



GEORGE ADAMSON
WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST

KORA PROJECT

KORA NATIONAL PARK, KENYA

Welcome to the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust's 2023 report. It covers the first full year of our historic return to the Kora National Park and the first full year without the huge presence of our former field director Tony Fitzjohn OBE who died in May 2022. From this report you will see the astonishing achievements that have already taken place in this beautiful, wild and precious ecosystem. It presents many challenges of reconstruction and restitution. But these are challenges for which the Trust has unique experience earned over 30 years in Mkomazi National Park, now described by SWARA magazine as "Tanzania's New Star in the Safari Sky". We are very proud of that legacy but equally proud of the extraordinary work that Lucy and Alexander Fitzjohn and their team are now undertaking in Kora. To mark this new endeavour and to recognise the scale of past achievements the Trust will be re-named next year as "The George Adamson and Tony Fitzjohn Wildlife Trust".

We do hope that you will enjoy this report and will continue to support the Trust well into the future.

The ongoing activities and plans can be summarised as follows:

- Infrastructure: relating to roads and tracks, airstrips, base-camp and workshop development, fencing, communication networks, seasonal dam construction.
- Reducing damage to the Kora ecosystem and safeguarding the ecosystem: relating to helping to reduce the burning and destruction of riverine forest (including local employment), general aircraft observational patrols; and monitoring of key wildlife in the area.
- Strategic support for Kenya Wildlife Services in protecting and rehabilitating the ecosystem: relating to improvement of habitat, fuel support and provision of water, support for platoon bases, aircraft observational patrols..
- Wildlife; relating to recovery, protection and restocking of wildlife.
- Community outreach programme: relating to education (including infrastructural support for schools), water projects, community involvement, local employment; discussion with local government; discussion on community conservancies.
- Tourism: relating to supporting the development of certain park sites and facilities to encourage the growth of tourism, including an historical education centre in Kora National Park to promote its history, George Adamson, Terence Adamson and Tony Fitzjohn; habitat and infrastructure improvement and wildlife recovery.



Infrastructure

Kampi ya Simba

Rebuilding of Kampi ya Simba continues. The mess and Terence Adamson's hut has been refurbished. The kitchen has been re-roofed. The water system and piping has been replaced. We are looking at repositioning of workshops, increasing water storage capacity, peripheral fencing and general refurbishments. We have come up with the beginnings of a phased programme of works, including restructuring of the huts after the rains.



The mess – repair underway



New car ports for the plant machinery



Aircraft hangars



Hangars go up



Old Kora hangar extended and heightened



The second hangar now in place on the Kora airstrip



The Super Cub. Alex FJ with Martin Dyer – pre-flight checks



Water systems and solar power

New water storage tanks have been put in place and roofed with shade net. We are expanding the water storage capacity in the camp and including new storage tanks and new cement bases and roofing. We need to construct another water storage tank with high capacity to help plan for the future programmes. New solar power equipment has been installed.



Vincent installing solar equipment



Omar and new solar panels



JCB at work

JCB

It was a great day for us all when the JCB arrived into Kora, but also a very sad day because Tony would have really been thrilled to see it arrive into Kampi ya Simba after all the years of planning; plus it was his favourite machine and I think one could confidently say that, in its own way, it played a huge role in creating Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania.



JCB arrives in to Kampi ya Simba. The lorry carrying it got stuck on the way in one of the big luggas (water channels) but they offloaded the JCB and it dug a way through the lugga



Fred at work



New water pan

Water pans

The new JCB has scooped out four large water pans in an area where it floods during the rains. The pans have helped reduce the flow of water on to the access road and provide the wildlife with alternative drinking sources. The pans are a considerable size and it was a job very well done by the operator. The JCB has also excavated another water pan whilst digging for murram for levelling out the airstrip.



JCB at work





Airstrip

The airstrip has been cleared, the grass slashed, and an inspection for ruts and drainage off-flows done by a team of casuals. The tractor then dragged a tree behind it to 'clean' the strip.

The airstrip has now been extended by a length of 200m using the JCB and a team of casuals from the local communities. Murram has been excavated by the JCB for levelling out this section of the extended airstrip. The road around the end of the old airstrip has been diverted and cleared.



Roads and tracks

We have been working with KWS on the opening up of the old roads and tracks put in by Terence Adamson in the 1970's and 1980's.

The road that runs along the river from the western side of the park has had one section repaired by KWS with a huge drift bridge and the river road from the west to the east of the Park has been graded by KWS so access is good in the dry season. Both KWS and Kitui County have done the first stage of repairs of the access road through Mwingi National Reserve.



