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MKOMAZI NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1996

It has been a busy and changing year. From virtual closedown and revenge for the ban on hunting in the Reserve to full speed ahead. From wild dogs to Royalty. From a rhino programme on hold to a work force and machinery heralding a new frontier. A new President with a new, more open Government. A new project opening up in Kora. A new hope for a new era but let's start at the beginning and take it as we did, a month at a time.

AUGUST 1995

Information from farmers, pilots and administration officials lead to a recce on the Massai Steppe in search, yet again, for the elusive and beleaguered **Wild Dogs**. This proved to be the best opportunity yet. Several packs of dogs had returned to dens used in the distant past, but this time both people and stock populations had increased so they had become a local menace. They were in excellent condition and numbers and seemed to have come out of the trough of persecution and disease which had beset them for so long. Although feeding mainly off the plentiful Kudu in the area, they had also taken to killing Maasai cattle and goats and were about to be poisoned. We were alerted to this by **Richard Kipuyo**, the Maasai village secretary at Engassumet, just over a 30 minute flight from camp, who gave us every assistance both in our recce and later on capture. We were also very fortunate to find **Giles Thornton** close by. He had much experience in wild animal capture whilst working for Alan Root, the wildlife cinematographer in Zaire and had spent several years in Africa in search of adventure and projects to help in. He took over most of the field work with Richard's friends and tribesmen whilst Lucy and I were more involved in Dar es Salaam trips. There was a long way to go still on our new Agreement. Meetings, rewritings and other paperwork took up most of our time along with general camp running and morale, and we welcomed Giles and Richards' help.

It was a great pleasure to be able to have 25 pups in small holding bomas on the Masaai Steppe to show **Bob and Gill Marshall-Andrews** when they came out on a weeks safari with **Tim and Deidre Razall**. With all the work going on, plus the start of this difficult but essential programme after so many frustrations and delays, the ladies were quite delighted but the males were determined to bottle the rather pungent fragrance that exuded from the pups and market it.

Under the slogan "I'll do anything but please don't wear Wild Dog". Luckily the process went no further so fifty per cent of the human race is safe and the dogs maintain their evolutionary dignity.

It was a great privilege to have Bob and Gill in camp again along with the Razzalls and we met up with them in Dar es Salaam after they had spent a few days in Zanzibar, doing whatever you do in Zanzibar. We had hoped to meet with **Solomon Liani, our Chairman in Tanzania**, but sadly this was not to be as he was completely tied up with the imminent general elections in his position on the electoral commission. But we all had a beneficial first meeting and supper with **Charles Dobie, our Vice Chairman**, who has done so much to help and steer the project from inception.

August was also the month the **JCB** arrived, so generously donated by **Sir Anthony Bamford**. A new **District Commissioner, Peter Kangwa**, was posted to Same, our local administrative town. Peter and his wife have become close friends and very supportive of all our work in Mkomazi and the surrounding communities. They have visited camp on several occasions and we are grateful for their guidance and support.

The JCB was put to work immediately and an appreciation is enclosed.

However, there was also a downside. Harrie and Truus Simons, our outreach workers, and ourselves were banned from the RGS's workshop in Same by the new project manager who had taken over from Mr. Mungure. He had also refused to see the Marshall-Andrews when they paid a courtesy visit to his offices at the Zange gate. Harrie and Truus then had their work suspended and were also banned from the reserve. All work was ordered to be stopped on the rhino sanctuary and the Directorate of Civil Aviation, responding to a year old letter from one of the "hunters" previously operating in Mkomazi, pulled my flying licence in July stating that before it was renewed I would have to go through the 6 month process of taking all the flying and written exams again.

SEPTEMBER 1995

With his usual calm and determined support and after we had paid many visits to the Ministry for discussions with the Principal State Attorney seconded there, Solomon Liani, our chairman, signed a historic and far reaching Agreement with the Principal Secretary, Dr. Ben Moshi, pertaining to the work of the trust (WPTFT) in Tanzania, its future and safeguards against exploitation. It was drawn up with the help of Bob Marshall-Andrews and was detailed in every respect as to the undertakings of both the Trust and the Government. It has been a tremendous boost to us all and not just in the camp. We are indebted to Mr. Liani for all his confidence and faith and for his tireless efforts on our behalf. Tunashakuru, Mzee

The 25 dog pups were flown into Kisima, courtesy of **Cliff Cameron**, owner of Fleet Air in Arusha. They were kept in their separate family groups until first inoculations could be done. More on this later.

Long term Trust supporter and friend, **Malcolm Williams**, paid us a visit with **Peter Silvester** to look into the possibilities of building a high quality ecotourism lodge in the

reserve. At present there is no "internal" revenue base and we badly need to show returns after all the groundwork which has been done by both the Government and the Trust. Malcolm has kindly offered to fund such a venture if feasibility stacks up the idea being to reinvest profits into both the local community and the reserve. We must aim for a degree of self sufficiency.

Peter is a friend of long standing who runs a very successful tour company in Kenya and a highly regarded lodge on the slopes of Mount Kenya. We are very grateful for their enthusiasm and backing for this potential development.

The news also came that the sitting MP for the ruling CCM party had been replaced as a candidate in the forthcoming elections. Grace Mziray, the new candidate is well known to Harry and Truus and is pro development; a welcome change.

I flew off to the USA for a Trust event. A Street Party had been organised along Via Rodeo by the City of Beverley Hills and Animal Actors of Hollywood. **Ali Macgraw**, Honorary Chairwoman of the US Trust, once again hosted the event which was a great success. For that thanks must go to **Moritz Borman, Laura Utley, Laura Miller and Patricia Sherman** along with their staunch crew of volunteers.

Whilst in the US I heard from Lucy that my flying licence had been reinstated. A great relief as the aircraft plays a pivotal role in the management and security of Mkomazi.

