Kitui County directors and and are working to bring together the various disparate parties and demands.

It might take a couple of years to make sense out of it all, especially in a complicated boom-time era in Kenya, but all that is needed is the right political will. This is something we are always looking for in Africa and to a great extent, something we have found in Tanzania. Suddenly the picture of Kora's future and the New Kenya is becoming clearer.





5H-DOG with new engine fitted

JCB moving a rhino crate onto TANAPA lorry. The crate was loaned to TANAPA for moving rhinos in the Serengeti National Park. Suzuki quad bike and modified trailer with fence posts on board.

Government Authorities

Tanzanian National Parks (TANAPA)
TANAPA Director General, Alan Kijaze
TANAPA Chief Park Warden Mkomazi
National Park, Donat Mnyagatwa
TANAPA Ecologist Mkomazi National
Park, Emmanuel Sisya
Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS)
KWS Director, William Kiprono
KWS Senior Warden Kora National
Park, Wilson Njue

Charities / Trusts / Foundations / Grant Giving Organisations

Suzuki Rhino Club
Swordspoint Foundation
Friends of Mkomazi
Tusk Trust
Tusk USA Inc
Save the Rhino International
US Fish & Wildlife Service –
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation
Fund
Chester Zoo and the North of

England Zoological Society

WildiZe Foundation and Eli Weiss

The Rufford Foundation The Aspinall Foundation Friends of Serengeti Switzerland Sarnia Charitable Trust AFEW Kenya Ltd Climb for Conservation team and Ginna Kelly Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens Newman's Own Foundation Cedar Hill Foundation The Winnick Family Foundation William Hurt Family Foundation **Geoff Ball Family Trust** The Bessimer Trust The Lawrence Israel Family Foundation and Judith Israel Burning Torch and Karyn Craven Benenson Family Trust Communities Foundation of Texas -SXSW Communities Fund - on behalf of the 2014 Grulke Prize Winner, Damon Albarn

Our sincerest gratitude to the Headmaster and the Board of Governors of Stowe School.

Vets

Dr Peter Morkel
Dr Idrissa Chuma
Dr Emmanuel Maacha
Dr Aart Visee
Dr Robert Fyumagwa
Dr Emmanuel Masenga
Dr Felix Lankester

Individual Supporters and Donations of Gifts in Kind

Moritz and Hilla Borman John and Marine Fentener van Vlissingen Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, EGH Ted and Catrien van Dam Palle and Caroline Rune Olly and Suzi Pete and Julianna Silvester Elizabeth Kitchen Tom and Nancy Gallagher Nigel Wray John Dixon Norman Spieler Steve Berkson Tom Hardy Stuart and Teresa Graham





Suzuki Rhino Club fundraising dinner at the Louwman Museum in The Hague

Pointing in all directions – the music video team comes in



Isaya and Fujo

Fred Ayo in the workshop. Eliyudi Tofilo on the Grader in the background

Richard Probst Jeff and Annie Stein Simone Motzko **Erol Sander** Nan and Malcolm Newall

Tom Garvin Rev. Mike Harries Hon. Lee Baxter

Georgianna Regnier

Jane Oliver Tom Hulick **David Press**

Gary and Synthia Praglin

Peter Morton

Simon Padro and his team at Ghost AT

Brian Thornton Ian and Julie Ballard Rachel Rosen Rosanne Ziering

Brian Leahy Andrew Wood

George Mavroudis

Lisa Samos Paul Chauveau

Trust for African Schools and Gill Marshall-Andrews

Rachael Murton and the Elephant

Orphanage Project

Angela Carr-Hartley and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

Michael Cohen and Suzanne Lerner

Michael Stars Lindsay Bell Tami Kempton

Westridge Schools for Girls

Our thanks to all who helped with the elephant's milk supply

An anonymous (and very generous) annual donation was received by the USA trust in 2013 and 2014.

A particular thank you to the Friends of Mkomazi, many of whom have been supporters since the very start – over 25 years - financially and materially. They have been part of the backbone of our financial stability and are friends in the true sense of the world. Also to the many one-off or occasional individual supporters who have played such a bit part in helping develop the project.

Our sincerest thanks to all of those who responded to generously to the Appeal that was sent out by the UK trustees earlier this year.

Another big thank you for all the donations, of any amount, that have supported the USA trust over the past year. Our most heartfelt thanks to you all for helping sustain these endangered species programmes for the black rhino and African wild dog and the environmental education programmes.

