



ANNUAL REPORT

2015

GEORGE ADAMSON WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST
For the board directors of the Suzuki Rhino Club

**Working plan for the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary
and the African Wild Dog programme for 2016**

2nd March 2016

Dear Board of Directors,

Thank you all, as always, for your generous support over the past year.

2015 was a year of progress and of tightening up on all the systems as we continue to meet the ever-present and ever-increasing rhino poaching threat and as we continue to help the African wild dog back from the brink of extinction. Likewise, the vocational training centre has been a hugely progressive project over the past year and if ever there was an ambitious project, this is it and we are all enormously grateful to the Suzuki Rhino Club for taking the lead on this undertaking.

We were very pleased to welcome the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Rhino Club to the Inauguration Day for the VTC and also to discuss the entire project with the board directors. Very sadly, the former President of Tanzania was unable to find the time in his incredibly busy schedule to open the VTC so the RC Bishop of Same put on a great Inauguration Day instead. The new President of Tanzania, HE John Magufuli, has brought about changes to Tanzania within the short time since his election into office and we hope to one day to invite His Excellency to see the VTC.

Thank you all for putting on the fundraiser in Eindhoven and for inviting us. We know that it takes a huge amount of effort to put on such an event and to organize a raffle and we are extremely grateful. It was very good to be there with you all and to see the Ambassadors, and to listen to the speeches.

We continue to have a very good working relationship with TANAPA in the undertaking that is The Mkomazi Project and we signed our new five year Memorandum of Understanding with TANAPA in November 2015.

In the meantime, we now look forwards to 2016 and our plans and upcoming projects, for discussion at your board meeting.

Much of the narrative to follow is based on last year's plan as so much of the daily life here is about continuity, maintenance, operating systems and physical field-work. Please find attached our target operating budgets for 2016 as follows for your perusal and we thank you for giving us this opportunity to present this to your board for consideration:

- a) Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary General Operating Costs
- b) Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary Projects
- c) African Wild Dog Programme
- d) Summary 2016

From the overall 'ideal world' target budget we have once again extrapolated a suggested amount for the Suzuki Rhino Club column, based on your generous donations of last year 2015.

And of course we make no assumptions on these very generous amounts but as we are already in to 2016, we felt it would be sensible to budget based on these figures.



Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary – General Operations

We will continue to keep all systems in good shape to ensure the rhinos are secure and breeding. With 23 animals, the Mkomazi population is the third-largest of Tanzania's six rhino populations, and the Sanctuary is therefore an integral part of Tanzania's efforts to breed and recover numbers of black rhino. 23 black rhino represents 2.5% of the global population of this subspecies and 23% of the national population. We continue to work with TANAPA to fulfil the objectives of the rhino sanctuary. To date, there have been no direct poaching attempts on Mkomazi's rhinos but it is vital that Mkomazi's continuing high levels of security are maintained, in order to prevent poaching attempts on the Sanctuary. A key component of this is the ability to deploy security teams, rhino tracking teams, fence maintenance and patrol teams, react to emergencies, supply teams camped outside the Sanctuary in the wider Park and to deploy tracker dogs and their keepers.

The support of the Suzuki Rhino Club has enabled us to uphold all the operating procedures and make progress with these species. With thanks to you all, we have been able to attend to so many facets that underscore the whole project.

Over the next year, we will continue to manage the Sanctuary along the protocols established over the past 19 years. The full complement of personnel and security details will be maintained and increased; the security systems will be maintained and upgraded; and the fence will be inspected and maintained daily, as will existing infrastructure, equipment, vehicles and plant machinery; each rhino will be tracked daily and a visual sighting gained daily. A new fencing system is now being put in place, which is superior to the existing system (see Rhino Sanctuary Projects section below). Fence posts, high-tensile wire and other fencing materials will be ordered, delivered and installed.

The two calves born last year are in good shape, as are Tunu and Maxima, born in 2014. We think that 4 other breeding females are currently pregnant.