Teams of casuals bush-clearing and opening up the old roads and tracks



KWS drift bridge being put in place at Kyethoni lugga (water channel)





Communications

Teams from Instarect Ltd and Digital Radio Ltd came in to install and connect the radio repeater on top of the Kora Rock for park communications for the Trust and to install the electric fence around the repeater. This was a formidable and huge task in the burning heat. The next step is to bring the technicians back on to site to install a cooler system for the repeater.



Instarect Ltd and Digital Radio Ltd teams in Kora - installation of the system and solar powered fencing underway

Peter Hays at the radio repeater site on Kora rock

Radio repeater and solar powered electric fencing



Plant machinery and vehicle maintenance

The usual cycle of maintenance continues with the vehicles, heavy plant machinery and camp maintenance.



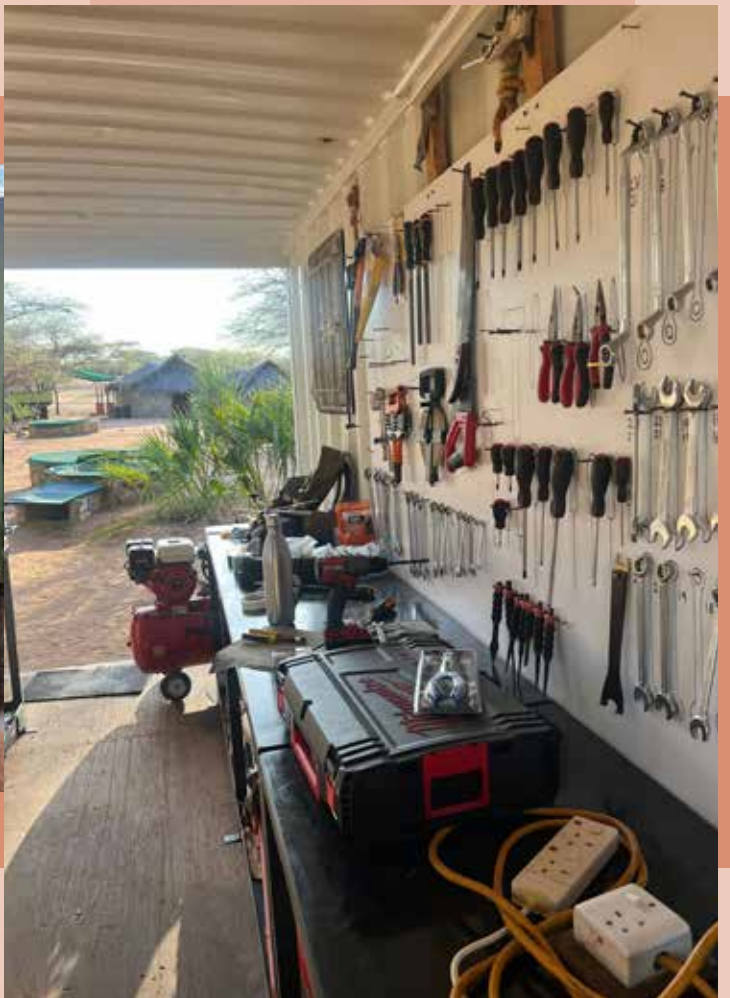
Fred Ayo and the team at work



Julius and Ramadhan re-fuelling the tractor



Shadow-board completed



Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS)

Many meetings have taken place with KWS over the past year. Overall, the collaboration is going very well. In meetings with the KWS Senior Warden, the platoon commanders, Steve Kameti, Alexander FJ and I, we continue to plan out field work, infrastructural development, future strategies and community outreach work.

We have worked closely together on the following projects:

- Bush clearance of Terence Adamson's old roads
- Scooping out of water pans
- Maintenance of water channel (lugga) crossings
- Extension of the airstrip next to the KWS platoon base
- Support for KWS through provision of fuel, tyres and a water storage tank
- Exposure tour for local community leaders to a community conservancy
- Donation of water pipeline from Asako Primary School and to the KWS platoon base.
- Tree planting projects at schools



Steve Kameti, Alexander FJ, KWS Senior Warden Kora National Park William Tanui, and the Platoon Commanders Ben LePayale and Jackson Salaash



Some basic vehicle maintenance and fuelling with KWS



Platoon Commander Jackson Salaash and KWS Senior Warden Kora National Park, William Tanui

Bottom left; Donating a new set of tyres to KWS Platoon Command for their patrol vehicle

Bottom right: Sam Neckar and Jake Thomson of GAWPT donating tyres to KWS with the Senior Assistant Director Eastern Conservation Area and the Senior Warden Kora National Park



Adamson's Bridge over the Tana river

The bridge was handed over to the former Director of Kenya Wildlife Services, Ambassador Nehemiah Rotich – one of our GAWPT Kenya trustees - by the World Bank Regional Director in 1999



Wildlife Recovery Programme

We are putting plans together for a sanctuary for a wildlife recovery programme. Dr Juliet King has produced a concept plan and habitat assessments will need to be carried out when directed by KWS HQ.