OCTOBER 1995

Was a milestone in the history of Tanzania - the first ever multi party elections. As free and as fair as Africa had ever seen, the build up and excitement was enormous and naturally practically everything came to a standstill. A renewed and revamped CCM came romping home with a commitment from all leaders that the decay and corruption which had set in with the last administration would not be seen again. Changes may seem slow but this enlightened and pragmatic administration is steering a course for long term stability and prosperity.

Interestingly, the outgoing Director of Wildlife was jailed for a night for contempt of court and removed from office before the elections. **Bakari Mbano** took over as acting Director and was subsequently confirmed as Director. A highly experienced and thoughtful man of great integrity, he brings new thinking and new standards to the department. He has been to Kisima twice since taking office and we look forward to a period of harmonious co-operation.

A new minister, **Juma Ngasongwa**, was also appointed. We have yet to meet him but understand he is an able administrator and a good man. The new Principal Secretary is Rose Lugembe whose experience in government and women's groups is second to none. Her direct approach to problems and their solutions is a great relief not just to us but to all those concerned with wildlife. We much look forward to working with her.

Back at camp we settled into the staffing and routine of the pups, organising their feeding and checking their health whilst I produced the first report on their capture and translocation.

Also, we were able to restart the rhino-sanctuary. Some 10,000 cell-treated and ready drilled poles had to be ordered and shipped down from Eldoret on the Kenya/Uganda border. Sanyati Ltd., the Kenyan contractors, needed work permits for their personnel and that alone took several trips to Dar. Fuel had to be organised and a sponsor found for a grader. A thousand other things besides.

A rhino was killed for its horn in the Ngorongoro crater and a senior ranger arrested. Her calf was captured and taken to a safe haven at the Rechsteiners. As a result, we took another look at the security arrangements for Mkomazi. There has also been more setting of fires in the reserve than in recent years, prior to the rains, and it looks as if rich cattle owners were preparing to move back into the reserve at the first sign of good grazing.

I found a 3km snare line - a thorn bush barricade with heavy wire snares inserted, the wire having been stolen from the village electricity poles! We spotted it from the air and managed to bring some of the wire in before dark. The rest was then promptly removed by the perpetrators who realised they had been discovered. Unless we are in the air patrolling, commercial meat poachers can set up instant slaughterhouses like this without much fear of disturbance and to great profit.

In New York, Laura Utley and Global Communications for Conservation hosted the Safari Planet Earth party which raised funds for Mkomazi. Many thanks Laura and Patricia.

NOVEMBER 1995

Whilst in Tanzania on an official visit to the Frankfurt Zoological society in the Serengeti, **Dr. Anthony Hall-Martin**, paid us a visit. We have been involved with Anthony since the beginning of the rhino sanctuary as he is Director of Research and development of the National Parks Board of South Africa and responsible for the East African rhinos in Addo National Park which we will be translocating to Mkomazi. He was also instrumental in organising the visit of Dr. Mike Knight and Dr. Pete Morket to Mkomazi to write the assessment on the sanctuary. Sadly, he was delayed coming in but we managed a flight round the sanctuary. At an aerial glance Anthony felt it was suitable but was not as optimistic on numbers as the other two were on their visit. However, he is very keen to come back for an extended visit in the near future. Charles Dobie flew in for talks with Anthony over lunch to bring him up to date. The price for the rhinos will be a key talking point on his next visit.

We also invited Dr. Robinson, the Director of South African National Parks and he accepted for July 10th -17th. South Africa has a very high standard of management practice and expertise from which we will be happy to learn and they, no doubt, will wish to keep an eye on "their" rhinos following translocation.

The poles started to arrive for the sanctuary after **Dodoma Transport** in Arusha agreed to collect them from Eldoret and bring them right onto site along with 21 tons of high tensile wire, electrics and other necessities all at virtually no cost. We are very grateful to them.

Then Lucy and I were off to England where I had been asked to deliver a lecture at the Royal Geographical Society by Charlie Mayhew of TUSK. This was a fundraising lecture and to my horror the hall was full. I had never had to speak in front of an audience like this before and had driven Lucy to distraction with countless rewrites. It seemed impossible to cram so much into one hour but I survived and I am grateful to all those who clapped at the end!! Thanks also to Ali Macgraw who introduced me, to Sir Christopher Lever who spoke at the end and His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent who was interested enough to come along.

The next night we had a small private dinner at the **Natural History Museum** organised by John Rendall. The Director, **Dr. Neil Chalmers** attended along with Ali, Laura Utley, **Jennifer D'Abo**, a trustee of the museum; **Bob Marshall-Andrews**, **Malcolm Williams**, Lucy, **Dr. Hugh Somerville** of British Airways and John Rendall of course. We were looking at ways in which we could forge closer links with the museum both in our field work and in the educational side of our activities.

Two nights later, we were at a joint fundraiser with **TUSK FORCE** at the Park Lane Hotel. John Rendall had worked tirelessly for months on the event with Lady Carolyn Townshend and Countess Monika Apponyi finding sponsors, filling tables and doing all the other things that would amount to my worst nightmare. It was an incredibly successful evening for both Trusts. Yet again Ali Macgraw spoke on our behalf, we are surely blessed to have such a good friend and spokeswoman. Helena Christiansen spoke for Tusk Force and I had the privilege of sitting at the noisiest (sorry) top table in the company of **Prince and Princess Michael of Kent** and **Jeremy Vaughan of TUSK FORCE**, amongst others. Laura Utley had organised several tables and it was good to catch up with Charlie Mayhew, **Will Travers** and **Virginia McKenna**. Thanks to everybody for such solid support.

A week later it was our annual **Friends of Mkomazi Dinner**. It is always a great occasion for me to be with our hard core of UK Trustees and supporters many of whom have been involved from the very start. They keep the whole project continually moving forward and bear with us through good times and bad. Now, just in case some of you are thinking I am turning into a strange species of social butterfly, I left a few days later for Tanzania and the work that is my life. Lucy stayed on to tidy up on some admin. and spend Christmas with her family whilst I went to the dogs.

