

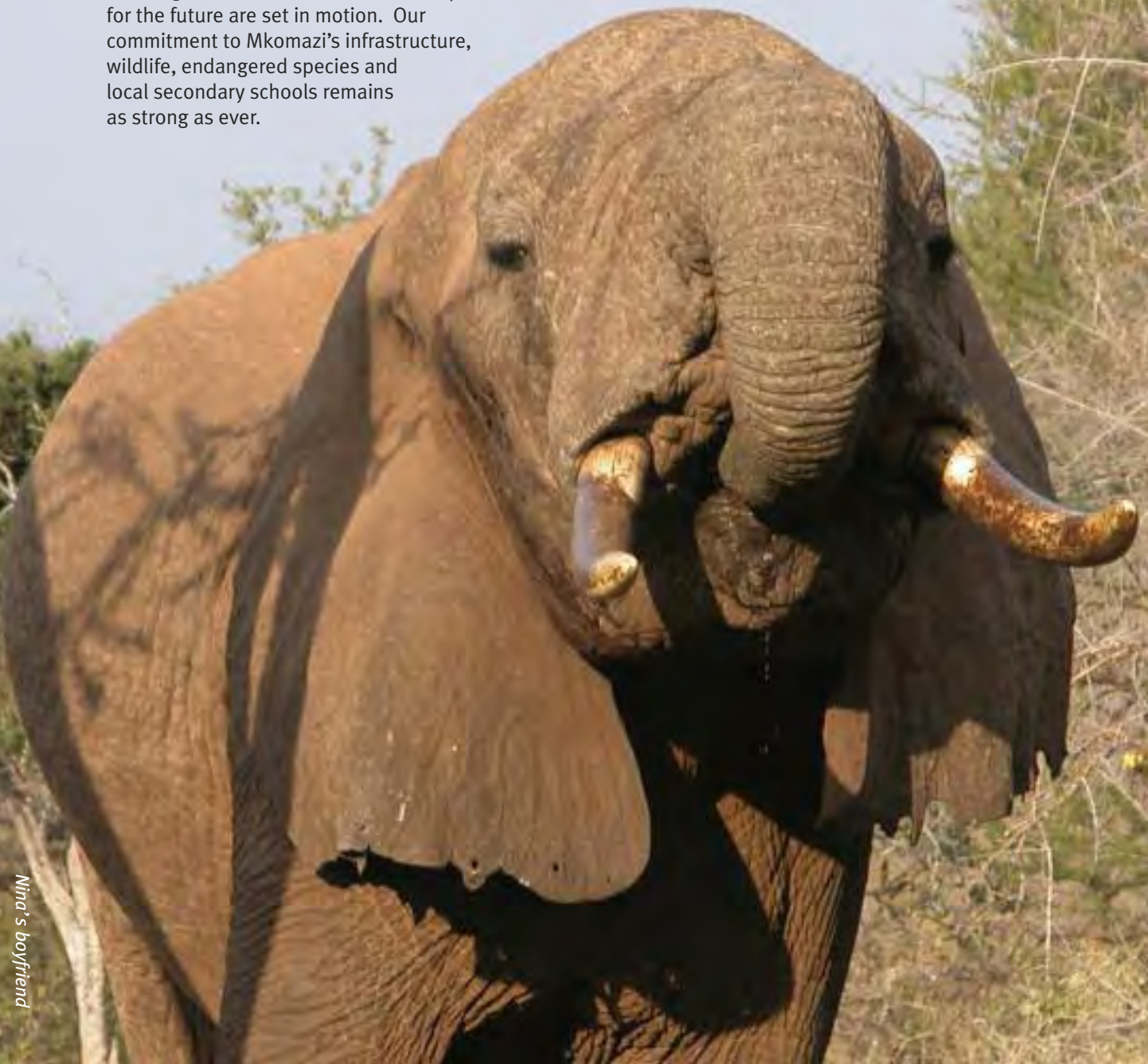
The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust



Report from the field for 2011

Mkomazi National Park goes from strength to strength. TANAPA continue to do a very good management job and the strong relationship between the Trust and TANAPA continues not only in the field but also with the signing of a five year Memorandum of Understanding at the end of 2010. Road works and water development have been a major focus of the year as well as the reinforcing of the Rhino Sanctuary fences, wild dog breeding and reintroduction and a complete workshop make-over.