A new microwave SmartParks system is being developed in The Netherlands for the horn transmitters which could enable us to give a coordinated real-time GPS picture of rhinos, vehicles and personnel on Google Earth. This is covered in Rhino Sanctuary Special Projects below.

Together with TANAPA, we are planning on translocating the female rhino Elisaka from Dvur Kralove Zoo in June 2016 and we are hopefully that DHL will donate the flight. Dr Morkel will undertake this translocation and Drs Chuma and Macha will meet the rhino on arrival into Tanzania along with the Director General of TANAPA.

TANAPA are underway with their own rhino sanctuary construction plans, and have asked if we would advise and supervise the building of this new sanctuary.

Personnel

We are extremely fortunate to have a team of conscientious, hard-working and dedicated staff, under the operations manager and sanctuary manager. All personnel (Operations manager, Rhino Sanctuary manager, rhino tracker team, fence maintenance team, mechanics and tracker dog handlers) will continue their working duties according to the normal systems and protocols. We have good medical insurance in place for the managers, the machine operators and drivers, including air evacuation and ambulance support and we support staff medical costs. We were able to make small increases to salaries in 2015. TANAPA continue to support the salaries of the security team and the support of fencing.

Two of the older security team are due for retirement this year and we are in discussion with TANAPA to find two replacements who are acceptable both to us and TANAPA.

We will hire more fence maintenance personnel as the burden of work is so heavy and is carried out 24/7.

Fuel and Engine Oils

The underground and overground fuel tanks are operational. Puma Energy continues to supply the bulk fuel ex-Dar es Salaam and the equipment and vehicles are fueled from the pumps. Detailed books on fuel usage are kept by the camp manager and checked weekly by the operations manager. Wambi Oils supplies the drums of engine oils in bulk ex-Dar es Salaam.

Equipment / Maintenance / Spares

We are, once again, very grateful indeed to Suzuki Rhino Club for their support of the workshop, which is the heart of all of our operations. As usual, the big workload is the ongoing maintenance and this work will continue through 2016. It has been quite a challenging task to juggle all our vehicles to keep them working as there are constant work schedules for both the National Park and the Sanctuary management and development, general patrols, tracker dog patrols in vehicles, main road trips, weekly 160km round-trips to get meat for the African wild dogs, emergency break downs that need to be dealt with and the plant machinery in the field has to be resupplied with fuel, food for the operators, spare parts and field repairs as well as

trips to the programs we undertake in the local communities. Suzuki Rhino Club has played a major part in this and our workshop functions at a professional level because of your support. The workshop manager has done a phenomenal job over the past 27 years, ably assisted by the mechanics and he has now decided to spend more time at home and will work on a part-time basis, hopefully coming in intermittently. We will employ another mechanic and will look for an electrician.

The plant machinery, water bowzers and vehicles will all continue their daily duties. The machines are used continuously for fence replacement and repair of the fence line. Roads and tracks have to be cleared and maintained.

The Suzuki quad bikes and motorbike continue to be of enormous value to the Sanctuary and much is achieved by personnel and myself on these bikes. Situational awareness is maintained, there's a good courier attitude to work and with the renowned Suzuki reliability, let alone standardization now and getting rid of the old bikes. There is a new urgency – much needed – as we have to replace the whole 40+kms of fenceline. Mobile security is increased and more frequent – Thanks again, Suzuki Rhino Club.

Water collection goes on apace in the dry season. The Scania undertakes the 90 km round-trip to Zange HQ twice a day for two weeks to fill up with water from their overground tanks there. It then fills up the water storage tanks at Kisima which have to be kept full at all times. The Scania then it goes in for maintenance for one week. Then the cycle repeats itself.

We have been buying the tyres for the Fastrac, JCB and Grader in staged replacements as they are so expensive.

The Suzuki Vitaras continue to be hugely valuable for all our work, for trips to Arusha, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam and we continue to maintain them. The stickers still haven't worn or peeled, despite the heavy bush conditions.