DECEMBER 1995

The time was ready for the dogs to be inoculated against a variety of serious diseases. At 5 months the natural protection provided by their mothers milk had long gone and although they were in great shape it was time for a programme that would see them well into the future. Blood samples were needed for serum readings and DNA and that meant they would have to be immobilised.

Not only that but before introducing the 3 family groupings to each other we needed to establish individual identification, for breeding purposes, by injecting a transponder beneath the left shoulder. Happily, **Aart Visee**, Chairman of the Dutch Trust is a very experienced veterinarian and he was present to guide and advise with back up from Dieter Rochter in Nairobi.

All the procedures and sampling went without a hitch so 2 days later we pulled the fences down and introduced the 25 hungry pups to each other over a cow carcass in the middle of the compound. They all got on as to the manner born and although they often lie up in their original groups when resting they still get on well to this day. Puberty is near however, so it will be interesting to see what happens.

Two thousand more poles came in, we started building a proper workshop and planning a site for the underground fuel tanks. Work progressed on digging down, by hand, to bedrock for the proposed dam site in the Kisima valley.

The District Commissioner, Peter Kangwa, his wife Alice and their family came on Christmas Day and we had a very relaxed time despite the lack of Christmas fare and me i/c the kitchen! We all missed Lucy of course but our 9 month old serval cat was a big hit.

Neil and Liz Baker, twitchers extraordinaire, camped in the reserve with a group of bird watchers. We were to see them a lot more in the ensuing months as they compiled a detailed inventory of the birds of Mkomazi. Funded by the Darwin Initiative, their aim is to produce a bird book of the whole country. They have become good friends and a great source of local news when they can stop twitching that is!

Lucy was back for the New Year and we hoped life might be a bit quieter as Lucy was expecting our first baby. Some hope, it proved to be our busiest period so far in Mkomazi.

JANUARY 1996

Stuart Johnson, MD of British Petroleum in Tanzania, very kindly donated 2 underground tanks for diesel and petrol along with the pumps and the first 13500 litres of fuel. This really helped us to get moving on building the rhino sanctuary as well as general reserve running. We are indebted to Stuart because without our very own "BP Station" it would be immensely difficult to service the next stage of the programme. The tanker arrived on time just after we had completed the covered workshop with stores, a pit, separate work room with a massive bench constructed out of an old trailer chassis, a welding area and drainage.

Simon Dufreyne's Sanyati men arrived and immediately started work on the holding compounds whilst **NOREMCO**, the Norwegian road contractors, lent us a huge diesel guzzling CAT 14G grader to start work on the perimeter line before fencing started. This turned out to be a huge task that even we underestimated. Vast amounts of top soil had to be removed to get down to the harder red soil so that drainage ditches could be strategically placed. Some stretches of the line were over 5 miles long and often on steep terrain. To make matters worse it rained endlessly so this huge

machine slithered all over the place and on one occasion toppled off a hill to be held by nothing more than a small tree for 5 days until Noremco could get there with heavy kit to pull it out. Noremco have also helped with 60 tons of aggregate and have been very supportive of Mkomazi. Special thanks to **John Lindtjorn** and we are sorry to see them go to Zanzibar having completed their work in Northern Tanzania.

The JCB was working in conjunction with the grader, widening the line and digging the trenches for the labour gangs to put down a deeper layer of stone where there were washaways along the line and water had to flow. In some areas we could deflect the water with ditches and embankments but there will be several places where the water will cross and the plan is to have a road both inside and outside the electrified fence. So, the road work is a major undertaking in itself which will need a lot of maintenance and protection.

All the fuel for this grading operation was provided by the **Van Tienhoven Foundation** in Holland. We are immensely grateful to them. Fuel is an unsexy thing for which to request funding and needs a real understanding of what is required physically to put in place a conservation project of this size. Also, it is not, once finished, readily obvious because people presume the line has always been like that. But, without being done, only a very insecure fence line would exist with no fast response and no deterrent. You have to look like you mean business.

Murray Levett who built Borana Lodge in Kenya and Sand Rivers Lodge in the Selous came in to have a look at possible lodge sites in Mkomazi and produce artists impressions of what he felt would best fit the area.

An incredibly talented man, Murray has now linked up with Peter Byrne who will be doing the feasibility study, environmental impact assessment, costings, permissions etc. We hope soon that we will be in agreement in principle as to how to proceed. Peter Silvester is advising and Charles Dobie is heading up the company that has been formed. Although it is a tourism for conservation project, he feels that as it will also be a commercial operation it should be kept apart from our mainstream work. I would have no idea how to handle it if someone sued me because the soup was cold or the lettuce had spiders in it - or worse.

Our old friend, **Dave Sutton, of Group 4 Security** in Dar es Salaam, had taken on the onerous task of completely overhauling and refurbishing our 25 year old ex British Army Bedford Lorry. This had taken several months work in Dar and was looking virtually new but, as luck would have it, on the drive back to camp the engine disintegrated and we sadly had to get a tow (courtesy of Dodoma Transport). Thankfully for us Charlie Mayhew of **TUSK** came a few weeks later, saw the problem, and once again came to the rescue with a rebuilt engine.

During this time we had built a long series of crushes out of a few poles and some fine mesh chicken wire, coming out of the Wild Dogs feeding compound with drop down doors and room for three dogs at a time in each section. A total of 5 crushes meant we could isolate 15 dogs at one time, with the others waiting their turn in the feeding compounds. This was to facilitate the use of the blow pipe at close range for the second inoculation instead of having to immobilise again. This all went very smoothly

with a minimum of stress to the animals who were all bounding about the compound afterwards as if nothing had happened. What they have learnt though is 1) What a blow pipe is and 2) how to pull the small block of wood out that holds up the drop doors when their pals are coming out after an evening feed. The doors have now been removed until inoculation time again mischievous dogs roam around looking for new tricks to upset the system. I would like to say at this point that we are blessed with two excellent men, **Sangito and Ayubu**, who take it in turns to care for the dogs all the time and they have an amazing understanding and harmonious relationship with them. I rely on their observations a lot and without them I would have less time to spend on other work. The Dogs also observe them and are calmer and happier because of their contact with these very quiet and extraordinary men.

