

## FOXES COMMUNITY & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

### Annual Report 2008

This past year can be described as a 'Work in Progress' year, with development construction projects everywhere. Then, in 2009, nearly all of these will be completed. With so much going on, it became obvious that some more management help would be needed. Therefore Geoff Knight joined the NGO during the middle of the year as our Administrative Manager and, towards the end, was followed by Jenny Peck as Manager of the Orphans Village and Outreach Programme. Their wedding followed soon after. Earlier last year Dr Patrick and Kate Ney returned to Canada having made a considerable contribution towards starting up the NGO.

#### Orphans Village & Outreach Programme

'Happiness' is the word that describes the children now living in the orphanage. From a previously harsh existence where they had lived in small and leaking mud huts, sleeping on dirty reed mats on the mud floor with only a cotton wrapping for warmth (Mufindi can be so cold!) and with meagre food & clothing, these kids must think they are now in heaven! They have beds, mattresses & bedding, good clothing and enough food. Above all, they are looked after by caring housemothers in a 'home' environment. They regard each other as brothers & sisters and half of them are old enough to attend the excellent Igoda village primary school.

Although a 4<sup>th</sup> Orphans house was constructed during the year, only two are at present needed to accommodate the current 15 orphans. The reason for this, so far, small number is to conform to government policy whereby, wherever possible, orphans should live within the village environment in the care of relatives. Therefore, only those with nowhere to go, come to us. For this reason there is careful research & screening before we take in new orphans, without which we could have filled all 4 houses in no time. This will therefore allow us capacity to take in new orphans over the many years ahead.

Those families in the villages who are struggling to look after their orphaned relatives qualify for our help. This can be provided in various ways – school uniforms & general clothing, income generating projects, limited food (such as formula milk), etc. Many of these 'qualifiers' are HIV/AIDS + single mothers; others are grandmothers with orphaned grandchildren.

In addition to the 4<sup>th</sup> Orphans house, the NGO Guest House was completed and is presently occupied by Geoff & Jenny until some time in the future when a new house for them can be afforded. With the help of UK volunteers, Rod Gough and Oliver Hester, a handicraft workshop was constructed between two containers and is being used by Jenny with her team of ladies, mainly making income generating batiks. Other Orphanage buildings include an electricity generator house and a watchman/caretaker's house.

The NGO was able to finance the costs of two trained SPW (Students Partnership Worldwide) students who spent several months during 2008 teaching Luhunga and neighbouring villagers about AIDS awareness & prevention. SPW will be continuing with this programme.

### Igoda Primary School

Thanks to the most generous and energetic support from our Canadian friends, Ruth James & Anne Pearson, Igoda primary school has rapidly grown into a school of excellence. The well stocked & equipped 'Teaching Library' has been a centre of attraction to pupils and visitors alike. For two years Ruth and Anne have purchased considerable quantities of reference and curriculum books and have both been deeply involved with teaching during their annual 6 weeks visit and also training our library teacher (employed by the NGO) in the techniques of teaching in this splendid library.

Construction of the school Assembly Hall/Community Centre progressed slowly during the year, but this substantial building should be completed by the end of May. A large kitchen has been built nearby which will provide 'meal in a mug' Uji 4 days a week for all the primary school children – starting February. Uji consists of a nutritious mix of cereals & nuts ground into a flour and served warm with sugar as a liquid 'porridge' for over 500 small children who are mostly away from home (and food) for 12 hours each day.

24 deep (50 ft) pit latrines were dug during the year for Igoda School and the Community Centre, but construction will finish early in 2009.

Perhaps the most exciting development has been the installation of a solar electricity system by Solaraid, following a request by this NGO. This will allow evening studies by adults and school pupils, some computer usage and facilities for recharging village mobile phones.

### Luhunga Secondary School

Similarly Solaraid, also requested by the NGO, has installed a larger solar electricity system for this new school that we are supporting. This will eventually become extremely useful for Computer Studies, once we have supplied some promised laptops later in 2009.

We are committed to providing a new library building, which will be fully stocked with books over the next few years. Many books have already been provided for a temporary library in an existing school building.

