

The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust

Report from the field for 2015



*From Kent to Mkomazi – Zawadi finally at home in Tanzania
Photograph by David Yarrow*

We cannot lose these animals to apathy or indifference whilst waiting for a new generation of leaders. We have to concentrate on what we are doing, taking the fight to the front line and we still have a chance, working away in our own backyards.

It could so easily be that one report reads just like another, especially after 26 years in the field, but nature is a changing dynamic both in its own right and also by the relentless pressure put on it by humankind. Our job is to ensure that things get better, not worse, in spite of all the odds facing us. Sometimes we win, sometimes we are doomed to lose because of the sheer size of the areas we are trying to protect, the limited personnel we have and the extreme and unwarranted prices of the tusks and horns that now determine the fate of rhino and elephant. All we can do is work and keep our eyes and ears open and try not, ever, to relax our guard. The miracle of other countries dropping their demand for the curse that is ivory and keratin still seems far off and it seems unbelievable that we might see in our lifetimes the collapse of the natural world in Africa, the last great balanced continent on Earth. This is no time for congratulations as we are running out of time.

It is the political will of the governments of the countries in which these animals live that will ultimately determine their fate. Larger wildlife organisations work in the Far East trying to change attitudes, Chinese celebrities go on national TV, heartfelt and sincere, but that elusive political commitment, important as it is, will take time that we do not have. We cannot lose these animals to apathy or indifference whilst waiting for a new generation of leaders. We have to concentrate on what we are doing, taking the fight to the front line and we still have a chance, working away in our own backyards.

Overview



*Off all fours -
Fujo comes to greet Semu
Photograph by David Yarrow*

The past fifteen months have gone by so quickly and with it have been an enormous amount of physical field work. We are extremely fortunate to have a team of conscientious, hard-working and dedicated staff under the management of Elisaria Nnko. The rhinos are all fine and two more calves have been born in the last year so numbers are inching upwards. We have increased the security of the rhino sanctuary with the establishment of a tracker dog unit and a digital radio system, and the aircraft has been patrolling up to four times daily. The wild dogs are breeding and we have done another reintroduction back into the wild. The vocational training centre is nearly complete and the Rafiki wa Faru bus continues to bring in the school children for a day out in Mkomazi. The orphaned elephant is now nearly four years old and doing well and we have recently taken on an orphaned caracal. Overall, Mkomazi National Park is in very good shape under the professional management of TANAPA. Our partnership with them is something of which we are immensely proud and we enjoy working with their dedicated and conscientious wardens. There have been a few small dramas but work continues apace, with consolidation and upgrading of all the operating systems and – boring as it is – constant maintenance of the plant machinery, the vehicles, the aircraft and all the equipment here.



Return of the cheetah to Mkomazi

When TANAPA took over the management of Mkomazi National Park, there was a notion that our workload would be reduced. Nothing could have been more off-track. From years of having to make it up as we went along, of ducking and diving and being subject to pressures that we couldn't even see coming, we now have a partnership with TANAPA that has seen the growth of a national park which we could only ever have imagined. Projects that once seemed like a pipe-dream and are now taking shape.



TANAPA rangers recover ivory from a rare natural death

We have carried out joint patrols using the aircraft, vehicles and personnel and we work together on road development and maintenance. The aircraft, with its new engine, is flown three or four times daily on patrol with relay of information to the TANAPA HQ and rhino sanctuary personnel. Numbers of lion, cheetah, oryx, zebra, gerenuk, buffalo, eland, kongoni, giraffe and many other species are increasing.

The major drawback to the ongoing development of Mkomazi National Park has always been water – or lack of it. The Tsavo / Mkomazi ecosystem is one of the largest protected ecosystems in Africa and historically supported a vast range of wildlife and was an important winter sanctuary for the elephant. The current poaching crisis has reduced the elephant numbers dramatically and

the number coming into Mkomazi for the wet season browse has decreased alarmingly. There is available water in the remote border areas of Tsavo West National Park and we feel that under Mkomazi's excellent TANAPA management structure, the elephant herds will be well protected if they have the option of alternative water sources in Mkomazi. TANAPA have constructed a water pan close to their HQ in an area called Norbanda and this is now being used in the rainy season by wildlife, most significantly small elephant herds. Another proposed water source in the centre of the park has been surveyed by TANAPA engineers who looked at the area on foot and by plane and then demarcated it.

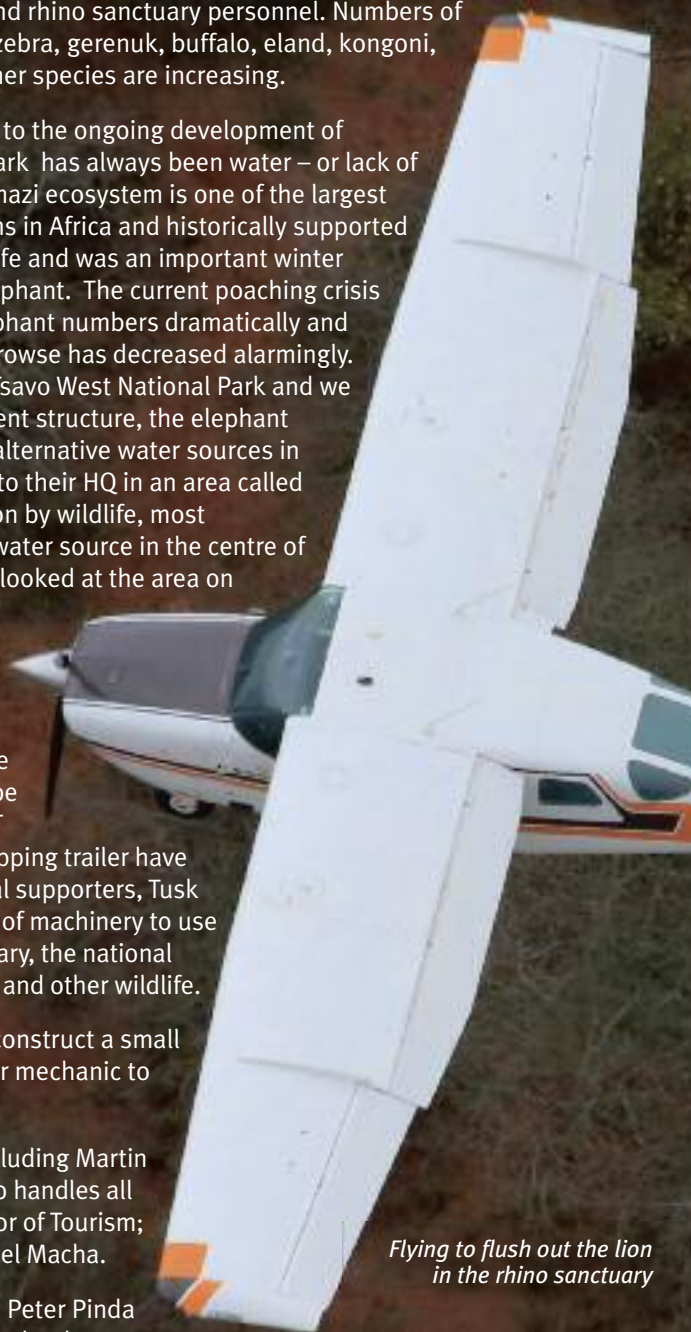
We have been offered a second-hand bulldozer from a colleague (Kim Axmann) who is considering establishing a small tented tourist camp in Mkomazi close to Dindira Dam. He is a farmer in Tanzania and the offer is to bring the bulldozer to Mkomazi where it will be shared between us, but under the control of the GAWPT workshop. The funds for the bulldozer and a ten-ton tipping trailer have been very kindly donated by our long-standing and loyal supporters, Tusk Trust and Chester Zoo. These are both excellent pieces of machinery to use for the infrastructural development of the rhino sanctuary, the national park and these new water sources needed for elephant and other wildlife.