Fringe eared oryx in Kora



Community Outreach Programme

Trusts for African Schools (TAS) are currently supporting 7 schools in the communities surrounding Kora National Park, always in the company of Steve Kameti whose role has been to integrate TAS into the social and corporate responsibility of the Kenya Wildlife Services. It is anticipated that within the next year the work of TAS and its methods will become integrated with GAWPT and its wider projects and Steve Kameti is now working with us.

TAS has done an incredible job in these remote, poor areas and has provided valuable education initiatives in these communities. We have assisted TAS with a fencing project for two secondary schools (Kora Secondary School and Mitamisiyi Secondary School) through the provision of school gates, the provision of solar lighting for Boka Primary School administration block and the refurbishment of 5 classrooms at Asako Primary School.



Gill Marshall-Andrews of Trusts for African Schools at Kaseluni Primary School – Trusts for African Schools have been our partners in community conservation in the communities surrounding Kora National Park for the past 15 years

Recent donations by GAWPT to the schools in the communities surrounding Kora National Park are as follows:

- The construction of a kitchen at Kamaguru Primary School.
- Guttering, piping and three water storage tank stands for El Rar Primary School as a functioning borehole has been sunk there by TAS.
- A trip for the students of Boka Primary School to Meru National Park.
- A wildlife conservation debate event for selected students from 5 secondary schools. The debate was organised by Steve Kameti and attended by KWS. HE Dr Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka also made an appearance to support the event.
- Piping to the KWS Platoon Base in Asako village from the TAS funded borehole at Asako Primary School.
- The construction of two new toilets to Asako Primary School.
- Tree planting of 1000 seedlings in 5 schools on the eastern side of the Park and 400 seedlings in 2 schools on the western side of the Park.
- Support for the KWS event for World Wildlife Day at Nyamboni Primary School with transport for students, food for all the attendees and an ecology trip to Meru NP for the essay competition winners
- We have also been employing teams from the villages on the close boundaries of the park to help open up old roads and maintain roads.

TAS has raised further funds for El Rar Primary School with donations of stationery, books, a printer and sports equipment; solar equipment at Kaseluni Primary School and a library at Mitamisyi Secondary School.



Trip to Meru National Park for students of Boka Primary School to say thank you for helping clean up some rubbish