Our old faithful tractor is to be put on full-time duty in the Sanctuary for movement of poles and collection of stone and murram. The newer one MF5365 will operate to be used with a new grass slasher to clear the roads after the rains in both the park and the Sanctuary and with a ten ton tipping trailer to carry stone and murram for maintenance of the park roads and Sanctuary fence line. These machines give us the capability to do an enormous amount of work in a lot less time. We were also able to work with TANAPA to bring in a second hand bulldozer (CAT D4D) which is over 40 years old but well maintained by the previous owner. This is an excellent piece of machinery for the infrastructural development of the Sanctuary, the National Park and these new water sources needed for elephant and other wildlife. The previous owner has visited twice to train us on the bulldozer. We are also buying a ten ton tipping trailer to move the bulldozer to sites.

We have been able to convert two existing vehicles. The work that has been done on the two conversions of the old vehicles is of a very high quality, and not only were the vehicles converted but also fully over-hauled. One is for the wild dog programme (cattle market runs) and for taking the staff on their Sunday trips to the village.

In discussion with the Arusha car builders we decided that our little Suzuki Jimny would be perfect as a permanent vehicle at the tracker dog section. From there they can meet another vehicle for the long distance patrols when they need the extra space and power but they do need something at their own camp to allow them to react in an emergency.

Security. Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary Fence. Infrastructure, Upgrade and Maintenance.

The Sanctuary continues to have a number of layers of security in place. Aerial surveillance, security team, rhino tracking team and fence maintenance team, the electrified and alarmed fence, the newly installed digital radio system, the tracker dog unit, a TANAPA ranger outpost close to the Kisima base camp, and the TANAPA intelligence network. The community programmes (the vocational training centre, the environmental education programme and the Mkomazi outreach programme) play a great part in winning the hearts and minds of the communities neighbouring Mkomazi.

We are continuing with the enormous task that is the replacement and repair of the perimeter fence. TANAPA have once again contributed towards the fence posts. Our mobile teams check the entire fence twice a day. They carry out these checks on foot to ensure that they do not miss any problem or potential problem. Repairs are undertaken on the spot and there is always a stock of fence posts and wire in the stores for major repairs. Fence repair teams also slash the grass to keep the line clear and check for any animal or human footprints. Every time the fence repair team go out, their presence and patrols provides additional security and observation.

I have asked for assistance on the Sanctuary fence from a Kenya-based fencing contractor. He looked at everything that was going on in the Sanctuary and was able to point out several weaknesses in the system. Also the equipment available is getting better as the years go by and this advanced technology has made for some big improvements from the original old New Zealand sheep fences so whilst taking advantage of this, it is imperative to go back to square one and the whole basis of the fence line system, how it is wired, how it is powered and the integrity of the poles, and to reconfigure the system for insulators to be put on the earth wires and configured every 5 m section. The contractor (Instarect Ltd) does have a good reputation in Kenya for sorting out problem fences that other contractors or suppliers have put in. He will also carry out the work on the new energizers and the sensors along every 1km of fence line so that Sanctuary has a highly accurate alarm system. It is actually a great relief to have them on board and ready to help. Peter Hays, their managing director, is genuinely keen on wildlife conservation and rhino conservation in particular. He is also enthusiastic and energetic and has a genuine concern for the safety of Mkomazi's rhinos. This is covered in Rhino Sanctuary Special Projects (below).

The new tracker dog unit was put in place in January 2015 with the acquisition of two dogs which were trained in deterrent work, tracking and anti-poaching. A special camp was constructed for the dogs and their four keepers, including kennels, staff housing, shower, kitchen and mess area. Two other large sites were cleared for the exercise / training area and an area where 200 tsetse flags were placed. Equipment for the dogs and keepers has been brought in and the second stage of training is underway. The dogs were mobilized in August 2015. Unfortunately one of the dogs died of a snake bite in October 2015 and a