We've said it before, but success and tragedy often stalk each other in the wildlife world and we've made some great progress and had some sad set-backs this year. But overall, the field work goes on apace, challenges are met and dealt with and plans and for the future are set in motion. Our commitment to Mkomazi's infrastructure, wildlife, endangered species and local secondary schools remains as strong as ever.



Mirna's boyfriend



Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary (MRS)

The ongoing rain in the first part of the year provided optimum vegetation for the rhinos. Security systems continue to be upgraded as rhino poaching is dramatically on the increase. There have now been more poaching incidents in the Kenyan sanctuaries and the price of rhino horn on the street has never been higher. World trade in wild animal products now ranks alongside the drug trade and we are under no illusions about the task that we have taken on for ourselves.

We put in four new security outposts throughout the key areas in the rhino sanctuary. This involved bringing manufactured uniport housing down from Kenya and then constructing the outposts at the various sites. Tony undertakes regular aircraft patrols to back up the men in the field. TANAPA have formed a new patrol base in the old ranger lines below Kisima base camp. They have their own duties to carry out but are always on call should we need them. We are grateful for this kind of understanding and cooperation from this dedicated organization.

As the dry season took hold, the Bedford finally gave up the ghost and the Scania water tanker started to collect water twice daily from Zange - each round-trip is ninety kilometres. A new water bowser, easily towable behind a tractor, now does the daily rounds of filling up each sanctuary water pan and security outpost. We have constructed a new waterhole in the area where the females like to breed and this has been a success.

The main sanctuary fence-posts are coming to the end of their twelve to fifteen year life span so fence replacement is ongoing. A permanent fence repair team undertakes this enormous task, replacing the intermediary posts with both wooden and pre-drilled steel posts. As the price of timber continues to rise and supply becomes increasingly difficult, we are now placing one steel post for every two wooden posts. We also continued with the fitting of the larger strainer posts which are on every corner or slight change in fence-line direction, where the terrain is extremely difficult, rocky and uneven and placed every hundred metres. We have brought in more high tensile wire and we have fitted new alarms and energizers where necessary. Repair work continued on the entire fence line with plant machinery continuing to work on the culverts and wash-aways and keep the integrity of the fence line intact. This involves months of work with plant machinery (Cat Grader and tractor / trailer / slasher) and our labour force.

We are currently joining up two sections of the sanctuary to increase possibilities for breeding management.

The rainfall also created large mud wallows, one of which proved to be a problem for an adult female, Lee, who had developed a rear leg problem in mid 2010. Dr Pete Morkel had come down then to have a look at her and decided against immobilizing her as firstly there was nothing that could be done to fix the injury, and secondly she had a small calf at foot and there would be too many risks associated with this. As it was impossible to treat something like this and as she seemed to be coping quite well, it was incumbent on us that we shouldn't interfere. We had to accept that it might either heal on its own or deteriorate.

Lee got stuck in the mud in a small 'karonga', which normally presents no problems for the other rhinos when they go there to drink or wallow, and twelve men had to help her out late at night. The guys cared for her intensively over the next two days, and she tried again to descend into the wallow. We filled the mud wallow with trees to stop her going in again. After this incident,



Suzi, first calf born in the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary



Water bowser delivering



Semu Pallangyo



Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary security outpost under construction



Steel fence posts for repair work

she was reunited with her calf and carried on normally, browsing and drinking in this area, but with an exaggerated limp. The trackers always maintained a very close eye on her. In the end, however, we lost her in August. Her calf, Maggie, is now with the young female Suzi or often seen on her own and is in good shape, browsing and drinking in the area that she had been in with her mother. We are looking into buying a truck designed for moving rhino and other wildlife in situations such as this.

Very sadly we also lost a new-born calf to a leopard in June. This is a highly unusual event and although some other rhino programmes have suffered a similar loss, it took us by surprise. We are doing all we can to try to reduce this threat for the future and working with Dr Idrissa Chuma, TANAPA Veterinary Officer for the Northern Zone, on this.

