



KORA PROJECT
THE GEORGE ADAMSON & TONY FITZJOHN
WILDLIFE TRUST

Field Report 2024





It has been a remarkable and fulfilling year for the Kora project with much progress and development. Our great partnership and good-spirited working relationship with Kenya Wildlife Service continues. Shared visions are translated into the fieldwork that is necessary to keep this landscape in its natural habitat as part of a continuous ecosystem. There are always challenges and setbacks, of course, but these have to be met and dealt with and adaptations made - continuity is the key for all environmental issues as it is with us.

The Kora project is a carefully thought-out and practical endeavour. We work in the field with both Kenya Wildlife Service and our own Trust staff - disciplined and professional teams whom we are proud to call our colleagues and our friends. We share a common goal in the restoration of Kora National Park, its ecosystem and its wildlife, and in the support of its adjacent communities. These are also the visions, plans and legacies left to us by George Adamson and Tony Fitzjohn and we are very grateful to those who, today, understand the challenges we face and the need to find the right balance between helping wildlife, people and habitats.

Nature is a changing dynamic both in its own right and as a result of the relentless pressure put on it by humankind. Our job is to try to ensure that things get better, not worse, in spite of all the odds facing us. All we can do is keep working, keep up the impetus and try not to - ever - relax our guard.

No projects can work without clear agreements and working partnerships with the wildlife authorities of the countries involved. We enter, invited, into these partnerships because there are certain things they cannot do alone with their hard-hit budgets. Our commitment to this partnership, to Kora's ecosystem, infrastructure, wildlife and local communities remains steadfast.

But we don't stand alone here - it is with thanks to your support and understanding that we have been able to carry out this work in the field. These programmes are the backbone of all we do and believe in and together we have played a major role in the creation of two national parks in East Africa.

We have said this before, but we are losing the natural world and we must fight to save it. There is always a long road ahead and so much more to achieve, but over the past year we have made good progress and seen many improvements. The future is bright if we can maintain our momentum and we thank you all for giving us the resilience and the encouragement to continue.

Thank you all.

Lucy Fitzjohn

The George Adamson & Tony Fitzjohn Wildlife Trust

Kora Project

Kora National Park is the third largest park in Kenya and covers 1,787 km² in Tana River County. It is one of five protected areas that make up the Meru Conservation Area: Meru National Park, Kora National Park, Bisanadi National Reserve, Rahole National Reserve and Mwingi National Reserve. These areas are all bound together by proximity and shared problems related to the environment, law and order, and general peace and stability.

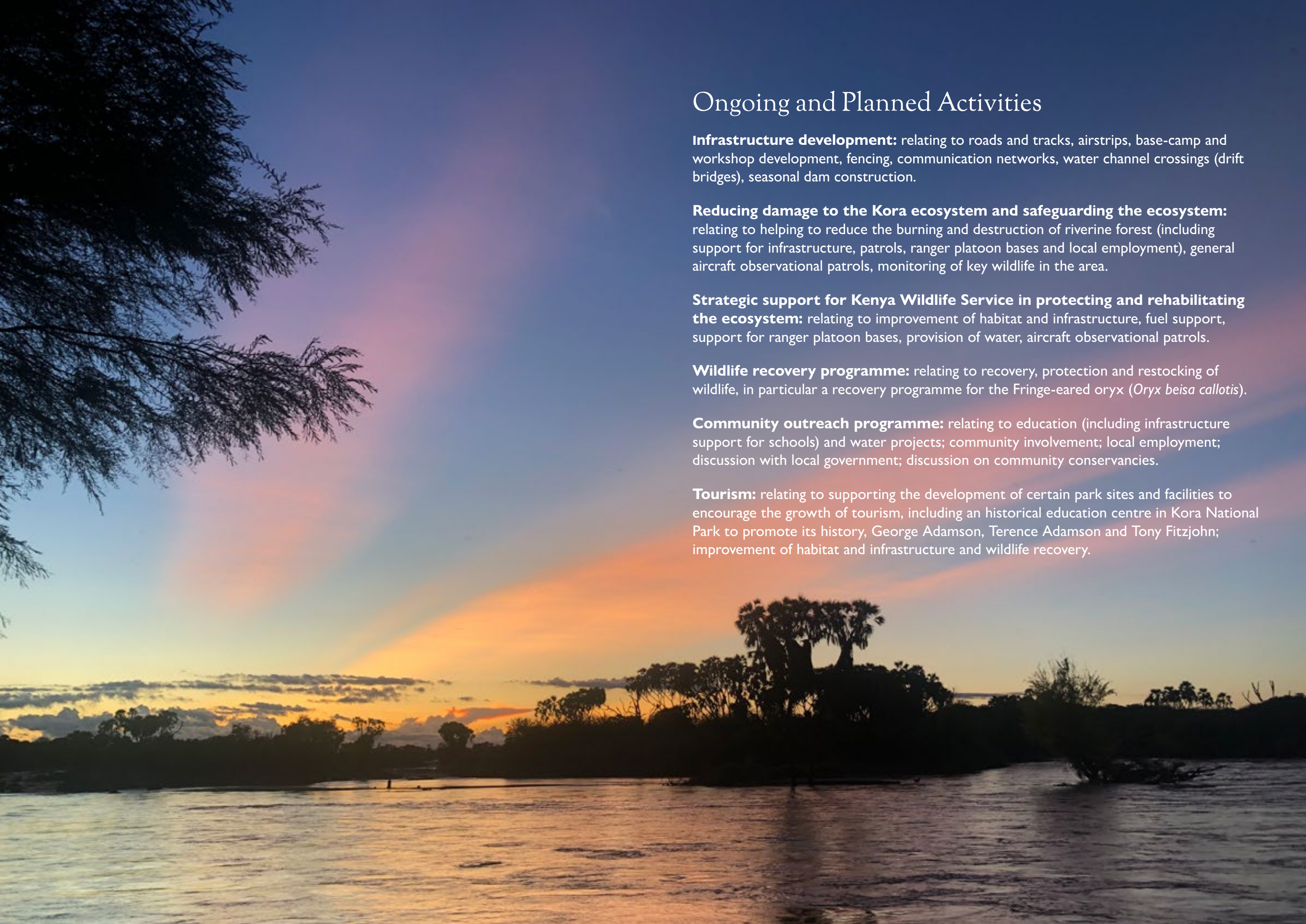
The Kora project is a unique mission to restore a beautiful, wild and precious wilderness. It presents many of the challenges of reconstruction and restitution, but these are challenges for which we have experience earned over 30 years in Mkomazi National Park. We are harnessing all that experience and putting it to the best possible use in Kora today.