Damon Albarn was the recipient of the Grulke Prize at the 2014 South by South West music festival in Austin, Texas and very generously dedicated the prize money to the Trust and the care of the orphaned elephant calf.

And to all of those who wish to remain anonymous, our sincerest thanks for your support.

Companies

ICB

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the Millars Tropic Air and Ben Simpson

Mazao Ltd and Ray Ringia Burka Coffee Estates Ltd Onda Entertainment





Fuel storage tanks completed and pumps awaiting calibration by Puma Energy

Visit by the Parliamentary Committee for Natural Resources and the Environment. From left: Chairman of the Committee, James Lembeli, Chief Park Warden Mkomazi National Park, Donat Mnyagatwa and Elisaria



Our most sincere thanks go to our Patron, HRH Princess Michael of Kent, and to our Chairmen, trustees, treasurers, board directors and administrators. Bernard Mchomvu, Andy and Georgina Mortimer, Moritz Borman and Jeff Stein have done so much to keep the trusts in such excellent shape. Palle Rune, Bob Marshall-Andrews, Charles Dobie, Anthony Marrian, Anthony Gross, Bill Benenson, Pam Solomon, Jeanne Goldsmith, Ruth Ng'anga, Rita Ashton and Joshua Sussman all play an enormously active role in the day to day running of the trusts.

Our sincerest thanks, as always, to our Tanzanian personnel and most especially to Elisaria Nnko, Fred Ayo, Semu Pallangyo and Sangito Lema. They are so often the unsung heroes of this wildlife conservation world and a great team with enormous dedication and loyalty to this project.

Anne Kilango Malecela, the MP for Same, very kindly arranged a meeting in Dodoma with the Prime Minister, The Right Hon. Mizengo Pinda, Tony, Elisaria, the District Commissioner Same and herself to discuss The Mkomazi Project, its history, the current status, visions for the future and the various Trust issues that need addressing. The Prime Minister completely understood all the issues and gave both excellent advice and the process by which we could re-instate our tax exempt status, taken away from all charities some years ago. On the way back from Dodoma, Tony and Elisaria met with the Director General of TANAPA, Alan Kijaze, who wrote a full letter of support as part of this process. The Prime Minister also said that he was keen to visit Mkomazi National Park and see what we had achieved over the years.

We were visited by trustees from the UK, US, Tanzanian and Kenyan trusts; Palle and Caroline Rune, Bernard Mchomvu, Bob and Gill Marshall-Andrews, Tom and Ann Garvin, Pete and Julianna Silvester and Charles and Netti Dobie. We received visits from TANAPA management, Tanzanian Government authorities from Parliament, the region and the district. We also received visits from our major supporters; Ted and Catrien van Dam of the Suzuki Rhino Club, Charlie Mayhew (and his family) and Reggie Heyworth of Tusk Trust, Ambassadors from the Suzuki Rhino Club, trustees from Chester Zoo, Alex Rechsteiner, Barbara Schachenmann and Helen Markwalder of Friends of Serengeti Switzerland, Mark Stewart, Tom and Nancy Gallagher and the Director of the Dvur Kralove Zoo, Czech Republic. Olly and Suzi came to paint the wild dogs and also helped to coordinate a visit from the documentary team who were focusing on the poaching crisis in Africa. Olly returned over New Year with John and Marine Fentener van Vlissingen and their family and it was great to show them around. We were thrilled that Bob Bishop was able to attend the Friends of Mkomazi dinner in London. We were really pleased to welcome Ginna Kelly and the Climb for Conservation ladies who all successfully summitted Mount Kilimanjaro and donated the funds raised to the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary.

Wildlife and the environment these days have gone beyond the comfortable Western way of a few years ago of spirited debate and yet even more repetitive 'research' programmes. There has to be a return to carefully thought out practical endeavour, incorporating new technologies, and maybe some very necessary trial and error if new ground is being entered into. I'm quoting from a friend here, but I do feel that the key to even a small success is a great team, a common goal, freedom and creativity and an essential last ingredient a little bit of luck! We have the team and we've been lucky so far, but without all of you, we could not have made this much progress and we are enormously grateful. I have said this before but we are losing the natural world and we must fight and pay - to save it. We are trying as hard as we can but, as always, we cannot do it without your support. Thank you all.

Mugi, with the Kora Rocks and Kampi ya Simba in the background

Design: Rachel Williams

A date for your diary.
Thursday 25th
September 2014
at the Royal
Geographical Society,
Kensington Gore,
London. A reception to
celebrate 25 years of
The Mkomazi Project.
Details to follow.

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