The end of January saw my second trip back to Kora after an eleven month break and I was horrified at the state of the village Asako, and worried that the ground KWS had gained was in danger of being lost through lack of development. I presented my report to **The Hon Kalonzo Musyoka, Kenya's Foreign Minister**, who had asked me to return to Kora to draw up recommendations. There is so much that needs to be done there.

I was then asked to return on behalf of a consortium formed to develop a lodge in Kora to site it for them, I agreed but could not return empty handed to the village that was so desperately in need of help. So I arranged with **Anne Spoerry and Nancy Balfour** of the **AMREF and Flying Doctor Service** to start monthly clinics to Asako to help immediate medical care, a basic dispensary and personnel training and help with the supply of clean water. This has very generously been funded, again, by Robert Suermondt. Anne and Nancy planned their first trip to Asako for early March and I planned ours for the end of February when the work load in Mkomazi would hopefully be a bit lighter. Aart and Ally Visse were coming out as I knew Aart was keen to go back and see Kora once again.

I talked to **Dr David Western, Director of Kenya Wildlife Services**, who confirmed that he had funds available to start the bridge linking Kora National Park with Meru National Park and that he had accepted the idea to move the Headquarters site to a more suitable area. The Lodge was a definite go ahead if a suitable site could be found and the security was better than it had ever been. I feel that Kora, in the long term, has a good future as the lot of the Asako villagers improves and the established Somali towns across the Tana River appreciate the relative peace they live in, thanks to the government support they enjoy.

FEBRUARY 1996

Pictures, it is said, speak a thousand words but it is the moving picture that has a real impact and it has become increasingly important that we put a short video educational/promotional story together but lack the time and expertise to do so properly. Very fortunately we were put in touch with a professional film maker/director, **Jonathan Kaplan**, a South African who is also a physician and surgeon. His sense of adventure and commitment has taken him all over the world with **Medecin sans Frontieres** and other organisations or just on his own to places and

people that interest him. We were lucky that he was able to come to Mkomazi in February to put a short and updated story together.

We went off to Maasai Steppe to re-film Giles and Richard on the Wild Dog Capture, and we filmed rangers in the fields, the ~~Wild Dogs in Camp~~, aspects of the work of Harrie and Truus in the villages around Mkomazi and much more. Edited down, it should be ready at the beginning of June, and we are looking forward to seeing how it comes out. We are grateful to Jonathan whom we could not pay other than doing his tickets and also **Sebastian Cody of Open Media** who has funded all the copying and production.

John and Mel Rendall paid us a long awaited visit. After so much work put in to keep the operation running, we were pleased to be able to show them around and John helped as we did the last inoculations. Their time with us was all too short and we hope that they will come more often to both check on progress and lend a helping hand, especially on the Public Relations side which they did with such ease and genuine professional assurance.

Investigations were also on the agenda as both the Ministry and Wildlife Department were concerned over the internal conflict that had been going on in Mkomazi over the past 18 months. The **Regional Game Officer, Mr. Mosh**a, and the **Regional Natural Resources Officer, Mr. Muchi**, both of whom we knew well, came in to catch up on developments and an ailing **Solomon Liani** flew in to Same and Zangwe with his son **Joseph**, one of our Wildlife Division pilots to report back to the new Director of Wildlife **Mr. Mbano**.

Bad weather prevented them from coming into camp so a few days later I flew to Dar es Salaam from Nairobi to talk to **Mr. Liani** and **Mr. Ngomella** of the **Wildlife Protection Fund**, which divides up the funding the Wildlife Division receives from the Treasury. All these meetings were extremely positive and we look forward to much closer ties in the future.

The **Rhino Holding Compounds** were finished and work started on putting poles in, some by hand and some with the JCB auger. **Mr. Mushi**, the anti poaching officer, started a series of intense patrols when 2 dead elephant were found just over the border in Tsavo National Park. **Nigel de Winser, Deputy Director of the Royal Geographical Society**, and the man responsible for their research programme in Mkomazi, came in to plan for a visit by His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent accompanied by the Duke's ADC **Capt. Marcus Barnett** and bodyguard, **Reg Reynolds** who expressed satisfaction at our set up and asked Lucy to provide lunch for 21 in 3 weeks time!

Whilst in Dar, Lucy and I paid a courtesy call to **Rose Lugembe, our new Principal Secretary**. They had a lot in common and Rose, confessing she had a lot to learn about the wildlife world, nevertheless had an extraordinary grasp of what was going on and a refreshingly direct approach to where the Department, and the Ministry had to head in the future. She assured Lucy that our contributions and efforts had not been in vain

and that we had her full support for the continuation of the programme and that she would protect our interests and investment.

A journalist and photographer from **BP** in-house magazine '**SHIELD**', came to camp to do a story. The children of the **International School in Moshi** gave us a cheque for one thousand dollars towards the cement to build the dam in the Kisima Valley. They have paid us several visits in the past and on the last trip said they wanted to do something concrete to help. They raised the money by baking cakes and selling them around Moshi, doing part time work and generally cajoling parents and friends. It was a great effort by many of the children in the school and we are very grateful to them all for their dedicated enthusiasm and genuine interest in playing a part in the creation of the sanctuary. I owe them a talk and slide show which I must do when I get back at the beginning of June.

