

# The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trusts

Report from the field for 2016/2017



*Mkomazi Wild Dogs*

No projects can work in Africa without clear agreements and working partnerships with the wildlife authorities of the countries involved. Building these relationships on the basis of mutual trust can be a long task which may change with the onset of new administrations with new policies and priorities.



In Tanzania, there have been marked changes. These mean we will operate in accordance with a newly drafted partnership document. Through the production of this document, we are going a long way to ensuring the longevity of the Trust's operations. Our local trustees are a tower of strength and their tireless work ensures we operate in harmony with the systems and rules which affect our work and our aims. This puts us on a much better footing to deal flexibly with changes in government whether they be personalities, policies or priorities. Nothing is assured, but the great achievements over many years here in the field and the huge investment made provide substantial confidence for the future.



*Buffalo leaving Maore water pan on the border with Tsavo National Park*

Kenya is different. Twenty years of work there in the 1970's and 80's and two subsequent returns to Kora ensure that we enjoy both a reputation and connections in government and we are fortunate to also have a strong Kenyan board of trustees. MoU's have been drawn up and not yet signed but mutual trust remains the strong basis of operation. The friendships that have been developed over nearly 50 years provide us with a voice and an ability to operate in the field.

With both projects, there are strong foundations of interest and goodwill on which to build and we are ever optimistic.



*The Kora Rocks*

**Following meetings between our Tanzanian trustees and the Director General of TANAPA and his senior directors, we prepared the first draft of the new partnership document that exists between us and is the basis for our relationship going forward. TANAPA are very supportive of this project and are keen for the document to reflect this. They described our partnership as follows "The partnership with TANAPA will be beneficial to Tanzania and the world in terms of conservation and contribution to national economy through tourism." The Director General, Allan Kijazi, noted that the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary is a success story and is the template for the development of rhino sanctuaries in other Tanzanian national parks.**

We said a sad goodbye to Donat Mnyagatwa who had been the Chief Park Warden of MNP since it was upgraded to Park status in 2008. Marco Meoli has taken over and our partnership with TANAPA continues well with very strong links. The past year has seen many joint projects including patrols, aerial surveys, road maintenance and development, rhino sanctuary fencing and security and a new water project to increase water sources in the Park for the elephant herds and other wildlife.

After the successful construction of a small dam in an area called Norbanda, which was instrumental in bringing the elephant back to the north of the Park, we are now working on another project for construction of a seasonal water pan in the 'Supabowl' for elephant herds and other wildlife of MNP / Tsavo National Park ecosystem. With help from Friends of Serengeti Switzerland, we agreed to do all the initial work of piling up soil some distance away from the dam to form the dam wall because it was the right type of soil. We also dug the four metre deep trench and then, together with TANAPA, we carted the soil back. They provided tippers and a compactor and we sent in our heavy plant. Our JCB loaded the tippers and the wall now stands at half the height it needs to be and work will continue in the very near future to finish the construction. Another pile of soil has been assembled to pack behind the dam wall and then TANAPA will bring in their bulldozer, which is considerably larger than ours, to deepen and widen the water collection area.

Babu's Camp, the only tourist camp in Mkomazi, is now moving to a beautiful new location, overlooking the valley leading up to Observation Hill and Dindira Dam with a terrific panoramic view. This should give its guests great game and bird viewing. We are helping out by creating a water hole in front of their mess and constructing a ditch behind the camp for rain flow.



*With outgoing TANAPA Chief Park Warden, Donat Mnyagatwa and incoming Chief Park Warden, Marco Meoli*



*Loading the trucks with the soil for the new dam wall*



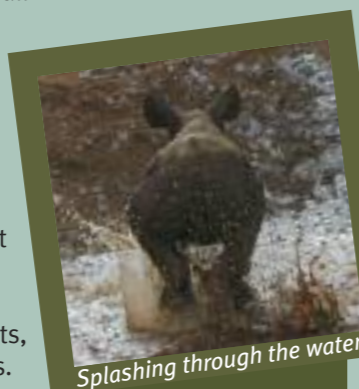
*Dam wall starting to go up in the 'Supabowl' – a joint construction project between the Trust and TANAPA*



Mkomazi elephants coming in to the water hole just below Kisima Camp

Elephant numbers are still fragile but we are holding the line and hope that increased water sources in MNP will give them an option to roam in an area where they can be protected. It is hard to monitor their numbers as they come and go from Tsavo during the wet season. However, since TANAPA took over in 2008, the general wildlife numbers have increased considerably. We flew the Chief Park Warden over the area a few weeks ago and saw over a hundred elephants in one herd which is encouraging. At the time of writing, a big herd is browsing close to the camp and coming and going from a small dam that filled up after the long rains.

The working relationship between the Trust and TANAPA continues to be good with respect on both sides on organizational responsibility. We come together on joint projects in the field, and if they feel there is an imminent threat to elephants, we send out the tracker dogs. The rebuilding of the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary fence is an enormous task involving new wire, fence posts, insulators, energisers, alarms and cantilevers. TANAPA are very good about contributing some of the materials.



Splashing through the water

At the end of last year, we were honoured to receive a visit from the Chairman of the TANAPA Board of Trustees, General (Ret.) G M Waitara, and his board who were on a knowledge gathering mission. Because of the importance of this meeting, our Trust chairman Bernard Mchomvu and trustee Kinemo Kihomano very kindly came up from Dar to show solidarity. Discussions were held in Kisima camp, and after a brief introduction, we went down to see the rhinos drinking. They were initially fairly keen on the fact that our breeding sanctuary should be opened up to please the safari companies and tourists but it was obvious that the overwhelming security issues made this an impossibility. It was also a good opportunity to promote the idea of the TANAPA proposal to build a small rhino sanctuary in the north of Mkomazi along the tourist circuit. To this we could contribute one or two of our excess bulls.

We feel very fortunate to be working with such a professional and understanding group in TANAPA who take the idea of a partnership seriously. We hope that this will continue long in to the future.



Zawadi with her calf Georgina

We are constantly aware of the challenges we face in order to protect these animals against the ever-increasing poaching threat. It's a difficult task that needs a full-time team dedicated team, a clear chain of command and a disciplined approach. To date there have been no poaching attempts on Mkomazi's rhinos, but it is vital that our continuing high levels of security be maintained.

The MRS has a number of layers of security. Aerial surveillance; security guards; the electrified and alarmed fence; the tracking team and fence maintenance teams; the digital radio system; a tracker dog unit; the sensor network system; a TANAPA ranger outpost close to the Kisima base camp; and the TANAPA intelligence network.

Protection is all about presence and activity. Elisaria Nnko and I continue to manage all the daily operations of the MRS and all personnel have continued their working duties according to the normal protocols. We obviously have to be very careful when bringing in more staff as there are only a certain number of people we can employ. They are carefully chosen by Elisaria and we feel that they are trustworthy but it takes time to find the right men for the job. Also, every time a new employee joins, such as the new fencing crew, it takes time for them to settle and for us to feel confidence in them. They need to become part of a bigger team and a tight unit working towards the security, welfare and health of the rhinos.

The security guards are now a team recruited from both the Tanzanian Army and TANAPA, (a great example of co-operation on the ground). They patrol the entire 40 km fence line twice every day. These patrols provide an excellent level of security through their presence on the boundary line and their ability to spot illegal activity. Joint patrols take place between TANAPA and the MRS team, along with tracker dogs and their handlers.

The rhino tracker team continues to be responsible for tracking and gaining a visual sighting of every single rhino every single day. The new and essential fence upgrade continues to be put in place with a new team, increasing fence line security with an updated wire configuration. Whilst the long fence upgrade takes place, the rest of the existing fence needs continual repair and replacement and we therefore have a dedicated team who work on this. The grass is slashed regularly (sometimes daily in the rains) to keep the line clear and check for any animal or human footprints.



Director General of TANAPA, Allan Kijazi (wearing glasses on the left) with his senior directors, together with our trustees (on the right) in Mkomazi at Kisima Camp helping us draw up a new partnership agreement. Our trustees from the right: Kinemo Kihomano, Bernard Mchomvu (Chairman), Rose Lugembe and Elisaria Nnko



Site inspection by Jabu on Israel Pallangyo's work

Veterinary work is a constant part of the project. It was great to have Dr Peter Morkel with us on several occasions. He spent a lot of time working out the next stage of development of the MRS and breeding possibilities for the future.

It was also great to welcome Ted van Dam and the Suzuki Rhino Club and show them all the ongoing field work, to which they provide so much support.

We had to tip the horn of Jamie (ex Dvur Kralove Zoo) as it was incredibly long and sharp and he was roughing up the two females from the UK. This was more mating behaviour than aggression but a worry nevertheless. Dr Macha, the TANAPA vet assigned to MNP, came in to do this work along with Dr Ernest Eblate of TAWIRI.