Boka Primary School students planting trees



Kaseluni Primary School students



Kamaguru Primary School – nursery class



Previous Kamaguru Primary School kitchen and chef



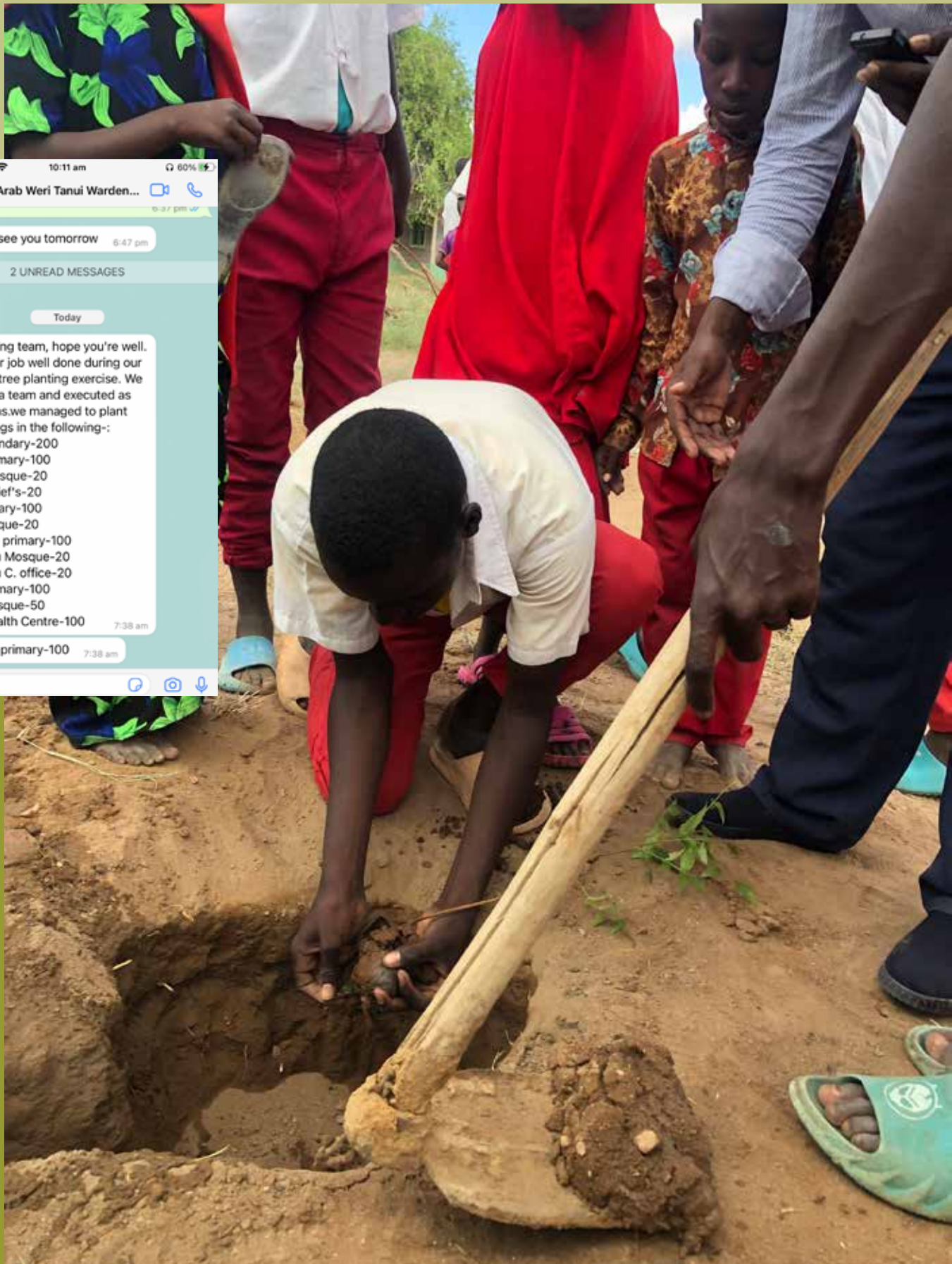
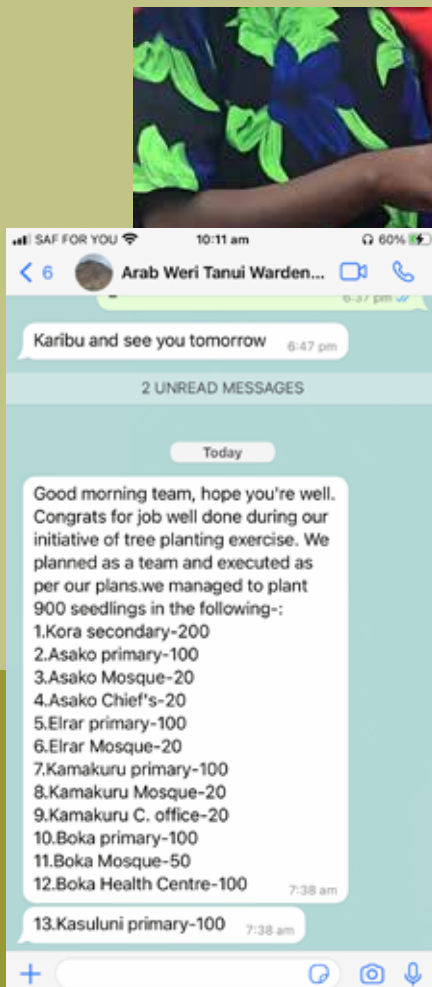
We are planning to continue improving infrastructure in two schools to the east of the Park (Kamaguru Primary School and Boka Secondary School) and two schools to the west (Katumbi Primary School and Ikaayuni Primary School).



Construction starts on a new kitchen for Kamaguru Primary School

Tree Planting Exercise with Kenya Wildlife Services

We donated 1,000 seedlings for the schools on the eastern side of Kora and 400 seedlings for the schools on the western side of Kora.



Community conservancies

We have been in close contact with Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) which currently serves 43 community conservancies in Kenya. This is a highly successful model of community integration involving both development and education. These conservancies are outside of the protected areas such as national parks and private land and they expand the areas where wildlife can safely roam and breed. NRT was established as a shared resource to help build and develop these community conservancies which are then best positioned to enhance people's lives, build peace and conserve the natural environment.



Left: Alexander FJ with KWS Warden Masalani, Mr Alio, on the exposure trip to the NRT Conservancy at Ishaqbin. Right: The team at the Bangale Sub-County office.



With organisation from KWS and GAWPT, we undertook an exposure trip to the Ishaqbin Conservancy with the village leaders from Asako, Roka, Kamaguru, El Rar and Boka. The vision is that an NRT conservancy be established on the eastern side of Kora National Park which could bring a long-term solution to the perennial problem of overgrazing, security and conservation in an unprotected area.