As for Igoda Primary School, Luhunga Secondary School will, in 2009, have a rainfall catchment water supply with large underground storage and header tanks + pumps.

The school lacks any sports ground, which this NGO will seek to provide in 2009.

At this stage, it must be said that almost all the two schools' development projects are been most generously financed by Ruth and Anne through their Canadian charity, African Schools Book box Society. We are all extremely grateful for this huge generosity.

### Ibwanzi Primary Care Hospital

This small hospital is now almost complete and will provide important in-patient treatment facilities for some 20,000 people in 8 villages. It is attached to a recently rebuilt government dispensary and provides 30 beds within 10 wards. There is also a treatment room, nurses rest & equipment room, a general store, showers and toilets. The whole building has been plumbed for water and wired for generator powered electricity.

A generator will be purchased early in 2009 and rainfall water catchment system installed, using a very large underground storage tank and a header tank + pump.

### Mdabulo General Hospital

This old Catholic mission 'hospital' (actually only an in-patient dispensary) has largely needed to be rebuilt. Dr Patrick Ney completed a major portion early in 2008, including a functioning maternity unit, doctors consultancy rooms, temporary CTC (AIDS testing & treatment) rooms and an outpatients treatment block - containing injection & dressing rooms, a small pharmacy and a temporary laboratory. All this was completed during 2008.

Next, during 2009, the main functioning part of this upgraded hospital will be built. This will comprise 2 operating theatres with sterilizing, patient preparation and scrubbing up rooms. This new building will also contain a dental clinic, x-ray room, optical workshop and other examination rooms, store and a patients reception & waiting room.

Funding permitting, the final phase will renovate all the existing wards – to include a recovery and intensive care ward and improved toilets & showers. Then there will be a need to extend the ward block to add at least 2 more wards also with toilets & showers.

### CTC (AIDS Testing & Treatment Clinic)

With enormous numbers of people suffering and dying from AIDS in the area, there is an urgent need for this fully staffed & equipped clinic. Patrick succeeded in persuading a CTC team from Mafinga Hospital to provide an outreach visit to Mdabulo hospital every two weeks where, at present, only two small rooms (mentioned above) are available.

Since then the number of patients have burgeoned to put the visiting team and facilities under great strain.

A very generous donor in the US, Rosaria Haugland, has enabled us to make a start and, perhaps, finish this most important CTC construction project, hopefully in 2009.

#### Other NGO Activities

So far we have received 4 (40 ft) containers of orphanage, school and hospital supplies (1 from Vancouver Island, the most distant part of Canada, and the other 3 from UK). These have already transformed lives and enabled us to equip our hospitals and schools. In Mufindi all the contents were transferred to a very large store where Marion Gough toiled endlessly for days until everything was sorted and tidied away onto specially constructed shelves. Marion is currently busily collecting items for yet another container which, helped by her husband, Rod, she will pack and dispatch in 2008.

The NGO, in partnership with the Fox family who provided the transport, has supplied hospital beds, mattresses & bedding to other disadvantaged villages in remote & distant areas of Tanzania. This support will, of course, be limited to surplus equipment – allowing the main focus of activity upon Mufindi.

#### Wildlife Conservation

Last year Park Wardens and the new Director of Wildlife were alerted to the serious and ever increasing problem of uncontrolled poaching throughout the Country. This year the Director of National Parks and the Prime Minister were similarly briefed. There is no question that an immediate ban on all forms of large animal hunting is a necessity - together with rigorous anti-poaching operations.

Yet again we raised the alarm over the up-river abuse of the Great Ruaha river water supply, after the river hadn't resumed flowing through the Ruaha National Park until mid-February, over two months after the start of the rains and following 5 months without flowing. This river is the lifeblood to wildlife within Ruaha National Park.

#### Accounts

Total donations this year of Tshs 141m, as shown in the 2008 accounts, is lower than the Tshs 203m of last year. This is because UK banking inability delayed the transfer of Tshs 108m from Orphans in the Wild – which will now be shown in 2009.

Again, we are most grateful for the generosity of so many donors – great and small, all very much appreciated and we can assure everyone that all expenditure is carefully controlled without unnecessary overheads.