Three bad rainy seasons culminated in quite a severe drought. The rhinos in the main section seemed to be doing really well and the bulls too were fine in their separated sections, but we felt that the females, calves and breeding bull in the UK / Czech section should be supplemented with feed so we brought lucerne and horse pellets down from Kenya. We now have to prioritise the expansion of this section as the breeding will continue and the jury is still out on letting them mix with the wild rhinos given the inherent risks that this might well bring.

A 3km internal fence line has now been constructed, separating the two bulls who had been sharing that section so both now have their own breeding territory. It is very hard to effect rhino



*Jiri Hruby, rhino curator of the Dvur Kralove Zoo, Czech Republic, after the safe arrival of Eliska*



*When its carrot time, they always find us*



*Better together!*

introductions on any logical basis because they have their own characters so Jabu and Monduli might well have to remain on their own for a bit longer. We have to decide on whether to construct another bachelor-only section to hold 'excess' bulls that are either being pushed further out by the dominant bull or that have made an adequate genetic contribution to the population.

The management, safety and protection of the individual rhinos from zoo situations, and how they react to each other in the MRS, has been paramount in the past and will have to continue to be so. We had a tragedy last year with the pairing of a bull and a female, where the bull with a fairly stumpy horn fatally wounded the female. This was a devastating experience for all of us and reflects the inherent dangers in any introduction of this kind. In this incident, a normally docile bull had a female introduced to him and he became overtly aggressive when she didn't respond to him immediately. This has happened before in Kenya but they are isolated incidents. In our small sanctuary, it just underlines the fact that as the rhino population expands, so must MRS itself. This will obviously need to take into account the resultant increase in security and other issues that will arise.

In the foreseeable future, the serious poaching threat will not allow for a free-release into the wider Park.

## Security, Fence Upgrade, Maintenance and Repair.

The entire peripheral MRS fence has had to be inspected in detail and is now undergoing a complete replacement. Every single line of wire, every pole (13 lines of wire and 10,000 poles that make up the 40kms of peripheral fencing) and every insulator has been scrutinized. With thanks to a wonderful donation from the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, a new superior Instarect system is being installed with new wiring, new fence posts and a new configuration. We were extremely fortunate to have the help of Pete Hays in this daunting but absolutely imperative project.

Another issue evaluated was the break-in/break-out scenario. If our fence is made more 'human-proof' (quite a high priority!) by linking wires with droppers and anti-tamper loops, the fence inherently becomes a more solid 'mesh' with very little give which makes breaking in or out quite a difficult proposition – critical as the poaching threat increases.

With thanks also to a donation from Save the Rhino International and US Fish & Wildlife Services, new energizers and alarm systems were fitted, which have not only increased the voltage 4-fold on the fence but have also shown us where the shorting is taking place. The voltage on the fence is now just below 10,000 volts, a massive improvement.

All the old fencing wire needs to be replaced. Not only is it slightly tarnished after 20 years but over the years, the process of maintenance itself had affected the integrity of the wiring. The work is going more slowly than originally planned as it is now a 20-strand fence, but it is much stronger, safer and also looks much more formidable. Also, early design faults are being corrected with extra wire. Tusk Trust helped enormously towards this. All the wooden cantilevers have been taken out as they were always dropping with bolts rusting and couldn't be tightened, and these have been replaced by a metal cantilever welded on to the 2-inch square metal fence posts.

We are also trying to reduce dependency on wooden poles which have been the standard material. Talinising is just not done properly here and termites do eat away at them. We are also using some of the old fence posts that we have taken out and are cutting them down to use as the 'short' posts in the new configuration. It's an effective use of recycled resources and will give, with luck, another 10 years of life.

We are also implementing a wireless surveillance system for the whole fence. Each security outpost now contains the energizers and alarms for the system, has a short tower built with a dish on, and this sends signals back to the MRS entrance gate screen monitor as well as the base camp. It shows if the sections of fence are on or off and gives us control from the base camp to arm and disarm the various sections. Hopefully in the future we will be able to monitor to every half kilometre of fence when the alarms sound. This gives fast response a whole new meaning.

Pete and his supervisor visit often and make sure that all the disparate parts are working correctly, tighten up working practice, inspect everything, sort out hardware and software problems, do a stock take and plan the next stage.



*New fencing construction - strainer posts go in*



*Fence gang at work*



*The entire fence is now wireless'd and information is relayed back to a base camp monitor*



*Feeding browse and lucerne during the drought*



*A crash of rhinos*



*Fred Ayo and Tim van Dam installing barrier gate sensors*

## Solar and Electrical Power.

With all the equipment going in to power the new fence, a skilled solar engineer was needed to work it all out, especially if the fencing electric system has to hold up at night or in bad weather. Pepijn Steemers has installed a new solar power system to bring the power up to 220 volts, even through the night. He has also installed a high-quality battery system in the main base-camp which runs the digital radio system, the monitors for the MRS data system, the radio chargers and everything in the operations room that is now so much part of 21st century wildlife conservation.



Wireless'd outposts sending information on the fence to the base camp

## Rhino Sensor Network System.

Since Mkomazi has no basic 3G internet coverage, a new and unique internal wireless telecommunications system has been installed, designed and built by a team from the Internet of Life. It triangulates the position of a wide range of small, solar powered LoRaWAN based-sensors installed on barrier gates, vehicles and motorcycles. Four steel towers have been made on site and installed on mountains and four more are planned. The towers receive the signals and then relay them to a master tower on top of the MRS mountain, which gathers detailed data and transmits the information back. This 'Smart Park' system is now also being applied to horn implants for the rhinos. The team have designed and built sturdy rhino horn transmitters which give a reading every few minutes. Once fully operational, this is a huge benefit to management as GPS transmitters are highly expensive, with a big annual fee and they only give 4-5 readings per day. The beauty of this new system is that the sensor in the horn will last 2-3 years or more (slightly better than the GPS and VHF transmitters) and the cost is minimal. The young team are to be highly commended for creating this system. Other wildlife conservation projects are showing interest and we are proud to have played a part in pioneering the technology in the African wildlife world.

## Tracker Dog Unit.

Training and patrols are ongoing with wider patrols taking place towards the end of the year. The kennels were completely rebuilt for them to fully screen the kennel runs against tsetse.

We converted a small Suzuki car which is now placed at the tracker dog unit on a full-time basis with Joshua as the designated driver. We fitted a screened cage at the back for the dogs with two benches. The converted car has given the dog handlers the ability to react rapidly to any perceived threat around the MRS fence line without having to wait for drivers and vehicles to be deployed from our base-camp many miles away.

Daryll Pleasants, who has played a major role in instigating and forming the tracker dog unit and selecting the dogs to come to Mkomazi, returned in May 2017 to give further training to the dogs and the handlers which kept everyone on their toes.

Freddie in the tracker dog transporter gets A/C in the front. Joshua Mungure is the designated driver and the other handlers, Jonathan Moses and Penieli Mbise, are looking on



LoRa towers (all made on site) going up on top of the mountain

This was a really good week for all and we are very grateful to him. We attended a 'Canine Summit' in Arusha hosted by Will Powell who runs a conservation canine programme in Tanzania. The summit focused on what makes a dog unit work specifically in Tanzania. Will has brought his knowledge and experience to bear on our dog unit as the both handlers and dogs need regular training. We are very grateful too to Will for bringing us under his highly professional operation and for providing medical care whenever needed.



Go Heidi Go!



Sometimes muzzles are essential

The unit has been a new and highly effective way to patrol the MRS and MNP, maintain security and increase the level of deterrent. We continuously have to upgrade security to match the poaching threat and come up with effective projects that either surprise everyone or that are able to fill the gaps in the protection of a large area.



DHL aircraft arriving at Kilimanjaro Airport carrying precious cargo – Eliska – from Dvur Kralove Zoo



Offloading Eliska



Arrival into Mkomazi – Eliska's first steps on African soil

## Eliska.

We undertook the translocation of the female rhino, Eliska, from the Dvur Kralove Zoo, Czech Republic to the MRS. This was a great working partnership between the zoo, DHL, GAWPT, Dr Peter Morkel and TANAPA. The zoo donated Eliska and DHL donated the ground transport and the entire flight from Germany to Tanzania. It was probably a record-breaking translocation in terms of professionalism and dedication from everybody concerned. 16 months after her arrival, we made a major and considered decision to pair her with a bull that we felt was docile and would be a good breeding partner. We are a breeding sanctuary and can't just sit here and do nothing, so decisions have to be made. But taking those decisions and taking the risks reflects the danger that is inherent in these introductions and the hidden traits in the individual rhinos that we are not aware of or expecting. We have made decisions before and they have worked and many new calves have been born as a result. Very sadly in this case, it didn't work out and he fatally wounded her. We have all taken this very badly. Before we make any decision of this kind, we run it through the experienced rhino managers and vets in the field but ultimately the decision is mine and not everything goes according to plan.