In October, we received a radio call from sanctuary personnel to advise us that Deborah, the female translocated from the Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic in 2009, had given birth to a female calf. This sort of news is always wonderful but is tempered with concerns over ensuring the safety of the newborn calf against leopard and hyena.

Justin Hando, the Protection Manager of TANAPA, requested Tony to fly over to the Serengeti National Park to help advise the Warden on placement of the proposed rhino sanctuary there. Tony gave them a short report with his suggestions and advice. Pete Morkel and Ian Craig have also been involved in this.

Pete Morkel and TANAPA sought out the assistance of two MRS trackers to track a rhino that had recently been translocated from South Africa to the Serengeti National Park, but had gone missing. Evans Goodluck and Emmanuel Maxi were collected by aircraft and taken to the Serengeti and after two weeks of intensive tracking with Pete Morkel, they found the rhino. She was then darted and a horn transmitter inserted. When TANAPA put a rhino sanctuary into Serengeti National Park, our fence teams may be sent over there to help and advise on how to put the fence in place, how to place and construct outposts, patrolling schedules and vehicles (eg, quad bikes and motorbikes).

Suzuki Rhino Club, which already gives tremendous support to the operations of the rhino sanctuary, sent in two of their top training mechanics to train the Trust workshop staff on maintenance of the Suzuki Grand Vitaras, quad bikes and motorbikes. They also donated a large amount of spare parts for general servicing and a new powerful motorbike for the rhino sanctuary manager, Semu Pallangyo, which has greatly enhanced his ability to move around the sanctuary on operational duty. This training was excellent for our workshop staff and a big morale boost for the mechanics. A maintenance diagnostic room has now been constructed in the workshop.

The task of maintaining the rhino sanctuary is a real slog but in the main everything is done cheerfully and with a sense of pride and ownership and we are very grateful indeed to our rhino staff.

Our sincerest thanks to Suzuki Rhino Club, Tusk Trust, Save the Rhino (who also raised funds through the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund), Chester Zoo, Swordspoint Foundation, The Aspinall Foundation, Rufford Foundation, WildiZe Foundation, Friends of Serengeti Switzerland and Peter Morton.



Dickson, Elisaria, Fred and Abel receive training from Gertjan Hanse of Suzuki



Imogen feeds Jabu a carrot



Workshop machines

TANAPA have now taken over manning the trust's two external security outposts. An elephant census of the Tsavo Mkomazi ecosystem was carried out by KWS in February 2011 and the results recorded a rise in the elephant populations from 2008 to 2011. TANAPA also undertook an aerial survey / mammal count of Mkomazi. KWS, TANAPA and the Trust undertook joint patrols. Tony flew as back up on this patrol and has flown on operational patrol to support the rangers in the field over the past six months. Over the past two years, TANAPA's planning unit has been working on the preparation of a General Management Plan for Mkomazi National Park and this has now been published.



Israel at work

In September, we received a visit from the Honourable Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism (Ezekiel Maige) with the Director General of TANAPA (Alan Kijaze). They had come to look at the rhino sanctuary and wild dog programme and talk about the plans and visions for the future. Elisaria hosted this visit and it was a really positive event.

Our sincerest thanks to Suzuki Rhino Club, The Aspinall Foundation, Swordspoint Foundation, Peter Morton, The Friends of Mkomazi, Chester Zoo, Sir Anthony Bamford and the staff at JCB, Newman's Own Foundation, the Silvesters, the Gallaghers, the Millars, the Johnstons and Quantec.



African Wild Dogs



Wild dog feeding

All the young wild dogs in the breeding compounds were given three vaccinations for canine distemper and rabies within a fourteen week period. This will be followed by one annual re-vaccination next year. A new breeding pair was put together at Kisima and that female is currently pregnant. Two of our alpha females gave birth in May.

