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EARPO News

A quarterly newsletter of the WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office
October-December 2004

EARPO Aligns to WWF Global Conservation Programme

The Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office (EARPO) / Tanzania Programme Office (TPO) staff gathered 11-16 September 2004 in Arusha, Tanzania, to align their activities to the WWF Global Conservation Programme. Participants included the Regional Representative



Some of the participants at the ARM workshop in Arusha, Tanzania. EARPO has now aligned her activities to the WWF Global Conservation Programme

EARPO, Dr Sam Kanyamibwa; Tanzania Programme Office (TPO) Country Representative, Dr Hermann Mwageni, Directors of conservation and experts in various fields.

Facilitated by Mr Evans Elias Lushakuzi, the team started with programme overviews of marine, forests, freshwater, savannah and species, and cross-cutting issues such as finance and administration, communication and policy. Conservation Directors Dr Tom Kabii of EARPO (RIP), and Dr Stephen Marik (TPO) presented an overview of conservation programmes. This led into action planning, where, the global conservation targets guided EARPO contribution to meeting them. Specifically, participants prioritized project objectives and activities and worked out implementation modalities and capacities.

During the 17-18 September 2004 meeting, EARPO staff who had attended the ARM workshop convened at FAWE House Nairobi to share the Arusha deliberations with the rest of EARPO staff members and carry the process further. Participants reviewed and discussed EARPO implementation status and lessons learnt and how to improve performance.

Participants divided themselves into groups, thus, forests, marine, fresh water, savannah programmes, and those that looked into regional issues.

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Eco-wall Constructed to Re-establish Virunga Park Borders

WWF, the international conservation organisation, together with other agencies such as United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), the European Union (EU), Frankfurt Zoological Society

(FZS) and community associations, have been working together, since August 2004, to re-establish the borders of the Mikeno Sector, Virunga National Park, by constructing a dry stone wall. The wall will help to stop encroachment of the park by farmers and pastoralists, and restore the integrity of the park boundary. This follows recent deforestation and cultivation of a large area in the Mikeno sector of the Virunga National Park by communities surrounding the park. Virunga National Park is a world heritage site.



Four park rangers next to the boundary wall

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WWF Global Communications Team Formed

More than ten WWF Communication experts gathered in Yaounde, Cameroun, 23-30 September 2004, formed what they called the Global Communications Team, to improve communications and ensure quality of their products. The global team was formed in line with the 'global' concept, which now characterizes WWF. Cindy Echten of WWF-Netherlands and Samuel Mikenga of WWF-EARPO, who were elected to take the lead, are to map out strategy. The team was composed of representatives from AMP POs, WWF International hqs, WWF Netherlands, WWF Belgium and WWF USA.

The global team will work on a shared communications standard both in terms of quality and quantity, identify communication capacity needs within the WWF Network, and define communication priority areas (NOs, POs, regions) based on specified selection criteria. Other functions will include providing support to improve communications capacity, at local and international level (on the job, hands on), and building a network of communication partners that are related (relation could be: region, theme, issue management like hunting, etc).

Communication problems/ constraints

It was observed that almost all Programme Offices in Africa experienced similar problems, such as little human, material and financial resources allocated to communication; media houses considered environmental stories as not news-worthy, little communications culture among other staff, language barrier and illiteracy and adhoc communication activities (working without strategic strategies).



The Global Communication team. From l to r: Ms Cindy Echten, WWF-the Netherlands; Ms Solange Ngofon, WWF-CARPO; Mr Peter Ngea, WWF-CARPO; Stephen Mayombo, WWF-Gabon, CARPO; Joyce Bayona, TPO; Frank Beytier, WWF-Belgium; Samuel Mikenga, WWF-EARPO; Frederick Bambara, WWF-WARPO; Olivier VanBogaert, WWF International; and Lee Poston, WWF US.

Problems of WWF International and NOs were mainly of few original stories from the field and small number of good photos for the photo database

The team resolved to share information, update databases, build capacity of staff, improve quality of stories, and develop communication strategies for the projects and programmes. They also agreed to meet regularly (at least once a year) to discuss progress and strategy. Training in fundraising skills was also seen as crucial for the communication experts.

About the workshop

The aim of the workshop was to provide support to improve communications capacity, at local

and international scale. This was to be done by ensuring information exchange, working on a shared communications standard, and building a global communications team for the region

There were presentations of the situations of communications in the different regions and NOs, followed by discussions on way forward. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the field sites where they experienced what was going on in areas of conservation and communication.

