

Tembo Times



Dear Friends in Conservation,

The year 2009 certainly poses some new challenges, the past rainy season was not what we would expect in a normal wet season and some areas like Maasailand are extremely dry.

Dry conditions like these normally create certain problems that we do not have in super wet seasons. In our areas of operation in the south and west of the country it allowed for early and easy access to areas by poachers. These poachers came mainly in the form of subsistence poaching for fish, honey etc. but also some commercial poaching.

Unfortunately, dry conditions also have the effect of failed crops; in most rural areas the people still have a system of subsistence farming. A lack of food creates the market for commercial poachers to harvest game meat and sell this to the people in need.

In Maasailand where the people are mainly pastoralists the effect of the drought on livestock has severe consequences. If the lives of the animals depends on it these pastoralists disregard all boundaries and reserves to ensure the survival of their animals. With limited water sources available in the arid Masai Steppe the battle for water between humans, livestock and wild game can have a negative effect on conservation.



Other news that have an impact on our operation is that Tanzania Wildlife Company (TWC) has been given an extension on their hunting blocks for another three years until 2012. TEMBO is happy to announce that we have extended our contract with TWC for this same period.

More promising news is that Lake Natron has been declared a Wildlife Management Area by the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism. This, being declared a WMA, means the people residing in these areas have now been given the tool to manage their own resources. The old saying "if it pays, it stays" is very true and in these areas where the local people have been conserving the game they can now reap the benefits of their efforts.



TEMBO NEWSLETTER 3rd Issue

Visit www.tanzaniawildlifecompany.com for more information on Maasailand

For more information on visiting our areas, go to: www.tanzaniaquest.com



Visit
www.tembofoundation.org

or
www.tembofoundation.com

What have we achieved so far this year?

Anti-Poaching

Our anti-poaching operations during the wet season were again limited to the Rungwa Game Reserve (Rungwa GR) and Maasailand. Due to the extreme conditions during the rainy season and effects on both our people and equipment it was decided not to have a visible presence in the Rungwa GR during the months of heaviest rain but to rather have an aerial operation in March to assess what was happening in the area. In co-operation with the Friedkin Conservation Fund and with the assistance of the Project Manager for the Rungwa/Kizigo/Muhsi Game Reserve helicopter flights were taken and no signs of poaching were seen in our area. After this operation however and due to the lack of rain and easy access to the area some commercial meat poachers with rifles moved into the area and were involved in shooting large antelope and buffalo for the game meat trade.



The biggest problems that our anti-poaching teams in the Lake Natron area and especially on Kitumbeine Mountain experienced were illegal harvesting of game by resident hunters, and the illegal entering of live stock into the forest reserve due to the extreme dry conditions.

Community Development

Community Development projects were continued in all 4 areas of operation namely Masailand, Rungwa GR and Selous GR (Ilonga and Liwale sectors). TEMBO is currently involved in the following projects:



Maasailand

We are assisting school and village projects in 14 villages, Pinyinyi, Kiserian, Orkejuloongishu, Olchoronyokie, Elangatadapashi, Ilorienito, Losirwa, Noondoto, Ketumbeine Secondary School, Meirugoi, Magadini, Engaresero, Engaruka Juu and Engaruka Chini.

Rungwa GR

Assisting Rungwa Village in the construction of a Primary School teacher's house.

Selous GR (Ilonga Sector)

Buying some medical equipment for the Wildlife Division at Sector Warden's Headquarters at Mbuga.

Mbuga Village: assist with the construction of Mbuga Secondary School teacher's house.

Iputi Village: assisting with making of school desks for the Iputi Primary School.

Selous GR (Liwale Sector)

Barikiwa Village: assisting with the construction of two class rooms at the Barikiwa Secondary School.

Mkutano Village: assisting the local people with the construction of Village Executive Officer's residential house.

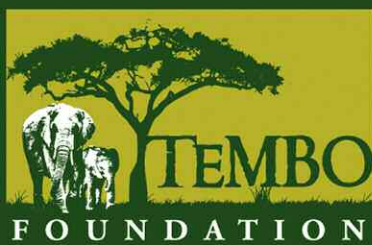
Kikulyungu Village: assisting the village with the construction of Kikulyungu Primary School teacher's house.



Towards the end of this year, The Magingo Wildlife Conservation Community comprising of nine villages (namely, Barikiwa, Chimbuko, Mlembwe, Ndapata, Mpigamiti, Kikulyungu, Kimambi, Mirui, and Naujombo) surrounding the Selous Game Reserve will hold their annual meeting.

Tembo is very pleased to finance the meeting which among many things will dwell in raising conservation awareness among the local people.

Tembo is very thankful to Dr. Paul Villmer for his generous support of text books to Barikiwa Secondary School. On behalf of the local people we say thank you very much.



to find out more about Tom Morrison's project, go to www.dartmouth.edu/~tmorrison

for info on Alfred Kikoti: www.awf.org/content/staff/detail/3278

For information on our Microlight plane: www.microaviation.co.nz

Research & Monitoring

In the field of research TEMBO assisted PhD candidate Tom Morrison with 2 GPS collars to track wildebeest movements in the greater Tarangire system. Wildebeest being water dependant spend the dry season inside Tarangire National Park along the Tarangire River. In the wet season these wildebeest migrate east onto the Simanjiro plains and north along the escarpment of the Rift Valley to the plains south of Lake Natron. Very little is known about the movements of these animals and Tom's research will be able to assist the Wildlife Department in establishing the right quota and hunting season to have a positive impact on this wildebeest population.



With the extreme dry conditions no wildebeest migrated north this year and the collars are still with Tom waiting for a migration to the north. At present all indications are that the coming season will be an El Nino year with very wet conditions and we are looking forward to a migration to the plains below Mount Kitumbeine.

Alfred Kikoti is still busy with his research on elephant movements in northern Masailand and TEMBO again assisted him with funds to immobilize elephant and change batteries in the collars of some of his collared elephant. Due to the cross border movement of elephant between Kenya and Tanzania no elephant are being hunted by sports hunters in Tanzania. Elephant numbers are



however increasing on the Tanzanian side with more and more human/elephant conflict. Alfred's research will give the Wildlife Department the necessary information needed if ever case should be put forward to allow sport hunting of elephant in the Lake Natron area.

As always we at TEMBO rely on your support to manage and do these projects

Ongoing projects for the rest of 2009 that Tembo requests your support are:

- Candidate for One year Hunting Technician's course at MWEKA College, \$8,205
- Samwel Gabriel Fisso, One year Advanced Diploma at Mweka College \$10,342.
- Wildlife Division officer MSc Degree course \$7,500
- Microlight plane for anti-poaching operations and aerial surveys,
 - Cost of plane, \$36,293
 - Microlight Pilot's license, \$2,750
 - Ferry costs to get aircraft to Tanzania from South Africa, \$2,500
- Basic running costs for anti-poaching patrols during the coming off-season;
 - Lake Natron Area, \$18,800
 - Rungwa Game Reserve, \$7,200
- A road to join Ilorienito/Elang'atadapashi villages on Mount Kiumbeine Longido District, Maasailand, \$2,000.
- A harrow to assist the Rungwa GR with opening roads, their existing road grader is beyond repair, \$7,900.
- Scholarships for kids needing support in joining Secondary School for 6 years in Gelai Ward, Longido District. Each kid will need \$2,400 to complete 6 years Secondary Education.

Should you be interested in making a donation to Tembo, please contact us:

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