



FOXES' COMMUNITY & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Annual Report 2009.

2009 has been the NGO's most productive year to date, with virtually all of our construction of development projects from 2008 complete. Going into 2010 we have an impressive portfolio of projects finished, and most importantly we have an assortment of projects that are making a big difference in the lives of the people of this community.

Orphans Village and Outreach Programme

The 'family' at the Igoda children's village is continuing really well, and is really enjoying life as a great unit. The majority of the children now attend Igoda primary school, and each new child that has entered the children's village is welcomed with open arms and immediately gains a large group of happy brothers and sisters. It has been great to see the Mothers in each household raise these children as their own. The children are receiving the same boundaries and structure as their friends who they go to school with in the village do, and each day they complete regular chores and then play football or games with other children from the village who come to visit. At year's end 2009, the children's village had 36 children living in three homes. The plan is to open the fourth home in 2010 where a housemother and father team will be the guardians of the older boys in the village. This will hopefully give the boys a much-needed Fatherly figure as they reach a critical stage in their adolescence. This year has marked a second purpose for the children's village as we have started a successful foster-care program, whereby some children have stayed with us for a short period of time, while their families lift themselves out of a crisis period. We currently have several children who are planning to return home, and others who already have. So far this return to the village for the children has been a very smooth transition. We are happy about this as it reaffirms our hopes that as the children have a nice life here at the children's village, they are not learning the pitfalls of entitlement and privilege. We can thank our wonderful housemother staff for raising these children in a friendly village environment, which has given these children a chance to live as their friends in the village.

The outreach program has reached new heights in effectiveness and efficiency thanks in large part to an extensive research project underway that will catalogue each and every family in the surrounding 16 villages that is caring for orphans and vulnerable children. Jenny Peck, and her local volunteers are in close contact with village leaders, and we have been encouraged to find out that most villages have started an Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) committee that has been an immeasurable

help to our program. With this program, we will be able to effectively help those families most in need as the local experts in the village guide us.

Igoda Primary School

Once again this year our biggest support has come from our Canadian friends from **African Book Box Society**, Anne Pearson, and Ruth James. With their significant contributions the teaching library at the school has been a tremendous help to the students at Igoda primary, which last year was placed number 7 in the District for all government primary schools - totalling 149! The NGO sponsored teaching librarian, Yusto Chumi, has also helped to teach English in the other classrooms as well, and the teachers have since embraced him as one of their own; his English teaching skills having proven to be most useful.

Construction of 24 new toilets, and a very extensive water catchment project has been completed, and the school kitchen program has continued all year with a local dish called 'Uji' being served each day to every student, and teacher at the school.

Teachers have mentioned that since this program's inception, attendance has gone up to 97% or more each day, and attentiveness in the classroom has markedly improved. Perhaps the most exciting development at Igoda primary school has been the completion of the beautiful Igoda Community Hall. On December 1st, 2009, Iringa Region celebrated World AIDS Day right here in our Igoda Hall, also marking the official opening of this Community Hall. Throughout the day over 1000 people attended a jam packed full day of performances, including testimonies from HIV+ people who told their stories for all to hear. We hope it will kick start a bevy of events that will be family oriented, and help the community educate itself about issues relevant to their lives.

Luhunga Secondary School

This school has had the services of an 'interim' library most of this year, thanks to contributions from Anne and Ruth of relevant books, references, as well as syllabus related materials. We are continuing construction of the Luhunga library, which will be a great resource for students as they study for national exams that will be so important as they move on to Advanced level, and University.

Starting this year we have initiated a Scholarship program whereby students who have taught voluntarily at Luhunga, are given sponsorship to get their degrees in teaching at a Teacher's College so that they may return to Luhunga and join the teaching faculty, that is so desperately understaffed. Sifa Chumi so far is a success, as she is continuing well at Teacher's College in Dodoma, and will return to Luhunga as a fully qualified, government sponsored teacher. We are hoping this program will become a success so that we may achieve one of the most important improvements for these rural schools - more teachers. At the start of the year, Luhunga Secondary School had over 300 students, and only 4 teachers!

Once again we would like to give a special thanks to Anne Pearson and Ruth James who have represented virtually 100% of the funding required for these educational projects. We are all extremely lucky to have them with us, not only for their

contributions for these projects, but also for their tireless efforts as annual volunteers at Igoda and Luhunga schools. We must hope to be similarly fortunate in finding committed individuals to sponsor our efforts in the future with regards to Health Care projects.

