



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.

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**





## 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.







## Health and Wellness Program

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Program Officer Wesley Kaleshu, The Health and Wellness Program has gone from strength to strength in 2008. This has been highlighted by the recent visit and assessment of the program by Mary Tidlund - on behalf of our donors. Thanks to her recognition of Wesley's hard work and the importance of the program, we are delighted to be able to announce that our donors have agreed to a further 3 year grant to support the essential work we undertake through the Health and Wellness component. We are eager to hit the ground running again in the New Year, so that we can consolidate all the work done so far and initiate the exciting new projects planned for the next 3 years.



### Village Health Workers:

This component of our work continues to be a key focus for the Foundation. We now have 32 Village Health Workers active across 3 of our Areas: Mlele, Makao and Rungwa. This means that RHWF is now helping to provide vital primary health care services to some 16 rural villages - An estimated 50,000 people.

### 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 live-stock 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 indebted 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 Rosenberg, 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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