Wildlife

There is much to be done in preparation for a bigger project ahead and as an essential precursor to the rehabilitation of Kora. As with Mkomazi, the early stages are focused on the basic infrastructure and, as the infrastructure builds, we are beginning to see more wildlife.



Trusts, trustees, advisors and supporters



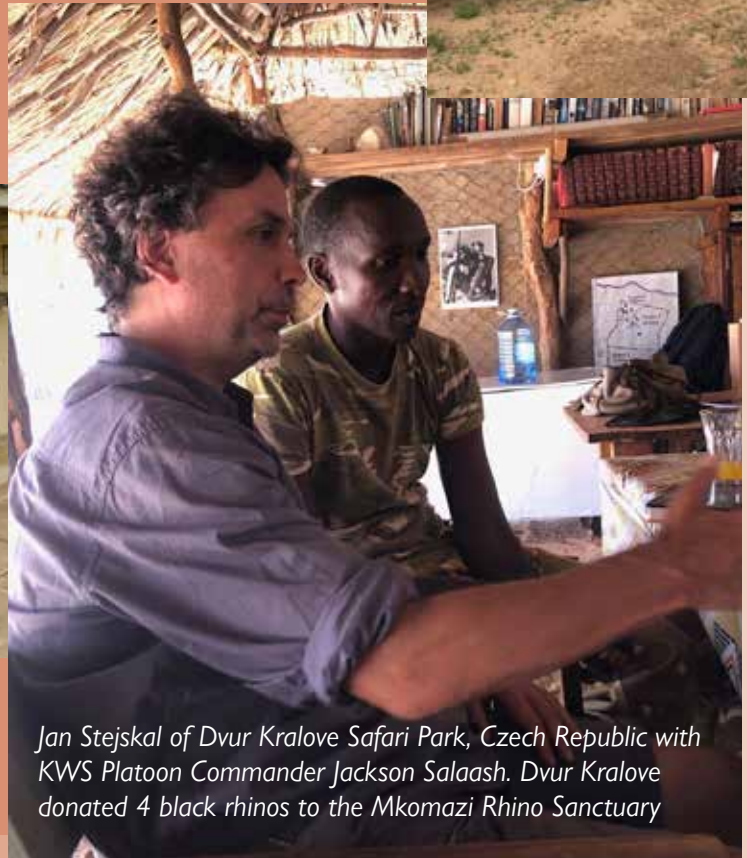
Peggy Tranovich, Georgianna Regnier - board director of TFGAAWPT US - and Isabelle Kaplan at Kora Secondary School with the new school headmaster and Ismail Solola, Chairman of the Board of Management of the school



On site meeting with Pete Hays of Instarect Ltd and Fred Ayo on development and infrastructure



Lucy FJ with HE Dr Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka EGH, former Vice President of Kenya and a GAWPT Kenya trustee, Trustees of GAWPT UK Jake Thomson and Sam Neckar and Steve Kameti



Jan Stejskal of Dvur Kralove Safari Park, Czech Republic with KWS Platoon Commander Jackson Salaash. Dvur Kralove donated 4 black rhinos to the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary



Ted van Dam, Chairman of Suzuki Rhino Club with KWS Senior Warden, William Tanui, Lucy FJ and Steve Kameti



Ambassador Nehemiah Rotich, Lucy FJ, HE Peninah Malonzo, former Hon. Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and Steve Kameti



Omar Tana and Jan Stejskal in Asako village with a man who was on the wildlife capture undertaken by the founder of Dvur Kralove Safari Park in 1972



