

## **Ruaha Conservation Fund 2005-2016**

In 2005, Dr Dulle (Chief veterinary officer for Iringa Region, recently retired) who I had worked closely with in FORS since 1999, decided to start his own NGO. This was due to some unfortunate changes within FORS. It is named Ruaha Conservation Fund, and I act as his chief fundraiser.

### **Some of our achievements and programs include:**

**Building of a Library.** This was constructed in 2015 in Makifu village primary school. It is worth \$7,000 and includes 6 million Tsh worth of school text books which were delivered in 2016.

**Sunflower oil press.** We installed a sunflower oil press with a filter in Mahauninga village in 2013. This is set up as a community development program and a committee has been formed to run the enterprise.

**Wheelchairs to disabled villagers.** So far we have given 4 wheelchairs to disabled people and will continue to do so. A child was also sent to CCRBT hospital in Dar for an operation on his legs.

**Annual School trips to the park** for the standard 6 pupils from 6 of the primary schools outside the park. This amounts to around 600 students each year. To date we have brought over **8,000 students** to Ruaha National Park for day visits to show them their wonderful wildlife asset.

**Annual Environmental Day celebrations** for 6 of the primary schools outside the Park. This includes giving prizes to the top 3 standard 7 pupils for Math, Science and English. Every year these 18 students win prizes of books, geometry sets and an overnight stay in Ruaha Park.

**Iringa Wild Dog film.** This is a Kiswahili film which shows local situations and people and which shows the importance of wild dogs in the local environment. We have shown this to many of the local communities.

**Eco-tourism development.** We have been funding a program that enabled several villages to co-operate and form an exciting itinerary for tourists. This includes a training of guides at village level, a website for booking, and an office in Tungamalenga. This is the first successful program of its kind in the area and was started in 2012.

**Motorbike for the Doctor in Mahauninga village.** This motorbike helps the doctor see patients that were too ill to travel to his clinic.

**Upgrade of school books.** In 2011 we gave each of the 7 primary schools in Idodi area Tsh 1m worth of new text books. In addition posters, globes and visual learning aids were given.

**Primary school buildings.** We helped the Mahauninga primary school to rebuild damaged buildings after a bad rainy season in 2011. We have given cupboards for storage of books to all schools in the area.

**Msembe Primary school.** We bought and donated a new computer for the head-teachers office, plus classroom and office furniture.

**Repairs to fire-damaged Idodi secondary school.** After the disaster at the school in 2009, we raised considerable funds to help rebuild the girls dormitories and provided equipment like beds and mattresses.

**Primary school games equipment.** We footballs, netballs and sports outfits for girls and boys have been given to most of the primary schools.

**Secondary school scholarships.** We sponsored 10 students to study at the Idodi Secondary school.

**Science equipment.** We gave a large amount of science equipment to the Idodi Secondary school.

**Sustainable charcoal.** We sponsored 2 young men from Idodi and Makifu to attend a WWF training on sustainable harvesting of charcoal held in Kilwa area. Unfortunately, the men are unable to use their skills as there are no permits given for charcoal in the Idodi area.

**Environmental films.** We often show environmental films in Kiswahili to the villages.