Our main concern continues to be the protection of the rhinos from professional and well-armed poachers. We have always felt that with enough presence, activity, a disciplined work-force, a well run workshop, the aircraft flying, functional equipment and a serious perimeter fence, there are deterrents in place against sophisticated poaching gangs. There have been no incidents to date, but it could happen any time and we are always on edge ready to move at a moment's notice. We are also looking at new non-lethal technology that will alert us of any illegal activity close to the MRS and from which we could form an appropriate response. Everyone is on the radio 24 hours a day and we feel without going in to something approaching a nuclear lock-down, the rhinos are as well protected as they could be and will hopefully be left in peace for as long as we can keep this up.

We have a Thank You list at the end of newsletter, but we do wish to say here how incredibly grateful we are to the Suzuki Rhino Club, Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, Tusk Trust and Tusk USA, Save the Rhino International and US Fish & Wildlife Services, Swordpoint Foundation, Marina L Schreyer Charitable Trust, Chester Zoo, the Friends of Mkomazi, the Rufford Foundation, Dvur Kralove Zoo, Friends of Serengeti Switzerland, Newman's Own Foundation, Climb for Conservation and other kind foundations, private individuals and friends for working closely with us to support the operating costs and equipment needed to manage and develop the MRS. Their understanding and continued support has enabled us to run a viable rhino sanctuary in fairly difficult conditions.



Alex Fitzjohn, Phil Couchman, CEO of DHL Express UK, and TANAPA's Dr Emmanuel Macha at Kilimanjaro Airport awaiting the arrival of Eliska



Big herd of buffalo settling in the north of the park



Immature martial eagle inspects the opposition



Daily encounter



Daryll Pleasants with the tracker dog handlers, keeping everyone trained up and on their toes



Mshamba Mjema follows a recently reintroduced pack of wild dogs



Playing in the sand



Lectures at the wild dog compounds get a bit more comfortable



Protective mother



Isaya Mbwambo with Heidi on her arrival into Mkomazi



Trustees meeting in Dar es Salaam. From the left: Elisaria Nnko, Bernard Mchomvu, Lucy, Rose Lugembe and Kinemo Kihomano

# African Wild Dog Breeding, Veterinary and Reintroduction Programme



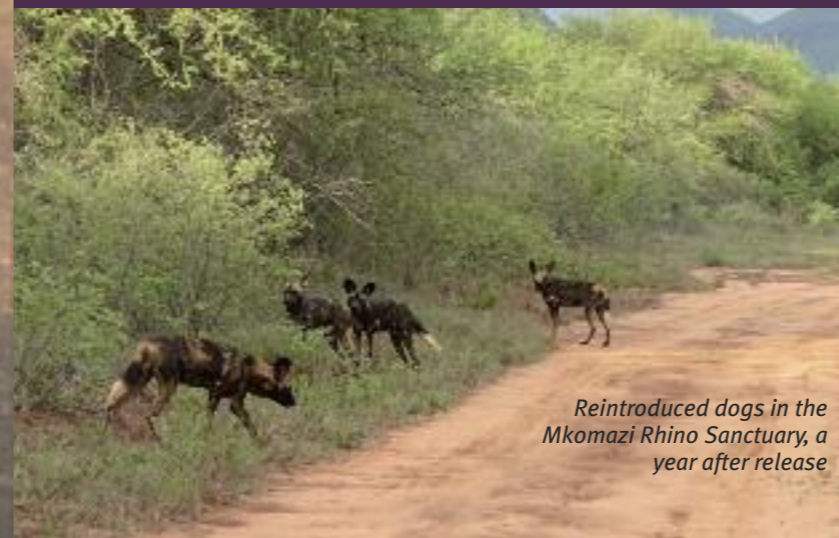
*You've got to be the first one in .....*

**African wild dogs are a fugitive species on the brink of extinction. All over Africa their history has been one of unremitting persecution. For years they were despised as vermin, shot, poisoned and hunted. Only when more enlightened attitudes began to prevail did they appear for the first time in their own true light as highly intelligent social animals whose hunting efficiency actually improves the quality of plains game. Tragically, their numbers were collapsing further through their vulnerability to disease, bringing them closer to extinction. There are thought to be close to 6,500 surviving today in the wild across a handful of African countries compared to half a million across 39 countries at the beginning of the last century.**

We have undertaken a breeding, veterinary and reintroduction programme for over twenty years to try to address this decline. Dogs are bred, vaccinated and reintroduced on a regular basis. Breeding alpha pairs remain at our camp in compounds. Offspring, having helped the mother raise the subsequent litter, are separated and released into areas where they have most chance of success. They are released either as single sex sibling packs or a sibling pack. We try to reintroduce them back into the wild when they are around two years old.

We currently have close to seventy dogs under our care in the breeding compounds. Sightings are on the rise and we have heard that in the north of the Park by Dindira Dam there is a pack of up to thirty dogs, a further two packs based intermittently at our camp and two packs come and go from the MRS. We also hear of increased sightings in Tsavo West National Park (TWNP). The end of 2017 was

*With Emmanuel Moirana of TANAPA on a wild dog reintroduction*



*Reintroduced dogs in the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary, a year after release*



*Fascinating, social and endangered*

finished off with a visit to the breeding compounds by a pack of at least twenty five dogs with young, two adults of which were from a release we had undertaken over a year before.

A pack from the release we did with TANAPA last year is now visiting our camp regularly – all in very good shape, hunting every day, and the female we fitted with a HF collar looks good. They rest up either close to their mother's compound or at the furthest compound from the camp. When the water dries up, they have a back up with a newly built small cement water hole near where they rest up. It really is wonderful to see them go off to hunt in the very early mornings and see them return replete. They occasionally link up with two dogs from another release pack so sometimes form a loose pack of seven dogs.

The breeding compounds have all had substantial refurbishment. We have manufactured and installed new steel-framed crush tunnels in to every compound, lined with strong steel wire and with proper concrete floors for faster and safer inoculations. A new double line of fencing has been constructed at each compound along with new entrance double doors. New sloped entrances make easier access for the wheelbarrows carrying the daily meat supply.

We undertook two releases in 2017, with one dog per pack wearing the Telonics HF collars that we use and then TANAPA fitted one of their AWT GPS collars on two dogs. On follow up, the GPS collar became static after three weeks. The rangers went out on patrol and tracked it to a cattle ranch outside of TWNP in Kenya where it was deemed that the dog had been poisoned by cattle herders. This presence of domestic stock either inside or close to TWNP is a subject of ongoing discussion with the KWS Warden who is very helpful towards our wild dog programme.

We have three releases scheduled for early 2018 onwards although we will await the news on the various options of newly manufactured GPS collars that we are looking into with help from Chester Zoo. One of these has a lightweight prototype being tested which could weigh in at circa 250gm and the GPS fixes can be altered remotely. We will also continue to use the streamlined and lightweight HF collars manufactured by Telonics and which we have used for a few years. We feel the GPS collars (using the Iridium satellite) that TANAPA provide are still too heavy at 350gms. We do need to work with the lightest and smallest collars on the market, even if the 'data' on the dogs is not as plentiful as the heavier collars.

We will have the keepers out on foot and in vehicles on the next releases and we will continue to fly on follow up. This is intensive by air in the first few months and then after that, when the aircraft is airborne, we put in the frequencies for the dog collars and see if anything is received. The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust based in TWNP have agreed to help fly on



*New inoculation cages made on site*



*Dr Emmanuel Macha of TANAPA with senior wild dog keeper Sangito Lema, taking blood samples prior to moving the dogs over to reintroduction site for release back to the wild*

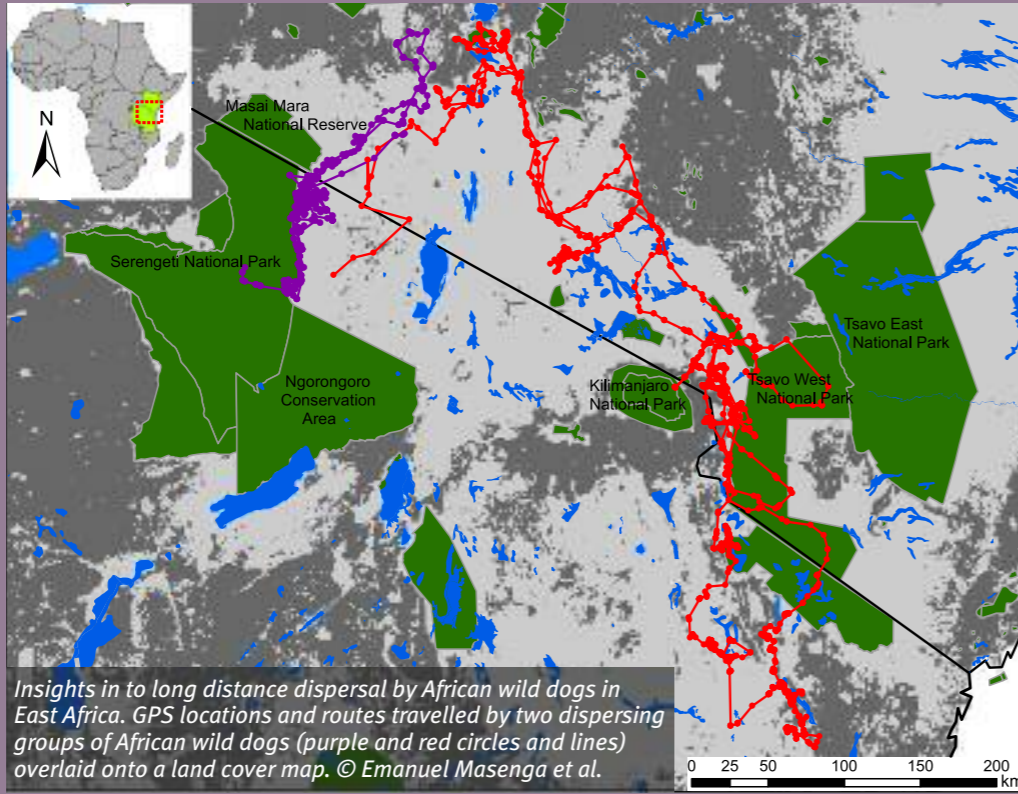
post-release follow up on their side of the ecosystem. The Kenya Wildlife Service Senior Warden for TWNP, Ken Ochieng, is also a colleague and a pilot and he is supportive of the aerial follow-up on the released wild dog packs. This follow up can only go so far but the feedback after a long period of time, even when the collars have packed up, does come in and this is great to see and backs up our gut feeling that we have had successes.