replacement dog from the same litter was struck down by Trypanosomiasis, despite all our efforts. We will now vaccinate the dogs prophylactically against Tryps, even though it is a highly toxic vaccination. We hope to find a new dog later this year and we hope to mate this dog with the female. We do need to get on top of the Tryps problem. Training continues on the outside of the Sanctuary fence and in areas where there is potential for meat and elephant poaching. The Suzuki Jimny will be converted and placed there on a full time basis. We will remove the rear of the body and keep two seats in the front and fit a cage at the back for the tracker dogs. We will then build two more seats at the top in the middle of the car for two extra personnel (either tracker dog handlers or rangers). This will give them an excellent observation platform for patrols. The converted car will give the tracker dog handlers the ability to react rapidly to any perceived threat close to their unit without having to wait for drivers and vehicles to be deployed from our base-camp which is many miles away. Training does continue and the handlers are learning basic first aid for emergency situations. The dogs have been very effective in anti-poaching work and have already cleared a large area just by their very presence. Meat poachers have already been caught on two occasions. On both occasions, the dogs didn't have to be released; the poachers just gave up on seeing the dogs

In 2015, we put another security outpost in to the Jamie / Deborah section of the Sanctuary and also at Kilo Zulu, the tracker dog unit. For 2016, we will upgrade the tented outpost at the education centre into a uniport and we will add another uniport at Kilo Zulu, which is now a big security outpost. One further outpost will be added in the Sanctuary.

TANAPA continue to staff the ranger outpost close to Kisima Camp and these rangers are there should we need them. The Sanctuary personnel often undertake joint patrols with these TANAPA rangers, significantly on torches or illegal activity seen at night. We remain in close partnership with TANAPA on these rhino conservation efforts.

TANAPA are continuing to develop their plans for the construction of a sanctuary here in Mkomazi, closer to their HQ. We know you are well aware of this and the fact that this will enable them to raise tourist income from visits to their sanctuary and will also ensure that our Sanctuary remains undisturbed as a secure breeding area with security uncompromised. We continue to meet the TANAPA rhino management group and the engineers on the construction for this sanctuary.

Solar Power, Electrical Power

Having upgraded the solar power system in the base camp, we are now having to address the Sanctuary security outposts with new fence energizers, monitors, alarms and totally replace all the wire around the 17 strand fence as the original wire has time-x'd after 19 years. The security outpost radio chargers, lighting and radio base stations have already been re-installed in an integrated system, so that's done but a better fence power/monitoring system has to be installed, along with a new fence configuration, as the not-so-smart guys out there to cause mischief have become a bit smarter.

Peter Hays of Instarect is working with us on this and we are very relieved to have him on board. It's the conservation of wildlife that drives him and he has come down to get us moving in the right direction.

This new fence electrification system is covered in Rhino Sanctuary Special Projects below.

Water

The supply of water for the rhinos and personnel is a standard operating procedure and this supply of water system will be upheld without fail. The Scania water tanker will continue to make the round trip to Zange TANAPA HQ twice daily in the dry season and fill up all the storage tanks at the base camp. The water bowser will then fill up from the storage tanks and go round to each water pan and Sanctuary outpost to fill up their individual water storage tanks.

A water gully ('koronga') running through the Sanctuary is being scooped out and an old road crossing built up at one end of the gully. This will create an effective dam in black cotton soil which is quite sheltered and hopefully in the next dry season that there will soon be a permanent supply of water in this large gully that has now been turned into a small lake / pond. We hope this will save some of the Scania round-trips to the Zange HQ. The deep water section is being fenced off with an electric fence leaving a small tail still with water in it. When the tail dries up, the rhinos will not have access to this section of the gully and the water but will go instead to the main water pan at the observation bunker 800 yards down the road (as well as other established water points) which are known to them. This is important as otherwise there would be a much reduced chance for viewing the rhinos in the day time during the dry season. The viewing is imperative for observing each rhino for some time, looking at new calves, showing school students and for the TANAPA vets and other vet officers to work on any necessary veterinary issues (or rhino horn transmitter replacements) as they can dart the rhino quietly from the observation bunker without too much intrusion, as they have done in the past.