Objectives

The George Adamson & Tony Fitzjohn Wildlife Trust works in close collaboration with local wildlife authority, Kenya Wildlife Service, on a restoration and rehabilitation programme that focuses on the rebuilding of a safe and sustainable ecosystem and the protection of the habitat and wildlife of Kora National Park in Kenya, and on continuing our outreach programme in the adjacent communities.

The Trust applies a multi-disciplined approach to its work in Kora encompassing ecosystem rehabilitation, infrastructure development, wildlife conservation, community outreach work and support for the development of tourism.





Ongoing and Planned Activities

Infrastructure development: relating to roads and tracks, airstrips, base-camp and workshop development, fencing, communication networks, water channel crossings (drift bridges), 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 support for infrastructure, patrols, ranger platoon bases and local employment), general aircraft observational patrols, monitoring of key wildlife in the area.

Strategic support for Kenya Wildlife Service in protecting and rehabilitating the ecosystem: relating to improvement of habitat and infrastructure, fuel support, support for ranger platoon bases, provision of water, aircraft observational patrols.

Wildlife recovery programme: relating to recovery, protection and restocking of wildlife, in particular a recovery programme for the Fringe-eared oryx (*Oryx beisa callotis*).

Community outreach programme: relating to education (including infrastructure support for schools) and 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; improvement of habitat and infrastructure and wildlife recovery.

Historical Background

Kora National Park is inextricably linked to George Adamson who devoted most of his later life to its protection. George moved to Kora in 1970 and rented the land from the Tana River council to continue his work of rehabilitation of lions to the wild and to develop the infrastructure of the area and the recovery of its wildlife habitat. In this he was joined by his brother Terence and by Tony Fitzjohn. Due to their presence in Kora, the area was upgraded to a national reserve in 1974 and to a national park in 1989 upon George's death.

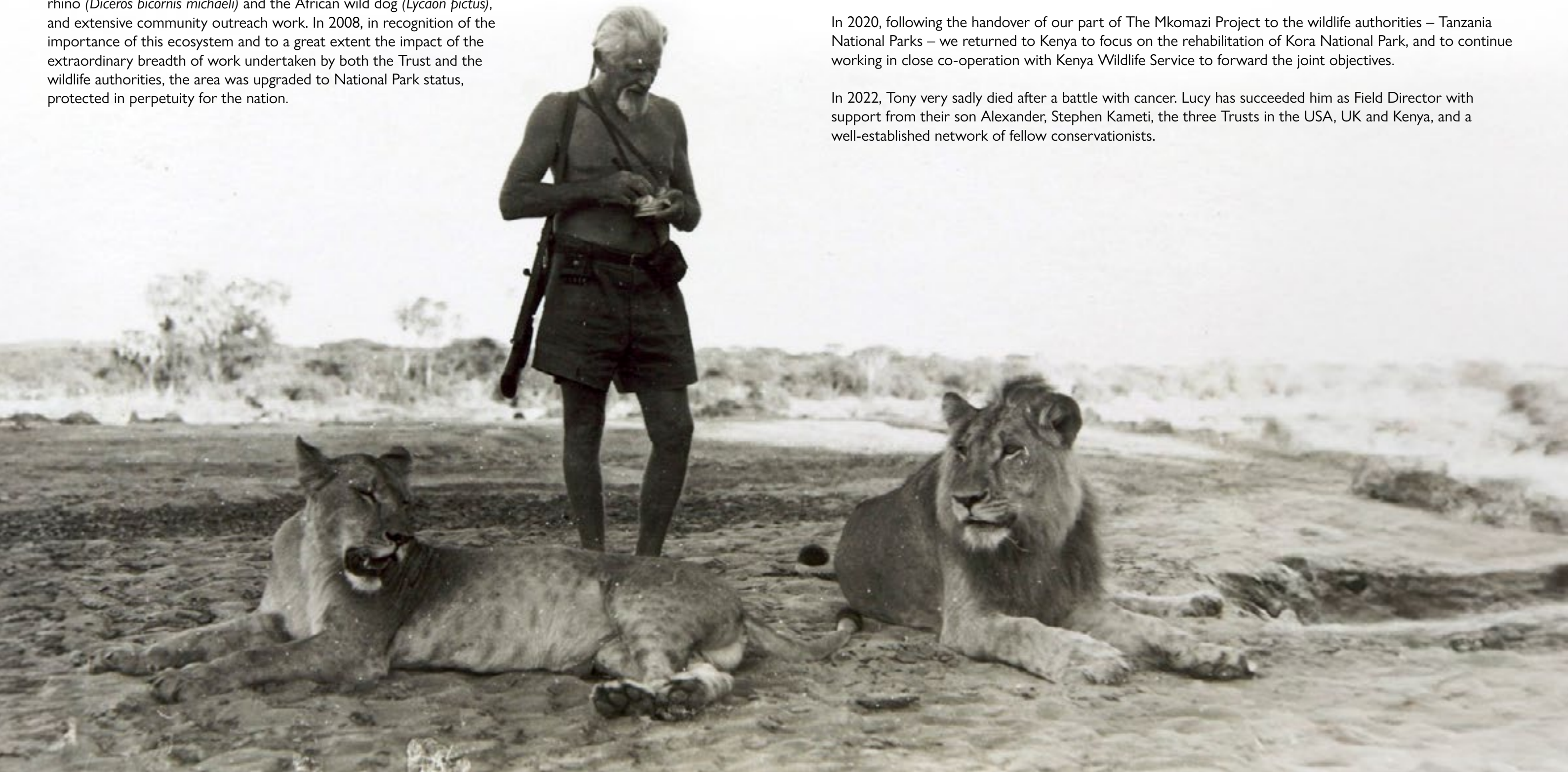
In 1989, Tony Fitzjohn moved the main focus of the Trust's work to the rehabilitation of the devastated Mkomazi Game Reserve in Tanzania. This 30-year project included an intensive programme of environmental and infrastructural development, important endangered species programmes for the black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) and the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), and extensive community outreach work. In 2008, in recognition of the importance of this ecosystem and to a great extent the impact of the extraordinary breadth of work undertaken by both the Trust and the wildlife authorities, the area was upgraded to National Park status, protected in perpetuity for the nation.