There are always challenges. One in particular at this point is the increase of illegal domestic stock on the Tsavo-side of the border and the political nature of this problem. Release areas might have to change. We would also like to breed up a more genetically diverse population with slightly larger dogs. More dogs may have to be brought in from captive populations elsewhere.

A colleague, Dr Emmanuel Masenga of TAWIRI, working in the Serengeti / Loliondo area of Tanzania collared two wild dogs that he released with GPS collars. On the right is a map of where these dogs travelled. It really is incredible.

Sangito Lema and Mshamba Mjema continue with the daily care and management of the dogs. This is a relentless task and a big responsibility. Every day the compounds have to be cleaned twice, the fences have to be constantly repaired, the food has to be prepared, the behaviour of the dogs noted and the health of the dogs kept a close eye on. With thanks to these dedicated keepers, the dogs have continued to be healthy in a captive situation. Wild dogs pitch up out of the wild, either in packs or a couple of individuals and it is this kind of interaction that is so good for the animals in captivity.

With the results coming in now, the return of wild dog packs to Mkomazi, the increased number of sightings in TWNP and the neighbouring wildlife ranch schemes in Kenya, we are confident that the long term view we have taken for the return of the species is working. We will just continue to carry on doing exactly what we do; breeding, vaccination and release. We can't sit back - this is a programme that is designed to keep wild dogs in the wild because of the dangers they face from poisoning, snaring and disease, and we just have to keep it going to try to keep a dynamic number of animals out in the wild.



You can't effectively protect and patrol a huge area such as MNP without maintaining and constructing roads and tracks, maintaining and constructing water sources and covering the movement of wildlife.

When the aircraft is in use, its patrols back up the security not only of the MRS but of the entire Park as well. The aircraft is used for all the general surveillance, back up for anti-poaching patrols in the whole Park especially the northern section, back up to the security for the MRS, the drying up water pans in the park, the tracker dog camp, carrying of equipment and personnel, resupply of remote camps and rapid response to situations in the field. We can fly the flag of security to any illegal activities going on in the Park and this does a great deal to help TANAPA's efforts in the field.



The workshop is the most fundamental part of daily operations. With the increase in rhinos and personnel over the past year, along with the water development projects and road maintenance in the park, requirements for the usage and general maintenance of all the machines and project vehicles has greatly increased. Everything has to be constantly maintained in our workshops, fuel has to be brought in bulk and stored on site in underground and overground tanks and spares have to be sourced. We have had some of the big machines for years, but sometimes they could not be used for lack of spares, fuel and manpower. Now they are out the whole time and it makes such a big difference.

A donated CAT D4D 1979 bulldozer has added to greatly to the development and maintenance of road networks and the excavation and expansion of water sources in the Park and MRS. We were also donated a low-loader to move the bulldozer to the various work sites and a ten-ton tipping trailer. These machines have been a very valuable addition to the ongoing field work and infrastructural development and our sincerest thanks to Tusk Trust, Chester Zoo, Friends of Serengeti Switzerland and to Kimango Farm and TANAPA for their support towards all these machines and their operational costs.







Ten-ton tipping trailer carrying fencing wire



Bulldozer (CAT D4D from 1979) being taken to site on new low-loader

The supply of water to the MRS has now almost doubled. The old Scania had been undertaking the 90km round-trip to the TANAPA HQ twice a day in the dry season to fill up with water from their tanks, which then in turn filled up our base camp storage tanks and from there was taken out in a bowser to each water pan and outpost. As it does the entire water supply for the whole MRS, personnel, rhinos, water pans and storage tanks, it is a crucial piece of machinery. However, it required so much maintenance, was continuously breaking down and was underpowered. With thanks to two fantastic donations from Save the Rhino International and USFWS and Suzuki Rhino Club (SSRC), we were able to buy a larger Scania flatbed truck in Arusha, imported from the UK. This was fully overhauled and configured for the bush. We then had to fit a 25,000 litre water tank which was then painted with custom-designed rubberized paint to line the inside of the tank to prevent rust. This new water tanker is twice the capacity of the old Scania which is a much more sensible long-term solution as it only has to go out on one trip per day.

SSRC also donated four new Suzuki motorbikes – two were immediately put on active duty in the MRS, pulling out (with great relief) the ancient Yamaha and horrid Chinese bikes. The drivers and bikes provide non-stop activity inside and outside MRS, moving personnel and equipment and everything is so much more efficient.



Eliakimu Kitomary, master tailor



Suzuki quad and trailer transporting fence materials

We said a very sad goodbye to Fred Ayo, our workshop manager, great friend, co-pilot, builder of both Mkomazi and Kora base-camps, electrician, plumber, master mechanic, aircraft engineer and comrade-in-arms for the past 28 years. We miss him enormously, but he does visit and it is good to have him working through everything with us. The two new mechanics are slowly finding their feet and work with long-standing mechanic (Hamza) happily back to tidying up, checking batteries and filters and tyres and greasing, not forgetting the hyrax, which seem to prefer hiding under the bonnet of a vehicle rather than holes in rocks – fewer snakes maybe.

It is a happy and hugely efficient workshop. It is the heartbeat of our entire operation and enables us to have an immediate response to any situation or crisis.



Final rubbish chuck-out for Fred! Trouble is, everything is useable



Old solar system ripped out and new one about to go in

Wall hanging for the environmental education classroom, handmade by Jane Oliver



Rafiki wa Faru has continued to run really well. It is a focused and carefully constructed educational programme to help raise awareness and understanding of the overall conservation of the Park and the conservation of endangered species. The brightly coloured bus trundles in and out of the MRS bringing in students, teachers and village elders for a jolly but educational day out.

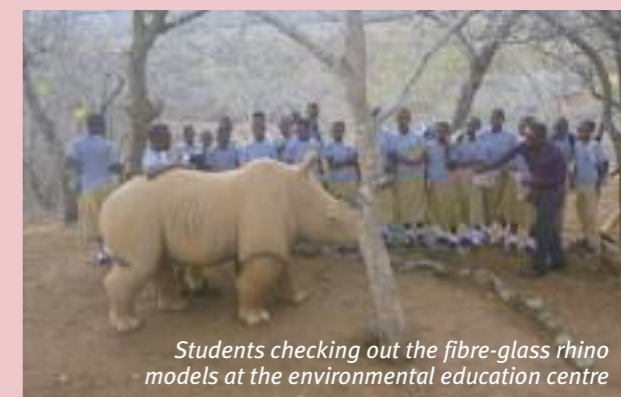
As the wildlife numbers in the Park increase under TANAPA management, the students now see more plentiful species; rhinos, wild dogs, giraffe, eland, kongoni, lesser kudu, impala, dik dik, ostrich, zebra and wart hogs, even small herds of elephants. They are given A3 laminated sheets for identification of birds and mammals, an activity that takes place on their journey in to the Park.

They are always amazed to see the rhinos and all the methods that are in place to protect them. The armed rangers at the TANAPA HQ, the visitor head count, gate records signed, the presence of security staff, functional machinery, a disciplined work force, rhino trackers, tracker dogs, a workshop, a serious looking perimeter fence line that is well maintained all demonstrate the high level of security around the rhino. Elisaria always emphasizes to the students that the responsibility of protecting and conserving rhinos will be theirs in the future.

Elisaria has noted many changes in attitudes towards the project as the years go by. The old rumours of gem stone mining seem to be dying out and much of this can be credited to Rafiki wa Faru and to TANAPA's management. The new stories are all about the work to restore Mkomazi and bring back its rhinos, that the rhinos are breeding and that this is a project that benefits Tanzania.