TANAPA also lent us a bulldozer from another park to construct a small water pan at our base-camp and they have sent in their mechanic to help solve some of our mechanical issues.

We received visits from senior TANAPA management including Martin Loiboiki, the Director of Conservation; Chief Mafuru who handles all rhino matters; Mr Lejora, the Chief Ecologist; the Director of Tourism; and the TANAPA vets, Dr Idrissa Chuma and Dr Emmanuel Macha.

The Prime Minister of Tanzania, Hon. Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda sent a letter of appreciation to the trust for all the work that has been undertaken in Mkomazi and in it he commented on our good relationship with TANAPA.

Mkomazi National Park is a huge investment for TANAPA and it backs up the investment of the trust. The weekly meetings with the Chief Park Warden, Donat Mnyagatwa, and Warden Emmanuel Sisy, are always productive, amicable and jolly occasions. Meetings in Arusha with the TANAPA Director General, Allan Kijazi, are really encouraging and the fast turn around in communications ensures that issues get resolved and decisions get made almost immediately. Our new Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed with TANAPA, a process summed up in the words of our Chief Park Warden – We Are Together!



Flying to flush out the lion in the rhino sanctuary



TANAPA rangers collar the meat poachers

We continue to manage the sanctuary to allow the rhinos to breed up in peace with security uncompromised. Under the careful eye of Semu Pallangyo and his team, we now have 23 rhinos under our care. The first rhino born in Mkomazi has now given birth to her first calf so the generations are taking shape



*Proud, prehistoric, personable and persecuted
Photograph by David Yarrow*

With the price of rhino horn higher than the price of gold on the streets, it's a mad-cap scenario and we have to remain extremely vigilant in response to the increasing poaching threat and continuously adapt and upgrade our security. The sanctuary has a number of layers of security in place with aerial surveillance, security guards, the tracking and fence maintenance team, the electrified and alarmed fence; the newly installed digital radio system, the new tracker dog unit, a TANAPA ranger outpost close to the Kisima base camp and the TANAPA intelligence network. Despite that, we are ever aware that anything can happen.

We have constructed another three new security outposts in strategic locations. More heavy-duty internal gates have been installed which give good access to all areas. The digital radio system has been a fantastic addition and has increased the capacity of staff and managers to react to any threats. When torchlight is spotted at night, it is followed up immediately with vehicle back up, TANAPA rangers, security guards and the rhino sanctuary manager, with the aircraft flying at first light.

The tremendous support of the Suzuki Rhino Club has enabled us to uphold all the operating procedures throughout the rhino sanctuary and to make such progress with this species that is on the brink of extinction. Along with all their usual support for the basics, they are coming to the rescue once again with new motorcycles for the rhino sanctuary personnel.

Save the Rhino very kindly helped raise the funds from US Fish & Wildlife for a fantastic Toyota Double Cab Pick Up for sanctuary and general use. It has already given us the ability to deploy security guards, tracking teams, fence maintenance and patrol teams, react to emergencies and to supply teams camped outside the sanctuary in the wider park.

The workshop is the heartbeat of the operation. For 26 years it has been the premise of Fred Ayo who has somehow, and with minimal help, kept everything going. But kit gets old and there are only so many times you can rebuild a tractor or old Landrover. Things have to be replaced, sometimes with new kit and sometimes with second-hand kit. This year we have been the very grateful recipients of a wonderful grant from the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation to upgrade all our kit and sanctuary fencing. The past couple of months have been like Christmas with a lot of open-mouthed workshop staff, beaming drivers and smiling plant operators. A new Massey Ferguson tractor, a trailer and grass slasher have all been brought into the camp, a main road resupply and back-up vehicle have been purchased, older vehicles have been turned into newer vehicles for specific purposes and bulk fuel supplies and spare parts have all been taken care of. The work is now going forwards at a pace that enables us to keep up with the new national parks initiative and it has given us a chance to do so much more.

The new Massey tractor will replace the old Massey tractor donated by the UK trust in 1989. This old faithful tractor will now be put on full-time duty in the sanctuary for movement of poles and collection of stone and murrum. The new one will operate in tandem with the Massey donated by Save the Rhino a few years ago. It will be used with a new grass slasher to clear the roads after the rains in both the park and the sanctuary and with a ten ton tipping trailer to carry stone and murrum for maintenance of the park roads and sanctuary fence line. These machines give us the capability to do an enormous amount of work in a lot less time.

Another boost to sanctuary security arrived from Ol Pejeta earlier this year in the form of two Malinois tracker dogs. They were bred by Bimbi Dyer and trained by Daryll Pleasants of White Paw Training (ex British Army - Veterinary Corps) in deterrent work, tracking and anti-poaching. A special 'all mod cons' camp with kennels was constructed for them and their four keepers and a vehicle was then modified to take the dogs on patrol. The keepers were first sent to the Big Life conservation project at Lake Manyara for training and then to Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya for further training with the dogs. Daryll then raised the funds for an enormous amount of specialist equipment for the dogs and their handlers.

The dogs have already been mobilized and are highly effective. Just by their very presence they have already cleared a large area where there is potential for meat and elephant poaching. Commercial meat poachers have already been caught on two occasions and both times the dogs didn't have to be released as the poachers just gave up on seeing the dogs. Tragically, one of the dogs, Bandit, was bitten by a snake whilst on a tracking exercise, and was unable to recover. Penieli, his handler, is one of our most experienced trackers and has lived and worked in the bush for the past 20 years. He didn't see the snake and the damage was done very quickly. Wildlife and animal work is dirty, dangerous and heartbreaking and once again this has been underlined. Bandit was one of the bravest animals we have ever met and everyone was devastated by his death.

Daryll Pleasants writes:

"During his time in training at both Ol Pejeta Conservancy and Mkomazi, Bandit showed great bravery in protecting wildlife against poachers and was, without a doubt, the best working dog we have ever trained. I cannot express how much he will be



Zawadi and Grumeti – with military precision they advance on the carrot bucket!

missed and how unfortunate this incident is. This comes as a devastating blow for all involved. Whilst we cannot replace a dog such as Bandit, we must carry his legacy forward by training more anti-poaching dogs to follow in his footsteps, to help keep his incredible contribution to conservation alive."

It is very important that we keep the tracker dog unit going, continuing to use non-lethal force to save many other animal's lives. We have brought in another dog from Ol Pejeta and are planning to expand the unit.



Safe, slow and incredibly useful, the rhino sanctuary Suzuki quad bike and trailer

We were enormously pleased to welcome HRH Prince Harry of Wales to Mkomazi who came to discuss the many issues surrounding modern-day wildlife conservation in Africa – in particular elephant and rhino conservation - as well as to have an in-depth look at the programme here, including the outreach work we undertake in the local communities.