The new (old!) bulldozer will be a big addition to the creation of new water sources both within the Sanctuary and in the wider National Park.

Communications

The radio system is a good addition to both the management and security of the Sanctuary. The system provides an immediate and detailed analysis of Sanctuary personnel movements and distribution within the Sanctuary and this is able to be checked by us throughout the day. We are able to get a quick overview at all times to check where everyone is, make sure personnel are where they say they are and that they have completed their section work or patrol and this is of great help. It has increased the capacity of the staff and managers to react to any poaching threats or incidents through the immediate analysis of the personnel and distribution in the sanctuary and has been an enormous boost to the morale of everyone. Management radios scan at all times. The system also covers the area outside the Sanctuary so is very useful on follow-ups to torches seen at night outside the Sanctuary, undertaken by Sanctuary personnel working in tandem with TANAPA rangers. In August 2015, when there was a break-in of lion into the Sanctuary, the system was invaluable in terms of the positioning of the guards and trackers following rhinos to avoid conflict with the lion in this thick bush (the lion has since been ejected back outside the fence line). There was a problem with the screen blanking intermittently. The root cause does seem to be a power supply problem, despite all the upgrades and inputs. The computer tower is currently with the technicians. It looks like

the whole system will have to be put on a completely separate solar power system so that it is not affected by water pumps, etc.

SmartParks in The Netherlands are working on a microwave system to be installed on the top of the mountain in the Sanctuary and at Kisima Camp. This can then give a coordinated real-time picture of rhinos, vehicles and personnel. This is covered below in Rhino Sanctuary Special Projects section (below).

We would still like to replace handheld radios for the Sanctuary outposts and one new window handheld for the sanctuary manager. We would also like to replace a few of the base stations and handhelds and purchase the usual spare radio batteries.

We still work with a satellite wifi connection for general communications which is an expensive undertaking, but I have spent many months seeking out a better deal but the prices for establishing a network here are prohibitive.

Existing security outposts, uniforms, consumable supplies

Personnel move around on duty shifts and the outposts must operate at full capacity at all times. The Sanctuary Manager checks each outpost regularly. We will continue to maintain the existing security outposts and continue to tailor two sets of uniforms per person for all sanctuary personnel. Boots are purchased from Arusha and we will buy two pairs of new boots per person.

Veterinary

With the addition of the tracker dog camp, we now have an additional 200 tsetse fly targets to maintain. This makes a total of over 400 tsetse targets and we will continue to keep these targets active which have to be sprayed every month or after the rains and TANAPA support this.

Dr Chuma is currently doing a PhD so has been focused on that undertaking. Dr Macha is the TANAPA vet assigned to Mkomazi National Park, and a very good vet.

Dr Pete Morkel will have to travel twice to the Dvur Kralove in Czech Republic for the upcoming translocation of the rhino Eliska. He will travel to Tanzania on the DHL flight that is being chartered for the translocation and then we will need to fly him back to South Africa. The DG of TANAPA and Drs Chuma and Macha will meet the rhinos at Kilimanjaro Airport.

The tracker dogs need constant veterinary attention. This is either undertaken by Dr Macha or Dr Lieve Lynen in Arusha.

Aircraft

The aircraft continues to have a multi-purpose role. Patrols, surveys, sightings of new tracks, game counts, follow up on torches seen at night and tracks seen in the day, or information received on areas surrounding the Sanctuary and general daily observational flights around the Sanctuary are to name just a few.

We will continue to fly sometimes up to three times daily on patrols in the Sanctuary and the National Park. Information on any illegal activities will be immediately relayed to TANAPA HQ with GPS positioning. TANAPA then deploy its ranger teams to the specified area for follow-up. Regular patrols in the aircraft in an area the size of this one give an instant picture of what is going on. Where there are areas of conflict or illegal incursions, ground teams can be directed immediately. Whenever we establish a remote outpost, an airstrip goes in straight away in case of injury or sickness for the personnel based there, to access them during the rainy season when the odd section of road is impassable, to resupply their camp or to undertake repairs at the outpost. Likewise, whenever the big machines are out in the field operating, the operators immediately put in a short airstrip both for their own safety and also for me to access the machines for maintenance. The Cessna 206, especially now that it has a bigger engine, can carry welding machines, compressors, tool boxes, everything except spare tyres.

Flying a 206 for 27 years can often be difficult and an observational aircraft would be potentially more practical to cover the area in the same way that the old wardens of Kenya did in the past.



Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary – Projects

a) Security Outposts

We need to continue to increase Sanctuary security by constructing two new outposts. One will be placed at the tracker dog section and another one will be placed inside the Sanctuary. A tented outpost will also be replaced with a uniport.

b) Internal Fence Line

This has not yet been completed, although the proposed fence line has been demarcated, fence posts ordered, high tensile wire imported from New Zealand. We are awaiting the advice of Dr Morkel in June / July 2016 and Dr Chuma to see if we can separate the two males out from the section they currently share. They will advise us on whether we put two females on one side of the internal fence and put Jabu and Monduli on the other; or to put one breeding pair on either side. The new female from Dvur Kralove, Eliska, might be one of the selected females for this section.

c) New Fence Electrification System

I have asked for assistance on the Sanctuary fence from Peter Hays of Instarect. As above mentioned, we need a better fence power / monitoring system, along with a new fence configuration, as the not-so-smart guys out there to cause mischief have become a bit smarter. He looked at everything that was going on in the Sanctuary and was able to point out several weaknesses in the system. Some of these were already known, others were newly diagnosed.

As well as trying to replace the old energizers with the new more powerful AC generated energizers (through inverters), we now realize that the whole fence-line has to be looked at in microscopic detail. Alarms are going off every time it rains and a lot of this is probably due to the old fence posts and old wire which hasn't yet been replaced. Sometimes it is the wiring that is at fault, sometimes it is the wire, and sometimes it is the short-cuts and innovations that have been made over time to try to keep the power running to the end of the fence line.

It has to be remembered that the original Sanctuary fence was built to minimum standards (with Kenyan-manufactured wire and the lowest powered energizers). Even the energizers slowly had to be upgraded from the original B600s to the B1600 in a short time. The original fence and power system worked efficiently probably for 4 – 5 years. We have kept it going for another 15 years and fortunately there was high quality wire available from New Zealand. Had this team not been so good at fixing stuff, we would have called in professional help ages ago, but we are a team of fixers, electricians, mechanics and thought we were on top of all the problems. With all these short-cuts, modifications and innovations, the fence worked well in general terms (also with good quality wire from New Zealand), but in some instances the weaknesses in the system were compounded. The problem with innovations and our ability to technically make things work is that after a period of time, everything starts to go a bit wrong. So we came to the conclusion that the fence needed serious advice, input and attention from a professional fencing contractor. Peter Hays was asked to return and have a look at the whole fence system and what needs to be done to do to bring it up to the best standards possible. The monitoring system on fence “shorts” – as well as informing the rangers of what “zone” is shorting out - will be wifi'd and sent back to base camp for readouts on the Google Earth map, giving even better control and an overview of response and evaluation.

The company he represents is re-supplied from South Africa under South African Development Community (SADC) trade agreements. The SADC member states are Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The current trade agreements ensure that the necessary equipment can be imported into Tanzania directly from South Africa.

Peter Hays will go through whole fence with a fine tooth-comb. Ideally he wants an all steel post fence with W insulators, earths on outside, positive on inside, but at this point that is not feasible because of the costs. It is imperative to go back to square one and the whole basis of the fence line system, how it is wired, how it is powered and the integrity of the poles, and to reconfigure the system for insulators to be put on the earth wires and configured every 5 m section.

This is an absolutely massive project which includes:-

- Energizer system upgrade
- Energizer system installation and programming and commissioning
- Perimeter patrol software and wifi communication links
- Perimeter patrol and wifi installation and commissioning
- 40 km full fence renovation and reconstruction in correct configuration.