A new reintroduction compound was built two kilometres from an outpost on the Tsavo / Mkomazi border and two reintroductions were undertaken at Maore in the first part of the year. One dog per reintroduction pack was fitted with a collar. Both packs of dogs were ready to be released after a very short time and we are now looking at shorter time-frames for holding them in the reintroduction compounds. The keepers had also released three males after two days because they were fighting. They stayed around the compound for another week and then joined up with the rest of the pack on release. The three males hunted successfully on release.

Both packs were seen over the following months in the area. One dog was killed by a lion. Tony has flown regularly to pin them down with the telemetry fitted on the aircraft but there are no signals from the Mkomazi area or Mkomazi border / community areas. We have sent out vehicles on many occasions and the guys have climbed up the hills to try to get a signal but cannot get



Mshamba pack

one. We feel that they have headed into the Tsavo National Park in Kenya and we are encouraged by other wild dog sightings in the Tsavo ecosystem. Basically, if we can get a signal and / or sighting up to ten weeks after release, we feel they will have become pretty capable and will survive to perpetuate the species by linking up with the odd and random Tsavo packs. This has been observed. In the meantime, the aircraft patrols continue to try to pin them down.

Two dogs from the reintroduction that took place in October 2010 have returned to Kisima and have linked up with a wild pair of dogs and a lone female. Sometimes we see other individual 'wild' wild dogs joining them. The core pack is four, including our two males. The other three shadow them on occasion as a loosely formed pack. They hunt successfully and occasionally return to Kisima for rest and water.

Very sadly and frustratingly, we lost six wild dogs to aflatoxin poisoning from the dried food supplement (local maize meal) that we bring in to add to the meat and fish. This was an awful setback and a shock as we have successfully fed a large number of wild dogs in this remote area of Tanzania every single day without fail for sixteen years. Thankfully, and in close consultation with Pete Morkel, we nipped it in the bud. The first casualty was autopsied locally. Pat Patten of the Flying Medical Service then flew the second casualty to the Serengeti and a post mortem and diagnosis was carried out within a few hours by five international vets who were all at the Seronera, under the umbrella of Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI). TAWIRI then sent the tissue samples and feed samples to Nairobi for analysis.

Over the past year we have increased the supply of meat for the dogs and we are currently extending the butchery to hold an extra freezer for the additional quantities of meat being brought in from the cattle markets every week.

In early May, two alpha females gave birth to two new litters of pups (currently one litter of five pups and one litter of ten pups)

The ecologist and veterinary officer of TAWIRI visited to see if the Trust could advise and assist on translocations of wild dogs to the Serengeti National Park. They had received funding for the translocation and needed guidance and advice on how to go about it as well as captive stock from the breeding programme at Kisima. We agreed to help in all ways possible.

We are very grateful to Suzuki Rhino Club, Swordspoint Foundation, WildiZe Foundation, Chester Zoo, Merial and Olly and Suzi.



Sangito Lema, head wild dog keeper, with assistant keeper Mshamba Shafii Mjema



Wild dogs at Mlima Jipe, just before reintroduction back into the wild



Young wild dog pups



Ted and Catrien van Dam in the donated Suzuki Grand Vitara



Kenya Wildlife Service base near Kampi ya Simba, Kora National Park



New water bowser and rhinos drinking



Evans and orphaned buffalo



Moritz Borman and Jamie Manuel in Kora



TANAPA's new management plan for Mkomazi National Park



Biblical technology used by the Catholic Relief Services to dig the new well in Asako village



Rhino and calf



Rhino Sanctuary fence repair team at work



Mshamba pack



Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary fence line



*Lee after getting stuck in the mud wallow.
Penieli trying to give her water*



More carrots!



Lunch break at Gonja Secondary School

Mkomazi Outreach Programme

The George Adamson Wildlife Trust in Germany (GAWeV) raised a significant amount of money for the outreach work that we carry out in the communities surrounding the Mkomazi National Park.

In the first instance, this support is being directed towards Gonja and Ndungu Secondary Schools, identified by Elisaria as needing assistance. The first stage of this has commenced with an initial donation of building materials handed over to Gonja Secondary School for a new science block comprising of three classrooms. They have brought in site engineers and have had to undertake crucial foundation work before construction can start. Once this first stage has been completed successfully, we will donate the next tranche of building materials. GAWeV have then expressed interest in helping construct a hostel inside Mkomazi National Park for the Tanzanian school students who form part of Rafiki wa Faru, the environmental education programme that the Trust runs.