The new Massey Ferguson 480 tractor and grass slasher start work on one of the ten airstrips in Mkomazi after the rains



Bandit muzzled, but that never stopped him



Dr Macha, TANAPA veterinary officer, draws blood from tracker dog Madison, with her handler Jonathan Moses looking on



Emmanuel Nnko, senior rhino tracker, thrilled by new steel gates after years of wire tangles and bits of wood



Rhino horn transmitters

We had to move the two female rhinos originally from the UK into a new breeding section which already held the Czech breeding bull, breeding female and two calves. We first had to fence off the transition area and then over the following three months Semu and the trackers were out on foot day and night as the move took place, until they finally got the bull to meet the two new females. They then dropped the fence and again spent nights out with them to make sure all went well. Thankfully, after a little bit of typical posturing, they settled down. Our trackers are really very good with these prehistoric creatures. They quietly and gently have got to understand all the individual characteristics of each one and we trust their judgement on many aspects of this sort of thing. Jabu and Jonah meanwhile had a number of confrontations through their shared fence-line so the guys had to put up cantilevers and a strand of electrified wire on either side of the dividing fence. Despite being the subordinate male, James (who arrived with the first translocation of rhinos in 1997) was seen mating with two different females.

Once again, Dr Peter Morkel and Dr Idrissa Chuma took the Mkomazi rhino trackers to work with them in the Serengeti National Park on rhino conservation.

Fred Ayo, the workshop manager, spent many weeks working on the new solar power systems and installing LED lighting to all the security outposts. This upgraded system has increased power to the fence to 7,000 volts. The wash-aways that have cut underneath the fence and the deep gullies outside the fence have to be filled with rock to build up the line once again for 24/7 use and fast response. The JCB is putting in new drainage ditches, especially at the



The Grader's in the workshop but that doesn't stop Eliyudi from a bit of old-fashioned leveling by dragging a tree behind our old faithful Massey 375

tracker dog camp. Meanwhile Eliyudi undertook the 90km round trip to the TANAPA Zange HQ twice daily in the dry season in the Scania to collect water from the Zange overhead storage tanks. From here, the dedicated water bowser and tractor fill up and take water to the storage tanks at each security outpost and rhino water pan. We are planning to create more water sources and mud wallows within the main sanctuary, as well as dig out gullies and make new road networks.

The main bane of our lives is the slow replacement of all the perimeter fence posts - 14,000 of them – that are now at the end of their useful life. TANAPA have once again agreed to donate poles. Ongoing fence repair is the most mundane part of the whole sanctuary operation but it is something that maintains the integrity of the entire operation. Two fence patrols are undertaken every day which provide an excellent level of security through their presence on the line and their ability to spot footprints or illegal activity on the fence line. The fence is kept up to a high standard and the gangs are randomly working in different places along the fence line, thus effecting extra patrols and increased observation.

Having said that, we do get unexpected visitors! A male lion broke into the sanctuary in July and it took a massive effort by the sanctuary personnel, support from the TANAPA veterinary officers, the assistance of a Supercub and pilot (Nick Trent) from the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and advice from field managers to chase him out. No sooner had that been achieved than we were confronted with a lioness and her grown cub breaking in to another section of the sanctuary but they were chased out after a couple of days. We are

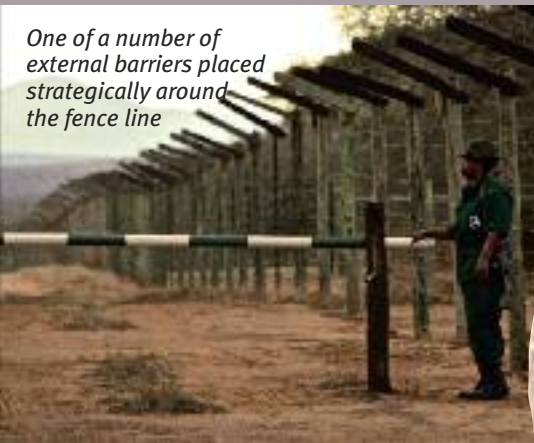
considering 'predator-proofing' the bottom half of the fence but this would be a big undertaking.

Tim van Dam is developing a 4G tracking system for the rhinos with much smaller kinetic chargers which will give us the possibility of hourly (or less) positions on all the rhinos once the transmitters are installed.

It was great to catch up with Pete Morkel when he was working in the Serengeti National Park. TANAPA kindly laid on a plane to bring him across to Mkomazi so he could check on the general health of all the rhinos and also think about future breeding plans, based around maturing females in the main part of the sanctuary and the new female rhino donated to Mkomazi by Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic who we hope to translocate in mid 2016. He also had a chance to meet two ex-SAS friends who were staying here at the time and there was a very interesting exchange of ideas as to how they would ensure security of national parks!

Tunu! Born in June 2014 to Deborah (ex-Dvur Kralove Zoo, Czech Republic)

One of a number of external barriers placed strategically around the fence line



TANAPA management visited to discuss their upcoming plans for their own small rhino sanctuary (to hold 3 or 4 rhino) close to their HQ, which will be based on the design and operating systems of our sanctuary but with tourist access.

The Swordspoint Foundation, ever aware of continuity in a project like this, have been their usual generous and supportive selves giving us the opportunity to do so much more and cover many shortfalls.

We are now planning to upgrade the fence alarms and sensors with a new improved system, which will hopefully give us the best level of security possible with the equipment that is available in Tanzania. We are also looking into obtaining two small 'Inspire' drones which Gian Schachenmann has brought in for demonstration. Even just having the small drones flying around in conjunction with the fence, foot patrols and the tracker dogs has shown the possibilities for the future which are in line with our policy of more deterrent and less conflict. It has taken many years to breed up the rhino population to a viable founder population and it is essential that we continuously adapt and upgrade security to meet the ever-increasing poaching threat.





Semu Pallangyo, Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary manager



Hard work, long days and isolated camps - Eliyudi Tofilo and Israel Pallangyo check their machines at the end of the day



No one captures it better than Olly & Suzi



The new Toyota Landcruiser Double Cab Pick Up heading off on a field operation with tracker dogs, dog handlers, the rhino sanctuary manager and TANAPA rangers on board



Remi with skull of a buffalo killed by lions at Maore



Tracker dogs and dog handlers resting up in the heat of the day after a morning out on patrol



Students from MWEKA College for African Wildlife Management visit the endangered species programmes and the environmental education centre



Sangito, senior wild dog keeper, rescues a stunned goshawk



Harry Taylor, Billy Freear and Dr Peter Morkel



Zacharia and Mshamba give the orphan elephant a mud bath in the pond below Kisima camp



Israel Pallangyo and Fred Ayo make sense out of a JCB gear box



We have had a steady year of breeding up the wild dogs. Two of our older alpha females are reaching the end of their breeding life and we lost an old alpha male so we have put together two new breeding groups, both of whom have already had a litter of pups. There is a small pack of wild dogs roaming in and around the rhino sanctuary which are not from our breeding programme and our own staff, TANAPA rangers and visitors have all come across wild dogs in Mkomazi throughout the year.

We are constructing a new breeding compound which will be placed some distance into the bush on the outside of the firebreak so it will be the remotest compound and will give the dogs the most privacy.

New steel double doors for all the compounds have been made and welded here on site and fitted in each compound. Currently we are putting in new steel-framed crush tunnels, lined with strong steel wire and with proper concrete floors for faster and safer inoculations.

