
FOXES' COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



CHARITABLE GOAL

Foxes Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust was set up in 2005 to provide shelter, sustenance, education, and medical care for vulnerable children and families in Tanzania, wherever possible focussing on environmentally sensitive areas; to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS, to teach life skills (Language, fiscal, vocational and self-sufficiency) and to create supportive networks and opportunities for future generations enabling them to sustainably manage their natural resources.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

Using an integrated, holistic approach to development, program services are delivered to address social, cultural, structural, and environmental factors that influence disparities in populations over time. In 2017 we continued to run a total of 5 main programs to help maximize impact and fulfil the objectives of the charity.

Children's Village: The heart of the organization focused on providing custody, care and a home for orphaned and vulnerable children.

Education: Opportunities for the development of the young through an on-site pre-primary education program, primary and secondary school sponsorships, and further education sponsorships for select students.

Health Care: Operation of a Pediatric and Dental Clinic, and continued funding for health dispensaries and care and treatment clinics in the region.

Community Outreach: Sponsorship of a Home-based Care Program, a Milk Powder Program, an Early Child Education Outreach Program, and a Social Welfare Outreach Program

Wildlife Conservation: The Conservation and protection of forests to secure water supplies and protect endangered species

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ANNIVERSARIES AND HONOURS

10 YEARS AND AN MBE

This year celebrated the 10th anniversary of Igoda Children's Village (ICV). A happy home has developed over the years and it was a great opportunity to take stock of everything that has been accomplished over these years of service to our vulnerable children. In the past decade, ICV has been a safe haven and home for 80 boys and 50 girls, all of whom have benefited from the nurturing and caring environment provided by the house guardians; healthcare provided by our on-site nurses and doctors; and education provided by our own teachers as well as by local schools (even up to university level for some!). We can say with confidence that all of our children's lives and futures have been profoundly affected for the better by the programs we have been able to offer through the kind and generous support of all of our donors.

The year 2017 was also a special year of celebration that saw a visit from the High Commissioner to bestow the much deserved traditional honour of Member of the British Empire on our very own Mzee. I'm sure we can all agree that without his vision the entire Mufindi district would not be where it is today, with the level of access to childcare, healthcare and education available for those in most need - Congratulations Geoff Fox MBE!

AFRICAN BOOK BOX SOCIETY

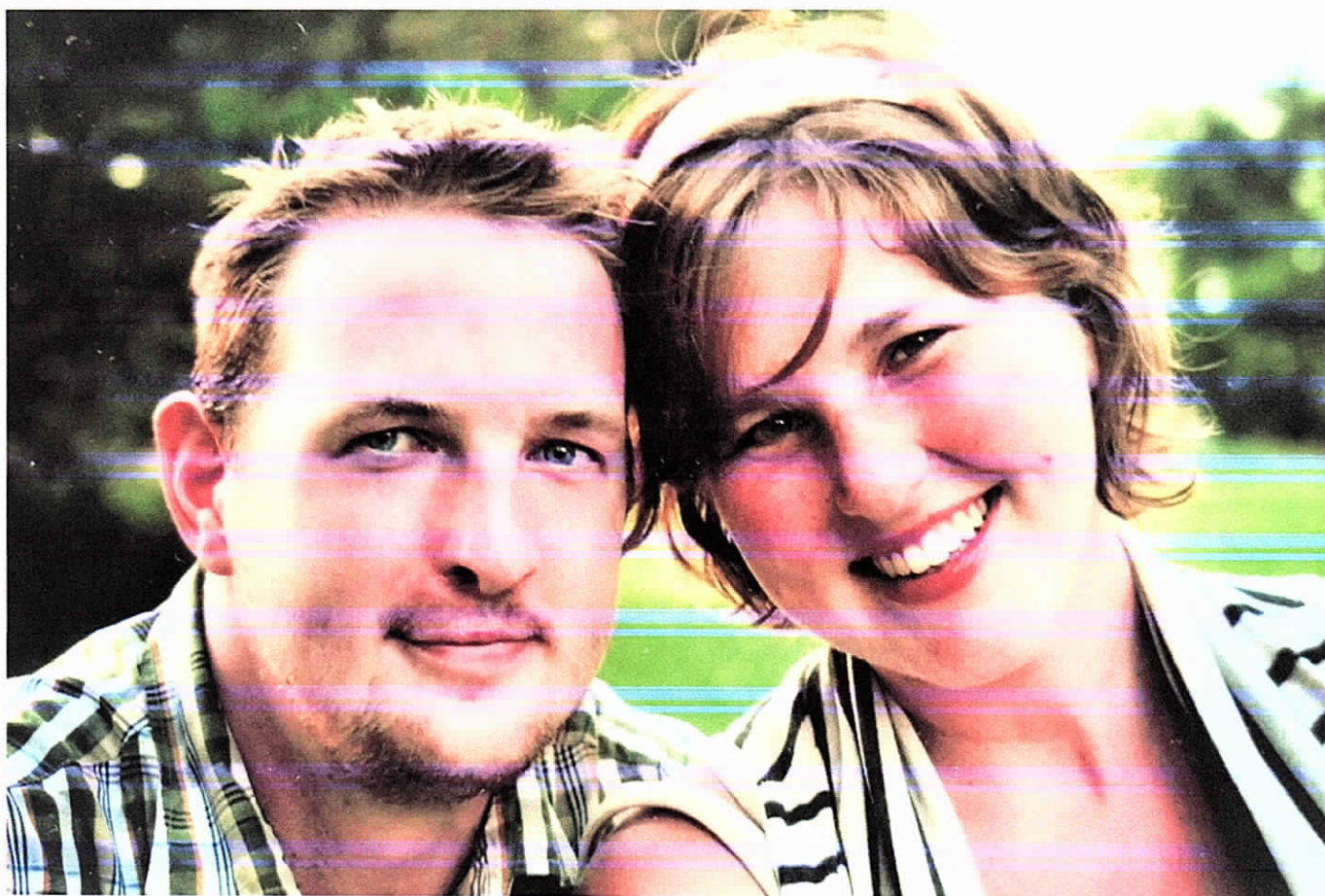
We would also like to make a very special acknowledgement of the 10 years of unbelievable support given to us by our Canadian partners African Book Box Society (ABB), and especially Ruth and Anne for all of their personal involvement and input. ABB have worked tirelessly to ensure adequate funding was made available to enable completion of many of the most important projects in the area. They have left an indelible mark on the Mufindi Community by providing more than 1.5 Mil CAD funding for an array of projects ranging from Children's Village operating costs to construction of schools, community halls, clinics and libraries - the list is too long to detail here, but needless to say, their support has been the backbone of many of our charitable programs and initiatives. ABB have now completed their 10 year pledge and are looking to the future for new opportunities to bring their experience, enthusiasm and generosity to worthy projects around the globe. We say a heartfelt thank you and wish them all the best of luck for their future endeavours.

JENNY PECK & GEOFF KNIGHT

Finally, the year also brought with it some very sad news. After more than 12 years of dedication to the vulnerable people of Mufindi Jenny Peck and Geoff Knight have decided to move on to new pastures. They have been responsible, more than anyone else, for building the NGO up to what it is today and following a two year service with Peace Corps in Tanzania, it was our good luck they agreed to join us almost from the start.

During their time with us Jenny Peck was at the helm of the programs designed to help the surrounding community. The programs are both numerous in quantity and variety, but to single out perhaps her greatest achievement, she can almost single-handedly be accredited for breaking down the stigma of HIV/AIDS in the worst affected part of Tanzania and, with great efficacy, tackled the difficult task of alleviating the pandemic in the surrounding areas.

Geoff Knight has not only been an amazing support for his wife, but has also been instrumental in providing the solid administrative platform that is so vital in a young and growing organisation. He set up the internal controls, financial accounting systems, human resources and IT departments, communicated with local officials, provided regular governmental reports and much more.



Geoff Knight and Jenny Peck look on to the future

The two of them, with their extraordinary good nature and superb linguistic skills (speaking very good Kihehe on top of Kiswahili), made many connections, a lot of which have developed into good friendships, and built up a solid network of community support which is so crucial when tackling issues of these proportions. Needless to say, the husband wife team make a formidable pair and will be impossible to replace.

The suffering and poverty among the 16 villages in our NGO project area stimulated both Jenny and Geoff to give, voluntarily and selflessly, more than 10 years of their lives – a true example to us all. Words are not enough to express our gratitude for all that they have done and they will be sorely missed. They can now rest assured that the legacy they were so instrumental in establishing will be carried forward with the same level of commitment that they helped instil and we wish them, together with their four children, a happy future in whichever direction it takes them.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The departure of our long serving managers Jenny and Geoff as well as the completion of the 10 year pledge by African Book Box Society has meant a number of structural changes have needed to be implemented in the latter half of 2017 to ensure the continued effective management and impact of the charities programs into the future. In keeping to its Mission, FCWCT has therefore introduced changes that will least affect the recipients of charitable services while most strengthening the financial and operational stability of the organisation. [Please note the below information is designed to be read in combination with the financial statements for a fuller understanding of the charities operations]

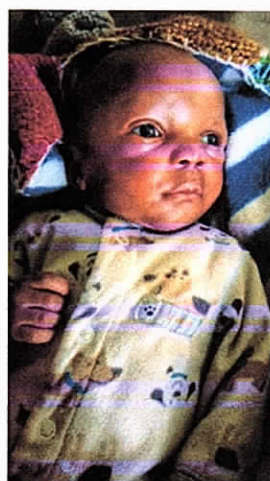
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Children's Village Guardianship: At the end of the year Igoda Children's Village continued to be called a full time home by 48 children. A special thank you to all of our guardians who have not only continued to show compassion in their duties to ensure all the children's needs are met, but are working to provide an environment that works like any other part of the community: where children are respected, but also given chores and are expected to contribute to their own well-being, just like their peers in the surrounding villages.

Orphaned and Vulnerable Children: During the year we saw the departure of 29 children who returned to villages to live with family members after their circumstances had been assessed as being stable and it was decided that this would be beneficial to their development. The Children's Village also saw 5 new arrivals in the year, one of whom was Manase who was welcomed into our Baby House (no.2) in November 2017 after his mother passed away giving birth to him on the side of the road. The youngest member of our family is healthy and happy and is a gift to the mama's and children of the village.



Story time with Mama Rehema Mгимwa in the 'Baby' House No. 2



The youngest member of the Village, Manase

ICV Capital Projects: The village agriculture project also saw many exciting changes with the construction of the greenhouse and the new chicken coop, as well as the birth of a calf. It's a small wonder that Godrasto, a true agricultural all-rounder, somehow still finds time to tend to his bees! A further two capital projects were finished in ICV this year being the Vocational Training School (VTC) and the Mapeme Complex, home to the Threads Sewing School and Dr. Leena's home and guesthouse respectively.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Home-based Care (HBC) Program: In 2017, our 20 Home-Based Care volunteers on average helped 715 people get the medical supplies - such as ARVS, mossy foot and chronic wounds - they needed each month. These volunteers, from 10 surrounding villages, attended 12 educational seminars addressing HIV/AIDS, mental health, pre-natal care, first aid, child development stages, and family planning assessment, which will all go toward helping identify and alleviate future medical and social issues in the community. Foxes' NGO also teamed up with a renowned physiotherapy program based in the region's capital of Iringa again this year. A visiting occupational therapist made regular visits to the villages in our area (as led by the HBC team) to see patients unable to visit the city for treatment.

Threads Vocational Sewing School: In order to manage costs, the trustees decided this project, which was identified as being non-crucial to the Mission and running at a net deficit, was to be terminated in July 2017. This was done with a heavy heart as the construction of the school was only completed shortly beforehand. However this move has enabled FCWCT to save 18M TSH shillings compared to the prior year. The trustees are happy to report a new use for the VTC has meanwhile been found in the form of a Tourism Training College which opened its doors in January 2018 and provides free training for NGO affiliated students interested in following a career in Tanzania's fastest growing industry.

Milk Powder Program (MPP): We had an average of 28 children in the program each month in 2017. In addition to receiving milk powder, families received education pertaining to child health, birth control, and reproductive health. Since the beginning of the program in 2010, more than 255 children have received the milk powder which is so important in the development of children of mothers unable to breast-feed.

Community Hall: This building which facilitates social events, seminars, computer courses and public meetings in Igoda village, and was built and run by FCWCT from 2009, was officially handed over to the village leaders for the continued use and benefit of the local population.

Social Welfare and Child Rights Advocacy: In a further attempt to reduce costs the trustees made the decision to put this project on hold temporarily. With an existing albeit weak governmental support structure already in place, it was agreed that, while still a critical project, cost savings were to take precedent in 2017. It is the intention of the trustees to restart the program as soon as funding allows.

HEALTH CARE

Mdabulo Care and Treatment Center (CTC): The CTC was another project handed over to the local community. This is in keeping with the philosophy of building sustainability and responsibility in the community. Over the years the CTC has been the key to providing treatment for HIV/AIDS patients and we estimate up to 5,000 people have benefited from this facility since its inception in 2009.

Igoda Health Clinic: In 2017 FCWCT successfully advanced construction of the Igoda Dispensary and CTC. This facility will provide general medical services, pre- and post-natal care, as well as dental treatment for the future health of our neighboring villagers. Up to the end of the year 48 million TSH were invested into the facilities and the plan to open the doors in the second half of 2018 is well within schedule.

The Luhesela Clinic: Our on-site clinic and medical staff continued to provide the crucial facilities needed to address the medical care to children of the Children's Village. As in prior years, the clinic also provided a base for our pediatrician, dentist, and other medical professionals to see outreach patients from the surrounding villages. In 2017, the clinic had a total of 329 outreach visits. A special thank you goes to Sheree Demblon our volunteer nurse who travels 23 km each way to lend her expertise twice a week. The Clinic also played host to an organization called Population Services International who provided both short and long-term family planning services to 55 women free of charge.

Doctors on Wheels: Once more our long standing Finnish pediatrician Dr. Leena Pasenen provided her specialist knowledge and experience to the sick and vulnerable by driving out twice a week to nearby villages to visit and provide care to families in their homes. She also worked an additional two days a week at the nearby hospital to support the local doctor in treating children in the Mufindi area. Her help is undeniably critical to the health of many of the area's young and we are all grateful for her ceaseless efforts in keeping the community healthy.

Dental Healthcare: The tireless work of our resident dentist Dr. Bodil Sandin, with the help of Dentist Without Borders dental students and professionals, saw the screening of 5,999 patients and the treatment of 948 of those – a truly remarkable achievement! Of those screened 93% were children under the age of 16 and each duly received free and vital advice – clearly her work has a massive impact on the dental hygiene of the youth of Mufindi.

University of Louisville: The University of Louisville brought two medical groups out to Mufindi this year and was able to screen 1,146 people from 8 surrounding villages. The service these teams provide not only bolsters the existing health systems, but encourages local community members to visit health facilities. They also bring medical supplies to assist with care of chronic wounds and conditions, like Mossy Foot. Lastly, they were able to collect data on the patients they screened which in turn allowed for a better understanding of the populations being served - for example, of the people screened, 32% were found to be illiterate and 7% speak only the local tribal language.

World AIDS Day: In December 2017, the Health Department held a World AIDS Day event for the children and employees of FCWCT. Children received education on HIV/AIDS through videos and games led by the management team, and participated in a story and art competition relating to the transmission, prevention, treatment, and community impact of the disease. Each house also presented a theme related song, dance, play and even rap. The event was a great success!



Dr Leena Pasenen and Lucy Tamberrino educate the children about HIV/AIDS



Joseph Majembe and the boys of House 3 perform an HIV awareness rap

EDUCATION

Igoda Library and Mobile Library: Another successful project has been handed over to the community. Igoda Primary School Library has been a beacon of literacy for the school and has helped the primary school reach great heights in academic achievement. This year, the operating of the library was handed over to the school in an attempt to bring more sustainability long-term to the project. The number of teachers at the school has increased and is now in a good position to run the program going forward. Unfortunately the Mobile Library has ceased operating due to lack of availability of suitable transport.

Luhunga Girls Dormitory: This was our flagship project which saw its completion in 2017 and boasts safe housing and sleeping facilities for 64 girls attending Luhunga Secondary School. The girls no longer have to brave the harsh climatic conditions, nor are they exposed to the risk of sexual assault on a potentially long daily journey on foot.



A colourful setting for the Luhunga Secondary Girls Dormitory generously funded by African Book Box Society

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Outreach Program: The program started through Foxes' NGO has increased knowledge and awareness over the importance of early childhood education. Communities have taken on responsibilities like never before for their kindergartens for example Mkonge village re-built their own kindergarten classroom, and many other communities have started their own pre-school/kindergarten program. After having been successfully rolled out the Montessori method to 11 schools in the surrounding community FCWCT stopped running this program in July 2017, but now plans to conduct Montessori training seminars for educators who have taken on these teaching methods at their schools.

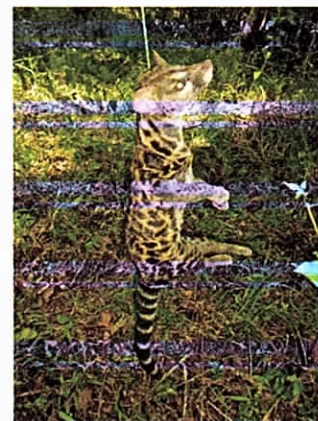
Primary, Secondary, and University Student Sponsorship: Over the years the organization has focused on providing the best educational support for the vulnerable children of the surrounding villages. During the year 45 primary, 17 secondary, and 10 college and university students were able to receive a good level of education through FCWCT sponsorship. We are also proud to announce the graduation from Ruaha Catholic University of Florian Mtilega who successfully completed his Bachelor of Education and is now a teacher at the well renowned Iringa International School.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Climate change, population growth, and potentially damaging agricultural practices are all long term challenges which we have to face. With this in mind, the wildlife conservation arm of FCWCT has made much progress in the implementation of a forestry project with over 5,000 indigenous trees having been planted in 2017 and many more being cared for in a tree nursery.

Under the guidance of Chris Fox, we have also been very busy facilitating anti-poaching patrols within 80 square km of forest ecosystem. Poaching, while illegal, remains a big problem in the area as local people in search for food and income for their livelihood exploit wildlife indiscriminately. More than 4,000 snares, set by local poachers, were removed from August until March whilst many other environmental abuses have been logged and reported. FCWCT would especially like to thank Unilever for their kind support providing the use of their buildings as forward operating bases for patrols against environmental abuses.

Finally, ecological education will be a major feature within the charity facilitated Tourism College, which, with 70 places for students, have kindly given 20 free of charge to be filled by FCWCT appointment, as well as further reduced fee placements for local villagers.



Servaline Genet caught in a snare

VOLUNTEERS

Of course nothing could have been done without the help of our volunteers who have given up their valuable time and to serve the children of Igoda Children's Village as well as many members of the surrounding Mufindi community.

We extend a special thank you to our Peace Corps "Lucys" - Lucy Kohler and Lucy Tamberrino - who were responsible for coordinating the HBC and MPP programs as well as providing crucial reporting and general support for the Health Department; as well as our Peace Corps "Michael" Scott, a much welcomed addition to the Agriculture Department who lent his knowledge and skills to various "green" tasks, most notably the successful construction, planting and management of the greenhouse and chicken coop.

The Administration Department saw the unwavering support of Amari Alexander who helped especially in fundraising tasks. Due to her hard work FCWCT managed to secure a grant from the US Embassy for more than 50 Mil TSH! Also, the end of the year saw the arrival of Johannes Haverkamp who offered his accounting knowledge to help improve internal controls, manage the finances and prepare the annual report and financial statements.

We would also like to thank those volunteers who stayed short-term but brought with them much appreciated skills and commitment – both to individuals: Ilda Koivulumoma, Anika Varpe, Bibi Heli, Kari and Kristi Kinnunen, Forest Smock, Denise Holder, John and Jinny Stokes, Susan and Larry, Michelle Elisburg, and Ella Vahtiala; and groups: Heal the Children, Population Services International, Dentist Without Borders, and our University of Louisville medical students and doctors. Many thanks to you all – we hope we haven't forgotten anyone!

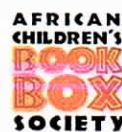
PARTNERS, SPONSORS AND DONORS

Last but by no means least we want to extend our sincerest gratitude to all of those people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make all of this happen by supporting us financially!

In 2017 we were extremely lucky and honored to count once again as our Partners Mufindi Orphans in the US, African Book Box Society in Canada, Orphans in the Wild in the UK, Mufindis Vanner in Sweden, and Mufindin Ystävät in Finland. Without all of the hard work and commitment of the men and women of these organisations this whole thing would be but a dream - thank you for continuing to make it happen!



ORPHANS in the Wild
Looking Towards a Brighter Future



We also received both financial donations and gifts in kind from numerous other groups and individuals which we cannot list here, but from all of us here at Foxes Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust, the children of the Children's Village, and those community members benefiting from your generosity - a huge THANK YOU!

MVF

29th May 2018

Vicky Fox – Chair of Trustees

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Dated