The programme is designed to give students, teachers and village leaders an in-depth and memorable experience with valuable lessons to be learned. The day out is tightly choreographed and the participants are able to see the effort that has gone in to providing security for the rhinos. Many of the students come from families who have limited understanding of conservation but they go home from Mkomazi with some knowledge about species such as the black rhino, African wild dogs and elephants; but above all – knowledge. MWEKA College for African Wildlife Management also annually send in their field studies groups to see how the project works.

The Rafiki wa Faru programme is really one of the best things we have ever done for the communities and school children in the surrounding villages. It continues to be a huge success and a major part of our good neighbour policy!



Students checking out the fibre-glass rhino models at the environmental education centre

Delving into newly printed colour activity books for Rafiki wa Faru, the wonderful education project supported by Save the Rhino International, US Fish & Wildlife Services, Chester Zoo and Tusk Trust





Installing a lathe at the vocational training centre



Carpentry workshop – goods being made on contract

Any new venture, especially in this part of the world, takes time to settle down. Over the past two years under the leadership and guidance of the RC Diocese of Same and Father Matthias, the VTC has begun to find its feet as a well-run centre of learning. Having had some disappointing exam results, teaching methods were changed, with increasing involvement of the students in discussion processes and the syllabus, and the atmosphere in the school has become both nicely competitive and positive. A recent board meeting, with Ted van Dam representing SSRC as the major sponsor of the project, was a great success.

By far the most popular area is the automotive section and the three containers of equipment sent through the SSRC has added to the skill sets of all the students. The little Suzuki jeep has been done up and put on the road and is now regularly stripped down and rebuilt. New teachers have been recruited and it is now a remarkable island of invaluable learning tucked away in the bush.



Aerial view of vocational training centre

The newly constructed teacher houses are in smart, fenced plots with running water and solar lighting and both are beginning to be used. The grass has been planted throughout the school grounds, hedges and small brick walls put up to cope with the heavy rain on the plot. The carpentry section especially is able to make furniture for the school and for sale to other missions, schools and individuals.

Father Matthias is securing a plot down by Lake Kalimawe where he plans to grow rice and maize for the school to be more self-sustaining. The SSRC donated bulk food and bursaries and this has gone a long way towards helping the smooth running of the VTC and to helping Father Mathias keep the school on track. There

are some very good teachers and they have to be encouraged to stay. Their salaries do need to be reviewed as many well qualified teachers seek bigger positions in the larger towns and cities. Dedication can only go so far.

The school is now being run as a joint vocational training centre and secondary school. This was along our original lines, so that everybody would get a school certificate along with their VTC training, which would ultimately stand them in better stead. The advent of the secondary school has added to both the number of students and the atmosphere of learning in the school in general.

We would like to raise funds to build more dormitories for the girls and make adjustments to the existing dormitories and systems. A site has been chosen to both construct and fence the proposed dormitory buildings.

Registration is now beginning for the next two-year course and Father Matthias feels that by next year there will be close to 150 students in the school. Last year's students spent time out in the 'field' on practical assignments and are doing well.

Wifi was operating on a modem system and in spite all efforts of Tim van Dam and Jeroen Looze to install a 3G booster to the school, it

was just not possible because the signal weakness from the cell phone towers were just not strong enough. Work continues.

Overall, we are pleased that the school has become part of the RC Diocese of Same. They are certainly a professional and organised institution within Tanzania and responsible for an enormous amount of education throughout the country. The VTC is run as a multi-denominational school so children of all faiths are welcome. We hope that within a couple of years, with some serious and targeted input the place will become both popular and in demand as a serious technical training centre.



Students in the community hall for daily meeting

We realized that it was necessary to have a long-term plan in place, although we were reluctant to put it down as a ten-year plan as nothing in modern-day Africa is cast in stone and its fast-changing dynamics are unpredictable. However, once we had started, it turned into a very valuable exercise.

We talked to Dr Ian Games who has many dedicated years of professional experience of assembling plans for wildlife authorities across Africa. We decided that we didn't want a one-size-fits-all plan, but something that was simple, specific, and easy to comprehend. We came up with the idea of large wall posters, very basic and showing clearly the priorities of what had to be addressed, accompanied by maps and photos. Ian very kindly agreed to do these and came to both Kora and Mkomazi. He wrote and produced wall posters for both projects and then put together a joint poster incorporating the work of the Trusts in the UK, USA, Kenya and Tanzania.

Following this, we worked with Ian, Jake Thomson, Sarah Henton and Rachel Williams to produce a document that could be read in conjunction with the pictorial plans. This is essentially a five-year (and beyond) plan on both Mkomazi and Kora. This document is now printed up and together with the wall posters, is for presentation to supporters that need extended background and articulation on what the Trust's activities are and where we have to go in the future.





Bridge over the Tana River linking Kora and Meru National Parks



GAWPT famine relief distribution at Kamaguru village



With Maalim Shora in Asako village, friends for nearly 50 years



Puss! First day of her life back in the wild



Andy Mortimer, Hon Treasurer of the UK trust, with Zacharia and Major Tom



Elisaria Nnko with students in the environmental education classroom in the rhino sanctuary



Charles Dobie, trustee of the Tanzanian trust, lands in Mkomazi with precious cargo from Mikumi National Park – a two week old orphan elephant calf



Dr Peter Morkel drilling the back horn to take a positioning transmitter



Israel Pallangyo off to work in a remote area with the JCB



Zacharia Nassary and Mr Tembo – two happy fellows



With the MWEKA students explaining the workings of the Rhino Sanctuary and the environmental education programme



Simon Tumbo, long-standing employee in the Rhino Sanctuary



George Adamson

## The Place.

Kora National Park is 1,600 km<sup>2</sup>. It was gazetted as a National Reserve in 1974 and as a National Park in 1989. Together with the Meru Conservation Area, it forms the second largest conservation area in Kenya. Both parks are inextricably linked to George Adamson who devoted most of his later life to their protection. The Tana River forms the boundary between parts of the parks and hence represents a legally protected section for both banks of the river. Mostly comprising Acacia-Commiphora woodland and shrubland (*nyika*) with important riverine habitat (currently under threat by being cut and used as stock-feed), it's at the front line between conservation, agricultural and pastoral societies.

## The Need.

Kora National Park has been a challenging place to make any real progress since George Adamson's death in 1989 and is currently a protected area in name only. Significant threats are facing the park and these include livestock incursions, charcoal production, expansion of farming (especially in Mwingi), poaching, irrigation projects and settlement, fire, destruction of habitat and climate change. Large areas of the Park are used as livestock range areas by the surrounding communities with significant loss of grass cover - so much so that even the camels find the area unusable at certain times of the year.

## The Kora Project.

Building on the invitation to return to Kora (again) in 2014, the Trust has already undertaken key consolidation talks to move forward with the rehabilitation of the Park. These include securing political goodwill and buy-in for the project, clearing the way for boundary fencing by getting NEMA approval for the fencing project and developing the Framework Management Plan in conjunction with Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS). There is a huge amount to be done to re-establish Kora as a functioning protected area. This includes the construction and maintenance of 135kms of fence, the building of a new HQ and river crossing and the construction of outposts. It also requires the provision of radio networks, airstrips and 150kms of roads. Despite its notional protected status, it represents a challenge every bit as exciting and formidable as the restitution of Mkomazi.



Boka water holes



Omar Tana in Boka village

As with Mkomazi, it is essential to work with the communities so that they see the park as an asset rather than an area to be exploited and degraded. This entails community integration and investment in schools, water projects and infrastructure.

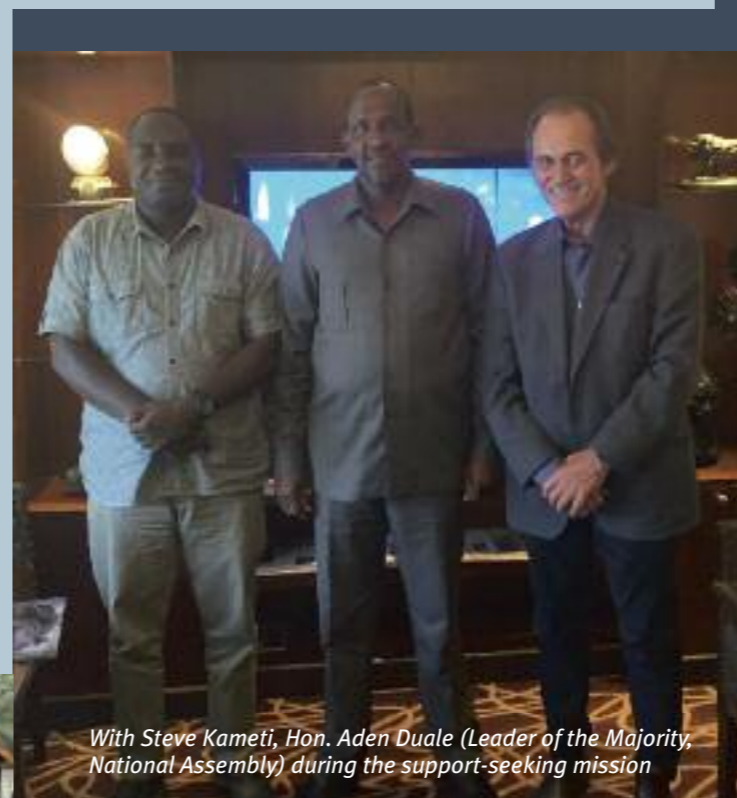
## The Work so Far.