During the years in Mkomazi, the Trust had also entered into long-term discussions with Kenya Wildlife Service for the good stewardship, conservation, environmental protection and sustainable development of Kora National Park.

Kora's landscape had been degraded over those past three decades due to the insecurity at that time which led to poaching, the burning and destruction of the Tana River's forests, charcoal production, intense unregulated livestock incursions, encroachment, destruction of habitat and climate change. The demands on the land, desertification to the north and the breakdown of the tribal elder system meant that Kora was exposed and vulnerable. It was difficult then for the dedicated Kenya Wildlife Service to make any real progress, especially with their hard-hit budgets.

In 2020, following the handover of our part of The Mkomazi Project to the wildlife authorities – Tanzania National Parks – we returned to Kenya to focus on the rehabilitation of Kora National Park, and to continue working in close co-operation with Kenya Wildlife Service to forward the joint objectives.

In 2022, Tony very sadly died after a battle with cancer. Lucy has succeeded him as Field Director with support from their son Alexander, Stephen Kameti, the three Trusts in the USA, UK and Kenya, and a well-established network of fellow conservationists.



2024 Field Update

Kampi ya Simba

We have started on the next stage of infrastructure development of Kampi ya Simba. A team from Instarect Ltd - who helped us with the re-building of the entire Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary fence-line - has put up an electrified peripheral fence around the camp and workshop. We have upgraded the staff accommodation with new shade-net roofing and we have increased our solar power capacity. The workshop and parking area for the machines and equipment has been extended and we have put in new chain link replacing the original fence that surrounds the camp.

Infrastructure Development

Rehabilitating any large piece of the natural environment requires an enormous amount of practical fieldwork and physical hard work – ranging from the construction of staff housing, the clearing and maintaining of roads and tracks for access and patrols, the construction of airstrips and firebreaks, deployment of plant machinery and vehicles, aircraft patrols, construction of water sources, the support of a fully-functioning workshop with equipment, long supply-runs, solar power systems, water systems and the installation of radio communications – to mention just a few.



Kora team at Kampi ya Simba



Roads and Tracks

Kora is remote, and well-maintained access roads provide the lifeline for rangers on security patrols and for responses to emergencies. They are critical for ongoing fieldwork and for the long supply runs, and they are vital for the protection of the ecosystem and the riverine forest.

We have been working on the clearing of Terence Adamson's old roads and tracks, originally constructed through the 70's and 80's and many of which are now in poor condition, as well as developing new road networks, maintaining access tracks and trying to enable better access to and from the Tana River. This is done in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Throughout the year we have employed teams of casual workers from the different communities on the eastern and western boundaries of the park to work on bush-clearing and road maintenance.



Water Pans and Water Supply

The JCB has been deployed for various heavy fieldwork including road works, drainage ditches and the construction of water pans for use by wildlife, and in areas where flooding during the rains causes the roads to become impassable. The four water pans that we constructed generally held up during the rains. We will put in a further water pan in the same area before the next rains. Strategically placed water pans provide run-off and drainage for the rainwater and divert the flooding water channels away from the access roads.

The tractor, trailer and water bowser undertake continuous heavy fieldwork, transport of materials and the critical resupply of water to both our camp, the KWS company command base and the new ranger platoon outposts. The logistics involved in this are significant as the distances we need to cover are huge with the platoon outposts in the north-east, the west and the centre of the park.





Airstrips

The Kampi ya Simba airstrip continues to be levelled in the extension area using the JCB and the tractor and trailer. Very many loads of murram have been deposited there because of the sloping terrain and we are now awaiting the KWS grader to level out the extension area. In the meantime, we have sent the JCB in with a team of casual workers for further maintenance of the strip, re-digging of the drainage ditches and a general tidy-up. This is the main airstrip into Kora and opens up access to the park dramatically, so it is essential that it is maintained fully all year round and that the gradient is at flat as possible.



We have constructed a new airstrip in the north-east of the park over at a new KWS Platoon Base. This airstrip is critical for security and emergency access for the KWS rangers stationed at this base.

The old Adamson's Airstrip near the park HQ in the north-west needs to be extended which will be difficult because it is on a ridge. We are scouting for another location for this airstrip and hopefully another line can be found nearby as close to the HQ as possible.



Capt. Kam Lall with 5Y-DOG in Kora

Workshop, Plant Machinery, Vehicles and Equipment

Maintenance cycles for the vehicles and plant machinery are a constant, and the long supply lines from Nairobi are part and parcel of our daily lives.

The workshop started off at the back of the camp with a couple of containers and the work bench placed under an acacia tree. As the maintenance needs increase, the workshop has expanded. The Instarect team have fenced it in and installed a big steel gate on rollers. We have brought another container to add to the two already here, and we now have a good set-up from which to work.

Water systems are also a constant responsibility with the tractor and bowser continuously refilling the storage tanks. We need to increase water capacity here and will plan out the construction of a much larger water storage tank which will help with the needs of the upcoming wildlife recovery programme, and for resupplying our camp and the KWS ranger outposts.



The radio communication system has been expanded. Longer term expansion of the radio network system will include the installation of relay antennas at the KWS bases across the park where they will be secure.

The Cessna 206 has had a lot of additional important maintenance and is now airborne. It has been into Kora a few times. The Super Cub is now airborne and different routes into Kora will be flown and local flying in Kora undertaken to get accustomed to the different weather patterns.

We were delighted to receive incoming spares from Suzuki Rhino Club, and the Rune family donated an old Land Rover which will be refurbished and brought to Kampi ya Simba as a legacy-piece.





