



ROBIN HURT Wildliff Foundation

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.

My experience in the field to date, has left me with no illusions as to the pressure that the Protected Areas are under. The threats to the viability and future of Tanzania's Wildlife - deforestation, land encroachment, commercial poaching, and unsustainable natural resource use - are immediate and very real. This Foundation, and others like it, are currently forming the vanguard of all efforts to preserve, in any meaningful way, the beauty and diversity of Tanzania's wildlife and wilderness Areas. If we are to succeed, we must redouble our efforts and our resources - which we cannot do without your continued support.

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.

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



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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. 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.











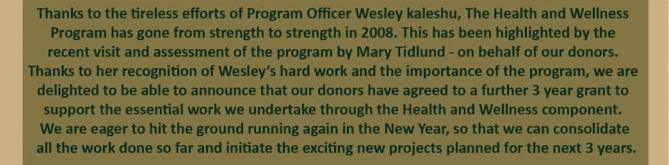


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Health and Wellness Program







Village Health Workers:



Film Unit:

The Film Unit is **the** tool for Conservation Awareness Education in remote areas.

A selection of films, a generator, speakers and a projector are all that is required for RHWF to get its Message across - The audience figures speak for themselves: 21 hours of film have been shown across Tanzania, viewed by nearly 10,000 people.

Tree Nurseries:

This year projects have been initiated in 4 different villages; Mbaash, Mwanjolo, Mwangudo and Irambandogo.

In total we have planted in excess of 19000 seedlings in these areas - a small but tangible step towards undoing some of the damage done by clear-felling for livestock and charcoal production.

Students and Libraries:

Thanks to the OSU
Childrens' Library
Fund, we now have 7
self-sustaining school
Libraries in operation.
We are also extremely
happy to announce
that we are now able
to sponsor up to 10
orphaned children
through 4 years of
schooling - thanks in
large part to the
generosity of
the Mary A. Tidlund
Foundation.



Donors and Sponsors

For all that we have achieved in 2008, we are endebted to all of our Donors, Sponsors and Partners. In particular we wish to acknowledge Robin Hurt Safaris Ltd, The Norlien Foundation, The OSU Childrens' Library Fund, The Mary A Tidlund Charitable Foundation, Conservation Force, Robin and Pauline Hurt and family, The Mannix family, Ross Perot jnr, Karl Rathjen, Kimberly Rosenburg, John and Chrissie Jackson, Jonathan Howells and Paul Wilson.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Your contributions are vital - If you would like to support RHWF and our programs, please contact:





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