Suzuki Rhino Club has also extended support to the outreach work and this will enable us to broaden our support over the four districts. We have identified five secondary schools that need assistance with classroom construction.

We are very grateful to the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust Germany (GAWeV), Simone Motzko, Erol Sander and the Suzuki Rhino Club.



Break-time at Kisiwani Secondary School



Transport to get to school



Lorry delivering cement to Gonja Secondary School



Rafiki wa Faru bus

Students having a lunch break before afternoon activities



Over the past year we have been able to bring in eight hundred and fifty young people on the Rafiki wa Faru programme. The visits continue to be a tightly structured day out with a wealth of interesting experiences and activities for the students. The students are able to meet Elisaria, Semu, Philbert and the rhino trackers and it is wonderful to see these men acting as role models to many of the young lads who we bring in. It is also great to see the reaction of the school-girls with the TANAPA lady rangers and officers when they realize that they too could work in wildlife conservation. New educational materials have been donated by Chester Zoo which further add to the experiences of the day.

Rafiki wa Faru was presented by Cathy Dean of Save the Rhino at the recent African Rhino Specialist Group meeting as being a workable and successful education environmental programme. It was also presented at the Rhino May Day by Dr Maggie Esson, Education Programmes Manager for Chester Zoo. Maggie visited the project in September 2011 to gather data from the children and the teachers that had taken part in Rafiki wa Faru for an evaluation and to prepare a report. Maggie and her team at Chester Zoo also devised a pilot lesson for teacher-groups or village elder / community leader groups and this pilot proved to be a huge success. Requests from other wildlife organizations on how we carry out this environmental education programme are coming in. In October, we received a visit from the TANAPA Community Conservation wardens from the National Parks of Tanzania. They were keen to look at all the aspects of the programme. They gave a speech of thanks at the end of their visit and told us that they had now found something that they could copy and adapt to each of their different situations. Our main message to these wardens is to keep it as simple as possible.

We are working closely with TANAPA on our concept of the construction of a small hostel for the Rafiki wa Faru pupils up on a hillside near to the TANAPA Zange HQ. If built, this would allow the pupils who have come from far away to have a longer time in the Park; it will increase teaching time; it will allow the education officer to teach in the cool mornings and evenings and not just during the middle of the day; it will enable to pupils to see more wildlife; it will enable us to bring in groups from further away; it will allow other Tanzanian students (university, college, etc) to also have accommodation in the Park. The hostel will only go ahead if TANAPA, as the Government authority, commits to running the dormitories / hostel, including security, care of the students and catering and this needs careful planning into the future. Initial architectural drawings have been prepared and are now being revised; Suzuki Rhino Club and GAWeV are interested in supporting this project.

Our sincerest thanks to Save the Rhino, Chester Zoo, US Fish and Wildlife Services, Tusk Trust and the SRI Rhino Climb Kili team (the Worsfolds, Charles Brewer and Richard Anstis) and the Chester Zoo Rhino Maniacs team.

Evans, Emmanuel, Eliyudi, Elisaria, Dr Maggie Esson and Semu



Semu collecting students for their day out with Rafiki wa Faru and handing out bird ID sheets for an activity during the bus journey

Kora National Park and Asako Village, Kenya

Kora has been in the grip of a terrible drought and Somali domestic stock incursions have reached high levels. Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) are doing their best to sort out this situation under very challenging conditions.

We have linked up with a young Kenyan, Jamie Manuel - an adventurer, an experienced guide, a great naturalist, a gifted mechanic and engineer and who is keen to help out in Kora. Through some good fortune, he was funded to get his flying license and we are now on the look-out for a basic two-seater aircraft to monitor what is going on in Kora, to move equipment around and also for liaison with KWS HQ at Meru National Park and the Government's regional administration HQ of North Eastern Province - Garissa.

The new tractor / trailer / water bowser / slasher was delivered to Kampi ya Simba (KyS) by CMC. A new entrance and exit road was made at the old water point on the river for the tractor to collect water.