The Trust was first asked to return to Kora in 1995 by the former Vice President of Kenya. At that time the task looked fairly hopeful; KWS was rehabilitating both Meru and Kora, a general management plan for Kora was being drawn up, an HQ was built and a bridge across the Tana River now linked the two parks. We rebuilt George's camp - Kampi ya Simba - which provided a basic bush headquarters from which we could operate at an elemental level. We started up a lion rehabilitation programme with a young male cub, Mugi. We deployed a small aircraft, a tractor and trailer and vehicles to a young assistant to help KWS in the field. Roads and tracks were constructed, aircraft patrols undertaken and we worked with KWS on patrols to determine where the main incursions of domestic stock and dead elephant were.

Along the eastern boundary of Kora, three new villages had sprung up, inhabited by Somalis who had moved down from North Eastern Province and the western side of the park was inundated with charcoal burners and thousands of domestic livestock. Trusts for African Schools (TAS) came in and undertook valuable educational work in the surrounding communities and this community work, along with assistance to a rural water windmill project, has continued non-stop. This included the organisation of successful conservation days in local primary schools attended by the new County Governors and famine relief distribution to three extremely needy villages at the end of a long dry season.



Paying respects to General (Ret.) Mohamud M Mohamed and briefing him on the new Kora initiative



With Steve Kameti, Hon. Aden Duale (Leader of the Majority, National Assembly) during the support-seeking mission

There were a number of setbacks. Funding from KWS sadly went down considerably as a result of intense pressure on the Kenyan tourist industry and the inevitable loss of revenue to KWS. Promised orphaned lion cubs from the Orphanage in Nairobi never materialised and Mugi was killed by a group of hyenas that had rallied to feed off a dead elephant carcass nearby. Inevitably we decided to pull back. But we maintained regular visits and contact with KWS and the communities to emphasise that this was a temporary measure whilst we were looking for the dynamics to change.

Bob Marshall-Andrews, the Chairman of GAWPT, initiated and chaired meetings in Nairobi which were organised by Steven Kameti of TAS to discuss the future of Kora and these were attended by the new County Governors of Tana River, Mwingi and Kitui and their teams, KWS, Ministry officials, fence contractors and the former Vice President of Kenya, Hon.

Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, EGH, who attended as a GAWPT trustee. Other important meetings took place with the incoming Directors of KWS and the Chairman of the KWS board of trustees, Dr Richard Leakey.

By 2017, we sensed the atmosphere was changing but we also sensed that Kora could only be successful with the added support of the powers that be in North Eastern Province (NEP)

We embarked on a trip starting with a meeting in Nairobi with General (Ret.) Mohamud M Mohamed (former Chief of the General Staff of the Kenyan Army), who had broken the back of the bandit problems in NEP during his tenure. We also met with James Kianda, Garissa County Commissioner, the Hon. Abdikadir Aden, MP for Balamballa and Hon. Ali Wario, MP for Tana River North. We ended up in Nairobi at the end of the trip to meet the Hon. Aden Duale, the Leader of the Majority, National Assembly and the



Dr Ian Games and Pete Hays in Kampi ya Simba on Kora recce, writing up their development plans

MP for Garissa Township Constituency. This was a particularly important meeting with one of the most powerful politicians in Kenya and it concluded with the words “You have my full personal and political support and also the full support of the Kenyan Government in this venture”.

Since that meeting, and with that encouragement there has been considerable progress.

Dr Ian Games – who we had met 20 years before when he came to write a management plan on Mkomazi – has assisted in the creation of a visual five-year planning poster which has been universally well received.

Pete Hays, who is currently rebuilding the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary fence, came in to advise because one of the major parts of the new Kora plan - and the only hope for its future – is fencing. Initially this will be the western and eastern boundaries with the river frontage being left open. The complexities of such boundaries in the African bush are immense but with his generous help we now have a viable and costed programme which provides not only a physical fence but cleared zones operating with the agreement of local communities.

On return, we completed the plan and presented it to the Director of KWS, the planning unit and Dr Richard Leakey. KWS then held their own general management plan (GMP) meetings in Garissa and Mwingi and are now drawing up their mandatory documents as a next step in the process.

The Kora story, since our initial request to return all those years ago, has been very fitful. Kora has been up in the ‘wild west’ country for years. The demands on the land, desertification to the north and the breakdown of tribal elder system meant it was very much a free-for-all, and it was hard for KWS to make



Kampi ya Simba



On the banks of the Tana River with Bob Marshall-Andrews, Chairman of the UK trust, Steve Kameti and Gill Marshall-Andrews

any real progress, especially with their hard-hit budgets. But a new hierarchy has emerged through the economic and political success of the people in NEP and there are now leaders in the counties, local communities and in the major political arenas that can help make things happen.

Kora remains a substantial challenge for the future, particularly in all areas of security. KWS and the Counties must come to the table to form a mutually contributing partnership. We are totally committed to this historic project and within our resources, we will do our part to ensure its success. There are strong foundations of interest, goodwill and connections on which to build and we are ever optimistic.

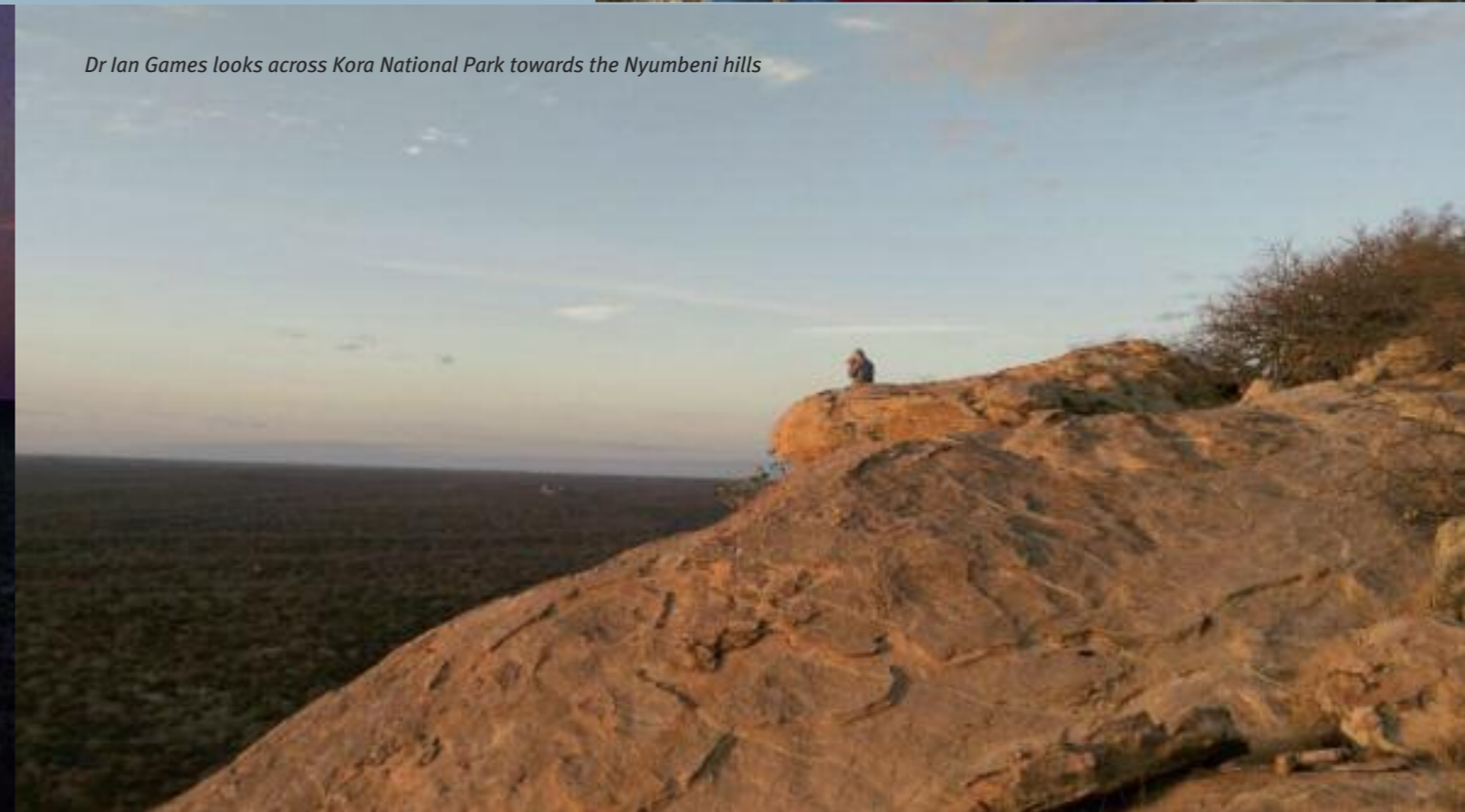
We await KWS to produce their overall GMP on Kora. We will see what it looks like and whether we can go into partnership with them to raise the bigger sums it will take to truly put Kora back on the map in the 21st century, and whether it dove-tails in with our feelings on a genuine attempt to re-establish this once wonderful place to something of its former glory.



