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# FOXES COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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### CHARITABLE GOALS

Foxes Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust was founded in 2005 to provide shelter, sustenance, education and medical care for vulnerable children and families in the Mufindi Region of 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 OBJECTIVE DESCRIPTIVE

Using an integrated, holistic, and far sighted approach, the NGO programmes work towards empowering and involving the local community. Programmes which not only provide immediate support, but which are aiding the recovery of the project area in the long term.

### OUR PROGRAMMES

#### **CHILDREN'S VILLAGE:**

During 2019, Igoda Children's Village (ICV), the hub of the organisation, has continued to care for orphaned and vulnerable children both in the Children's Village itself and through its ongoing work with the community.

No children returned to families this year, except for **Elizabeth Kihongole** who had returned to her Aunt but she was unable to continue caring for her due to sickness and Elizabeth was returned to be with her siblings at the ICV and attending school again.

Four new babies arrived this year:

**Akila Mnembwe**; was four hours old from Ikanning'ombe when he arrived at the ICV as his mother had died in childbirth before she was able to reach the remote hospital.

**Flora Mwagala**; was previously on the outreach Milk Powder Programme but with the death of her mother and lack of security, she was brought to the Children's Village until such time that her father can take her back again. He is looking after four other children and working.

**Kefa Patric Kigulu**; was one week old when he arrived at the ICV, his mother was seriously ill and unable to breastfeed him, to date it has not been able to return him to his home as his father is struggling with five other children.

**Fransisco:** Yet again, the mother was unable to call for help and died just after childbirth, managing to place this little boy in a safe place in her hut.



Akila



Flora



Kefa



Fransisco

**Halima**, the 17-year-old teenager who came to our village in 2018 after suffering horrific burns as a toddler from falling into a fire and her grandmother was no longer able to care for her, continues to do well and settled into the IC Village life. At 12 years old, she had never been to school and lived in poverty with her aged grandmother. Through the help of Julie Hepworth from [waterforafrica.com.au](http://waterforafrica.com.au) and Rafiki Surgical Missions a number of much needed surgical operations were carried out to help improve the quality of her life. Halima also suffered from severe epilepsy needing both care and medication, and after numerous medical tests and ongoing treatment, her epilepsy is now under control.

There were 49 children (24 female and 25 male) at the ICV plus 11 Secondary School Pupils living in the hostel returning the ICV or relatives during the school breaks, plus 2 external school scholarships.

Secondary School leavers: Semeni, Given, Bryson and Christopher returned to the ICV and Zakaria graduated. Secondary School additions, Margareth and Enevina but both live outside the CV.

### EDUCATION:

**Pre-Schooling:** The nursery and the kindergarten continue to be a centre of learning and play for many children from the local surrounding communities. In 2019 a total of 61 children benefitted from the attention, care and Montessori based teaching provided by our teachers



20 graduated from Kindergarten, 12 boys and 8 girls all from the local surrounding villages and admitted to Igoda Primary.

**Madisi Primary:** all our children's village standard 7 children graduated and are going on to Madisi Secondary and a further nine Pre-Form-1 are preparing for Form 1 in Jan 2020. We also count two new students from the Children's Village and one from outside.

Kastory and Kaisa have been top Students at Medisi Primary School, both have been Head Boys and given different responsibilities in their classes. They graduated from the school with High Honours. Kastory was awarded two certificates, one for Leadership and the other for Hard Working. Neither started school until they were 12 and 9 respectively until they arrived at the ICV.

**Madisi Secondary:** all five Form 4 students, graduated and have the option to go on to VTC, or continue schooling form 5 and 6.

**Ruaha Secondary:** Fadhili Hamisi sponsored by MY graduated and is going on to Form 5 secondary in Mbeya.

**Rural Development Organisation:** Simwache graduated from the RDO with two certificates (discipline and academic), after doing a 3-year course in culinary training and has found employment with the company who sponsored her field studies. She wasn't able to start school until she was 12 years old so the fact that she has made it this far is a prime testament to all the hard work the guardians at the Children's Village contribute to all of their children!

Datrai Graduated from Law College (generously funded by African Book Box) She is currently deciding whether to continue with higher studies at University or find employment.

The school bus continues to run and saves the children 16kms per day, there is no local bus service, making a huge difference to the children not having to walk all that distance which would tire them out and drastically interfere with their learning ability. The bus is also used to take the children on Children's Village outings.

