



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**GEORGE ADAMSON WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST
Formal request to the board directors of the Suzuki Rhino Club**

**The Suzuki Rhino Club for general
operating costs during transition**

To The Members of the Board of the Suzuki Rhino Club,

Following the formal handover to TANAPA of the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary and Wild Dog Projects (along with all the infrastructure and the equipment) on 26th October 2019, we are now in the process of transition in Tanzania. This includes the settling down all the systems for the smooth-running of the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary, the completion of the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary fence-line and undertaking the complex bureaucracies needed for transitioning out of Tanzania and establishing a base in Kenya from which the next project can be focused on.

Thank you therefore for letting us present this request for general operating costs during the handover to TANAPA and this transition period.

Although we are of course saddened by the fact that we are handing over and transitioning out of Mkomazi, despite the sadness we also feel stimulated and hopeful about the levels of protection and plans for the future of these endangered species throughout the country. As you are all so aware, with TANAPA's increasing stature and capacity both nationally and locally in Mkomazi, they had wanted to assume full responsibility of the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary, bring it more in line with their methods, management processes, militarisation, power-cascades and bureaucracy, and run it in the way that they now wish to. This had been increasingly their focus over the past couple of years. Equally they also want to replicate our projects and use them as a template for projects and sanctuaries in other National Parks. It's a strange conundrum.

Our projects for the black rhino and African wild dog are highly successful and have become models for conservation, and with your help we have been able to create an international beacon for the rehabilitation of the wild environment and the wildlife that remains, along with educational projects in the local communities. Together with you all at Suzuki Rhino Club over the past many years, we have helped build a successful and flourishing national park from a devastated wasteland; constructed, stocked and managed Tanzania's first rhino sanctuary holding nearly a quarter of Tanzania's rhinos, and established a template for rhino conservation for the future; reintroduced over 200 African wild dogs back to the wild; and created a vocational training centre for the youth of this area that has strong support and management from both the RC Diocese of Same and the Same District Council.

Rhino conservation is now being taken seriously and we are proud to have been part of that growth process. In 1989 when I arrived there were 24 rhinos in the whole country compared to tens of thousands that had roamed here in the late 1970's. Now rhino conservation is very serious and they plan to both protect and re-establish populations where they once existed, in other areas using Mkomazi as a template and the newly formed national rhino committee came in the other day asking for advice on planned rhino projects in other areas - just like the old days.

Without your help, it would have been impossible to have carried out these projects and we thank you all sincerely. There is a legacy in Mkomazi now that will stand for many years, and it



will be hard to unravel that legacy. Indeed, the National Parks Authority has a determination to see that it flourishes and they are already putting resources and personnel into the task. We wish them all the best of luck and they have most of our working equipment (all meticulously maintained, whatever the age).

We are now in a period of transition and this involves a considerable amount of planning and logistics within the framework of our general operations and move onwards.

Elisaria Nnko continues to oversee all the operations and he has the responsibility of ensuring that all the bureaucratic procedures are followed in terms of the transition and handover, de-registering the equipment that remained with the trust and the aircraft that will be used for the Kenya project. This has involved to date multiple trips to Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Moshi and the border post of Tarakea, with lengthy stays, to ensure the process is completed. Each step of the way there is new red tape to get through and new legislation to be determined and huge costs, none of which are explained in advance. It has been frustrating, time-consuming and expensive, and we are very grateful to him for shouldering this burden with its myriad of hurdles to surmount.

Dodoma Transport have moved one large lorry load of equipment (tractor, trailer, generator, one vehicle) and this involved the lorry being held at the border for two weeks whilst the full extent of the administration and costs unfolded in front of us. They will soon be collecting two more containers from Mkomazi and taking them to Arusha where they will be offloaded by a crane truck and placed in safe keeping.

The aircraft has been taken up to Kenya for its mandatory Certificate of Airworthiness, and the process of de-registering it has started which up until now has involved seven trips to the Tanzanian Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) in Dar es Salaam. This has a big impact on Elisaria as it necessitates him making extra trips to Dar es Salaam (a 1,000 km round trip).

Fuel usage is of course continuous although on a lower level than previously. We are bringing fuel in drums to fuel the cars that have remained with us and which are constantly on the road as this transition takes shape. We were reluctant to bring in bulk fuel because TANAPA now want to stock their own fuel in our underground and overground fuel tanks.

The fence upgrade is close to completion and that involves ongoing input from us and from the fencing contractor and his technical team. Equipment is needed for this last stage, including insulators, invertor, some repairs, as well as a new radio for the Hafino Hill repeater station.

Staff continue to support our side of the operation and this will continue through until end of April. We have mechanics and a driver for these duties.

We continue to visit the Rhino Sanctuary every day when we are in Mkomazi and to trouble-shoot all the technical problems, as well as try to advise TANAPA of the standard operating procedures. We are strongly urging them to dedicate the equipment, plant machinery and vehicles that we have donated to them for the sole use of the Rhino Sanctuary.

We now have to make a base for ourselves in Kenya for the next project. This is a process



that will involve the establishment of a camp and workshop from which to work. We are very fortunate after so many years that we have a house near Naivasha in Kenya and that it seems like a return to Kora National Park in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Services might well take place. I met with Ali Kaka, Director of Conservation, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources in Kenya to open discussion at his level on the upcoming Kenya project. And we have a host of friends and acquaintances that bring us up to date with what is going on and the political and economic situations relating to wildlife and the environment.

I would therefore be most grateful if the Suzuki Rhino Club could agree to supporting the various facets of the handover and transition costs which are outlined in the spread sheet attached.

I am having further meetings with the Kenya Wildlife Services over the next month and will update you all with the progress that comes out of that.

With my most sincere thanks to you all for your understanding at this time.

With kindest regards as always,

Tony Fitzjohn
Field Director
George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust