

# ENDELEZA HIFADHI

August 2005



## 15 YEARS OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT IN TANZANIA

### Director's Message by David Erickson

Just over 15 years ago, Joe Cullman and Robin Hurt were sitting around the table at Bartle Bull's house in New York discussing the fate of Africa's wildlife when they decided to start what is now one of the longest running private conservation organizations in Africa, the Cullman & Hurt Community Wildlife Project.

Over the years the Project has gone through many up and downs and last year we suffered our greatest setback, the passing of Joe Cullman. 2004 also saw the passing of two other close friends and champions of conservation, Costa Mlay, the former Director of Wildlife, and also Patrick Taylor, a great RHS client and supporter of the Cullman & Hurt Project.

Never-the-less, the Project carries on and we continue the ever important work of linking conservation of wildlife to poverty reduction through the sustainable utilization of wildlife and we have a lot to be proud of.

As for myself, it has just been over

one year since I joined the Robin Hurt family as the Project Director and everyday I'm reminded how lucky I am and I can't think of any job which has been more professionally and emotionally satisfying. But it's not just luck, it's the fact that all the former Directors before me and the CHCWP Field Officers and RHS Staff have all poured their passion, creativity, and expertise into making the Project as successful as it is.

Recently I was reviewing Project records and I was amazed at what we have done over the years. The Cullman & Hurt Project has raised over USD \$950,000 from 1992 to 2004 and that is only from the Village Benefit Program and does not include the individual, direct donations from clients. This last year alone the Project raised over USD \$84,000 for the 33 Villages that the Project works with. Over the years the Village Benefits have gone towards ...

- ◆ 37 Water Projects (wells, pipes, pumps, tanks, dams)
- ◆ 55 Educational Facilities (schools, classrooms, sanitary facilities,

teacher housing)

- ◆ 19 Medical Facilities (dispensaries, hospitals, Doctor/Nurse housing, rehabilitation)
- ◆ 6 Food Production Facilities (maize mills, tractors)
- ◆ 16 Lots of Emergency Food Relief (maize, water)

... and numerous other projects all in the name of conservation and sustainable utilization. However, our work continues and the funds generated for the Local Communities are not enough to carry out all of the activities and work we are faced with.

Indeed, now more than ever we need the support of those who know and understand the value of wildlife for, as Joe Cullman once said "without the support of the indigenous communities, wildlife in Africa is surely doomed ..."

1. 15 years of Conservation & Development in Tanzania
2. What is Anti Poaching?  
Where are we today?
3. Village Benefits/Community Development
4. Contact details  
About Cullman & Hurt  
Staff News  
Special Thanks

Poacher Musket and Bullets





# ANTI-POACHING

## WHAT IS ANTI-POACHING?

One of the stipulations of TZ's hunting regulations is that all hunting operators must support the government with anti-poaching assistance. We take this very seriously, and we are the leaders in this activity as we began our anti-poaching program 10 years before the current regulations were enacted.

The Bushmeat Trade is still the most significant threat to healthy wildlife populations in Tanzania and indeed, all over Africa.

## WHERE ARE WE TODAY?

### Burko Maasailand

While Burko is very close to our Arusha base and easy to respond to, it is also very difficult because resident poachers from Arusha and near-by towns enter the area at night and spotlight game from cars - this leads to indiscriminate and illegal killing of wildlife.

Burko Maasailand needs frequent patrolling and the communities in the area continually ask for our assistance.

The biggest threat in Maasailand is the loss of wildlife habitat to farming combined with poaching.

We are in Burko at least once a month working with the local communities to find solutions to these problems. Results are encouraging and we are seeing a healthy wildlife population.

### Maswa-Makao

Maswa is, without a doubt, a real success story. It is the birthplace of the Cullman & Hurt Project where we currently have a semi-permanent anti-poaching team - a team which is entirely village run.

Long-line snaring, which used to be a massive problem, is completely extinct.

There is very little poaching in Maswa because the villages, the anti-poaching team, and the government are all working together. Poachers entering the area are soon aware that there is strong anti-poaching presence and they leave.

How we long to have a similar presence in each of our hunting concessions. Maswa-Makao is a role-model of how anti-poaching can make a real difference. Not only to wildlife but to the local communities.

The biggest long-term threat to this area is seasonal cattle grazing

and human encroachment into the wilderness both which displace wildlife.

### Niensi & Luganzo

One of our toughest areas because it is so remote. It is almost impossible to operate in Niensi & Luganzo during the rainy months of December through May; the area is literally underwater which allows the poachers to operate with impunity, via river access and by dugout canoes and on foot.

Even now, in the height of the dry season, the Ugalla River which splits our concessions is so high we cannot cross it.

Field Officer John Magembe and his team spent four months in the area in 2004. There is no question John's time spent in N&L saw a dramatic down-turn in poaching activities. Experience has shown us that the minute an anti-poaching team enters the area the poachers leave.

We have learned that there is a big up-turn in the market for Hippo ivory. Hippo are particularly vulnerable because they are in the water all day and sit exposed to the ruthlessness of the poachers.

An anti-poaching team is desperately needed in the area. Currently, we are requesting crack District Government Anti-poaching Teams to assist.

### Mlele

The good news in Mlele is that the Government Game Reserve Rangers are patrolling our block regularly. We are supporting them with fuel and by working together we are encouraged that anti-poaching in this remote area of Tanzania is having an effect.

Reports reaching our Arusha office during the camp building months of May and June were extremely positive.

Again Mlele is living proof that an anti-poaching presence within an area produces immediate results.

Mlele is an important wildlife area and this season the hunting camp has been relocated and more roads have been opened. The area has incredible potential and we need to increase our anti-poaching efforts to ensure continued success.

### Rungwa-Piti

We have a team in the Piti area of our Rungwa blocks. Our Rungwa concessions are huge and how we long to have a permanent presence in the area.

The Rungwa-Piti team is currently reporting massive illegal felling of trees; we call this timber-poaching. There is a huge export market for quality hardwoods as well as the local demand for timber.

We are working closely with both the District and Game Reserve management to curb this unsustainable activity.

Let us not kid ourselves, there is wildlife poaching in Rungwa but it is background noise in comparison to the illegal logging going on in the area.

We had an anti-poaching team in Rungwa-Piti last season and our current team have just arrived. Sadly during our absence, the logging has flourished but it is good to report that the poachers are leaving the area on word of our arrival. Once again, proof that permanent presence in an area pays immediate dividends.

### Summary

There is no question that a permanent anti-poaching team in every single area is required. Sadly, financial constraints since the death of our major benefactor, Joe Cullman, last year have not made this possible. What is sad is that the we used to have a consistent anti-poaching presence in many wildlife areas in Tanzania. Lack of consistency is the worst thing for conservation. We are well aware of this fact and are making headway to once again increase the overall number of anti-poaching teams.





# VILLAGE BENEFITS/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



construction of three new classrooms, school offices and teachers housing.

Students in the area sometimes walk up to 10km a day to go to school and come home at the end of the day.

In 2004, three new villages have joined the Cullman & Hurt Project in Makao.

The other half of the Cullman & Hurt Community Wildlife Project is to encourage local communities living in and around hunting concessions allocated to Robin Hurt Safaris Tanzania Ltd to conserve and protect wildlife and habitat. This is impossible unless communities derive substantial and specific benefits from hunting.

The key to wildlife conservation is simply to ensure that the local communities benefit substantially from the wilderness and its wildlife.

Communities participating with the project decide how their funds are to be used and we work closely with them to ensure that funds are utilized appropriately.

## « Burko Maasailand »

We work with 13 villages in the Burko area. In 2004 they received USD \$16,000 in Community Fees.

Water - or the lack of it - is the big problem in Maasailand the lack of water. Money has been used to repair dams, truck water in, and building rain-water harvesting tanks.