Steve Kameti with the children in Boka village



Sunset over the mighty Tana River



Dr Ian Games looks across Kora National Park towards the Nyumbeni hills



Major Tom (RIP) and Mr Tembo

Our first orphaned elephant, Mr Tembo, is now six years old. His life is mainly out in the bush browsing all day and coming in at night. His transistor radio hums away during the evenings tuned into the gospel channel. He has had interaction with other wild elephants although is still tied to Kisima camp and his keeper Zacharia Nassary. Hopefully his full reintroduction back to the wild will slowly happen over time. He is still a very young bull and we will care for him for as long as it takes.

Our second orphaned elephant, a two-week old bull calf, was flown into camp in July 2016. He had been separated from his mother and herd when they were chased from farmland near Mikumi National Park. He fell into a ditch and was left behind. Efforts by rangers to reunite him with his herd failed but through the efforts of the Director General of TANAPA and the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, he was flown to Mkomazi by Charles Dobie. There followed a long and difficult programme of feeding and treatment for his many complications, inevitable at such a young age. Remarkably he survived and became a constant companion for Mr Tembo. Over a year went by, and we then noticed with consternation that his condition was slipping. Angela Carr-Hartley was on the phone constantly advising us what to do and what needed to be attended to. We had Dr Pete Morkel and Dr Emanuel Macha, the TANAPA vet, in camp for a week checking up on him. He had tests for blood parasites which came back as negative but very sadly he weakened and died. We were devastated - he was a big part of all of our lives, he was loved and cared for by everyone.

Our ferocious caracal orphan finally returned to the wild, after a year of getting her health back into good shape and after the eagle owls nesting on a ledge outside the house had moved off. It was sad to say goodbye to her but also a tremendous relief as she really needed her freedom. We didn't see her for over a month and then one evening she pitched up, quite thirsty and hungry but surviving. We continued to see her every few days from that time on and the last time she was heavily pregnant.



Do not disturb



Morning walks

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 and board directors. They all do so much to keep the trusts in shape to support the work in the field and give wise counsel. Bernard Mchomvu, Andy Mortimer, Bob Marshall-Andrews, Moritz Borman, Jeff Stein, Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Muysoka, Charles Dobie, Kinemo Kihomano, Palle Rune, Stuart Armitage and Anthony Marrian all play active roles in the daily running of the trusts. Any perceived success we may have on the ground is largely due to them. We should also take this opportunity to welcome Astrid Harbord and Jake Thomson, two new UK trustees who have already contributed much on the fundraising front and will, we hope, be with us well into the future. We would also like to express our gratitude to the lawyers, accountants and administrators of the various trusts.

Our sincerest thanks, as always, go to our Tanzanian personnel and most especially our operations manager Elisaria Nnko, who is now a trustee of the Tanzanian trust. He has been with us for nearly 30 years, a lifetime's dedication to The Mkomazi Project and the wildlife of his country. We are very grateful to Sangito Lema,



With General (Ret.) GM Waitara, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of TANAPA, and the Chairman of the Tanzanian trust, Bernard Mchomvu



Suzuki Rhino Club fundraising event at the Rotterdam Blijdorp Zoo, The Netherlands

senior wild dog keeper, who has also been with us for nearly 30 years, and of course the MRS security team, trackers and fence maintenance teams, the mechanics, machine operators, artisans and our camp manager, Isaya Elisa.

There have been more fundraising trips to the UK, USA, The Netherlands and Switzerland. Trust and board meetings have been held in London, Los Angeles, Dar es Salaam and Mkomazi.

Tony travelled to LA, New York and Connecticut to link up with board directors, old friends, our long-term and new supporters and report on the direction of the projects, the progress, successes and failures to date. It is always heartening to have meetings with Justin Winters and her colleagues of the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, who have done so much to support Mkomazi over the past three years. Other great meetings were held with the trustees of the Marina L Schreyer Charitable Trust, the Swordspoint Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation.

Whilst in the UK, it was great to have meetings with our long-standing supporters, colleagues and friends from Tusk Trust (Charlie Mayhew) Save the Rhino International (Cathy Dean) and Chester Zoo (Dr Mark Pilgrim, Stuart Nixon and Scott Wilson), to all of whom we are very grateful for such incredible support and



Olly & Suzi in their London studio



Trip to Munich to see Moritz and Hilla Borman. From left: Jemima, Hilla, Tilly, Lucy, Imogen and Alex



*With Jeff Stein, President and Hon. Treasurer of the USA trust, at a meeting in Long Beach, California, with the Queen Mary in the background*

understanding over so many years. There was even a great trip to Munich to see Moritz and Hilla Borman. Olly & Suzi held an exhibition of their wonderful black and white photographs of the Mkomazi wild dogs at the Leica Gallery in London.

An annual GAWPT dinner was held in London for our supporters and we most grateful to TRH Prince and Princess Michael of Kent for attending. The Royal Geographical Society once again hosted a drinks party for GAWPT with the new video promotional piece being shown as an update to all our supporters and friends. We are grateful to Lady Gabriella Windsor for speaking to the audience on behalf of our Royal Patron.



*With Ali MacGraw, Honorary Chairperson of the USA trust*

In 2016, Jules Parmiter, Josh Lee and Jake Thomson, who together made our first fundraising promo piece in 2014, returned to do an update. HRH Prince Harry of Wales very kindly agreed to be interviewed for this. This private promo is ideal to give people a feeling of what we do and it can be used by the Trusts at private fundraising events.

SSRC invited us to two events, a big one for all the Suzuki dealers and the second for the SSRC Ambassadors at the Rotterdam Blijdorp Zoo. It was great to talk on the stage with both Ted and Tim van Dam. Tim presented his highly innovative, and now prize-winning, work with cost effective tracking systems for wildlife conservation. We were also able to spend a morning with Ted, Morad Belhaj and their colleagues at the BV Nimag offices and stare in grateful appreciation at the two new quad bikes and an enormous amount of spares and tyres that they have collated for freighting to the MRS. We are very grateful that we have had such a long association with SSRC who really understand what it takes to keep an operation like this running.



*In Prague with Dr Premysl Rabas and Jan Stejskal of the Dvur Kralove Zoo*



*Dr Robert Fyumagwa of TAWIRI, Dr Emmanuel Macha, Gloria, and Emanuel Sisya of TANAPA in Kisima Camp to talk about wild dogs*



*Josh Lee, Jake Thomson and Jules Parmiter in Mkomazi*

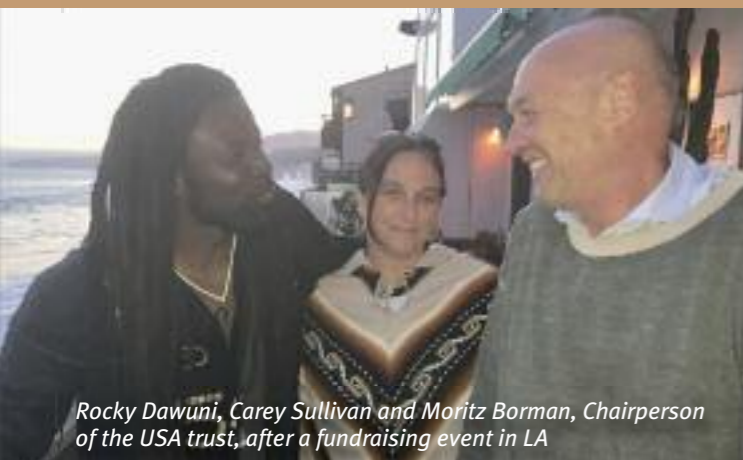
# Visitors and Friends

**Just looking at our visitor's book shows how fortunate we have been to welcome so many supporters and friends and colleagues.**

The list is too long to write out in its entirety but includes our Chairmen and trustees from Tanzania, UK and the USA; Bernard Mchomvu, Kinemo Kihomano and Rose Lugembe, Charles Dobie, Andy Mortimer, Bob and Gill Marshall-Andrews and Jake Thomson. Visits were received from the late Dik Dekker, Ted van Dam and Martin de Wilt and ambassadors of the Suzuki Rhino Club; Charlie Mayhew and



*The Major General meets his match - Bruce Lawlor visits us in Mkomazi*



*Rocky Dawuni, Carey Sullivan and Moritz Borman, Chairperson of the USA trust, after a fundraising event in LA*



*With members of The Prague Society after the award ceremony*

During a trip to Prague, to receive an Award from the Prague Society for International Cooperation, Tony was fortunate enough to meet Major General (Ret.) Bruce Lawlor. He subsequently paid a visit to Mkomazi and together with his colleagues, has drawn up a security architecture plan for the future for MRS.