Ted van Dam and Marieke van der Staal with the Suzuki Rhino Club Ambassadors in the Komunyu lugga



Astrid Harbord with KWS Company Commander, Kora National Park



Jake Thomson addresses the Kamaguru community following the handover of the Kamaguru Primary School kitchen



Vehicle heading out with new water storage tank for KWS platoon base



New KWS platoon base on the Tana River



Handing over a new platoon base to KWS



5Y-DOG lands in Kora



Mervyn and Nicky Chaplin with KWS Senior Warden, Kora National Park



KWS Company Commander, Kora National Park with Alexander Fitzjohn



Meeting between a western boundary community and KWS on human wildlife conflict



Old black and white photo going up on the Kampi ya Simba roof



Stephen Kameti, KWS Senior Warden Kora National Park and Elisaria Nnko at the Kora National Park HQ



Jeff Stein of the Trust in the USA with the KWS pilot for the Eastern Conservation Area



With Suzuki Rhino Club Ambassadors and Ted van Dam at Kampi ya Simba



Pupils at Boka Primary School



Pupils at Ikaayuni Primary School



Olivia Henley and KWS Company Commander Kora National Park



With Stephen Kameti and Marieke van der Staal with representatives of the board of management at El Far Primary School



Elisaria Nnko, Tony's right-hand man for 30 years in Mkomazi, on the Tana River in Kora

Partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)



In January 2025, following the graduation of the new ranger recruits from training college, KWS posted a full company of rangers to Kora to help protect this beautiful and remote National Park. This is the first time in Kora's history that a full company has been posted here. KWS has also stationed two new vehicles in Kora. This is a huge commitment towards the rehabilitation of Kora, its wildlife and its habitat.

We work in close partnership with KWS through the Senior Warden and the Company Commander. We meet regularly to discuss the many facets of the ongoing development of Kora's infrastructure. We make practical plans, and together we get on and do the job that is needed in the field. We all work towards the same goals in the restoration of Kora and that is what makes the work move forwards.

KWS has brought in a bulldozer for construction of a large dam on the western boundary of the park and they have put in a new tented ranger platoon base in the same area.

We work together on outreach programmes, significantly the infrastructural development and water projects in the schools on the eastern and western boundaries.

We have committed to supporting fieldwork with the provision of fuel and water and the construction of new platoon base outposts to house the new rangers. Aircraft observational patrols are planned for 2025.

Kora is heavily impacted by climate change which has resulted in degraded and eroded habitats, a severe decline in wildlife species populations and unregulated encroachment and activities. We have already made such good progress but, as the KWS Director General said in a recent talk, progress must not be mistaken for permanence. We must maintain the momentum to protect Kora and so much of this work is about activity and presence acting as deterrents to illegal activity.

Platoon Bases for the KWS Rangers

With the Instarect team, we completed construction on two platoon bases which we have donated to KWS. Both are in strategically important areas, and activity and presence in these areas can act as a deterrent to illegal activity and incursions. As with all their bases, KWS will themselves fence this base, staff it and provide staff welfare.

In May 2024, we broke ground with the construction of the platoon bases in a ceremony attended by our UK Trustees and KWS, and in November 2024 we formally handed over the two bases to KWS. Receiving them was the Senior Assistant Director of the Eastern Conservation Area, together with the Assistant Director of Meru National Park, Kora's Senior Warden and the Security Officer in charge of the Eastern Conservation Area. With the increase in ranger numbers in Kora, these bases are critically important. We are hoping to raise the funds to build another base on the western boundary of the park during 2025.



Meeting with KWS Senior Warden and Company Commander, Kora National Park



Construction nearly completed of the new administration block KWS Company Command Base



KWS platoon base under construction



Water bowser filling up the storage tanks



Supply of Fuel and Water for KWS

We support KWS with monthly donations of fuel and we would like to increase these donations as the months go by, along with replacement sets of tyres for their vehicles. Our tractor and water bowser trundle around the park all through the year delivering water to the ranger outposts. We hope that we can construct a large water storage tank at our base-camp to simplify logistics.

Roadworks, Water Pans and Airstrips

Together with KWS, we have been working on clearing and maintaining the old access and security roads and opening up new tracks. KWS recruit and supervise the casual teams that undertake this fieldwork. We have extended the main Kora airstrip by 200m, put in a new airstrip in the north-east and we would like to work on the airstrip in the north-west close to the HQ.