Ibwanzi Health Facility

On September 14th, 2009, the District Commissioner, District Chairman, and District Medical Officer, officially opened the new wing of the Ibwanzi Health Facility. This included wards for 30 in-patient beds, four showers, four toilets, several basins, and another very extensive water catchment & storage system that will give the facility running water for the first time in its existence. 'Opening day,' was another great celebration for the completed project. Hundreds of people enjoyed the festivities and, along with some performances, many thanks were given to the NGO for such a valuable addition to the area's resources. We are happy to report, that the facility now has a Doctor on staff, as well as capacity for pre-natal HIV testing and counselling. When the facility is officially upgraded to a 'Health Centre' from a dispensary as promised by the district government, more and more staff will start work at this facility.

Mdabulo Health Facility

As more and more patients frequent this facility, many are saying that this increased volume is because of the new expertise that has come with the NGO sponsored (thanks to Andrew Davies and his POP charity) staff member, Paulina Visulo, who acts as Nurse Mid-Wife, and general health provider.

After much discussion with health professionals regarding the layout, and construction of our substantial addition to the existing dispensary, we have constructed the stone foundations that will make up the much needed extension to the facility. This extension will include an x-ray room, two surgical theatres, a dental clinic, optical workshop, and other examination/consulting rooms. Our hope is that the facility will attract professional volunteers that will give their services to this community at various times over the years. We are waiting on funds to continue this project as we enter 2010.

Care and Treatment Clinic (CTC)

This project is virtually complete, with only minor plumbing, and bathroom fixtures to be installed. Our area in Mufindi has proven to be one of the most prevalent areas for HIV in the world and therefore this building, designed specifically for full-time HIV testing and counselling, will be of paramount importance. Since the temporary (twice a month) CTC services have started at Mdabulo, over 1000 patients have registered, and more and more people are seeing how treatment can dramatically change their lives for the better. We feel that when this service becomes more accessible to the community another push to this grassroots movement of testing and treatment will mean everyone in this rural community will have a chance to get the service they deserve.

We are very grateful for a U.S. based donor, Rosario Hauglund, for her initial contribution, and to the M.O.M. Challenge climbers who climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise funds for this project!

Chogo Health Facility

The village of Chogo is in one of the most isolated areas imaginable. It is over 175km from the village of Igoda, and over 100km from the closest town of Mafinga. This year the NGO has expanded the village dispensary so that it is now equipped with in-patient wards totalling 6 beds, and a water catchment & storage system, giving it running water for the first time in its existence. Construction of this minor project is almost complete, and it will give this isolated rural area a much need boost in regards to health care resources.

Dr. Leena Pasanen

This year has marked the beginning of Dr. Leena Pasanen's presence in Mufindi. She has been named by the World Medical Association as one of the World's most compassionate doctors, and this year received the award for the most outstanding Finn living outside Finland. She is an extraordinary woman, who has been working in rural Tanzania for nearly 30 years. She has been volunteering her time with us for a period of ten days each month, and her service has been tremendously useful to the surrounding area. Upon each visit to Mufindi, she holds clinics for children with serious health risks at each of the dispensaries in the area, and in villages where a dispensary has yet to be built, she holds clinics in local churches or in schools. She also gives a service that may be unique in the whole of Tanzania where she is brought to the homes of patients unable to reach village medical centres, and gives them home based care that we feel may very well be unparalleled in the country!

Wildlife Conservation

As in past years, the primary conservation role undertaken by some members of the NGO has concentrated in lobbying the uppermost levels of government in an endeavour to reverse the devastating poaching destruction of Tanzania's unique and valuable wildlife. In particular, together with other 'voices', success has been achieved in preventing the sale of ivory that would most certainly have triggered a further surge in elephant poaching. However, there is so much still to do and our role must now also help the government raise the financial resources needed to combat the current nation-wide poaching 'pandemic'.

In the Selous Reserve, a new project being started is an introduction of an anti-poaching boat patrol up the Rufiji river. This will be manned by Selous Game Scouts who will receive incentive rewards for successes.

The on-going problem of the Great Ruaha river flow being cut off completely by rice farming irrigation for three months each year continues to be a major concern of the NGO. The solution could have been simple and cheap, but politically unacceptable as an important food crop would be affected. So the focus of attention is concentrating on providing a substantial dam storage of 'rains' water that can be released into the

Great Ruaha river during the months of October to December inclusive – thereby keeping the river 'alive' to benefit the wildlife in Ruaha National Park that is so dependent on this important river life-blood. An important incentive for the approval of this project will be the hydro generation of electricity to benefit the villages in the area.

Accounts:

2009 was also our most productive year for donations, as we received over Tshs 282m. Thanks goes to all of our donors big and small who are making such an important positive impact in the lives of so many here in Tanzania!

We are happy that all of our donors can be assured that their donations are going directly to the projects on the ground in Tanzania, and are responsibly spent and controlled with virtually no overhead costs.