We have listed some of the initial costs for this project in the budget for 2016 and will also be approaching other foundations in the USA to help support these costs.

d) Horn Transmitters on the Microwave System

This is difficult to cost out at this stage as I am not sure what exactly is involved. It will also involve some return trips by the vets to fit the transmitters into the horns, and this might take a few visits. The SmartParks system developed in late 2015 is successfully picked up signals from a GPS test transmitter that will show up on Google Earth, probably on the same screen

as the radio system. The horn transmitters are now being worked on to make them the same size as the VHF transmitters so that the vets can come in and fit them. Testing still going on in The Netherlands and a return visit in April is planned when the transmitters will be tested with personnel in cars and on motorbikes moving around with it. Budget-wise, I don't know what the costings are of this, except that it is becoming crucially important.

e) Dvur Kralove Zoo, Czech Republic

The translocation of the female rhino (Eliska) from the Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic is underway and we are currently coordinating the logistics of the flight with TANAPA. DHL have offered to put the flight on as a donation to the project. We have included details of the costs in this budget as a one-line budget item at this point. The full costs have not yet been determined at this point. DHL have donated the flight. We would expect the other costs of the translocation to be in the region of \$25,000. These costs will include: Veterinary officer's flights from South Africa to the Czech Republic (the first time to check the rhino's suitability, the second time to supervise the actual translocation) and then from Tanzania back to South Africa; preparation of holding boma and reintroduction area including fencing permits and paperwork and associated travel; supply of lucerne, horse nuts and transport of both from Nairobi to Mkomazi, and supplementary feed for three months; one; flight for rhino keeper from the Zoo to the Sanctuary; transport of the rhino from Kilimanjaro Airport to the Sanctuary; formal handover ceremony etc.

We will continue to do as much as we possibly can to protect these rhinos and to continue to maintain the established systems which have, so far, proved to be so effective. With the ever-increasing slaughter of rhinos and elephants throughout Africa, we remain vigilant at all times. We are extremely grateful to the Suzuki Rhino Club for your incredible support.



African Wild Dog Programme

As always, we need continuity and perseverance over many years with this programme.

We have had a steady year of breeding up the wild dogs and will continue to do so over the next year. Two of our older alpha females are reaching the end of their breeding life and we lost an old alpha male so we have put together two new breeding groups, both of whom have already had a litter of pups.

In the early part of this year we put another family pack of nine wild dogs back into the wild and they are currently moving between the water pans in Tsavo and the Mkomazi plains. There has been follow up by aircraft, on foot and in vehicles. Then as we move into the middle of the year, we have a sibling pack of eleven wild dogs that will be ready for reintroduction.

We have constructed a new breeding compound and hope to put together yet another breeding pair over 2016. New steel double doors for all the compounds have been made and welded here on site and put in each breeding compound. Sloped entrances have been built to help the keepers get in and out easily with their wheelbarrows of food. Currently we are putting in new steel-framed crush tunnels, lined with strong steel wire and with proper concrete floors for faster and safer inoculations. A new double line of fencing is being constructed at two of the furthest compounds.

We currently have five further litters of pups and we expect further litters to be born in April. There is a small pack of wild dogs roaming in and around the Rhino Sanctuary which are not from our breeding programme and our own staff, TANAPA rangers and visitors have all come across wild dogs in Mkomazi throughout the year.

A wildlife park in UK has offered us a litter of wild dog pups and we are in discussion with TANAPA on translocating this litter out to Mkomazi. It could boost the gene pool and might enable us to breed larger dogs.

With thanks to your support, we have been able to continue increasing the meat supply to

our African wild dogs in the breeding programme here. We have brought in four or five cows a week to mix with rice, fish and eggs, but they can never have enough meat. Adding on one extra cow per week really adds to their nutrition and improves their overall health. We are currently rebuilding the old car to be dedicated to the wild dog meat supply runs and for the Sunday trips to the village. This means we can cannibalise the really old car for parts. The meat supply run is over 100 miles per week and there can never be any failure in their daily supply of food.

The veterinary work continues with vaccinations as well as the two-monthly worming system with Prazitel (sourced by the Suzuki Rhino Club). We are also now worming them every alternative two months with a Merial product (Synanthic) which has been sourced by a vet in France. The vaccine for rabies is sourced via the Merial agents in Nairobi. Importing these vaccines is a lengthy business and has to be done by a local veterinary clinic which charges for the service.

We will continue to fly on follow up on wild dogs that have formed part of our reintroduction programme. The follow up by air is intensive in the first few months and then after that, when the aircraft is airborne, I put in the frequencies for the dog collars and see if anything is received. The pilot for a wildlife conservation trust based in Tsavo West National Park is known to us and they have agreed to help fly on post-release follow up in the Tsavo part of the ecosystem. The new warden for Tsavo West National Park, Ken Ochieng, is also a colleague and a pilot and he is supportive of the Tsavo side follow-up on the released wild dog packs.

We are still looking into the satellite collars to give a real-time reading of the position of the reintroduced dogs. However, these collars are currently heavy and we are going to wait until they have refined the design to a much lighter weight before we consider this option.

The reintroduction of African wild dogs is a highly complex operation due to their unique and complicated social structure and their requirement of a large home range within which they can roam nomadically. The programme can encounter problems but given the time and experience of our work with these animals, we are confident that our methods are leading to long-term success. No real success can ever be determined in programmes like this unless they are continuous and take place over a very long period of time. To re-establish a species in the wild takes time, perseverance and continuity. We are heartened to hear that wild dog sightings have increased in the Tsavo / Mkomazi ecosystem.

We are enormously grateful to Suzuki Rhino Club for all the support for this endangered species programme.



Vocational Training Centre

We remain very grateful to the Suzuki Rhino Club for taking the lead on this massive undertaking and we are really pleased with the progress to date. We know the Board of Directors are up to date on where things stand at the moment and we try to have bi-weekly meetings with either the Bishop or Father Japhet on the whole project. And we see the director of the Watoto Foundation pretty regularly.

The building contractor has now finished the job and has handed over to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Same. There are the inevitable snags to be dealt with and with the recent massive rains we have found there is a severe problem with drainage on the site. We will have to send in our JCB to help construct proper drains and ultimately these drains will have to be made in concrete.

A volunteer found through the Watoto Foundation is at the VTC and will be overseeing the offloading of containers, setting up of systems, the issuing of control systems in the workshops and to assist with the rebuilding of old vehicles and motorcycles. The RC Diocese now have a delay in negotiating the storage charges in the bonded warehouse.

It was very good indeed to welcome the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Rhino Club for the formal opening of the VTC by Bishop Rogarth Kimaryo who put on a very good Inauguration Day, attended by the Watoto Foundation director and other members of the RC Diocese of Same. It all meant something, too.

Once the dormitories are finished, we hope students will increase and more teaching personnel will be employed with the suitable skill sets for a technical college. The library is still to be furnished and we are now trying to raise the funds for teacher accommodation; initially two houses with one for overseas volunteers, and then we will expand this to four houses. All of these houses will be fenced. Then we will try to raise the funds for dormitories for the girls. Government teachers and administrative staff have been recruited and a bursary policy is being laid down for the poorest students. 10% was agreed on until 100 students had been reached but the First Principal has taken on almost 50% of the first 82 students as charitable



cases. In this case, negotiations are going on and the board are working to meet us halfway on this. Father Japhet has taken over as the Principal of the school, board members are mainly from the village and they are involved in all decision-making and as you know I have been made the Chairman of the school board.

Continuity is the key for all environmental issues, as it is with us. We are very grateful to you all at the Suzuki Rhino Club for understanding all the issues and the need to find the balance between juggling wildlife, people and habitats. None of this progress would have been possible had it not been for the support of you all and you have played a major part in the success of these programmes, which are the backbone of all we do and believe in, and the impetus for Mkomazi moving forwards. Thank you all.

Tony Fitzjohn

Field Director - George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust