



ROBIN HURT

Wildlife Foundation

Newsletter

December 2008

*" For wildlife to survive
in a changing Africa, it must be a
competitive form of land use,
benefitting human communities.
Without the full support &
cooperation of local
communities, wildlife
in Africa is surely doomed. "*

Robin Hurt



News from Arusha



Dear Friends,

As most of you will now be aware, The Foundation has recently been able to appoint a new Program Manager, in place of David Erickson, who departed last year.

It is my great fortune to have been given the post, and I would like to use this, my first RHWF newsletter, as an opportunity to introduce myself formally to all of the trustees, our donors, stakeholders and the wider RHWF family.

I have joined the Foundation from another Arusha-based Conservation program, where I spent 2 years in the field managing their specialist Mobile Anti-Poaching unit, followed by a move into a senior coordinator role at their main Arusha offices.

In the last few weeks I have made several visits to the field - including a 1600 km Safari through all of the Areas in which the Foundation operates. I am happy to report that I managed to meet with, and introduce myself to many of the Regional and District officials with whom we work in these areas, and my meetings were invariably informative, warm and positive.

Another extremely welcome addition to the RHWF office has been John Ngalesoni, John is no stranger - having already been working with Robin Hurt Safaris for some 10 years. However, it is his previous experience with the Tanzanian Wildlife Division's Zonal Anti-Poaching Command which we are delighted to be able to utilise. John has agreed to take on the new role of Anti-Poaching Coordinator - based at the Arusha office and, with his impact being immediately felt, it is a pleasure to have him on the team.

There is much work to be done after a period of flux for the Foundation, but the wheels are definitely turning again and exciting times are ahead - I am looking forward to the challenge enormously, and to keeping you all up-to-date with our progress.

In the meantime, from all of us at the Foundation, very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

Gordon Bourne
Program Manager
Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation



Anti-Poaching

2008 has been another successful year for the Field Officers and their Village Game Scout teams. Field Officer Edward Mswata scored a notable success during his deployment to the Rungwa area when he and his team discovered an illegal firearms factory concealed in the bush. Following a difficult and dangerous operation this facility was successfully destroyed and a number of important arrests were made.

Field Officer Gabriel Rassy also deserves mention for his tenacious performance during a particularly arduous deployment to the Luganzo area. Despite the difficult conditions, he achieved impressive results, seizing a number of firearms and making in excess of 20 arrests.

All Field Officers at some stage of the 2008 deployment cycle conducted important combined operations with Wildlife Division Game Scouts, and with Police Paramilitary Units in support. This indicates an impressive increase in the intensity of RHWF operations and the increasing levels of professionalism of our teams in the field.

Other news: RHWF is delighted to announce that Visely Msocha has joined RHWF's Anti-Poaching efforts.

Visely, who has taken up a Field Officer position, is joining us from his previous position as a senior Game Officer with the Tanzanian Wildlife Division and we are extremely fortunate to have a man of his calibre and experience on the team.

Community Projects

The Foundation has dispersed funding in excess of US\$ 100,000 in 2008 throughout villages across Tanzania. As ever the projects this funding is supporting are extremely diverse - representative of the different challenges facing the 33 communities which RHWF supports.

This year, on top of the construction of some 13 classrooms, 4 clinics, a number of village offices, and housing for teachers, doctors and village health workers - vital for attracting these professions to the rural areas - some of the funding went directly towards the purchasing of emergency food aid for communities affected by crop failures as well as poverty alleviation schemes and orphan support. We are enormously looking forward to 2009, when we can get out into the field to lend practical support and to seeing these many projects bear fruit.