The dogs are fed every day without fail and the bigger the meat content, the better their overall health. As the new litters grow, the burden is on the older litter to give the youngsters priority at the feed. As soon as the older dogs have performed this social function of helping to feed the youngest litter, we try to stick to our policy of reintroducing the older litters (ie., the 20 month olds) as soon as we realistically can so that this feed hierarchy - in a situation such as a breeding compound - doesn't have too much impact on them. The cow market is a 90km round trip and there is a dedicated vehicle that undertakes this trip every week.

We have been given a highly specialized vaccination for canine distemper (Recombitek) by Merial which we have started using. This is similar to the vaccine we have used since 2000 (Purevax) but the production of the Purevax is technically very difficult. Merial recently launched Recombitek which has had a strong response in domestic dogs and we are incredibly grateful that they have donated this.

*...with eyes that go right through you
Photograph by David Yarrow*

African Wild Dog Breeding, Veterinary and Reintroduction Programme

At the end of 2014, we put a pack of six dogs back into the wild. They were a sibling pack of three females and three males. We then held them for a short time in the reintroduction compound on the Mkomazi / Tsavo border. As they were a cohesive pack of siblings, the keepers felt they would adapt quickly to the wild. After release, they started moving off after the first day and were seen at various water pans on the border over the next few weeks. The aircraft was flown regularly with the collar frequency installed into the receiver as this is the most efficient way of following up on the released dogs. We are looking into GPS satellite collars, which we feel still need a more improved design before we will start using them. We feel that the ones currently available are quite heavy on the dogs' necks but once these GPS collars are available with a slightly modified, lighter and more streamlined design, we will be able to gain a 24/7 reading on where the dogs go which would be fantastic. The aircraft flies on patrol most days and every time it is airborne, the collar frequencies are checked.

In the early part of 2016 we are planning to put another pack back into the wild. This is a family pack of nine. As we move into the middle of the year, we have a sibling pack of eleven that will be ready for reintroduction. This is a long term programme of annual reintroductions and we will continue to fly regularly on follow up and



Foundations being laid for the new inoculation tunnel in the wild dog breeding compounds



Sangito Lema and Mshamba Mjema working on a new breeding compound

will also have our personnel out on foot and in vehicles with the telemetry receivers.

We heard on the news that the former President of Tanzania attended the second reintroduction of wild dogs in the Serengeti National Park being carried out by Dr Emmanuel Masenga of TAWIRI. Dr Masenga also visited our camp and we were all astonished to hear that

he was tracking a pack of wild dogs that had travelled from Loliondo Game Controlled Area into Mkomazi and onwards to the Tanga area. This is a huge distance with a great deal of urban settlement in between so these dogs have undertaken a truly remarkable journey.

The head keeper, Sangito Lema, and his assistant Mshamba Mjema do a brilliant job here looking after the daily needs of the dogs in these breeding compounds and on reintroduction. Like all our staff in the different sections, they are very conscientious and incredibly hardworking.



Wild dogs at 22 months old being sedated for translocation back to the wild

We do feel that our breeding and reintroduction programme is making a difference. Everything we do here is about maintaining and improving what we have established. It has taken many years to establish the infrastructure and find the best methods to ensure that we can continue to reintroduce healthy dogs back into the wild. If we are going to make a difference to a species such as the African wild dog, we can only do so over the long-term.



With our friend and colleague Dr Idrissa Chuma, TANAPA veterinary officer for northern national parks



Roy Hughes, i/c DHL Aircraft Movement, Alex Fitzjohn and Phil Couchman, CEO DHL UK at Twickenham - Australia v Wales!



With Jabu. Who's got more wrinkles?



Imogen Fitzjohn introduces Mr Tembo to the District Commissioner and his family



With Rev. Mike Harries, Abdi Hamisi, Omar Tanna and Steve Kameti at George Adamson's grave at a private memorial on the anniversary of his death



Suzi in the Olly Suzi studio in London



Night-time platform for lion spotting in the rhino sanctuary



With the Carr-Hartleys at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust elephant rehabilitation centre in Tsavo West National Park, Kenya



Philbert Shindano, long-serving rhino sanctuary security guard



Wild dogs after reintroduction back into the wild



Archive photo of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere (far left) with Brigadier Mbita standing next to him (second from left)



New fence posts are delivered and sorted



Roman Catholic Bishop Rogarth Kimaryo with Noud van Hout of the Watoto Foundation at the Inauguration Day for the vocational training centre



Students at the environmental education centre with fibre-glass rhinos

Rafiki wa Faru is a black rhino-focused environmental education programme that targets communities surrounding Mkomazi National Park. We aim to bring in about 900 students a year for a tightly constructed and choreographed learning day and we believe it is winning over the hearts and minds of all our visitors. It is really popular among the school children and schools are queuing up to bring their students. Teacher evaluation sheets show a continuing growth in positive attitudes towards the park and the rhino programme. When the colourful bus goes into the villages to collect the older students from the secondary schools, lots of small children rush up to it to look at the *tinga tinga* drawings of wild animals. We also try to convey messages to the students about the security that is in place to protect the rhino and how this focus on security will increase in the future.

We have been given fantastic and well thought-out educational materials for this programme. All the students are given A3 laminated ID sheets on birds and mammals when they enter the park. They are also given a Swahili Activity Booklet at the end of the day and a handmade rhino toy. The students love the 'Categorising' game and the 'Rubbish' game and they love looking out over the sanctuary with the monoculars. Three displays of mounted bird taxidermy are used as a teaching aid to show the different adaptations of birds. We also show them a set of fiberglass skulls so they can see the differences between the jaws / teeth of herbivores and carnivores. All of these materials have all been produced and donated by Chester Zoo.

Dr Maggie Esson visited in December 2014 to review the whole programme from the collection point in the village through the entire day and a series of actions and updates were agreed. Maggie's commitment to this programme since its inception has been heartfelt and wonderful and her imprint will forever be on Rafiki wa Faru.

Save the Rhino also organized a visit for Sylvester Kampamba, an environmental education officer attached to a Zambian rhino programme. He came to share ideas with Elisaria and to get an overview of how our environmental education activities work, the differences between the two approaches and how each could benefit from the workings of the other.

Jane Oliver has hand-made the hundreds of beautiful rhino toys for each student as well as huge wall hangings for the education centre.

The students from MWEKA College for African Wildlife Management really like the whole programme and always take copious notes when they are with Elisaria. These MWEKA students are the future wardens and officers of the wildlife authorities so we are delighted that they are so interested in this education programme.

The ceremonial signing of the Conservation Pledge in the Activity Booklet at the end of the Rafiki wa Faru day underlines all they have experienced during their day out in Mkomazi, and encourages the students to become 'friends of the rhino'.



Dr Maggie Esson (middle) and Elisaria Nnko (right) with a group of community leaders at the environmental education centre



Semu with students and their hand-made rhino toys!

Ground breaking days – the beginning stage of the construction of the vocational training centre in 2014



We have always wanted to build a small technical college to teach young people to work with their hands, be creative and have access to employment. If ever there was an ambitious project, this has been it and we are enormously grateful to the Suzuki Rhino Club for taking the lead. Joined by the Watoto Foundation, Wilde Ganzen and the Fentener van Vlissingens, it has become a reality and we are indebted to Noud van Hout of the Watoto Foundation for taking on the supervision of the building of the school, based on his successful blueprint in Arusha.