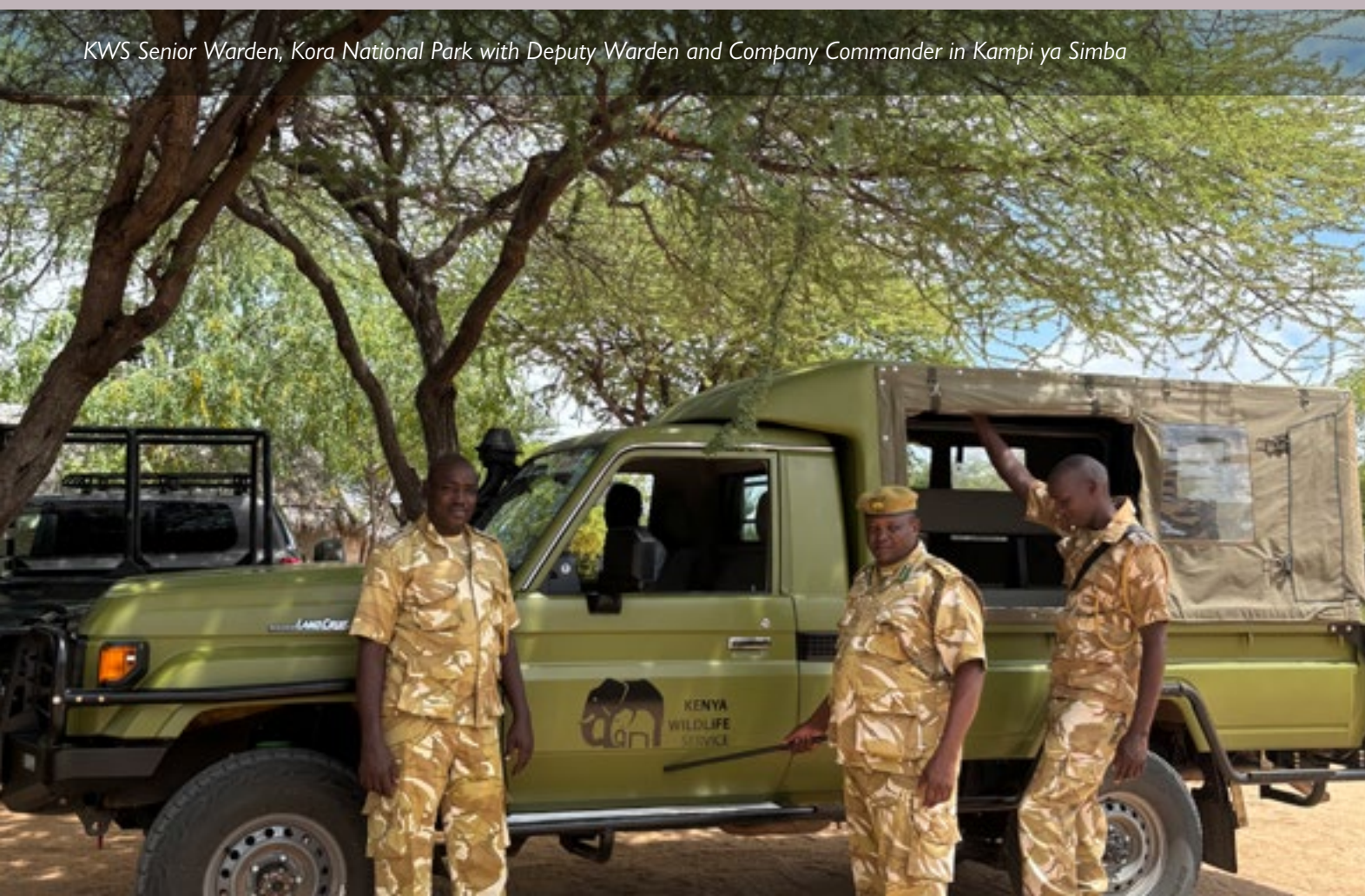
Communities

As part of our community outreach programme, we have supported World Wildlife Day and World Ranger Day, both hosted by KWS, with the provision of food for over 700 people. We have supported visits by the judiciary to see first-hand the challenges that KWS faces in the field. We go together on tree-planting exercises in the villages surrounding the park and it is important to engage with these communities, some in very remote areas, alongside the KWS team.

Replica Camp and Historical Education Centre

We have now received approval to embark on this project. The site has been cleared and the replica camp will soon be fenced and constructed. We are working on designs for the historical education centre to be presented to KWS. The story will focus on the history of Kora National Park, Kenya Wildlife Service, George Adamson, Terence Adamson and Tony. We would also like to plan an environmental education programme at this centre for local school students, teachers and community leaders to come and learn about the history of Kora and the importance of preserving its ecosystem, habitat and wildlife.

KWS Senior Warden, Kora National Park with Deputy Warden and Company Commander in Kampi ya Simba



© Kenya Wildlife Service



Protection of the Riverine Forest of the Tana River

Kora plays a critical role in the mitigation of climate change; its northern boundary protects the Tana River - the longest river in Kenya providing essential resources in biodiversity and human well-being across its watershed and forming a vital part of Kenya's hydrological system. This river basin provides significant drinking water (80%) to Nairobi as well as being a key source of food for fisheries and agriculture to millions of Kenyan citizens (TEEB 2015).



The Tana River is the iconic heartbeat of Kora. Within the river's ecosystem, the pristine riverine forest and a complex of wildlife species persist against a variety of threats.

Kora is the drainage system for the Ukambani area in the south flowing to the Tana River in the north of the park. There are many seasonal water channels (*luggas*) that flow through Kora into the Tana during the rains. This makes all-year round and all-weather access very difficult (often impossible), especially during the long rains when the *luggas* flood. As a result, many of the major access roads and the river road become impassable with extensive damage to these crossings then needing repair. With no full access to the river road, the park is essentially unpatrolled in one of its most critical areas. As a devastating consequence, there has been unregulated encroachment including the burning of sections of the incredible riverine forest and vegetation on both the northern and southern banks of the river in an area that is recognised as one of the last and most beautiful sections of Kenya's rivers.

Greater presence and activity can help protect and restore this area, including the key biodiversity targets of the fragile riverine ecosystem and its wildlife. We have worked with KWS on the maintenance and repair of roads and tracks to enable better access to and from the Tana, we have constructed and donated a KWS ranger outpost along the river, and we would like to work towards building another two outposts along the river over the next two years. We are also working towards the construction of drift bridges on the *lugga* crossings. We hope that through this work we can support the protection of the Tana, its wildlife and its complex ecosystems.



