

# The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust



PHOTOGRAPHIC UPDATE FROM THE FIELD, December 2020

It has been an intense two years during which we have handed our projects in Mkomazi National Park over to the care of the Tanzanian National Parks Authority (TANAPA) and moved to Kenya and the challenge of Kora National Park. In due course Friends and Supporters will receive our detailed newsletter. Before that we hope you will enjoy this brief photographic update from the field.



*The Boards of Trustees of TANAPA and Wildlife Preservation Trust after the formal handover . The handover agreement was signed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of TANAPA, General (Rtd) George Waitara, former Chief of the Defence Forces of Tanzania, and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Wildlife Preservation Trust Fund, Bernard S Mchomvu, our long term chairman, friend and advisor*

## Mkomazi, Tanzania

Mkomazi has, for long, been recognised as one of the most prestigious, well equipped and successful wildlife conservation projects in Tanzania. The various programmes had all been well set up and developed and personnel had been trained to exacting standards of both work and responsibility. We are proud to leave this legacy, together with the full infrastructure of the Rhino Sanctuary, a well-functioning workshop, the base-camp, the African wild dog programme and the environmental education programme. We have also been able to donate a massive quantity of equipment and state-of-the-art technology to TANAPA in order to enable the systems we established to be maintained.





Nearly all our skilled and trained personnel were taken on by TANAPA which formed one of the main objects of long discussions. This included our inspirational operations manager, Elisaria Nnko, the backbone of our organisation for thirty years.

To say that we miss Mkomazi, our staff and the animals would be a great understatement.

*We were incredibly fortunate to have had the most skilled, adaptable, tough and dedicated Tanzanian staff led by Elisaria Nnko, without whom nothing would have been achieved. His commitment, integrity and ability to put a team together and keep them together was the binding force for 30 years and without him we would have been lost*

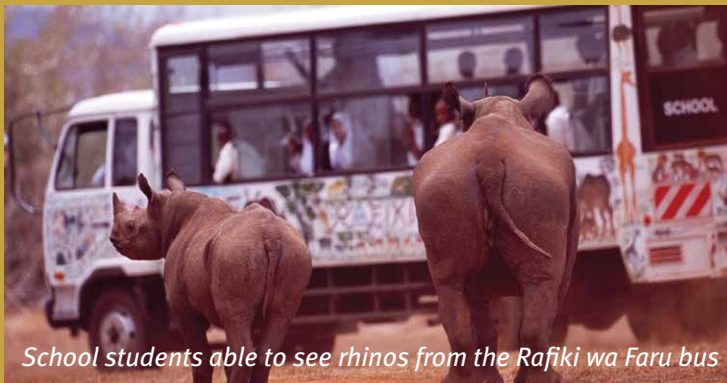


*Vocational training centre built in the rural village of Gonja Mheza*

We are particularly proud that from the creation of the Rhino Sanctuary and during twenty two years of stewardship we lost not a single rhino to poachers. An extraordinary achievement following a period of rampant destruction.



*Rhinos at the water hole*



*School students able to see rhinos from the Rafiki wa Faru bus*



*Wild dogs feeding*

*With the chairman of our trust in Tanzania, three of our trustees and our legal secretary – fine and trusted friends. From left: Bernard Mchomvu, Elisaria Nnko, Asella Msando, Tony, Rose Lugembe and Kinemo Kihomano*

We are immensely grateful to you all for the tremendous support and understanding that you have given us for so many years.

# Kora, Kenya

Our return to Kora National Park where I worked with George Adamson for 18 years has coincided with the political will in Kenya to rehabilitate this beautiful area and its wildlife.

In the last thirty years Kora has been devastated by uncontrolled grazing, poaching and deforestation for charcoal, but there is a new hope that the political will exists to reverse this decline as tourism, more and more, will concentrate on the north of Kenya. How we can contribute has been the subject of much negotiation but we have strong support in the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife which culminated in the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Najib Balala, paying us a visit to George Adamson's old camp (Kampi ya Simba) in September. It was a great honour to welcome him there and discuss the future.

There are plans for an integrated Eastern Conservation Area, including the well-established Meru National Park, Kora

National Park and Bisanadi National Reserve areas. It is exciting that Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) are looking at this more as a landscape project rather than a single site intervention. It has many similarities with the challenges we faced in Mkomazi.