The aim of the vocational training centre (VTC) is to provide skills and trades to the youth of the Gonja area to enable them to find employment and break the spiral of unemployment, poor health and stagnated development in the area. In just over a year the VTC has almost been completed and already has 86 students, including 10 girls. It will, eventually, be able to take up to 300 students, including 100 boarders. The main aim now is to make it self-sufficient with the income generated by the fees and the products and services the VTC will sell. Subjects being taught initially are welding/metal work, carpentry, masonry, electricity, car mechanics, agriculture, and IT.

Three containers of fantastic equipment have been shipped from Holland and cleared into Tanzania by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Same. This equipment has been donated by Suzuki Rhino Club (for the automotive workshop/classrooms) and a Dutch foundation, Innovam. The former local MP helped with the laying of a new water pipe line to the VTC and the installation of a new 100 KVA transformer. Niek Hoorweg came in as a volunteer to oversee the offloading of containers, setting up of systems, the issuing of control systems in the workshops and to assist with the rebuilding of old vehicles and motorcycles. Joop Cortem of Innovam came in to help organize the automotive workshops.



The first group of students to enroll and start their education

Through the efforts of the former MP of Same, Anne Kilango Malecela, the Foundation Stone for the school was laid in July 2014 by the Prime Minister of Tanzania, Hon. Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda. It was a wonderful day and a great honour for both us and the people of Gonja that the Prime Minister made the journey. Many hundreds of people attended and Ted van

Dam and Dik Dekker of the Suzuki Rhino Club were also able to be there. In July 2015, Bishop Rogarth Kimaryo of the RC Diocese of Same put on a great Inauguration Day for the VTC which was attended by the board of the Suzuki Rhino Club and the Watoto Foundation.

Once the dormitories are finished, students will increase and more skilled teaching personnel will be employed. The library is yet to be furnished and we are now trying to raise the funds for teacher accommodation and then dormitories for girls. Government teachers and administrative staff have been recruited and a bursary policy is being laid down for the poorest students. The RC Diocese of Same is managing the VTC which is incredibly fortunate as this would be way beyond the capability of the community and the RC church have a big frame-work and a long standing track record of running schools and colleges in Tanzania. Father Japhet has taken the task of Principal of the school, board members are mainly from the village and they are involved in all decision-making and Tony has just been made the Chairman of the school board!

We believe in the value of a good education and good training and that if you can teach people to use their hands, they will always find a job.

Aerial photo of the completed vocational training centre





Zawadi and Grumeti coming in for carrots



With Ted van Dam and Dik Dekker at the celebrations for the laying of the foundation stone of the vocational training centre



Dindira Dam, Mkomazi National Park



Brigadier General Hashim Mbita's funeral at the Lugalo Army Barracks in Dar es Salaam



Penieli Mbise wearing the 'Attack Suit' for Chocolate to practice on. Isaya Mbwambo, her handler, to the left



Sylvester Kampamba from a black rhino educational programme in Zambia visits to share experiences



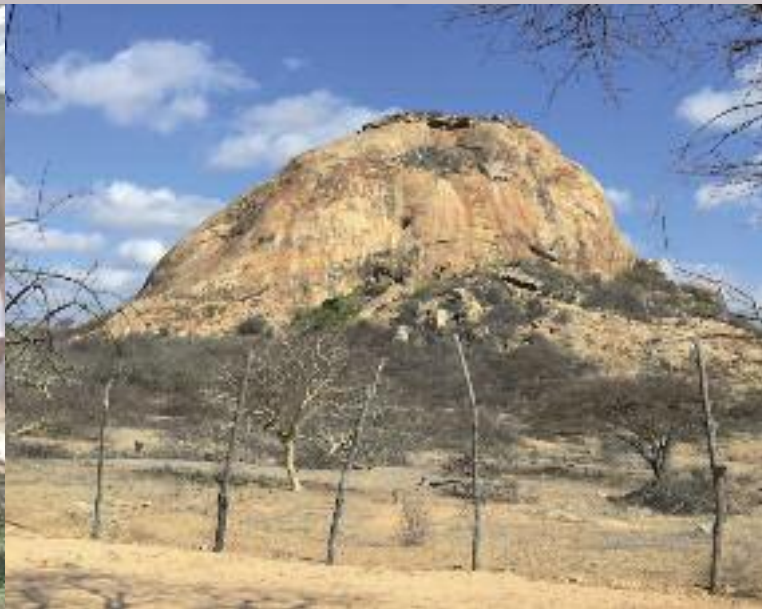
Students doing activities in the environmental education centre



DHL door-to-door delivery of elephant milk formula



With our Tanzanian trustees - Kinemo Kihomano, Iddi Mbita, Bernard Mchomvu and Rose Lugembe - at the tracker dog unit



Kora Rock, the backdrop to Kampi ya Simba, Kora National Park, Kenya



Daryll Pleasants with Bandit. RIP Bandit



Giraffe in the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary

Kora National Park, Kenya

By Tony Fitzjohn

When I was asked to go back to Kora by the former Vice President of Kenya and the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), I really hoped that through the simple and hard working processes of re-establishing Kampi ya Simba and the lion programme, re-clearing tracks and constructing new roads, undertaking aircraft patrols and working in close partnership with KWS, as well as through an enormous amount of community work amongst our riverine neighbours, the new Somali communities on the boundaries and the Wakamba communities to the south, that we would be able to breathe life into this sadly neglected and damaged area. I was wrong. The political implications of Kora and the use of the area as an Al-Shabaab hideaway and staging post meant that it was not high on the KWS priority list and, anyway, they had enough to do in neighbouring areas. Kora had never really been given much of a kick-start. It was almost a bit of an off-shoot of Meru National Park with its HQ placed close to the bridge linking Kora and Meru at Adamson's Falls, and the eastern area where most of the illegal activity takes place only covered by occasional and random patrols.

A huge re-think had to take place. This involved the now newly devolved counties and county Governors of both Kitui and Tana River, and a shift to thinking of both Kora National Park and Mwingi National Reserve as a single contiguous ecosystem. The two counties had to therefore come together to create the political will and enthusiasm to make Kora and Mwingi a viable development project over the next two years. Steve Kameti of Trusts for African Schools worked tirelessly doing all the groundwork to effect the partnership between the two counties.

The highest priority was to fence the eastern and western boundaries of Kora and this had to come under the mandate of the counties. They have grasped this simple modern-day wildlife management project with both hands.

In the last six months, two meetings on Kora were held in Nairobi, put together and organized by Bob and Gill Marshall-Andrews and Steve Kameti. At the meetings were the Governor of Kitui County (Julius Malombe), the Governor of Tana River County (Hussein Dado) together

with their teams; Hon. Steve Kalonzo Musyoka, a trustee of GAWPT and former Vice President of Kenya; five representatives from KWS headed by Mr Kimani and the KWS Warden Kora, Paul Omondi; the MP for Mwingi North, John Manuve; James Thiane who conducted the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the proposed Kora fence; Chris Trent of Sanyati Power Fence; Khalid Mahmud, CFO Kitui County; and Mwingi businessman Ali Ahmed Taib. In many ways, these were historic meetings, especially as everyone had come together on conservation issues. The Governors embraced the fencing project and we now hear that the EIA has been approved. The EIA, together with the NEMA fees, was funded by GAWPT as our contribution towards getting the project off the ground.

Bob Marshall-Andrews chaired the two meetings in his usual highly eloquent and professional manner and all the parties seemed absolutely delighted by the fact that a neutral organisation such as GAWPT should steer the discussions between all the parties.

The overall consensus of what had to be done on the fence was extremely positive on many levels as it related

to the environment, law and order, and general peace and stability. It is exciting to be part of this process. Submissions now have to be made to the Chairman of the board of trustees of KWS, Dr Richard Leakey, and relevant cabinet secretaries. Bob and I have had separate meetings with Richard

Leakey who is helping set up the meetings with the cabinet secretaries and both Governors in the New Year as there is a national security benefit to the country in this initiative. It was good to have Mr Kimani present at these meetings as he is now fully in the loop as to both our plans for Kora and what we expect KWS to do as part of this partnership.

One of the most recent visits to Kora was in August. There has been a small return of wildlife, Kampi ya Simba is in excellent shape and it was good to catch up with KWS personnel based at the airstrip - overloaded with work but good men. In spite of a small incursion of domestic stock, the area did show signs of recovery. Water buck, kudu and giraffe were seen along the rivers, although the dik dik are still sadly absent. The area has not gone beyond the point of no return and if the Kora



Historic meeting in Nairobi to discuss the future of Kora. To the left is the Governor of Kitui County, Julius Malombe, and to the right is the Governor of Tana River County, Hussein Dado, with Bob Marshall-Andrews in The Chair

Kampi ya Simba, ready for work again



fence goes in and KWS restock as promised (as they did in Meru NP many years ago), it has the potential to recover.

In 2014, Peter Silvester kindly chartered a plane so we could go up to the KWS 25th anniversary of George's death in Kora. KWS were well represented as were many of the local villages and it was the usual conventional remembrance. We are grateful to KWS for supporting this and for bringing in many of their officers from around the country to take a look at Kora and explain the difficulties.

Even though the 2015 KWS memorial service for George Adamson was cancelled (no funds in KWS), we held a private service in Kora at the graves with Rev. Mike Harries, Steve Kameti, Swale Bayusuf, Abdi Mohamed (son of George's old cook Hamisi!) and Omar (in charge of maintaining Kampi ya Simba). This was a poignant and touching service, the moon came up as we were at the graves and after 26 years I was able to put a lot of things to rest.

Asako village

A District Officer has been posted to Asako. Everyone was pleased to see that the Warden Kora, Paul Omondi, has at long last connected our Kijito water windmill pump up to the village school and the KWS water system. This pump is now producing copious amounts of sweet water for everyone in the village much to their delight! There was a slight leak from the packing on the main pump and this has since been attended to by Mike Harries' technicians and now a huge flow is being sent to the village. The other well that was put in some years ago by a French aid organization (that had been pumping brackish water) has had its solar panels and a solar pump stolen. We don't feel this will happen to the huge Kijito windpump. Asako Primary School still continues to be a recipient of Trusts for African Schools (TAS) funding for which they are obviously very grateful, even though results could be slightly better. It's a very harsh and isolated posting with very little development and its sometimes amazing that the school functions as well as it does. TAS funding has made all the difference to this community, very much by-passed in a day and age of large and highly organized border refugee camps.



A new mosque in Asako

Boka village

Boka village is thriving. There are regular taxi routes from Garissa, tens of thousands of camels and goats and cattle at the weekly market, buildings going up and a Safaricom cell phone tower in the middle of it all. Virtually anything can be attained there and the shops have got more stuff in them than those in Mogadishu. It's a worry but *ipso facto* they now have to be reckoned with as a permanent entity and brought in to both the mainstream development of Kora and the Kenyan nation. Boka Primary School is also funded by TAS and now has girls' dormitories which are packed and an excellent kitchen. The library donated by Linus Gitahi (Nation Group) is working and student results are good. The headmaster used to be in Asako. The airstrip is virtually finished, albeit in the wrong direction, and has yet to be used by anyone.

We visited Julius Malombe, Governor of Kitui County, in his Kitui office and shortly afterwards we were visited in Mkomazi by his tourism cabinet minister, Peter Gitonga, who had been sent by the Governor to basically see what we had achieved in Mkomazi in terms of development and how we would relate what we had done in Mkomazi to the revival of Kora / Mwingi.

The Piper Colt aircraft that used to assist KWS in Kora now sits in a hangar at Orly Airport outside Nairobi waiting for a sponsor to put in a new engine and 'refabric' it. The trust does not currently have funds for this at this time. Most of the equipment removed from Kora has been returned to Kampi ya Simba, although some still remains at Hon. Steve Kalonzo Musyoka's residence in Tseikuru, but the camp is fully functional.

It is going to be a long time before Kora starts to come on line and be managed properly, but everything that is being done at the moment is to ensure that there is proper management and strategic planning which encompasses all parties who have a role to play. There are very few places like that left in Kenya and hand in hand with the country's economic development comes the Kenya Government's drive for some serious national security, significantly in the remoter areas. Central Government looks to the Counties who they fund to partner with them on economic development and national security.

It is difficult and it will take time but that is no reason why we shouldn't try to save this wonderful piece of old Africa, whatever the pressures on it. I promised George Adamson many years ago that I would do my very best to ensure that Kora was saved intact for its own sake and for the wildlife that lives there. George saved Kora – it's now just left to me to bring it up to date and acclimatized to the time in which we reside.



Steve Kameti of Trusts for African Schools with kids in Boka



Camels coming to water at the Boka wells



Taxis coming to water at the Boka township



Flying repair service for the CAT Grader



Andrew Mortimer at the 25th Anniversary of The Mkomazi Project at the Royal Geographical Society



Chocolate with Penieli on arrival into Mkomazi



Orphaned caracal kitten



Wild dog pack. Eleven of these wild dogs will be reintroduced back into the wild in early 2016



The Climb for Conservation team at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro having raised donations for Mkomazi!



Classes start at the vocational training centre



Black rhino calves always follow their mothers. White rhino calves are always herded in front of their mothers



Always curious



Mr Tembo and his air conditioning

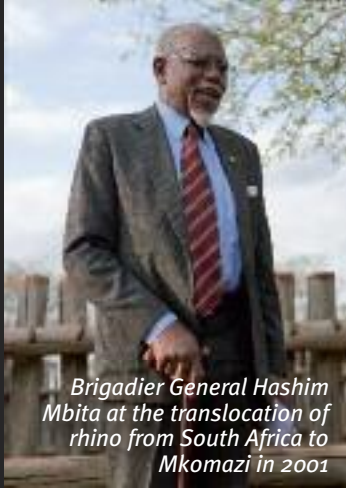


Students with monoculars at the environmental education centre



Bob and Gill Marshall-Andrews and Steve Kameti

Brigadier General Hashim I Mbita



Brigadier General Hashim Mbita at the translocation of rhino from South Africa to Mkomazi in 2001

We received the very sad news that the former Chairman of our Tanzanian trust, Brigadier General Hashim Mbita, had died after a long illness. Brigadier Mbita had guided and advised us over many years and had steered the trust through its roughest and most turbulent times. He had even put his ambassadorial career on the line for Mkomazi and the trusts. His strength in the face of adversity and wisdom in negotiating a way through the troubled times ultimately led to a much brighter future for Mkomazi. He was also a great friend and wise companion. He was given a funeral with full military honours by the Tanzanian Army at their Lugalo Barracks in Dar es Salaam attended by former Presidents and Prime Ministers of Tanzania as well as delegations from South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Coming from the background of journalism, Brigadier Mbita fully paid off the trust he was given by great African leaders including Jomo Kenyatta, Sékou Touré, Ahmed Ben Bella, Kenneth Kaunda, Sir Seretse Khama and his own Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. Recently, the President of the Republic of South Africa presented two posthumous awards (The Nelson Mandela Award and The Order of the Companions of the O R Tambo Gold Award) to Brigadier Mbita's son, Iddi Mbita, who received them on his behalf.

The dedication on the award read *"For his exceptional and gallant support of African Liberation Movements and his tireless efforts in ensuring that the struggle for freedom throughout the African continent bore fruit."*

His distinguished career encompassed a wide spectrum of achievements from an Army Brigadier General with an officer's course at Mons in England, to journalism, to diplomacy, to peace-keeping missions on behalf of the Government of Tanzania and the Lancaster House negotiations. Africa, and us, owe him enormously. He was our African Hero.

Orphans

Elephant

Our orphaned elephant is nearly four years old and his daily life with his keeper Zacharia revolves around many hours of browsing, walking, mud wallows, milk bottles, listening out for other elephants and listening in to his personal radio, tuned in at night to the gospel choir channel. We have built, with the help of TANAPA, a small dam close to the camp which is just beginning to be used by the elephant herds that come to Kísima and we hope that through this he will get used to the company of his own kind. Massive thanks to John Dixon who has taken on both the feed and supplements (and all the attendant organization that this involves) for this little fellow.

We were invited by the Carr-Hartleys and Daphne Sheldrick to their elephant rehabilitation centre at Ithumba in Tsavo East National Park in Kenya. With the help of Richard Bonham we were able to go and the impact was incredible. Large groups of wild elephants



Not a dance routine but a sand rub-down!

coming to water together with the ex-orphans and new orphans and accompanied by their keepers who don't even carry a stick. These gentle giants greet each other and collect the new orphans for a mud bath before the youngest are taken back to their stockades for the night and the ex-orphans and wild elephants head back off into the bush. This profoundly moving scene should be shown on huge screens in every Chinese and Vietnamese town, or wherever anyone in the world feels the need to possess ivory. After all we have done to them, to stand amongst these magnificent creatures and be accepted and understood by them is truly remarkable.

Caracal

Semu called us on the radio to say that he had come across an abandoned caracal kitten that an eagle was trying to snatch. He brought her up to our camp and many weeks were spent in trying to bring her back to full health with advice and help from our vets. She was quite traumatized and is becoming quite wild but shows every sign of being able to have a life back in the wild, even if it requires some level of support from us.



The caracal kitten on the road to recovery

By Tony Fitzjohn

Paraphrasing the words of Alvin Toffler:

“The secret message communicated to most young people today by the society around them is that they are not needed, that the society will run itself quite nicely until they - at some distant point in the future - will take over the reins. Yet the fact is that the society needs help in running itself nicely ... because the rest of us need all the energy, brains, imagination and talent that young people can bring to bear down on our difficulties. For society to attempt to solve its desperate problems without the full participation of even very young people is imbecile.”

What am I driving at, you may ask. Nearly three decades ago, with just £3 in the bank, we all leant heavily on as many personal contacts, rugby friends, friends throughout the USA, colleagues and even people at the bus stop to kick this project into life. It has been a terrific ride with astonishing support from so many of you hanging in there through thick and thin. We are, though, pragmatists and recent discussions have recognized that we need the next generation on board.

As part of that, Antony Rufus Isaacs introduced me to his nephew, Jake Thomson. We had several meetings before I could convince Jake that I was a little bit more than a lost cause and he brought two friends, Astrid Harbord and Henry Morley, on board. They also met with UK trustees whose job it was to show the underlying stability and integrity of the trust. The trio decided they would first have to come to Mkomazi to see it all for themselves and that they would bring a two-man film crew to make a short documentary that could be used to show people at private fundraising events..... that is, as long as they felt what was going on here was worthwhile, sustainable (in political terms) and had a future that needed to be protected. Luckily they did and with the help of Josh Lee, Jules Parmenter and The Royal Foundation, they put together what was actually an ‘infommercial’ presented by me looking like Worzel Gummidge on his day off. Zac Goldsmith very kindly agreed to do the voice-over, Tom Hardy agreed to be interviewed and Damon Albarn lent his music from ‘Mr Tembo’, a song that he wrote after a visit here.



Henry Morley, Astrid Harbord and Jake Thomson with Josh Lee (camera-man) standing



The wonderful fundraising event put on at Cadogan Hall. A David Yarrow photograph is being auctioned

I then found myself in the extraordinary world of clubbing. 5 Hertford Street, Annabel's, Chiltern Firehouse, the South Kensington Club and the Bulgari Hotel, to name but a few. This all culminated in a wonderful event at the splendid Cadogan Hall with about 400 of their friends and guests. Astrid and I gave a short speech, we then showed the movie and this was followed by a Q&A session with Jake and Henry, and then an auction. Donations and the big auction prizes gave the trust an enormous boost and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated a prize, to those who bid in the auction and to everyone else who gave a donation at this event and at the other private dinners.

We now all need to put together a viable 10 year plan for Mkomazi and Kora and this has to be done in conjunction with relevant wildlife authorities and our trusts in both Tanzania and Kenya and we are very much hoping that Jake, Astrid and Henry and their friends will all stay with us into the future.

As with all our trustees, I feel very privileged that such discerning and hard-working people have used their time and effort to support what we are doing here. My gratitude is immense and my thanks to you all and that doesn't mean that you can stop now!



With the Prime Minister of Tanzania, Hon. Mizengo Pinda, at the laying of the foundation stone for the vocational training centre. From left: Vicar General Everesti, the Prime Minister, Anne Kilango MP and DC Herman Kapufi



TANAPA veterinary officers welcome Nick Trent of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust to Mkomazi to help search for the errant lion in the rhino sanctuary



Buffalo moving in to Maore



Steel fence posts delivered and stacked for rhino sanctuary repairs



Tracker dog handlers practising apprehension techniques



Eliyudi on the move



Annual fence line grading



The tracker dog unit. Joshua Mungure with Chocolate, Isaya Mbwambo, Jonathan Moses, and Penieli Mbise with Bandit



This should fool the hyenas



Dr Emmanuel Macha, Emmanuel Sisy and Engineer Motta visit to discuss the site of the proposed new water source in Mkomazi National Park



Tana River, Kora National Park, Kenya



Friends



Students love the Rafiki wa Faru bus trips in Mkomazi

We are, as always, tremendously grateful to our Royal Patron, HRH Princess Michael of Kent. Our most sincere thanks go 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, Jeanne Goldsmith, Pam Solomon, Ruth Ng'anga, Lindsay Bell, 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, go to our Tanzanian personnel and most especially to our operations manager Elisaria Nnko, our workshop manager Fred Ayo, the rhino sanctuary manager Semu Pallangyo and the head wild dog keeper 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.