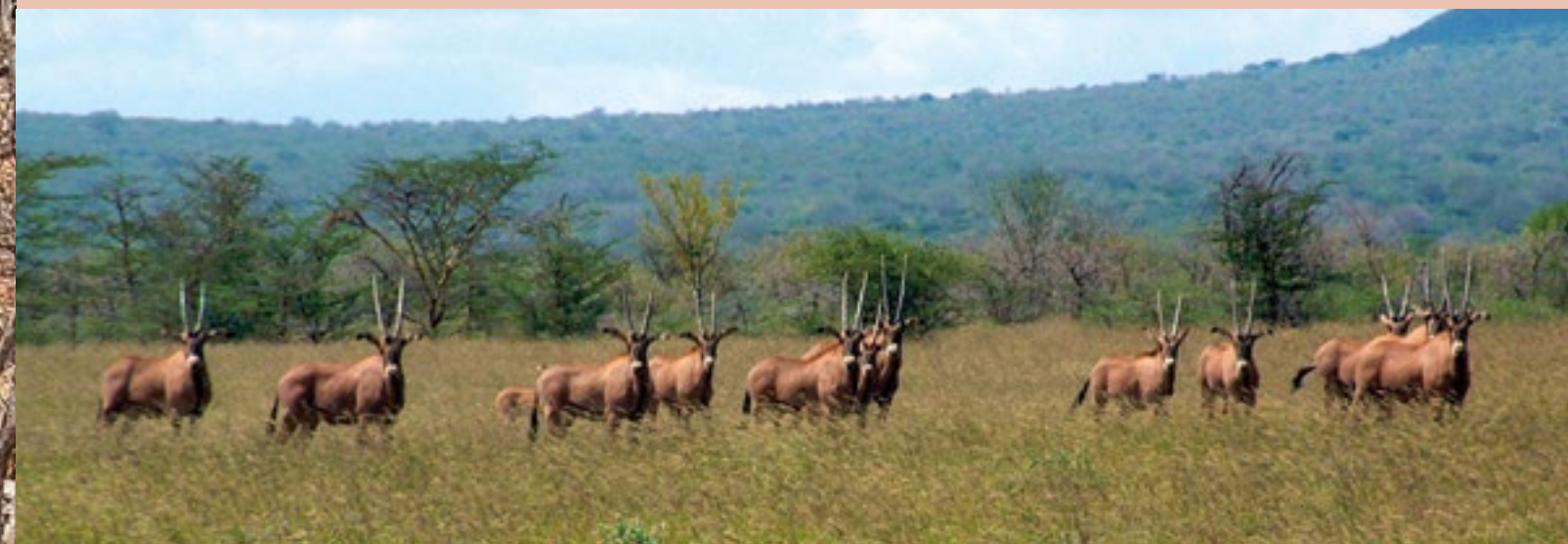


Fringe-eared oryx

Wildlife Recovery Programme

Our Trust was founded by George Adamson and Tony Fitzjohn in the landscape of Kora, on the reintroductions of its native species and on the recovery of its wildlife habitat. This was later extended to Mkomazi National Park with the successful rehabilitation of a devastated area, along with endangered species programmes for the black rhino and African wild dog. Our practical efforts in the field over many decades have resulted in restored and functional ecosystems, benefitting the well-being of both the wildlife and human populations in the long-term. Our planned wildlife recovery programme in Kora for the vulnerable fringe-eared oryx enables our Trust to focus on its historic strengths.

Background: The population of the fringe-eared oryx (*Oryx beisa ssp. callotis*) has declined steeply in both Kenya and Tanzania, from around 27,000 individuals between 1977-80 to around 4,000-6,000 individuals in 2018. The species was most recently assessed in 2018 for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and is listed as Vulnerable. The species is primarily threatened by poaching, and encroachment by settlement and livestock across much of their natural range. The fringe-eared oryx is endemic to Kora National Park, occurring south of the Tana River and into northern Tanzania. The current population in Kora is estimated to be extremely low – with only one small herd or single individuals rarely seen. The fringe-eared oryx is predicted to have only a few locations where populations will exist over the next three generations – including Tsavo National Park in Kenya, and Mkomazi and Tarangire National Parks in Tanzania (Lee et al. 2013).



This programme will use controlled management as a conservation tool by creating a secure, nucleus breeding herd of oryx that can re-populate the surrounding area over time.

Update: We have been given the formal approval from KWS for the programme and this marks a very big step forwards for the entire project. Much needs to be done over these next few months to gain the momentum required to implement the programme. We will work with KWS on all the various aspects and having met with them recently we have determined the action points, the first of which is an ecological and management assessment that will be carried out in the dry season to give the worst-case scenario.

The presence of active conservation within protected areas, even for single species, has an overall positive effect on the protection of the wider ecosystem and its wildlife against illegal activity. Special projects to protect key species can raise the status of protected areas, can raise funds for the ongoing rehabilitation of protected areas and can attract tourism. From our own experience, the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary played a significant role in the upgrading of Mkomazi Game Reserve to national park status.

Community Outreach Programme



Bob and Gill Marshall-Andrews at Boka Primary School with the headteacher



During our years in Mkomazi we carried out an extensive community outreach programme focusing mainly on the improvement of school infrastructure, environmental education, the construction of a secondary school and the construction and equipping of a vocational training centre. During those years, we also supported the communities of Kora through the improvement of infrastructure in their local schools, providing medical support, improvement of water supply and sanitation, and the installation of water handpumps and a water windmill pump on a 30ft tower. This work continued during our 17-year partnership with the inspirational Trusts for African Schools (TAS), with whom we worked with some of the poorest schools and children in Kenya.

Following the recent retirement of TAS's Chairman, Gill Marshall-Andrews, we are delighted that TAS and its proven methods have been fully integrated into the work and wider projects of the Trust, and we are now working closely with their field officer, Stephen Kameti, to continue this community outreach work. TAS has done an incredible job in these remote, poor areas and has provided valuable education initiatives, with better results achieved in schools, much-improved student numbers, much-improved school infrastructure and with communities brought together. During Gill's trips to Kora, we have visited the TAS-supported schools and seen firsthand the progress being made and the challenges being faced.



Stephen Kameti with the pupils of Kaseluni Primary School



In a wonderful and good-spirited fundraising event, a donation was raised for our work with four schools on the boundaries of Kora, two to the east of the park and two to the west. All four schools are in very poor remote areas and are in desperate need of help with construction of classrooms, science laboratories, *bandas* (meeting/social areas), kitchens, dormitories, staff accommodation and boundary fencing. These schools are strategically important for conservation in Kora and are all located in areas of potential human and wildlife conflict.

We have already constructed a kitchen at Kamaguru Primary School and the formal handover of this to the Kamaguru community took place in partnership with KWS and was attended by our UK Trustees. In Kamaguru, we hope to see an uptake in number of students, particularly girls. With additional investment there is greater enthusiasm from the community and more children will join the school. This increased momentum has been seen before in the support given to Boka Primary School which is now a very successful school with over 650 students.

We are planning to sink boreholes at two of these schools. Providing availability of water is one of the main game-changers in such environments. Learning and development



becomes much easier with huge positive changes monitored over time. The water source at the school becomes a community meeting point, making the school a development hub and a loadstone for the community at large.

We have received a wonderful donation of 50 school desks for Asako Primary School and we have continued to plant trees in different communities on the borders of Kora. We are currently in the early stages of collaborative talks on the possibility of forming community conservancies.

We are also hoping to create an environmental education programme as part of the planned historical education centre – based on our highly successful '*Rafiki wa Faru*' programme in Mkomazi – which will bring in local school students, teachers and community leaders for tightly choreographed learning days.

Our community outreach programme is focused on long-term projects with sensible and serious commitments, and we look towards gradual progress in these poor and remote communities.



Sam Neckar and Amanda Morgan at Mbalambala (Asako) Primary School



Community meeting in Asako village



Wildlife

In January 2025, a herd of over 55 elephants (mainly females with calves) crossed from the north of the Tana River into Kora. If ever there was a vision of how Kora could be, this was it. Kora has benefitted enormously from the management, presence and conservation ethics of KWS, yet we cannot ever drop our guard for there is no end to the need for protection of the natural world. These elephant herds are under immense pressure from the deadly threat of poaching, habitat loss and degraded ecosystems and we must do all we can to protect them.

As the past year went by, the secrets of this *Acacia-Commiphora* bushland began to slowly reveal themselves. We had sightings of cheetah with cubs, leopard, aardwolf, caracals and civets, and a rare sighting of a small pack of African wild dogs. Elephants could be seen on short drives along the river and heard around the camp at night. Lesser kudu, waterbuck, gerenuk and giraffe were spotted regularly, and crocodiles and hippos warily watched us as when we reached the river front.

We were very pleased to welcome the great ornithologist Terry Stevenson to Kora, along with Jane Macleoud and Thump Campbell. They listed 150 different species of birds in 3.5 days and will come back in the dry season to do the next stage of the count. The 1983 list undertaken by the Royal Geographical Society and National Museums of Kenya was of 215 species collected over a much longer period of time.



2025 Priority Projects

Oryx Recovery Programme:

To establish a wildlife recovery programme to create a secure, nucleus breeding herd of the Fringe-eared oryx that can re-populate the surrounding area over time.



Riverine Forest Restoration Project:

To mitigate the impact of climate change on the ecosystem, habitats and species of Kora National Park, thereby reducing the loss of biological diversity, and the reduction and modification of wild areas; and extinction of, or threat of extinction to, wildlife species and the natural areas that serve as their habitat.



Community Outreach Programme:

To work with local communities, primarily for educational purposes (including infrastructural support for schools), with the aim of improving the lives and future opportunities of their children, while also promoting the benefits of active conservation and environmental awareness; and to support provision of reliable water sources in schools.



Construction of Ranger Outposts:

To work in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service in the protection and rehabilitation of Kora's ecosystem and in the improvement of habitat and infrastructure. This includes the construction of housing for rangers at a number of strategically located sites throughout Kora National Park.



Infrastructure Development and Equipment:

To develop crucial infrastructure, alongside the purchasing of plant machinery, vehicles and equipment to enable our team on the ground to undertake their work with Kenya Wildlife Service towards the long-term rehabilitation of Kora and the successful delivery of all our 'Priority Projects' over the short- and the long-term.





Trusts, Trustees and Travel



Meeting with HE Dr Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, EGH, SC and Ambassador Nehemiah Rotich, both Trustees of GAWPT Kenya, and Stephen Kameti



Jeff Stein, Wilfred Nyamu Mati, Stephen Kameti and Alexander Fitzjohn

Royal Patron, Trustees and Personnel

We are tremendously grateful to our Royal Patron, HRH Princess Michael of Kent. Our most sincere thanks go to our Chairmen, Trustees, Hon. Treasurers and Board Directors who all do so much to keep the Trusts in good shape to support the work in the field and offer wise counsel. Trustee meetings were held over the past year in the USA, UK and Kenya and valuable advice and direction was given on all aspects of the project. We would also like to express our gratitude to the administrators, lawyers, fundraisers and accountants of the Trusts who also give so much of their time.

We are grateful to Ronny Cohn who served as Hon. Treasurer, and to Peter Wakeham, Brian Jackman and Dr Tim Peet, all of whom are long-standing and extremely supportive Trustees and who are now stepping down from their roles.

We very much regret that our long-standing Trustee, Tom Garvin, died in 2024. He made a huge contribution to the Trust and to its remarkable success in Tanzania.

Our Trustees here in Kenya kindly give of their time and their wise perspectives on the pressures facing one of the last great wildernesses of Kenya.

Stephen Kameti is now part of the Trust in Kenya. He was the field officer for Trusts for African Schools for over 17 years and has worked extensively within the communities surrounding Kora. He is highly respected for his understanding, his balancing of issues and his pragmatic assessments of situations and events. It is very good indeed to work with him in both close liaison with KWS and with the Trust's ongoing community work.

Elisaria Nnko, our operations manager in Mkomazi and Tony's right-hand man for 30 years, comes regularly to Kora and it is very good to have his wise counsel and guidance.

And our thanks, as always, go to our Kenya personnel for their hard work and dedication to the rehabilitation of Kora's habitat, wildlife and communities.

Supporters, Colleagues and Friends

Whilst in the UK it was very good to meet with our supporters, colleagues and friends, to all of whom we are so very grateful for such incredible support over so many decades.

We were able to travel to the Netherlands to meet with Ted van Dam of the Suzuki Rhino Club – our wonderful and long-standing supporter of both Kora and Mkomazi and one of our founder partners in the Kora project – along with Marieke van der Staal, and with Tim van Dam of Smart Parks.



Olly & Suzi



With Peter Hays, Simon Leak and KWS Senior Warden, Kora National Park



Terry Stevenson and Thump Campbell



Trustees of the Marina L Schreyer Charitable Trust

We travelled to Switzerland to meet with the Trustees of the Marina L Schreyer Charitable Trust, a tremendous supporter of our work in both Kora and Mkomazi over many years.

We attended the Property Race Day at Ascot Racecourse. With thanks to this event, those who work in the industry enjoyed a day at the races and raised very generous and much-needed funds for child-based charities. We have been most fortunate to be selected as one of their Charity recipients, with donations going towards infrastructural development of remote schools on the borders of Kora.

Trusts for African Schools held a farewell party in the City, which was a wonderful testimony to their 17 years of incredible work in the schools surrounding Kora.

The Trustees in the UK put on a reception in London to introduce other friends to the Kora project. We are very grateful indeed to the team at 5 Hertford Street for their support of the Trust with this wonderful evening. Huge thanks to all who attended.

From the non-stop efforts of our Kenya team and the enormous support we receive from you all, the wheels keep turning in Kora and we have been able to lay the foundations of a large and complex project.

Looking back over the past year, we have been fortunate to welcome Trustees, friends, supporters, advisors, colleagues and technicians. Our Trustees Jeff Stein, Jake Thomson, Bob Marshall-Andrews KC, Sam Neckar, Astrid Harbord and Mervyn Chaplin all visited. Ted van Dam, Chairman of Suzuki Rhino Club, visited with Marieke van der Staal and with the Rhino Club Ambassadors Bart and Marion, Bert and Frida. Gill Marshall-Andrews, Peter Hays, Olly and Suzi, Amanda Morgan, Nicky Chaplin, Olivia Henley, Dr Heather Eves and Ryan Ruggiero, Terry Stevenson, Jane Macleoud, Thump Campbell, Joe Fisher, Elisaria Nnko, Wilfred Ayo, Simon Leak, Humphrey Carter, Tania Hitchins, Roger Head, Diana Maclean, Will Troughton, Amanda Thorsen, Johnny Man and the Axmanns – all closely connected with the Trust and the work in Kora.



