

ROBIN HURT
Wildlife Foundation

Newsletter

December 2009





News from Arusha



Dear friends,

As I write this, the final newsletter of 2009, I am happy to report that the rains, which have been so desperately needed across East Africa, appear to have arrived in Arusha with a vengeance.

Coming as they do at the end of a year that has seen more than its share of financial challenges, they serve as a timely reminder of the intricate relationship between the ecological and humanitarian challenges that this foundation was truly established to address.

The many thousands of liters of drinking water that we have delivered to communities across Maasailand during these past months of drought, perfectly illustrate the continued importance of community based conservation programs.

In a time of such hardship, both the staff at the Foundation and the communities with which we work have been reminded, in the most visceral way, of the very profound importance of both our relationship with each other, and our continued joint efforts to promote responsible and sustainable natural resource utilization.

After a period of such impact, it makes it even harder to report that this will be my final newsletter for the Foundation. I have, very recently, been offered an unmissable opportunity for further education and, with the kind blessing of the board, I am taking my leave.

All that remains for me, is to thank Robin and the board for extending me the enormous privilege of managing such a prestigious organization. It is always difficult to leave challenges half met, but with the continued commitment of its amazing staff and the vital support of RHS, this foundation, and all of its supporters, need have no fear of the challenges that lie ahead.

Program Manager
Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation



Anti-Poaching

Major operations conducted in and around Mlele Game Reserve and Luganzo Game Control Area, throughout July and August, left us in no doubt as to the threat posed to these areas by commercial Ivory and bushmeat poachers.

These ecosystems, situated in the South West of the country, are being systematically targeted by well armed, and extremely tenacious professional bandits with strong links to States bordering Tanzania.

In conjunction with Tanzania's Wildlife Division and Zonal Anti-Poaching Commanders, our teams conducted targeted patrols in these areas from which vital intelligence was gathered and a number of poaching teams were interdicted.

We are extremely proud of our Village Game Scouts who performed tirelessly and courageously in the most austere conditions and intense of patrolling environments.

Other news:

RHWF is delighted to be able to announce that we now have a full time **Assistant Program Officer** to compliment the vital work of Wesley Kaleshu in our **Health and Wellness Program**.

Joash Vomo is no stranger to the foundation, having previously joined us as an intern. We are delighted to have his commitment and energy back at the foundation on a more permanent Basis - **Karibu, Joash!**

Community Projects

We are delighted to be able to announce that RHWF has, on behalf of Robin Hurt Safaris Ltd., now successfully dispersed almost all of the **\$110,000** raised in 2008 for the **Village Benefits Program**.

We have also included one more village in the scheme this year - Mafyeko village in Chunya District, bordering the Robin Hurt concession in Rungwa South. We are very happy to include them in the scheme and look forward to the opportunities presented to enhance our footprint in the area.

Many projects are now underway, including a duplex building for **teachers' housing** in Iramba Ndogo, **new classrooms** in Lepurko village, a **new market place and vendor's stalls** in Lumbe, a **new health centre** in Rungwa, and a **new village office** in Lashaene.





Health and Wellness Program

As mentioned previously, Joash Vomo has rejoined the foundation on a permanent basis. His role as Assistant Program Officer in the Health and Wellness Program will see him taking responsibility for much of the vital community liaison and project oversight work that the program conducts in the field.

This will enable the Program Officer, Wesley Kaleshu, to devote himself more thoroughly to the many administrative responsibilities generated by all of our field projects. It will also allow him to spend much needed time liaising with our donors and sponsors, forging new relationships with overseas organisations, and collaborating with partners in-country at strategic level.

Village Health Workers:

All 24 Village Health Workers, chosen from 13 villages across the Burko Area have completed their training course and are now equipped and operational in their communities.

The vital care that they are now providing extends basic Primary Health Care services to an estimated 30,000 people - who previously had none at all.

Drought Relief:

The unrelenting drought that has left much of East Africa on the brink of starvation, has created multiple challenges for the foundation. One of the worst affected areas has been Maasailand, which encompasses our Burko area.

We have spent much of the last few months answering countless calls for assistance from villages, schools and clinics where wells and storage tanks have run dry. To date, the foundation has transported nearly 80,000 litres of potable water to these communities, keeping schools open, livestock alive and communities in place.

'Training the Trainers':

A new collaboration between RHWF, Meatu District Council and local NGO, 'Community Development Support' has successfully trained 110 leading figures from 5 different communities in and around our Maswa/Makao Area.

All the new Trainers were given a comprehensive course in key issues such as forest degradation and habitat loss and given the skills necessary to impart their knowledge to their respective communities.

Donors and Sponsors

We are, more than ever, indebted to our donors. We extend our sincerest thanks and gratitude to the following people, without whose support we could not keep up the fight:

James and Rose Marie Towle, John and Chrissie Jackson, Mike Ghau, Mr. Paul Wilson, Mr. Robert W. Johnston, Mr. Christoph Henkel, Mr. Steven Finney, Mr. Christopher Hill, Mr. Alberto Bailleres, the Keough family, The Allen Foundation, The Norlien Foundation, The Mary A. Tidlund Foundation, Kimberley Roosenburg, Kathy Knowles and the OCLF.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT:

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

U.S.A.

Conservation Force

PO BOX 278

Metairie, Louisiana 70004-0278

504.837.1233 - Phone. 504.837.1145 - Fax

jjw-no@att.net

E.U.

The Program Director

Tel + 255 27 2505024/2505025/2508805

Fax + 255 27 2505026

info@rhwf.org





Images from the field