Over the past 18 months, there have been well organized fundraising trips to the UK, the USA and the Netherlands. Trust and board meetings have been held in the UK and the USA and in December, the annual meeting of our Tanzanian trust was held here in Mkomazi. We were able to complete the formalities for the signing of our new MOU with TANAPA and to discuss the future. We took the Chairman and trustees to the VTC in Gonja to see our latest and greatest work amongst the communities. We then had another day in camp and took them flying and then to see rhinos, tracker dogs and the wild dogs. We are indebted to Bernard Mchomvu for taking on the Chairmanship of the trust, and to Rose Lugembe, Charles Dobie and Kinemo Kihomano, all long-

standing trustees. We were very pleased to welcome Elisaria Nnko to the board as well Iddi Mbita, the son of Brigadier Mbita, who carries with him the both the presence and integrity of his father and the vision of a younger generation. We cannot emphasise enough how much this group has done to protect The Mkomazi Project over two and a half decades. Any perceived success we may have had is largely due to them - we just do the physical work on the ground.



Our Patron, HRH Princess Michael of Kent with Jake Thomson, Henry Morley and Tony at the 25th Anniversary of The Mkomazi Project at the Royal Geographical Society in London

In late 2014, GAWPT held a reception at the Royal Geographical Society in London to celebrate 25 years of The Mkomazi Project. We all decided that this was a fitting occasion to bring over Elisaria Nnko who been with us since the project started in 1989. Many friends and supporters were there and Bob Marshall-Andrews, Andy Mortimer, Jake Thomson, Robin Page and Tony all spoke but the highlight of the evening was Elisaria. Highly nervous about his English, his delivery was, in the event, perfect and he was given a standing ovation. We have never seen anyone so relieved afterwards and he was then finally able to enjoy the sights of London, even though he did say 'tosh' (which means 'enough!' in Swahili) after about 20 minutes in the National Gallery after being told how much the Van Gogh would sell for. He also met up with many friends that have come to visit us in Mkomazi over the years and they were delighted to see him.



Elisaria Nnko at the 25th Anniversary of The Mkomazi Project at the Royal Geographical Society in London

This year's Friends of Mkomazi dinner in October was held in London, organized by Georgina Mortimer and well attended by the GAWPT trustees and supporters and TRH's Prince and Princess Michael of Kent.

Fundraising visits to the USA, planned and organized by the USA trust board directors, Jeanne Goldsmith and Pam Solomon, were incredibly productive and enjoyable.



Dan Getzinger and Gerald Page at the vocational training centre



The meeting of the Tanzanian board of trustees in Mkomazi

In October 2015, the Suzuki Rhino Club in The Netherlands held a wonderful fundraising event in Eindhoven. The Dutch cosmonaut, Andre Kuipers, gave a talk where he described his 8 months on the International Space Station. More poignantly, he showed us images of the Planet Earth from the ISS that demonstrated the highly destructive influence of man, and in an understated comment he reflected that it all seemed so simple to fix from up there. This was followed by a Q&A with Tony, Ted van Dam and Dik Dekker about the history of the Suzuki Rhino Club and what had been achieved with their support over the past 10 years. When they joined us, we were a struggling game reserve with a tiny rhino population; now with thanks to their support we are a fully-fledged national park with huge rhino breeding capability. The Suzuki Rhino Club board members had travelled out to Mkomazi in July for the opening of the VTC and to hold a board meeting at Kisima to discuss their ongoing support for the project in the light of their own economic plans for the future.



At the wonderful fundraising evening in Eindhoven put on by the Suzuki Rhino Club



The symbolic burning of the rhino horn stocks in the Czech Republic

Tony was invited by the Dvur Kralove Zoo (and put up in the old Reptile House!) to meet the young female rhino, Eliska, who they are donating to Mkomazi and also to attend the symbolic burning the stock-pile of the nation's rhino horns (from deaths in the zoos or confiscations by law enforcement). The police there said that they gave more protection to the transportation of the rhino horns through the Czech Republic than they did to cash-in-transit or gold bullion.

There was a visit to Chester Zoo to discuss their ongoing support and we were also invited to the 25th Anniversary of Tusk Trust at Windsor Castle. The British Wildlife Centre and IWCT very kindly held a fundraising event to raise money for the telemetry equipment needed for reintroduced packs of wild dogs.

We have just looked through our Visitors Book and we have been incredibly fortunate to welcome so many people over the last 18 months. The list is too long to write out in its entirety but it includes trustees from the UK, USA, Kenyan and Tanzanian trusts; the board of directors and Ambassadors of Suzuki Rhino Club; trustees of Tusk Trust; trustees of the Marina Schreyer Charitable Trust; colleagues and friends from Chester Zoo; the Climb for Conservation team who summited Mount Kilimanjaro and raised funds for the trust; a team from Kitui County Governor's office; the board of Friends of Serengeti Switzerland; another Kilimanjaro Climb team from Save the Rhino; the Headmaster of Stowe School; Olly & Suzi who came here to paint and who also visited with their families and friends; Jake, Astrid, Henry, Jules and Josh (aka 'The Young'); photographers David Yarrow and Denholm Hewlett; the Penny family; Hon. Lee Baxter; Daryll Pleasants who came to train the tracker dogs; many supporters of the trusts; the wardens and senior managers from TANAPA; district authorities; our local MP; teams from the VTC; and of course our family and friends. So many of you came to give technical support on many levels – from our vets and doctors to aircraft mechanics, solar engineers, workshop technicians and everything in between. We are extremely grateful to you all.

As always how to end...? There is no end, only ongoing maintenance and work, new ideas and better systems and the generational changes that have to come. Continuity is the key for all environmental issues, as it is with us. We are very grateful to those who understand all the issues and the need to find the balance between juggling wildlife, people and habitats. We know we say this every time, but none of this would have been possible had it not been for the support of you all and so much of the credit due is all yours. These programmes are the backbone of all we do and believe in, and the impetus for Mkomazi and Kora moving forwards and the recovery of these wonderful parts of the Natural World in Africa. Thank you all.



Elisaria checks out the modern British Army in London



Elephants visit the new water pan at Kisima camp for the first time

Thank You

Government Authorities: Tanzanian National Parks (TANAPA)

TANAPA Director General,
Allan Kijazi
TANAPA Chief Park Warden,
Mkomazi National Park,
Donat Mnyagatwa
TANAPA Park Warden,
Mkomazi National Park,
Emmanuel Sisyá

Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS)

Chairman of the KWS Board
of Trustees, Dr Richard
Leakey

Director of KWS,
Kitili Mbathi

KWS Senior Warden, Kora
National Park, Paul Omondi

KWS field personnel, Kora
National Park

Charities / Trusts / Foundations / Grant Giving Institutions

Suzuki Rhino Club, The
Netherlands

Swordspoint Foundation

Tusk Trust and Tusk USA Inc

Save the Rhino International
US Fish & Wildlife Services –
Rhinoceros and Tiger
Conservation Fund

Leonardo DiCaprio
Foundation

Marina L. Schreyer
Charitable Trust

Chester Zoo and the North
of England Zoological
Society

The Friends of Mkomazi

The Rufford Foundation

The Royal Foundation

Glen Beg Foundation

Anna Merz Rhino Trust

WHH Foundation

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Climb for Conservation

Newman's Own Foundation

The David Sheldrick Wildlife
Trust

British Wildlife Centre and
IWCT

Dvur Kralove Zoo, Czech
Republic

The Howletts Wild Animal
Trust and Port Lympne
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Dr John Sercombe

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Burka Coffee Estates

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