We were incredibly fortunate to be selected as one of five wildlife charities to be beneficiaries of a charity boxing event in London – 'The Charge II' - our thanks to Caroline Rupert, Hicky Bacon and Michael Walker. Stop Poaching Now very kindly put on an event in LA specifically to raise money for the tracker dog unit - our thanks to Sebastian Serrell-Watts, Heidi Jo Markel and Rocky Dawuni. Annabel's in London very kindly hosted private fundraising dinners for the Trust – our thanks to Lily Newell.



*Jeroen de Looze and Tim van Dam helping on the sensor network system*

Sarah Watson of Tusk Trust; Phil Couchman of DHL and his family; Jan Stejskal and Jiri Hruby from Dvur Kralove Zoo, Czech Republic; Tim van Dam and Jeroen de Looze and the team from the Internet of Life; Alex Rechsteiner and Ruedi Sueter of Friends of Serengeti Switzerland; Pete, Estelle and Cheri Morkel; Pete Hays, Pepijn Steemers; Dr Ian Games; Major General (Ret.) Bruce Lawlor; Jules Parmiter and Josh Lee; colleagues from Chester Zoo; the amazing climb team of Climb for Conservation with Ginna Kelly who once again summited Mount Kilimanjaro and raised donations for the MRS; Nicole Verjus; Lemmy Bartholemew, Penningtone Paschal and Asella Msando of Mawalla Advocates; Rian and Lorna Labuschagne of Frankfurt Zoological Society; Daryll Pleasants, Will Powell; the Raphaels, the Duffields, the Brudenell-Bruces and the Mayhews.



*The DOG lands at dusk*



*Students from the local international school enjoying the environmental education programme*

We were visited by the Minister for Environment and Union Affairs, Hon. January Makamba; the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of TANAPA, General (Ret.) G M Waitara and the Board of Trustees of TANAPA; the Director General of TANAPA, Allan Kijazi, and his senior directors Dr Ezekiel Dembe and Witness Shoo; TANAPA Rhino Coordinator, Chief Mafuru; Mkomazi National Park Chief Park Warden, Marco Meoli; TANAPA veterinary officers Dr Emmanuel Macha and Dr Morris Kilewo; TAWIRI veterinary officers Dr Ernest Eblate and Dr Emmanel Masenga; MNP Warden Emmanuel Sisy; the Regional Security Officer; the District Commissioner of Same, Rosemary Senyamle Sitaki; and staff members of the House of Representatives



Caroline Rupert with Astrid Harbord, trustee of the UK trust, at The Charge II boxing charity fundraising event in London

working for the House of Natural Resources Committee, together with a US Fish & Wildlife attache, who were travelling to projects across Africa that are supported by USFWS. It was good to welcome Hezekiah Mungure back who was the original project manager that we worked with when The Mkomazi Project started in 1989. It was also good to meet the Kenya Wildlife Service Warden of TWNP, Capt. Ken Ochieng, who came to visit with the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust on joint conservation initiatives.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many great and loyal friends. With their help we can ensure that this fine and successful enterprise will thrive long into the future.



Zacharia Nassary with Ted and Catrien van Dam of the Suzuki Rhino Club



Ginna Kelly and her team from Climb for Conservation who all amazingly summited Mount Kilimanjaro once again and raised money for the Rhino Sanctuary



## Georgina Mortimer 1944 - 2016

I always took it for granted that Georgie would be here. There was always that lovely person in the room with a genuine word and smile for everyone, always that gentleness and interest in other people, who was a better person than I'll ever be, with a soft reminder that I could be, too, if I really tried. I was honoured to be her friend. Her work for us and other important causes in the UK and the Middle East was terrific. She bore the brunt of some pretty unpleasant vitriol but somehow endured it all without complaint. She took wonderful care of all the administration of GAWPT for over 20 years and we were so proud to work with her and to be part of the same project together, through thick and thin. She made the world a better place. For Andy and his wonderful family our sincerest and most heartfelt condolences. We will never forget her and will always try to aspire to her ideals of empathy and understanding.



## Dik Dekker 1944 - 2016

Dik Dekker, long time Chairman of the SSRC, very sadly died in his sleep. Dik was everywhere; in Holland, in Mkomazi, at the VTC. A car dealer extraordinaire, organizer and diplomat of note, he kept us all on our toes but together with Ted van Dam, always kept the support coming for Mkomazi, without which we would never have made it this far. On hearing that we thought we might have lost a new born rhino calf to a lion, only to find out later we actually had two new untouched rhino calves, he said "Minus One to Plus Two, sounds like a car dealer to me!". Our deepest sympathies to Anneke and his lovely family.

## Thank You

Royal Patron of the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust, HRH Princess Michael of Kent  
The Chairmen, Trustees and Board Directors of the Trusts in the UK, USA, Kenya and Tanzania

### Wildlife Authorities

#### Tanzania National Parks:

Director General, Allan Kijazi  
Director of Development and Planning, Dr Ezekiel Dembe  
Director of Administration, Witness Shoo  
Chief Park Warden Mkomazi National Park, Marco Meoli  
Park Warden, Emmanuel Sisy  
Veterinary Officer, Emmanuel Macha

#### Kenya Wildlife Services:

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr Richard Leakey  
Director of Kenya Wildlife Services, Julius Kimani  
Director of Kenya Wildlife Services, Amb. Nehemiah Rotich  
Advisor to Kenya Wildlife Services Directorate, Mark Jenkins  
Acting Warden Kora National Park, Paul Omondi

### Charities, Trusts, Foundations and Grant Giving Institutions with whom we have built a close and enduring relationships and to our friends and colleagues within these organisations that do so much to support the work of the Trusts

Suzuki Rhino Club, The Netherlands  
Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation  
Tusk Trust and Tusk USA  
Swordspoint Foundation  
Save the Rhino International  
US Fish & Wildlife Services – Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund  
Marina L Schreyer Charitable Trust  
Chester Zoo and the North of England Zoological Society  
Cedar Hill Foundation (through Tusk USA)  
The Rufford Foundation  
Friends of Serengeti Switzerland  
Climb for Conservation  
Dvur Kralove Zoo, Czech Republic  
WHH Foundation  
Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens  
Bilton Charitable Foundation  
Newman's Own Foundation  
The Charge II  
Rotary Club Zurich – Limmattal

Francis and Benj Benenson Foundation  
Reuben Foundation  
Port Lympne Reserve & Howletts Wild Animal Trust Ltd  
British Wildlife Centre and IWCT  
Trusts for African Schools  
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Our sincerest thanks to the Friends of Mkomazi, many of whom have been supporters of the Trusts since the very start – over 28 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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### Companies

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*At a private memorial service for George Adamson in Kora. Rev. Mike Harries officiating*



*Dr Ezekiel Dembe of TANAPA spends time with the rhinos*



*Return of the elephants to the north of Mkomazi during the dry season*

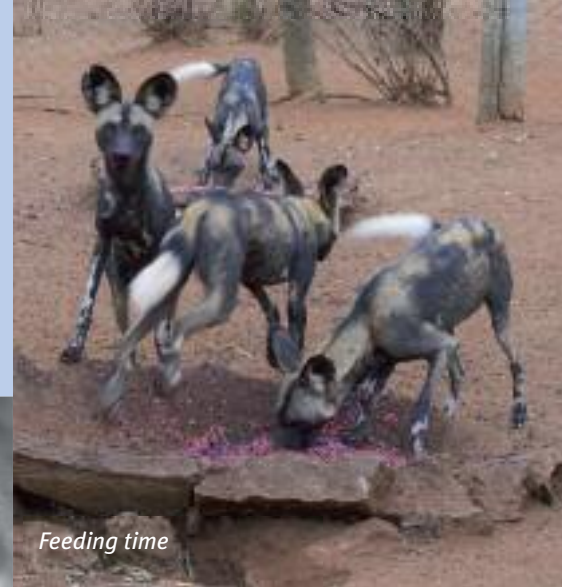
**In the work of wildlife conservation, it is easy to become disillusioned by the forces that oppose you, by the greed, the avarice, the corruption and the abuse of power. It is easy to despair. In short, there is virtually no part or sphere of human endeavour and no aspect of the human species that is not engaged in the business of protecting and conserving the natural world that another part of the same species is endeavouring to destroy. But there is still so much left and we have already made such great progress. There is always a long road ahead and so much more to achieve, but we do see improvements continuously that confirm we are on the right track. It's all just about hard work in the field and being on the job full-time and many others share our ideals. The future is bright if we can maintain our momentum and we thank you all for giving us the resilience and the hope to continue.**



*Eliyudi Toflo – first-class Grader operator*



*Orphan caracal returned to the wild*



*Feeding time*



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