Charlie Mayhew and **TUSK** had said they would be very happy to help us buy a tow grader to complete the rhino sanctuary and reserve roads after the Noremco grader had to be returned. Keeping up roads is an essential chore but to buy our own grader was out of the question. However, on the Dar es Salaam trip, an anonymous benefactor said that he would buy a second hand CAT12G if we could do a time share in it. This would mean that we would be able to use a serious piece of kit for nearly half a year (all the time we needed) and do ten times the amount of work of a tow grader and not tie up our only tractor. I immediately called Charlie who agreed in principle but would confirm after talking to the Tusk Trustees.

Our old friend **Fred Decker** the master mechanic with **JCB/GAUFF**, a German road construction firm who had been based close to us in Mombo for several years and had now moved to Dar es Salaam, agreed to help with the refurbishment and maintenance and delivery was promised for March. I am always delighted with new toys, especially ones that do so much work, and started to work out a training programme for drivers and mechanics in conjunction with **Matt Brandon** who has been helping us for the past year. Matt had also done a brief JCB course and was organising the new workshop and fuel systems and has been invaluable to us, helping with re-supply and collection trips and lending a hand wherever and whenever possible. Whether the Wild Dogs or the Office, old vehicle maintenance or kitchen chores, Matt is always there and his understanding and rapport with the staff, rangers and local people is wonderful. It is a great pleasure to have him in camp and I can see I'll have to watch my back as the next generation moves in.

Aart Visee came in towards the end of the month with Ally to immobilise the Wild Dogs again and take blood samples, bringing the results of the first tests. I will be writing a separate report later, suffice to say all went smoothly and I am always greatly relieved when Aart comes and casts his caring and professional eyes on the Dog Programme.

I then flew to Nairobi to have talks with the **Hon Kalonzo Musyoka**, **Dr David Western**, **Renzo Bernardi** (head of the lodge consortium) and **Richard Leakey** on the next **Kora** visit. Lucy and Matt drove up with Aart a few days later. We met up with Jonathan Kaplan who had kindly agreed to join us to record the Kora trip and the party drove up via Mwingi to liaise with David Amdany and collect an escort. David is

the District Officer 1 in Mwingi and during the end of the my time at Kora was the District Officer at the small town of Kyuso in Ukambani and a great supporter. We have kept in touch over the years and a great deal of my renewed input and restored reputation in Kenya is due to David's intervention at the highest levels in government. It is both fitting and a great pleasure to be back in Kora working with David who had a great fondness and respect for George Adamson and our work and presence in Kora for so many years.

The party drove on up to Kora with David the next day. Lucy and I flew in and met them at the air strip near George's old camp. Four days camped at the foot of the rapids, a few trips down memory lane as well as a trip to Asako to inform them about the proposed Flying Doctors visits and for Jonathan to film and selecting a site to build the lodge, were the main priorities before returning to Nairobi and then Mkomazi. Whilst in Kora, Aart and I also flew across the **Meru National Park** to re-fuel (courtesy of KWS) and heard that the bridge engineers had been in a few days before to check the proposed site. Kora is a very charismatic place and has played a massive part in my life. It was great to be back and also to be able to help and see that the Kenyan Government is doing so much as well. Long report on this is on request.

MARCH 1996

Dr. Bakari Mbanu, the new Director of Tanzania's Wildlife Division and **Rose Lugembe**, the Principal Secretary, paid us a visit in Mkomazi to see at first hand the progress over the past few months and to prepare for the visit by **His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent**, as patron of **The Royal Geographical Society**, in a fortnight's time. **Malcolm and Marion Williams** came down with **Peter Silvester** after a couple of nights at **Borana Lodge** in Kenya, and were joined by **Murray Levett** who came up from Tanga. Progress was made, a site looked at and Murray taken on to produce some ideas and drawings before the next stage was undertaken. Another tanker load of fuel came in and two more elephants found shot on the Mkomazi/Tsavo border. **Mr. Mushi** followed up. There has been a small upsurge in elephant poaching all over East Africa in the past 6 months. Governments are aware and are beginning to act.

Noremco lent us the grader again for two weeks as the perimeter line was still not finished. The **Tanzania Wildlife Conservation Monitoring Unit** came in for aerial counts. We helped out with a drum of Aero fuel. **Stuart Johnson, of BP**, and his family paid us a short visit on their way to the Serengeti.

SAME Primary School were given a donation by **GAWPT** - blackboard materials, books, rulers, pencils, netballs, footballs, and more. A presentation was made to Lucy at which she was showered with small gifts and a huge cake with her name on it.

Mrs. Suermondt has already donated the roof for the new classrooms for the **Secondary School** and **Robert Suermondt** sent out a cameraman and photographer to record events for an educational video for the Dutch Trust. The **Flying Doctors** and **AMREF** did their first ever trip to **Asako**, funded by Robert through **GAWPT**.

It was a great honor to receive His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, Lord Nicholas Windsor, the Director of the Royal Geographical Society Dr. John Hemming, the British Ambassador to Tanzania, Alan Montgomery, Captain Marcus Barnett, the Principal Secretary Rose Lugembe, the Director of Wildlife Bakari Mbano, members of the RGS Research Programme led by Dr Malcolm Coe, members of the Department of Wildlife and His Royal Highness's own team..... who all ate Lucy's moussaka and survived.

APRIL 1996

Work continued apace on the Rhino sanctuary, the dam, roads (there are now two new roads that by-pass the sanctuary for trips to the South of the Reserve as the sanctuary had only one gate for security reasons), routine maintenance, office work and reports. The Radio relay was overhauled and the sorting out of the stores for spare parts completed. Members of the RGS programme came through on a GPS mapping exercise, a very useful part of their many contributions. We asked Noremco if they would help with a bulldozer to create a ditch barrier on the outside road of the perimeter line to restrict access to non-sanctuary personnel.

Lucy left for the UK to make plans for having the baby. Matt came back after a trip to Zanzibar and I handed over to him and Elisaria Nnko, our camp manager and friend, and wondered where our container had got to. It arrived, of course, the day after I followed Lucy to the UK.

TUSK has provided us with an overhauled ex British Army Land Rover (**Thank you Pierre-Andre Mourgur d'Algue**); **JCB** provided us gratis with an hydraulic rock hammer that fits on the rear hoe arm, to help in the dam work. **GILBERTSON AND PAGE** with 6 months supply of dried dog food to supplement the Wild Dogs diet and cut down on our massive feeding bill; Ex British Army tents for personnel in the Rhino Sanctuary also from **TUSK** as we are far too busy and stretched now to start a building programme, and hand held radios from **SAVE THE RHINO INTERNATIONAL**.

Matt and Elisaria unpacked the container and our friend and clearing agent in Dar es Salaam, **Inayathussein Muthansir of Transit Ltd.**, expedited everything to camp before we knew it had docked and at his usual incredibly low charges. Work continues on all aspects of the project whilst I am away under Elisaria's responsible and competent authority, leaving me to worry about how we fund the next stage of the programme and work out how to be a father. But it isn't really true that I have all that worry as we now have Trusts worldwide with many good friends taking a lot of time out from demanding lives to help us keep the Mkomazi project going.

Meanwhile in Germany, **David Neumann** was finalising the legal details for the establishment of **The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust Germany**.

MAY 1996

May 9th heralded the first of what will be annual International Trustees meetings where progress and future strategies were discussed. Hosted by Bob Marshall-Andrew at his chambers at the Inns of Court many of the trustees and directors were meeting for the first time.

A joint Treasurers meeting had preceded the main meeting, as had previous lunches and evening discussions and was attended by UK trustees **Keith Eltringham (Chairman)**, **Andy Mortimer (Treasurer)**, **Alan Toulson**, **Bob Marshall-Andrews**, **John Rendall**, **Anthony Marrian** along with **Malcolm Williams**, **Lucy Mellote** and **Georgina Mortimer** who is taking over administration of the UK Trust.

The United States of America were represented by **Ali Macgraw**, **Laura Utley** and **Moritz Borman**. **Aart Visee (Chairman)** and **Robert Suermondt (Treasurer)** Represented the Netherlands.

The meeting was mainly focused on our financial position and the safe amount needed for the Rhino Sanctuary with enough in reserve for running costs and emergencies. As usual there was a shortfall and discussion was centred on how to raise the deficit before the optimum start date in October this year.

I felt very humble if happy to see so many friends together who had faith to support this project and who collectively have taken on the responsibility to see it well into the future.

JUNE 1996

I was recalled to Washington to appear before a Congressional Committee to testify on the status of the black rhino and elephant. They were amongst other things looking into whether a number of areas were worthy of continued support. I spoke on behalf of the Tanzanian Government.

Robert Suermondt funded the next sanctuary fence payment and with his mother continued to support the Flying Doctors visits to Asako village.

JULY and AUGUST 1996

The sanctuary fence is close to completion. The remaining gap is there so we can chase out residual buffalo, elephant and giraffe in due course.

The new grader makes critical progress through the reserve grading by-pass roads round the sanctuary to ensure that traffic cannot get too close. We have also graded a new road to the proposed site. We sit and wonder why we did not get a grader earlier but as Bob Marshall-Andrews always reminds us, 'when the time cometh, the grader cometh'.

TUSK have very kindly donated a further £10,000 specifically for updating aging vehicles. We also hope a further meeting with the MD of Tanga Cement will yield a donation of another 450 bags of cement to finish the dam in which to hold the sanctuary's back up water.

On a trip to Dar we met Stuart Johnson. He is keen to start negotiations with BP South Africa to supply the fuel for the Hercules 130's which will transport the rhino. The idea is for them to do one leg whilst BP TNZ do the other. A mighty step forward. The SAF remain committed in principle to carrying out the transportation.

We were extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Gus Mills (South Africa's wild dog expert) and Dr. Rian Labuschagne into camp with their families. They were generous with their advice and supportive of the endangered species programme.

Richard Kock, chief vet for the Kenya Wildlife Services also visited to have a look at the dog progress. He hopes to use 4 of our males to breed with 4 females he has in captivity for their own good.

The Hanbury - Tenisons visited us in August and it was a great pleasure to draw on Robins knowledge and experience of matters ecological. We also drained their guest, Eric Bettleheim, of fundraising ideas.

I have not gone into great detail in his newsletter about the animals, the endangered species programmes (there are separate reports) the flying, the sunsets or sunrises. The bottom line is that a project such as Mkomazi is only as good as the people who support it and we have been more than fortunate in this respect. People and Politics. The lessons are all there from the Kora days. It would be easy if what is basically straightforward and honest work could progress without being subject to the interminable delays, suspicion and different agendas. However, human nature being what it is, this cannot be avoided and the animals cannot speak for themselves. The outlook for the future is now very bright and we are grateful and delighted by the renewed understanding and depth of commitment by the Tanzanian Government to the Mkomazi Project.

MKOMAZI GAME RESERVE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Through out the past year, Harrie and Truus Simons have been working tirelessly to make progress on the outreach programme. With 41 villages to cover around the reserve, this is a momentous task and one which will take years of dedicated work. Mkomazi Game Reserve encompasses three districts, Same, Mwanga and Lushoto. The new District Commissioner in Same has become a good friend and advisor and Harrie, Truus and their working teams have introduced themselves to the District Commissioners of Mwanga and Lushoto and explained the basis of the work they are carrying out.

All Outreach Programmes now come under the jurisdiction of the Region and the Regional Game Officer has assigned his District Game Officer, Matthew Kiondo, to work with Harrie. He will also be joined by Elisa Polyango, who was funded to attend a year's course at MWEKA wildlife college. He is now properly trained to teach primary and secondary school children about the environment. He also has passed his driving test and has use of the Suzuki Education Unit, with solar powered TV and video.

The Mkomazi Game Reserve Outreach Programme now has offices in Mwanga District. These offices are run by volunteer Maasai, who are committed to development. Harrie visits them once a week and together they are forged a good relationship with the Mwanga District Commissioner, who is fully supportive of their work. From this new base, the Outreach Programme have funded the salary of a primary school teacher in a Maasai village on the border of the reserve. It has also donated a bicycle to the teacher to make travelling to and from school easier. Requests have been made for the refurbishment of the primary school,

There is also a new MP in Same, Gladys Mziray, who is a keen supporter of the Womens' Group (KUHAWAKI) and has attended the meetings that have been held on womens' development.

Much of the outreach work is done through the Womens' Group who are now registered as a separate NGO. Their general aim is to raise the status and position of the women. They have been donated a mini bus through the Dutch Embassy. One lady now has her driving license and the women are mobile, doing hospital runs, physiotherapy clinics for disabled children, visits to all the surrounding schools, and establishing new womens' groups. Their office in Kisiwani village has been refurbished and is a centre for conferences for all the local womens' groups. It also has a refuge room for women who have been abused by their husbands. The village leaders have donated the use of another building which will be made into a reading room and TV and video centre for the village. Recently Truus received 5000 anti malarial mosquito nets which are being distributed throughout the village. The medical dispensary is also being developed under the guidance of the main coordinators. The Maasai women are being taught to read and write and are also now planting crops with the Wapare women on land donated by the village leaders. They have also sponsored the first Maasai boy in the area to go to Secondary School.

The Government has now agreed to help the Outreach Programme with staffing the Secondary Technical and Environmental College in Kisiwani Village, which is still under construction.

With thanks to Robert Suermondt of the Dutch Trust and his mother, we have also funded the roofing of the Same Secondary School, which is under the auspices of the Same District Commissioner. With these rooves and classrooms completed, the class numbers can be halved. The Trust has also paid for equipment for the Same Primary School, which is run by the District Commissioner's wife.

Dr Keith Eltringham secured a donation of £5,000.00 from the Jephcott Foundation for the Outreach Programme and we are very grateful to him. World Wide Fund For Nature has also pledged \$147,000.00 for the Outreach Programme to be used over 5 years.

The general day to day work in the village carries on. Every day we see some progress being made, however minor and we firmly believe that this programme has set exemplary standards for development work through out East Africa.

OBITUARY

SOLOMON LIANI 1929 - 1996

It is with the deepest sadness that we report the death of Solomon Liani on the 19th of May this year . He was our Chairman , confidant and friend in Tanzania for the past five years and without his guidance and help there would be a very different story today.

Mzee Liani was a Luhya by tribe born in Bungoma District , Western Province of Kenya and trained initially as a medical assistant in Uganda after which he worked at the Mwanza hospital. He joined the Tanzanian Police Force in the early 1950's and was trained in both East Africa and Great Britain. His professionalism , integrity and the fact that he was a really good cop caused him to rise quickly through the ranks and during the war against Idi Amin's troops in Uganda in 1978 he was the Commissioner of Police. In 1980 he was promoted to Inspector General of Police , a post he held for six years before retirement.

Although now starting on private business , his dedication to his country was still selfless and paramount in his life and he served on numerous investigative committees and parastatal bodies including the Chaimanship of TAWICO (The Tanzania Wildlife Corporation) and The Wildlife Protection Fund. More recently he was also a member of the Electoral Commission prior to the first ever multi party elections in Tanzania. He served in many other capacities too numerous to recount here and was always acceptable to both sides in any conflict or argument for his dedication to high principles and fairness and in his search for the truth.

A commanding presence , quietly spoken with deep, almost sad eyes that missed nothing and an innate sense of strength and wisdom he will be greatly missed by his wife and five children and we pass on our deepest sympathies for their loss.

Few people in this world have affected and changed my life for the better as Solomon Liani did. His courage , calmness and uncompromising principles , his common sense and humanity and his respect for the laws of civilisation made this world a better place for many and set a rigorous example to others . We shall miss him but we shall always live so that he may be proud of us. Thank you , Mzee.



WITH OUR DEEP GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING:-

The Chairmen, Presidents and Trustees of The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trusts USA - Laura Utley (President), Moritz Borman (Chairman), Ali MacGraw (Honorary Chairman), Jeff Stein (Treasurer), Lee Baxter, Vera Campbell, Richard Luskin, Georgianna Pennington Regnier, Lord Anthony Rufus Isaacs, Dan Vinokur ; UK - Dr Keith Eltringham (Chairman), Bob Marshall Andrews QC, Andrew Mortimer (Treasurer), Alan Toulson, John Rendall, Anthony Marrian, Major Bruce Kinloch, Brian Jackman; and HOLLAND - Aart Visee (Chairman), Robert Suermondt (Treasurer) for their important roles in protecting and promoting the project and for keeping it moving forward.

David & Petal Allen
Chris Anders
Countess Monika Apponyi
Sir Anthony Bamford
Renzo Bernadi
Neela Bettridge
Born Free Foundation
Peter Brandon
Dr Rob Brett
British Airways
British Petroleum
Cliff Cameron and Fleet Air
Thump and Leslie Campbell
Care for the Wild
Dr Neil Chalmers
Sebastian Cody
Dr Malcolm Coe
Ian Craig
Jennifer D'Abo
Nigel de Winser
Fred Decker
Charles Dobie
Dodoma Transport
Simon Douglas Du Freyne
Elsa Conservation Trust

Sandy Evans
Terry Fincher
Chris Flatt
Colin Francombe
Friends of Conservation
Friends of Serengeti Switzerland
Global Communications for Conservation
Group 4 Security
Larry Harris
Dr John Hemming
Basil & James Hersov

Reggie Heyworth
George Hogeman
Gary Hoops
Jephcott Foundation
Stuart Johnson
Chris Jordan
Peter Kangwa
Jonathan Kaplan
Jorie Kent
Richard Kipuyo
Dr Mike Knight
Mathias Kohler
Mike & Gisella Leach
Dr Richard Leakey
Solomon Liani
John Lindtjorn
James Lucas
Rose Lugembe
Tammy Marlar
Dr Anthony Hall Martin
Mr Materu
Charlie Mayhew
Bakari Mbanu
Anna Merz
Thier Royal Highness Prince and Princess
Micheal of Kent
Laura Miller
Alan Montgomery
Doug & Karen Moray
Dr Peter Morkel
Mr Mosha
Ben Moshi
Mr Mungure
Deborah Murphy
Mr Mushi
The Honourable Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka
David Neumann

SEE OVER

Truus Nicolassen
Noremco Road Builders
Phoenix Aviation
Alex Rechsteiner
Sati Singh Reel
Micheal Cunningham Reid
Johnny Roberts
Dieter Rottcher
Rowe Ray Trust for Animals
Lady Carolyn Townshend
Sanyati Limited
David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
Daphne Sheldrick

Patricia Shelman
Peter & Charlotte Silvester
Harrie Simons
Bromley Smith
Dr Hugh Somerville
David Sterling

Mrs Suermondt
David Sutton
Peter Szapary The Friends of
The Friends of Mkomazi
The International School Moshi
The Royal Geographical Society
The Sandhurst Team Giles Thornton
Giles Thornton
Tiffany's, Los Angeles
Will Travers
Tusk
Tuskforce
Van Tienhoven Foundation for International
Conservation
Jeremy Vanghan
Venetia & Helen
Aart Visee
Dr David Western
Malcolm Williams
Nick Williams and his Sandhurst Team

VISITORS TO AUGUST '96

Dr Keith Eltringham - Chairman of The George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust UK
Mathias Kohler - Director of Neumann's Coffee Group
The Marshall Andrews and the Razzalls - Trustee and Friends of Mkomazi
Jonathan Kingdon, author, artist and wildlife authority
The District Commissioner of Same Peter Kangwa and his wife Alice and family
Reggie Heyworth, Frankfurt Zoological Society
Dr Anthony Hall Martin - Director Research and Development, National Parks Board South Africa
Charles Dobie - Vice Chairman WPTF (TZ)
The Mand brothers of Dodoma Transport - transporters of the rhino fence poles and wire
Simon du Freyne - Sanyati Limited, rhino fence constructors
British Petroleum engineers and surveyors
Giles Thornton
Jan and Colette Simons - Trustees of the Mkomazi Game Reserve Outreach Programme Trust Holland
Liz and Neil Baker - ornithologists
Nick Williams and his team from Sandhurst
Malcolm and Marion Williams, Peter Silvester, Peter and Carol Byrne, Murray Levett - tourism development
Nick Trent - Pilot for Tsavo National Parks, Kenya Wildlife Services
Aart Visee and Ally - Chairman of the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust Holland and veterinarian for the Wild Dog Programme
Alex Rechsteiner and Saskia Bruns
Amanda and Rebecca Mellotte - family
Dave Sutton - Group 4 Security and old friend
Olly and Suzi - artists
Sharon Buckingham - film writer
Charles Mdoe - Acting Director of Wildlife
Joseph Liani - Pilot for the Department of Wildlife
Mr Hezekiah Mungure - Ex Project Manager of Mkomazi Game Reserve
Mr Daniel Safari Musa - Department of Wildlife
NOREMCO surveyors - road builders and company who loaned the grader and bulldozer
Dr Vera Pieroth - Pangani Hospital
Peter Szapary - Wildlife Consultant
The Brandons
Jonathan Kaplan - documentary producer and maker of the Trust's promotion video
Charlie Mayhew- Treasurer of TUSK
Nigel de Winser - Deputy Director Royal Geographical Society
Sandy Evans - Managing Director Abercrombie and Kent
John and Melanie Rendall - Trustee George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust
Regional Game Officer, Mr Mosha and Regional Natural Resources Officer, Mr Mushi
Mrs Rose Lugembe - Principal Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Natural Resources and Environment
Mr Bakari Mbanjo - Director of Wildlife
His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, Patron of The Royal Geographical Society
Lord Nicholas Windsor
Dr John Hemming, Director, The Royal Geographical Society
Alan Montgomery - The British Ambassador to Tanzania
Captain Marcus Barnett - Equerry to His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent
Dr Malcolm and Mrs Coe - Field Director of the Mkomazi Ecological Research Programme (MERP)
Reg Reynolds
Tim Morgan - Coordinator of MERP
Nick McWilliams - MERP
Mr Swai, Mr Marenga - Project Manager MGR + Department of Wildlife Coordinator MERP
Mike Packer - MERP

SEE OVER



VISITORS CONTD.

Richard Kock - Chief Vet, Kenya Wildlife Services

Danny Woodley - Pilot, Kenya Wildlife Services

Charles Dobie, Georgina Dobie Reinhart & Nettie Goess Saurau

Megan Murphy

Dr Gus and Margy Mills, Micky and Debbie Mills. South African National Parks Board, Kruger Wild Dog Project

Rian, Lorna, Jean and Zanne Labuschange, Ngorongoro Rhino Conservation Project and National Parks Board South Africa

Lee and John Baxter, Trustee, George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust USA

Robin, Louella and Merlin Hanbury Tenison. Explorer and author

Harry and Peter Edwards

Eric Bettleheim and Susan Harris

Fred Decker

Representatives from the Attorney General's Office Dar es Salaam

Rene Binder and Tony, Burka Coffee Estates

Frank Teuling, Sactetary, George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust Holland

Mike and Gisella Leach

Eric and Annalie Winberg, Noremco Road Construction Company