Tony, Fred Ayo and Jamie installed the new repeater housing, radio repeater and antennas on the top of Kora Rock. This involved carrying up a huge amount of heavy equipment up a sheer rock face in a hundred degree heat! Fred returned later with an engineer to install radio base stations in KyS and at the KWS ranger post on the airstrip. New entrance gates were made by Fred and Jamie to replace the old KyS gates. Jamie returned to Kora on a number of occasions during the year to work on systems and infrastructure and to help build the base for the water windmill pump in Asako village. Satellite communications have been installed. New chain link for the periphery fence of KyS has been put up to replace the old.

In October, Jamie started to work on the production of an updated map of Kora, using a GPS programme to input way-points on the roads, junctions, boundaries and hills. Together with a young friend and a motorbike, they have got to know the whole Kora and Mwingi area extremely well and have GPS'd all the base-line data. This information will be used to produce a detailed map of Kora by Tiny Heywood at a map-making outfit (Ramani) in Nairobi.



Kora. Kampi ya Simba



Tony, Jamie, Fred Ayo and Mike Harries installed the new repeater system



Jamie carrying equipment up Kora rock

Tony and Mike Harries held a meeting with the new Kora KWS Warden, Wilson Njue, and the Assistant Director in charge North Eastern Parks, Jonathan Kirui, on development of Kora with KWS, GAWPT and the tourist lodge developer. Tony also met with Peter Leitoro, the KWS Deputy Director of Security, to discuss security in the area, the question of the stock invasion and to work out what we can expect in the immediate and long-term future. Meetings also took place with Pete Silvester (GAWPT Kenya) and the tourist lodge developer to discuss finance and design. We received a visit from the Chairman and Trustees of TUSK Trust and from the Suzuki Rhino Club.

On 20th August 2010, KWS organized the 22nd anniversary to George Adamson with another wonderful memorial service. This was attended by over a hundred people from KWS and the local communities. We attended with Mike Harries and Jamie. Once again, the Assistant Director of KWS, along with Mark Cheruiyot and the new Warden for Kora spoke of George Adamson's vision, his life-time of dedication to wildlife conservation and their determination to protect Kora as 'The Last Wilderness' for the future.

Asako

GAWPT contracted Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to site and drill a new well for the existing water windmill pump in Asako.

They undertook a hydro-geological survey and chose three potential sites. Two of these sites were abandoned and they then struck an aquifer on the third site using Biblical technology. After a challenging bout of engineering problems and a considerable amount of logistical back up from GAWPT and Kijito Windmill Pumps, they dug to a fifty foot depth with clean water in the well pipe. Kijito, GAWPT, KWS and CRS then constructed a deep platform for the windmill and it was moved to the new site using the newly installed GAWPT tractor and trailer. The windmill was then erected and started to pump water successfully. However, it had to be lowered down again because after a day of pumping, the windmill's metal bracing struts were stolen and there was a concern that the windmill would fall over in high winds. Fortunately the majority of the struts have been returned by the community and hopefully this project will be completed by the end of the year.

Again this whole project has been a feat of engineering over many years, with a huge deployment of resources and effort to make sure that this community in this extremely remote area has a reliable source of clean fresh water for both domestic and agricultural use.

Tony, Mike Harries and Jamie delivered the donated school curriculum books to Boka Primary School. The donation was made by personally by Tony and Linus Gitahi, the CEO of the Nation Media Group.



Asako. Newly dug well

Boka

Trust for African Schools continues to support the Boka and Asako primary schools.

The Tony Fitzjohn George Adamson African Wildlife Preservation Trust in the USA is now concentrating fundraising efforts on the development of Kora National Park.

We are sincerely grateful to Tusk Trust, WildiZe Foundation, Stuart and Teresa Graham, Linus Gitahi (CEO Nation Media Group), Ben Simpson, AFEW, a UK charitable foundation and Martin and Sally Woodcock.