Abdullahi looking out over Kora



With Dr Heather Eves



Terry Stevenson on the banks of the Tana River



KWS Senior Warden, Kora National Park with Bob Marshall-Andrews, KC

Trustees

UK

THE GEORGE ADAMSON & TONY FITZJOHN WILDLIFE TRUST

Royal Patron:

HRH Princess Michael of Kent

- Jake Thomson, Chairman
- Mervyn Chaplin, Treasurer
- Paul Chauveau
- Ronny Cohn
- Kaytie Grant
- Astrid Harbord
- Brian Jackman
- Anthony Marrian
- Bob Marshall-Andrews KC
- Sam Neckar
- David Peacock

USA

THE GEORGE ADAMSON & TONY FITZJOHN WILDLIFE TRUST

- Moritz Borman, Chairman
- Jeff Stein, President & Treasurer
- Ali MacGraw, Honorary Chair
- Georgianna Regnier, Secretary
- Hon. Lee Baxter
- Bill Benenson
- Lucy Fitzjohn
- Tom Hullick
- Gary Praglin

Kenya

GEORGE ADAMSON WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST

- Torben Rune, Chairman
- Stuart Armitage
- Anthony Gross
- HE Dr Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, EGH, SC
- Ambassador Nehemiah Rotich
- Rupert Watson

Thank You

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

Charities, Foundations, Trusts and Grant Giving Institutions

Suzuki Rhino Club
Marina L Schreyer Charitable Trust
The Huckleberry Foundation
Property Race Day
Dvur Kralove Safari Park, Czech Republic
The Robert and Perri Bishop Foundation
The Rufford Foundation
Global Wildlife Conservation
Sarnia Charitable Trust
Trusts for African Schools
The charity committee of Troy Asset Management
The Wendell Robert and Sharon Scarlett Trust
Lawrence Israel Family Fund
Elizabeth Ring Mather and William Gwinn Mather Fund
Friends of GAWPT
Tusk Trust
IWCT

Individual Supporters

Susan Schmeichel
Cerelina Proesl
Bob Bishop
Nick and Amanda Raphael
Malcolm and Nan Newall
Moritz Borman
Peter and Sylvia Szapary
Stuart and Debs Lodge
Eleanor Wellesley
Alice Edgedale
Judith Israel
Carolyn Plybon
Katherine R. Ireland
Imogen Lycett-Green
Mervyn and Nicky Chaplin
Robin Birley
Jeremy and Katherine Garrett-Cox
Anthony and Felicity Marrian
Olly & Suzi

Gordon Dickie
Dr Tim Peet
Mark and Lee Shanker
Nick Hughes
Sarah Freels
David Paddison
Gerry Westoby
Derek Watts
Jean Boney
Judith Troughton
Jamie Carr
Hendrik du Toit
Mimi Ferrini
S Loder
Paula Denham
David Wyld
Stuart and Margie Johnston
Tom Oxenham
Lucy Allsop
Anne De'Ath
Dolan Kaplan

Our sincerest thanks to all who provide such valuable support:

Ted van Dam
Gill Marshall-Andrews
Stephen Kameti
Kaytie Grant
Marieke van der Staal
Peter Hays
Ian and Jane Craig
Richard and Tara Bonham
Rob and Angela Carr-Hartley
Charles and Netti Dobie
Charlie and Caro Mayhew
David and Gabriela Peacock
Capt. Kam Lall and Maura Croh
Rune family
Steve and Anne James
Hilla Moll
Jennie Taylor
Elisaria Nnko
Wilfred Ayo
Ruth Ng'anga
Jan Stejskal

Dr Peter and Estelle Morkel
Dr Heather Eves
Dr Juliet King
Roland and Amanda Fairfield
Rebecca Mellotte
Olly and Lisa Williams
Suzi Winstanley
Wilfred Nyamu Mati
Juliet Duckworth
Thomas and Pam Sheffield
Rita Goldstein
Olivia Henley
Josh Sussman
Sarah Watson
Alex Millar
Dennis Mathenge
Joan Ndorongo
Dr Ian Games
Dr Carole Winstanley
Dr Fred Omengo
Terry Stevenson and Jane Macleoud
Thump Campbell
Ruth Muthoni
Peter Silvester
James and Nella Hutchings
Francois O'Neill
Julianna Stobbs
Rev. Mike Harries
Joy Bhatt
Roger Fairbairn
Charlie Mason
Zuzana Beranova
Joanna Cohn
Elizabeth Pennington
Johnny Man

Companies

BV Nimag
5 Hertford Street
Onda Entertainment
Instarect Ltd
Nomad Safaris Ltd
Ramani Ltd
Maison Francois
Moonraker Solutions Ltd
Aeroclub of East Africa

And our sincerest thanks for all the other kind donations that have supported the work of the Trust.

There is a remarkable depth of support for all of those associated with the work of the Trust. To everyone behind the scenes who gives of their time, advice, donations of gifts in kind and to family and friends, we simply want to thank you for all your tremendous support wherever you are and however you connect..



Supporting the Kora Project

We are indebted to the generosity of all of our supporters, ranging from small groups of dedicated individuals to the significant support and assistance that has come from a variety of wildlife conservation charities, charitable trusts and foundations, corporate sponsors and institutions. They have all been integral to the success of our past work in Mkomazi and to our current fieldwork in Kora.

The time is now to accelerate our work in Kora and rehabilitate this vanishingly rare ecosystem and we need your generous support in order to succeed. We believe the Kora Project to be one of the most valuable endeavours in African conservation today.

Donations can be made via our website <https://koraproject.org/> or by scanning the QR code below, where you can donate directly to The George Adamson & Tony Fitzjohn Wildlife Trust in the UK or the USA.

You can also get in touch directly by emailing info@koraproject.org in the UK or info@wildlifenow.com in the USA.





KORA PROJECT
THE GEORGE ADAMSON & TONY FITZJOHN
WILDLIFE TRUST



Design: Rachel Williams

UK

**The George Adamson
& Tony Fitzjohn Wildlife Trust**

141a High Street
Edenbridge
Kent TN8 5AX
email: info@koraproject.org
Tel: +44 1732 866955
website: koraproject.org

UK: Registered Charity number 279598

USA

**The George Adamson
& Tony Fitzjohn Wildlife Trust**

24466 Malibu Rd
Malibu
California 90265
email: info@wildlifefirst.com
Tel: +1-310-777-3555
website: koraproject.org

USA: Non-profit organisation 501(c)3

Kenya

**George Adamson Wildlife
Preservation Trust**

P O Box 57792
Nairobi