2018	CV Boys	CV Girls	Local Boys	Local Girls	Total
NURSERY	2	1	3	5	11
CATERPILLAR	2	2	1	2	7
BUTTERFLY	1	1	0	3	5
KINDERGARTEN	1	1	21	23	46
PRIMARY SCHOOL	18	16	11	2	47
SECONDARY SCHOOL	0	1	5	6	12
UNIVERSITY	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>130</b>
2019	CV Boys	CV Girls	Local Boys	Local Girls	Total
NURSERY	2	2	2	0	6
CATERPILLAR	1	1	1	6	9
BUTTERFLY	2	2	1	2	7
KINDERGARTEN	2	1	19	17	39
PRIMARY SCHOOL	18	15	11	2	46
SECONDARY SCHOOL	0	1	4	6	11
FORM 5	0	0	1	0	1
UNIVERSITY	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>121</b>

Table A: showing Children's Village and local students sponsored by Foxes Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust in 2018 and 2019.

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

The Vocational Training Centre continues to be successful. Tourism guiding, hotel management, with computer studies, sewing school classrooms as well as other trades such as computer studies, carpentry, mechanics, masonry, plumbing and mechanics to follow. In 2018, FCWCT partnered with Udzungwa Training college which has graduated students of tourism guiding and hotel management. Young members of the Children's Village and from the local community, sponsored by Foxes benefit from the free courses offered to them.

### HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE:



Our long-term health professional volunteers who practice at the Luhesela clinic and 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. The clinic is also open to local villagers and runs an outreach program to visit patients from the surrounding communities. Dentists Without Borders call on as many schools as they can within their time in Mufindi, where thousands of dental checks are made and those who need treatment are referred to Mdabulo Dental Clinic where treatment is given.

Two of the Children's Village members were afforded invaluable treatment at the Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation centre (CCBRT) in Dar-es-Salaam, funded by generous sponsorship. Gloria, who was born with a severe cleft lip and palate and came to the ICV because her young mother was unable to feed and care for her properly, has now been given the much-needed correctional surgical procedure. 23-year-old Hezroni, who has cerebral palsy, was treated with intensive physiotherapy, and was fitted with a new wheelchair.





### MILK POWDER PROGRAMME

This programme continues to save the lives of those babies whose mothers are unable to feed them and, most of whom, until this program started, were feeding babies a thick porridge-like drink known as Uji, which is totally unsuited. Apart from the babies at the Children's Village who are on this programme there are a further 7 from the surrounding area which were signed on through the charities outreach work. The Milk Powder Programme is kindly sponsored by St Pius Church in Bristol, UK.

### IGODA CLINIC

**Igoda Clinic** was completed and awaiting the maternity and medical supplies that had arrived at the warehouse. This clinic as well as the necessary maternity equipment was only able to be realised through generous private sponsorship.



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

**Home base care volunteers was revived in July.** The Home Base Care Team are selected volunteers from villages among the 17 covered by the program are trained to identify vulnerable situations that may result in a medical or social intervention necessity. The volunteers are in close contact with government officials including child protection teams and village leaders to help assess the needs of an area. Once identified, the volunteers act as an advocate between the vulnerable group and the social system and aim to organize a sustainable solution to the identified issue. For each case, the volunteer keeps a report describing who was visited, what problems were identified, what measures were taken, and impact is measured by follow up visits and reports. Individual reports are submitted to the HBC leader, who consolidates the information and reports back to the NGO. 17 villages visited in Mufindi District over 3 wards (Ihanu, Mdabulo, Luhunga) by the Home Base Care volunteer team and on average 168 patients were visited and treated per month from August to December.

Month	Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Average (Aug-Nov)	
Medical Condition	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
HVI	51	42	45	39	55	55	49	49	50	46
TB	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Marasmus	5	5	2	7	4	5	4	1	4	5
Rickets	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	2	1	2
Cleft Lip	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
MPP	8	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	0
Wheel Chairs	5	8	2	4	4	5	4	5	4	6
Mossy Foot	18	10	10	13	19	11	19	10	17	11
School Absentees	1	3	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	3
ICV - Community returns	5	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3
Epilepsy	0	0	5	4	6	2	2	4	3	3
Wound Care	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Blindness	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	1
Deafness	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
No. Visited (male/female)	96	73	73	75	100	90	84	80	88	80
Total visited per month	169		148		190		164		168	

Table B: showing community outreach patients visited and treated from Aug to Nov 2019.

## AGRICULTURE

Chicken Project Revival: 200 Mixed Breeds donated by generous sponsors through Gift Giving to OITW The eggs will provide important protein for the ICV, manure will enhance the production of vegetables and some chickens will be allowed to produce chicks for the occasional meat dish. The staple dish for Tanzania is Ugali (maize meal) or rice with beans and green vegetables.

The yields for 2019 were:

Avocados: From March – June 904 Avocados

Vegetable: 4673 bunches (CV 10 bunches per house per week) – almost self-sustaining

Beans: 147 ltrs

Honey: 20 ltrs

Green Pepper: 28 kgs

## HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

After a successful local management change, we welcome Zilipa Mgeni as Trainee Manager and Head of Human Resources, and Fausta Fwili as Financial and Healthcare Officer. Both have settled in very well, are doing exceptional work, and are enjoying their work as the first all-female led management team at the Children's Village. They replace Joseph Majembe and Ezra Mhegele who, after successfully managing the transition of Jenny Peck and Geoff Knight following their relocation back to the USA, have moved on to new opportunities further afield after many year of dedicated service to the Children's Village.

During April, the Tanzania Assemblies of God Church visited the Children's Village, joined in with prayers, made generous, financial donations as well as gifts in kind such as soaps, petroleum jelly, potatoes, and rice. A local scout group visited in July and on Christmas day which was a cause for joy and excitement for all involved. Luhunga Catholic Church also called by to donate soap, rice, bananas, potatoes and petroleum jelly, and Rebecca Loh generously donated children's clothes, shoes, and toy for Christmas for the third year in a row! This will be her last year before moving back to Singapore, she will be sadly missed, Rebecca has been a valued supporter.

## Volunteers:

Jordan was with us for a year who co-ordinated the volunteers and supported Sijali in the Healthcare department. Ella visited from Finland in October, she took photos the previous year and opened a gallery in her home country. Proceeds of sales of pictures went to the NGO and she has planned another venture with the photos she took this year.

From October to December, Dr Leena accompanied by Dr Alexandra visited many villages together with Susan Vincent, a local Missionary resident who lives in the area, having many years of experience and knows those who need treatment. The Home Base Care Team also organise for these volunteer doctors to

call on those villagers in most need of medical attention.

Helmi, a further volunteer from Finland, came for six months to help with Education. She taught music, reading, writing, and assisted with school administration, spending many hours in the Kindergarten, and giving extra lessons for the older children.

The Children's Village had visits from old friends and volunteers, Lucy Kholer visited March, and Jenny Peck together with her husband Geoff Knight in August - everyone was delighted to see them again!



## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

In January the wildlife conservation program was able to benefit from the work of Angelo Barone from Italy. He holds a master's degree in Evolutionary Animal and Human Behaviour and spent three months on Fox Farm collecting data on a rare species of Tanzanian endemic snake, *Atheris Ceratophora*. Establishing the habitat parameters and monitoring the population size of these species is crucial to assess the effects of the local environment which continues to suffer through disturbance due to human activity. Over three months a total of 25 individuals were found, and since this species is defined rare and elusive, the result is significant and likely to be indicative of a vital population. However, an attempt to reduce further habitat loss is necessary in order to continue to preserve these wonderful species of reptiles!

Mwagusi Safari Camp supports the Foxes' Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust (FCWCT). The initiative aims at addressing multifaceted components of poverty and the environment. They have already removed well over 11 thousand snares and so far, planted 30 thousand locally indigenous forest trees (as at end of 2019). The project currently focuses on the facilitation of ongoing ecological monitoring by deploying locally trained anti-poaching units into the scarp forests of Mufindi. Venturing into the forests from four forward operating bases, patrol teams are adept at monitoring both human activities/impacts and the presence/absence of native wildlife. A heavy focus lies in the removal of snares and traps used in illegal poaching activities. Spatio-temporal data concerning illegal human activity and occurrence data of several mammal species are collected daily by patrol teams, contributing to a data inventory which may reveal annual trends in forest resource consumption (illegal human activity) and provides insight into the population dynamics of wildlife species. Ongoing monitoring provides a strong baseline for appropriate law enforcement and forest management practices, safeguarding the ecological and economic values that these forests yield to local communities and stakeholders.



#### **PARTNERS, SPONSORS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

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 both financially and physically, we couldn't do without their combined efforts and generous time. We also received both financial donations and gifts in kind from many other groups and individuals, too numerous to mention by name, but deeply appreciated!

In 2019 we were extremely lucky and honoured to count, once again, as our Partners African Book Box Society in Canada; Mufindi Orphans in Canada; Mufindis Vänner in Sweden; Mufindin Ystävät in Finland; Orphans in the Wild in the UK; and The Berglar Foundation in Germany.

**To every donor, volunteer, and supporter, we thank you for  
continuing to make this happen!  
From all of us here at Foxes Community and Wildlife  
Conservation Trust, the children of the Igoda Children's Village,  
and those community members benefiting from your  
generosity - a huge THANK YOU!**

Signed:

Dated:

31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

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Vicky Fox – Chair of Trustees





**ORPHANS in the Wild**

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**AFRICAN  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOK  
BOX  
SOCIETY**



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