New curriculum books for Boka Primary School



Tony with new KWS Warden Kora, Wilson Njue and Assistant Director North Eastern Parks, Jonathan Kirui



Charlie Mayhew of TUSK Trust on the new tractor with Jamie Manuel



New Suzuki diagnostic room in the workshop



New baby rhino



Donatus Mnyagatwa, TANAPA Chief Park Warden, Mkomazi National Park



Jamie, Tony, Malim Shora and Muga Boch at the KWS 22nd Memorial Service to George Adamson in Kora



Maggie approaching the other rhino after the death of Lee her mother



Suzuki training group. From left. Hamza Kajembe, Morad Belhaj of Suzuki, Abel Pallangyo, Fred Ayo, Gertjan Hanse of Suzuki and Dickson Kaaya.



Children in the classroom



Suzuki Rhino Club fundraising dinner for GAWPT



Suzuki Grand Vitara coming in for a service



Tony, Charlie Mayhew, MBE and Chief Executive of Tusk Trust and HRH The Duchess of Cambridge at a Tusk event



Offloading wooden fenceposts

General



*Kora 1989.
George Adamson with John Aspinall*



*Mkomazi 2011. Guy Farley, Amos Courage
and Damian Aspinall*

Holland for the launch of Tony's book and a fundraising event at the Louwman Car Museum with the Suzuki Rhino Club which was a great success and raised funds for GAWPT over and above their existing support.

Tony was awarded the Gold Medal for Conservation by the North of England Zoological Society and Chester Zoo very kindly paid for the whole family to travel to the Zoo for the ceremony. Whilst there, he gave a talk to the Zoo members and staff and officially opened their new wild dog exhibit.

On the home front, Brigadier General Hashim Mbita is stepping down as chairman of the Tanzanian trust as he will be spending more time at his home town of Tabora, but will remain a trustee. He has been an absolute tower of strength for us during the good times and the bad and opened some extraordinary doors for us when things were not going well. Our good friend and trustee, Bernard Mchomvu, is taking over as chairman and we know that between him, Rose Lugembe and Charles

Dobie, the trust continues to be in extremely good hands with people who both care and who have already been though thick and thin with us.

Our Tanzanian personnel continue to rally to the challenges that are presented to them and continue to hold the reputation of being one of the finest wildlife workforces in East Africa. We are always proud when we receive requests for their help and advice from other national parks in Tanzania.

As always, our thanks to our trustees, treasurers and administrators who have given so freely of their time and effort over so many years. Andy and Georgina Mortimer hold the fort in the UK; Moritz Borman and Jeff Stein in the USA; and Ruth Ng'anga and Lindsay Bell in Kenya. We are sad that the George Adamson Trust in Germany is closing down and are indebted to Simone Motzko for all her tremendous help on the outreach programmes.

Others have also helped on different aspects and we would like to extend all our thanks to Neumann's Coffee Group / Mazao Ltd, Indigo Telecommunications, Stowe School, Pembroke House, Moritz and Hilla Borman, Tom Garvin, Hon. Lee Baxter and Bill Benenson.

We are indebted to the Suzuki Rhino Club of The Netherlands with whom we are entering into a five year Memorandum of Understanding. Their support focuses mainly on the rhino sanctuary but also the wild dog programme and outreach work. For the first time in our lives this gives us the chance to plan ahead and takes an enormous amount of heat off Tony from having to constantly leave the field-work to go on the road fundraising.

We don't stand alone here. We can fight our battles because of the backing you, our core supporters, give us and Mkomazi National Park is in much better shape because of that. We look forward to continuing this work in Mkomazi and also to bringing the same perspective, projects and field work to Kora National Park in the coming years. We are, as always, sincerely grateful for all your support.



*Dr Peter Morkel being interviewed
during the rhino translocation*

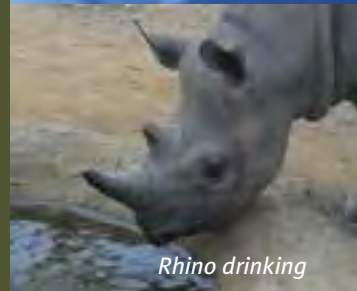
*Mike Harries at George
Adamson's grave in
Kora National Park*



Buffalo in Mkomazi



5H Dog from below



Rhino drinking

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