Money was also used to complete teacher housing and to pay for secondary school fees for students from the area.

Funds were also spent on a medical dispensary as well as building housing for medical staff.

## « Maswa-Makao »

We work with seven villages in Maswa-Makao and they received USD \$17,000 in community fees in 2004.

The emphasis in Maswa has been on education, and, we are supporting the

Herdsmen from these three villages, due to severe drought conditions, were grazing herds of cattle in the wildlife area. The villages which are situated in the periphery of the hunting area, have now agreed to remove their cattle and to work hand in hand with us because they are, for the first time, receiving direct benefits from sustainable hunting.

## « Niensi & Luganzo »

The four villages in this area received USD \$24,000 in community fees in 2004.

Communities in this riverine and swampy area of Tanzania are traditionally fishermen and subsistence farmers. Recent developments include the growing of tobacco as a cash crop which is destructive in that a lot of timber is needed to dry the tobacco leaves.

The Project Field Officers are working closely with the villages and the Project Director, David Erickson, will be in Niensi & Luganzo in September 2005.

David will be working with the four local villages to assist with community development and to see where resources are to be best utilized.

## « Mlele »

The five villages in Mlele received in excess of USD \$9,000 in Community Fees in 2004.

We have recently completed the construction of two teachers houses in Mtakuja Village.

We feel guilty that because

of the remoteness of this wonderful area we have not been able to follow-up on various development activities. Field Officer Elly Mamuya spent time in Mlele in July and August of last year and David Erickson is planning a visit in October of 2005.

We are working with communities in extremely remote areas of Tanzania. Costs involved in traveling to these remote areas are enormous. The nearest big town to Mlele is Tabora, some 250 kilometers North or a day and a half drive, over shockingly bad roads.

## « Rungwa-Piti »

The four villages in Rungwa-Piti received in excess of USD \$17,000 in Community Fees in 2004.

We have recently assisted with the completion of building accommodation for local doctors, village offices and classrooms.

Water is a problem in Rungwa and we have assisted with the construction of water pumps.

Over the years we have helped with the construction of classrooms and toilets as well as provided desks for classrooms and built houses for teachers. We are continually assisting with upgrading medical clinics.

## « Summary »

We work with 33 villages throughout Tanzania and have dispersed over the 15 years in excess of USD \$950,000. In 2004 alone we paid out USD \$84,000 in Community Fees.

Other benefits to remote communities in Tanzania include the construction of roads and airstrips and providing much needed employment during the hunting season.







## STAFF NEWS

### David Erickson

It's nearly 18 months since David joined the Project. In the past year David has been traveling extensively throughout Tanzania meeting with village leaders. David works closely with Tanzanian Government Officials and is on the road for 70% of his time.

### John Magembe

John has been with the Project since it's inception and recently applied to College to study wildlife management. John scored #8 of 312 on his entrance exams and is now at college. John is being sponsored by the Project and we hope to see him back soon.

### Elly Mamuya

Elly has recently joined the Tanzania Wildlife Division having worked with the project for the past six years. Elly is now based in a Game Reserve North of our Niensi & Luganzo blocks and we wish him all the best in his new position.

### John Ngalesoni

John recently sat his Professional Hunters license exams and scored number one in the country. John is working as an Apprentice Hunter with Robin Hurt Safaris Tanzania Ltd. and is busy building camps and opening roads.

The Cullman & Hurt Community Wildlife Project was founded in 1990 on the conviction that wildlife and habitat can only be conserved by involving local people and, from that involvement, give them a direct benefit from the wildlife among which they live.

The future of wildlife in Africa rests in the hands of its indigenous people. Wildlife must be an attractive, lucrative and beneficial form of land use to communities to encourage its long-term stewardship.

**Without the full support and cooperation of local communities,  
wildlife in Africa is surely doomed.**



There is much to be done and if you would like to support the Project and the People we work with, contributions can be given Tax Free in the United States through our partner Conservation Force.

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