Wilfred Nyamu Mati with Steve Kameti

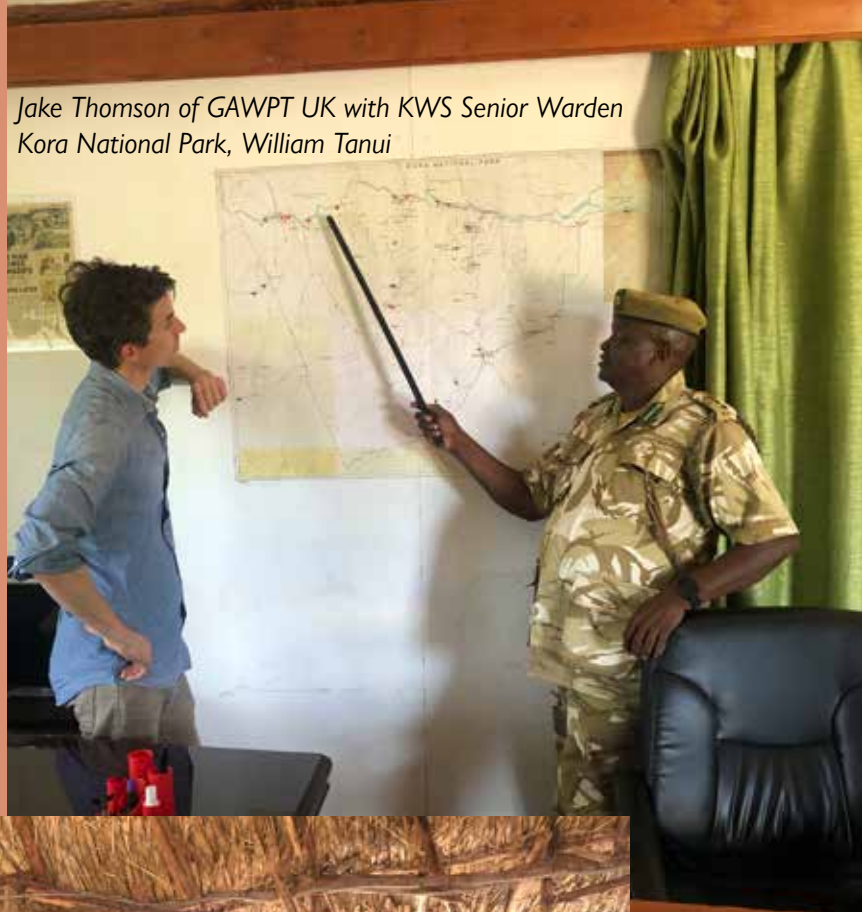


Directors of the Dvur Kralove Safari Park, Czech Republic with KWS in Kora National Park



Gill Marshall-Andrews of Trusts for African Schools with the Deputy Headmaster at Asako Primary School.

Jake Thomson of GAWPT UK with KWS Senior Warden Kora National Park, William Tanui



Charlie Mason in camp working on a phased plan of building works

Bert Leak of Big 5 Protection with the Platoon Commander and the tracking instructor at Kampi ya Simba



Ted van Dam at the Suzuki Rhino Club event in The Netherlands

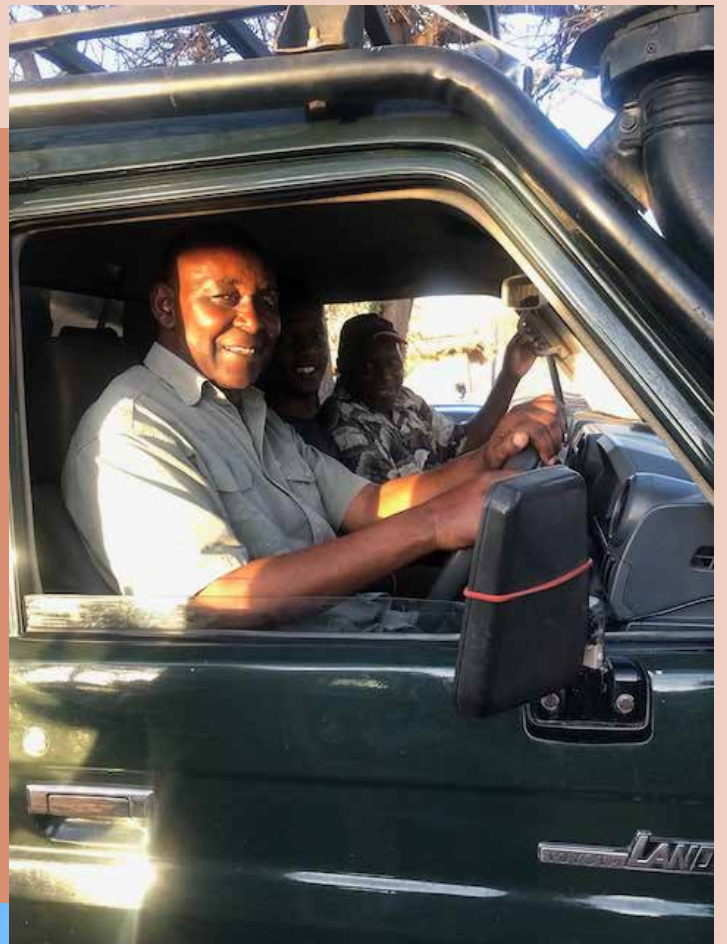


Martin de Wilt of Suzuki Rhino Club with Geordy Bloem, MD of BV Nimag and board director Suzuki Rhino Club, at an event to raise awareness for the Kora Project

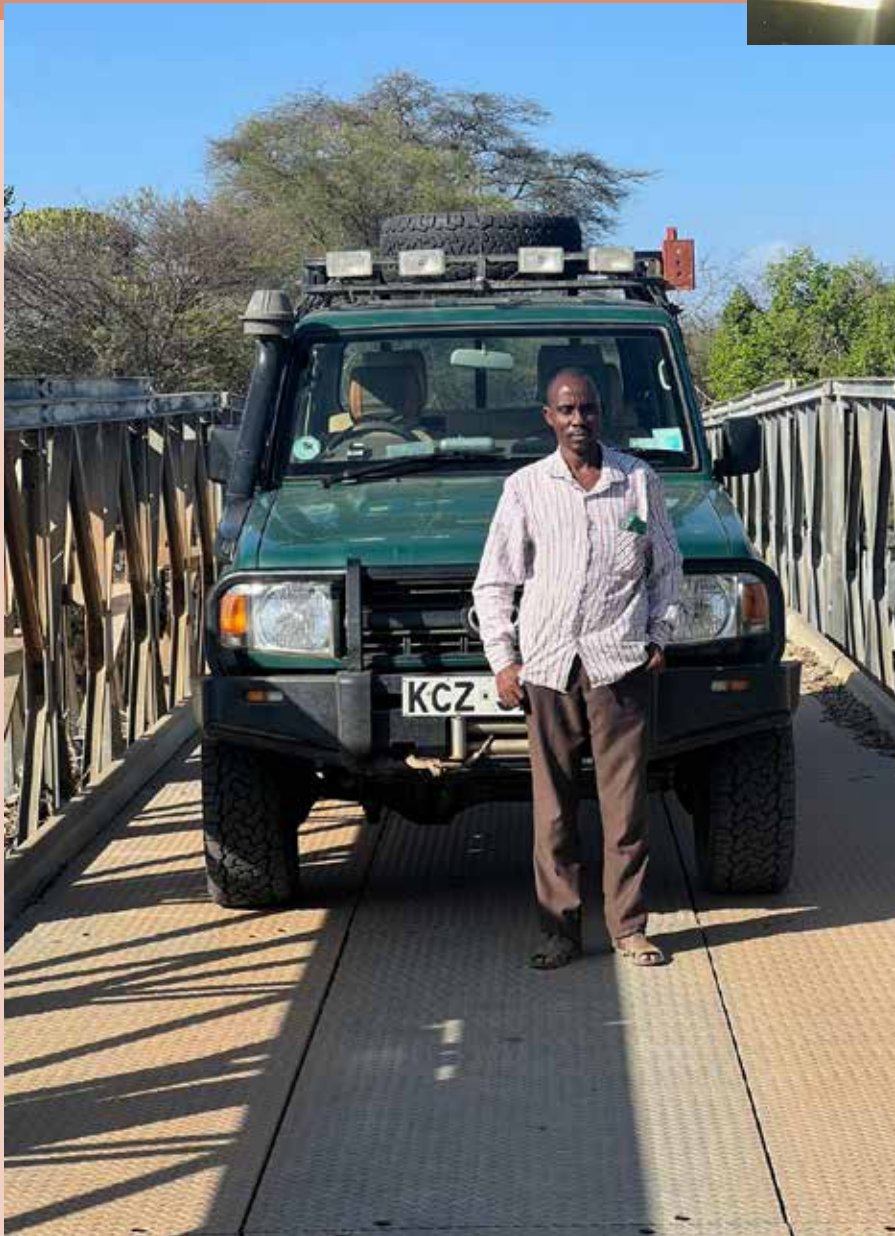




KWS Senior Warden Kora National Park with Steve Kameti on the community conservancy exposure trip



Elisaria Nnko in Kora National Park



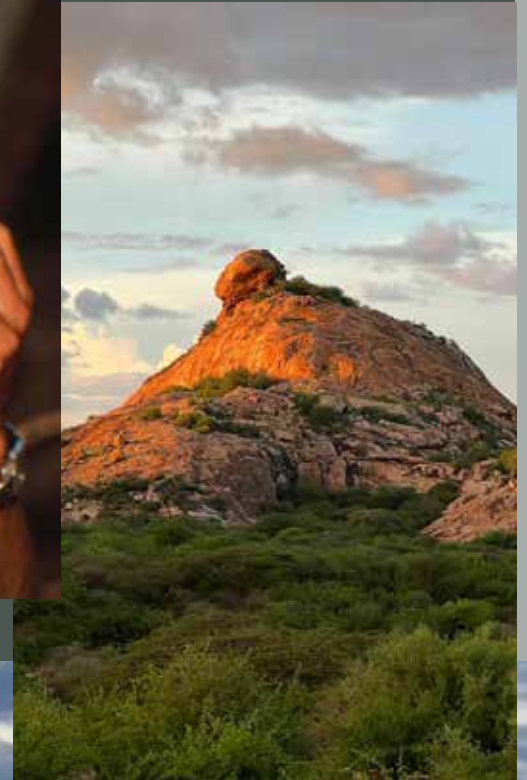
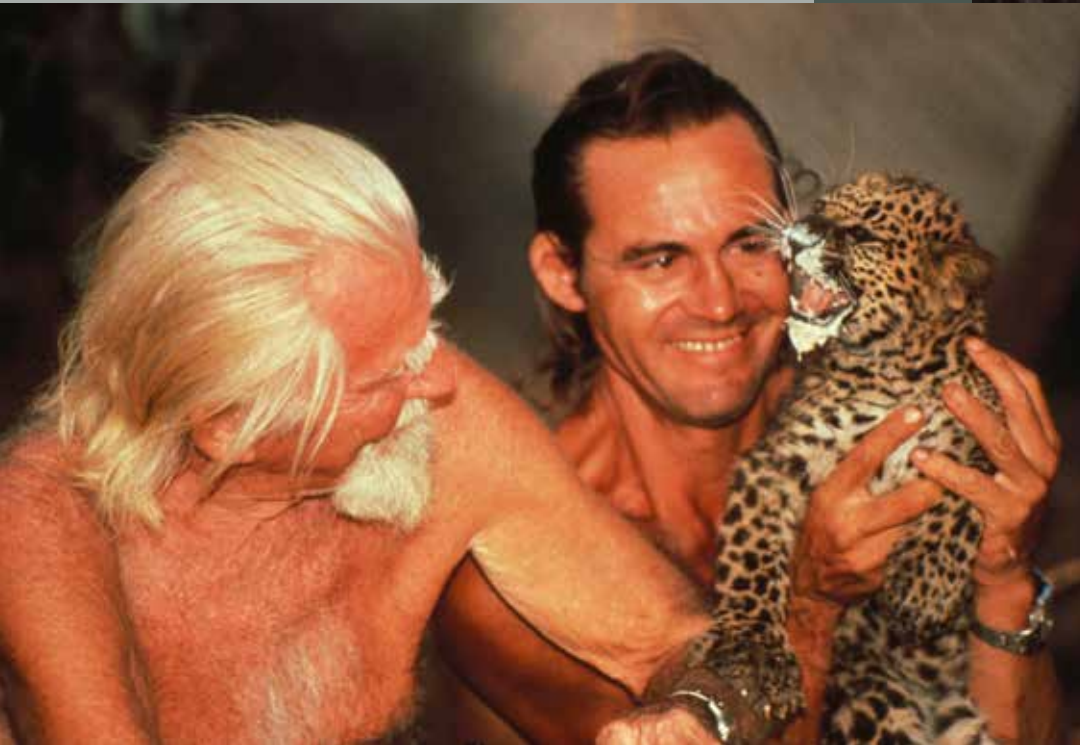
Abudullahi on Adamson's Bridge



Omar Tana in Asako village

Memorial

The trustees of GAWPT UK held a tribute to Tony Fitzjohn at the Royal Geographical Society in London on 3rd July 2023. Bob Marshall-Andrews, Jake Thomson and Charlie Mayhew gave speeches and it was a very well attended and lovely event. Our sincerest thanks to the trustees who organised it and to all those who attended.



Tana River, Kora National Park. October 2023

APRIL - JUNE 2023

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HOW THEY FADED
FROM THE WILD

**BENJAMIN
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We very much regret that three of our long-standing founder trustees died in 2022 and 2023, Andy Mortimer, Alan Toulson and John Rendall. They all made an immense contribution to the Trust and to its remarkable success in Tanzania.



None of the huge achievements set out in this report would have been possible without the dedication and assistance of so many friends and supporters. In the last year special thanks is due to:

Charities, Foundations, Trusts and Grant Giving Institutions

Suzuki Rhino Club, The Netherlands
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 The Wendell Robert & Sharon Scarlett Trust
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 The Friends of GAWPT
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 Greville Vernon

As always, our sincerest thanks to the Friends of the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust, many of whom have been supporters of the Trusts since the very start – over 30 years – financially and materially. They have been part of our financial stability and are friends in the true sense of the word.

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Our sincerest thanks to all who provide such valuable support:

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 Gill Marshall-Andrews
 Rob and Angela Carr-Hartley
 Ted van Dam
 Charlie Mayhew
 Peter Hays
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 Dennis Kiarie and Paul Wahome

A very big thank you for all the other kind donations that have supported the work of the Trusts and to those who so kindly gave a donation to the Trust at the Memorial for Tony Fitzjohn held at the Royal Geographical Society. There is a remarkable depth of support for all of those associated with the work of the Trusts. To everyone behind the scenes who gives of their time and advice, donations of gifts in kind and to family and friends, we simply want to thank you all for your terrific support wherever you are and however you connect.



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