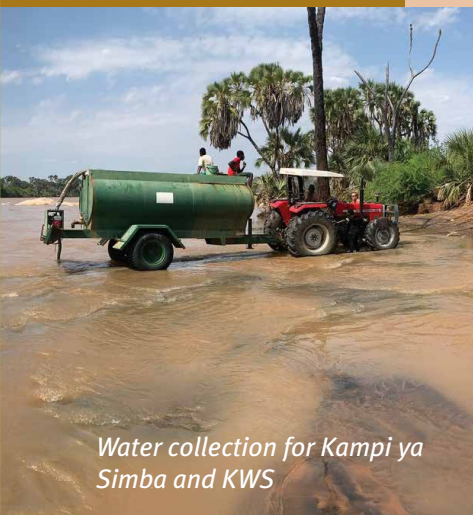
We are in discussion with the KWS and a draft MOU is being negotiated. We have already done a huge amount of work in drawing up the framework management plan from a long term involvement with the

area and as a pre-cursor to the general management plan that KWS had recently drawn up but is in the process of updating. It is anticipated that we will initially use Kampi ya Simba as our base.

The endangered species programmes at which we now have some considerable expertise will form part of these plans. In these early stages it is just the hard graft of getting the area back into shape so that vehicles and personnel can get around, aircraft can take off and land, and all parties surrounding the park can contribute to both its security and the security of the general area. We have to lay the foundations that are so crucial to the project and the animal programmes that will be established.



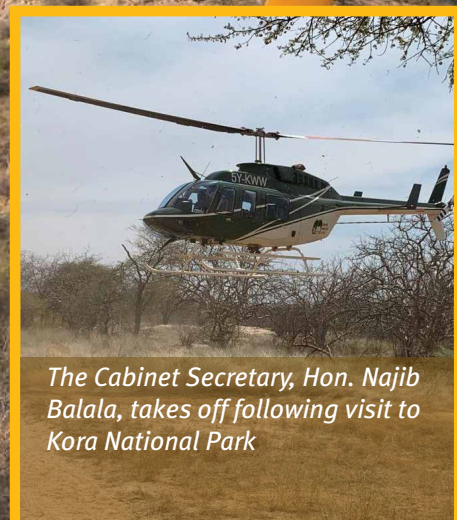
*From left: Abdhalai and Omar Tana – Kampi ya Simba staff; Ali Kaka - Director of Conservation, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife; Michael Wanjau – KWS Senior Assistant Director Parks and Reserves; Steve Kameti – Trusts for African Schools; Hon. Najib Balala – Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife; and Tony*



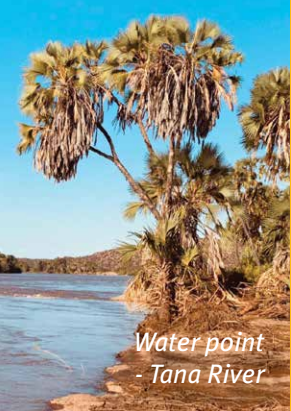
*Water collection for Kampi ya Simba and KWS*



*Air recce*



*The Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Najib Balala, takes off following visit to Kora National Park*



*Water point  
- Tana River*



*Kora Secondary School being assisted by Trusts for African Schools*



*Bringing an ancient Range Rover back to life*

We have made many trips to Kora to get Kampi ya Simba in shape. The staff we employed there many years ago to protect the camp, working in conjunction with KWS based at the airstrip outpost, have kept it safe and tidy but there was a lot to be done. We have now refurbished the entire camp and camp fencing, as well as repaired all the systems (electrical, solar power, water and communications) which were in some state of disrepair. Moving and registering the Trust aircraft, tractor and trailer and one vehicle has been completed after some months.

We have also had visits from the KWS Senior Assistant Director Parks and Reserves and the Park wardens, meetings with local MPs and County Governors, and discussions with the Director General of KWS, the Deputy Director of Parks and Reserves and trustees of KWS.



*In the mess at Kampi ya Simba discussing Kora development with Hon. Najib Balala, Ali Kaka, Michael Wanjau and Steve Kameti*



*With the Director General of KWS, Brig. (Rtd) John Waweru at KWS HQ*

Education initiatives continue together with Trusts for African Schools (TAS) who came in to provide valuable educational work in the surrounding communities. This has also included the organisation of successful conservation days in local primary schools attended by the County Governors and famine relief distribution to three needy villages. Meetings were held with TAS and with KWS both in Nairobi and Kora. The Trust has assisted TAS with a fencing project for two secondary schools (Kora Secondary School and Mwitamyisi Secondary School) through the provision of school gates.

The work of the Trust is entering a new and challenging phase which will draw on the achievements and experience of the past thirty years. It is hoped that we will still enjoy the help and support of the many friends who have joined us over this period.

**Tony Fitzjohn**  
**Field Director**

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