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Eco-wall Constructed to Re-establish Virunga Park Borders

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The Problem

In one of its regular aerial surveillance exercises in this zone, WWF noted that this zone was intact in April 2004. In mid May, preliminary reports showed rapid massive deforestation in Mikeno sector. It was confirmed that between May and June, hundreds of hectares of forests were entirely wiped out and adjacent areas degraded by farmers, who had turned the area into farming and grazing area. Reports by l'Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) and other NGOs also gave similar grim picture. In partnership with the Catholic University in Louvain (UCL), WWF put in place a satellite image analysis, which established a clearer picture on extent of damage to the forest.

Conservation works best with involvement of stakeholders

The intervention has been in form of provision of funds to 24 associations in both Rwanda and DRC, which have a 2040 strong workforce comprising of 989 men and 1051 women. Six Rwandan associations have now been engaged to build the part of the wall which runs along the international boundary, but a further 12 associations from the Congolese side have now joined them to help speed things along.

By the 22nd August 2004, a total of 7.346 km of the wall had been completed with 3.443 km built within two weeks. IGCP have signed a contract with WFP who have agreed to pay food for work from August through to December 2004.

The construction of the wall clearly demarcates the boundary of the park and will over time be accepted as the limit for cultivation – there will in the interim have to be a patrol programme of visits and inspections along the length of the wall to help establish its legitimacy and integrity. Perhaps the most positive

aspect of the wall construction so far has been the integration of the various associations charged with construction, including six from Rwanda, which has helped bring the communities together. It has also been a vehicle for conservation education. As the wall continues to be built, these two important aspects will be fostered with the over-arching aim of providing long-term security.

The rapid intervention by the NGO community, and other international bodies, which resulted in the agreement to fund and build an 'eco' wall, and the active participation of the local people has demonstrated that conservation works best when all stakeholders are involved.

About Virunga National Park (PNVi)

The Virunga National Park (PNVi) is one of the oldest National Parks on the African Continent. Situated in Eastern part of DRC in the Albertine Rift, which is one of the 117 most important ecoregions in Africa in terms of conservation, this park is the richest in number of species of mammals and birds. It also protects a big number of species threatened with extinction. It covers 800000 ha along the borders with Rwanda and Uganda.

The Mikeno Sector of PNVi is adjacent to the Parc National des Volcans (Rwanda) and to Mgahinga National Park (Uganda), which together, constitute the volcanic areas of Virunga. This volcano area is habitat to the majority (700) of Mountain Gorillas *Gorilla beringei beringei*.

The Mikeno Sector is connected to the rest of PNVi by the Mwaro Corridor, which connects the active and inactive volcanoes Nyamulagira and Nyiragongo. This corridor allows migration of animal populations from one zone to another and thus, destruction of genetic biodiversity in the areas.

Mikeno Forest sector also plays an

important ecological and economic role for the local people as it gives continuous supplies of clean water, ensures good stable local climate, and stops erosion of the fertile soils. Furthermore, the tourism linked to Mountain Gorilla contributes to an annual income of 1,500,000 Euros.

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Ecoregion
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WWF Global Conservation Programme

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Objectives, activities, implementation mechanisms, resources, and fundraising efforts, were revisited and discussed.

Some of the major regional issues that came up include: managing growth, fundraising and capacity building. Others were operational issues and systems and engagements and partnerships. Participants agreed to work as a team to achieve the desired objectives.

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Minister pledges Support to WWF Good Woods Project

Minister for Trade and Industry, Hon. Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, in his speech read by his Assistant Minister, Mr Zaddock Syongo, pledged government's support to the Good Woods Project, during a trade exhibition by the project, held in Mombasa, Kenya on 20 August 2004. The project endeavors to improve livelihoods of local communities and conserve Kenya's indigenous tree species by encouraging wood carvers to shift to using other sources of wood especially the local neem and mango trees, among others. The project works with wood carvers organizations and coastal farmers in the coastal districts of Kilifi, Kwale and Malindi, Kenya.

"This exhibition marks a beginning for a collaborative effort between my Ministry, WWF and many other partners supporting the small scale good woods enterprises to access world markets especially through AGOA and the EU", Mukhisa said. "I wish to call upon other NGOs and development partners to support this noble initiative that contributes to our nations economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable environmental conservation as espoused in Kenya's economic recovery strategy", the minister added. He said that to prepare the carvers to compete effectively, his ministry, in collaboration with WWF and other partners plan to:

- Enhance farm forestry of tree species that can be used as good wood,
- Develop quality criteria and certification framework for good woods tree products as environmentally produced products,
- Build capacities of the local community, farmers and good woods producers (wood carvers, carpenters, soap makers, etc, to enhance their capacity to sustainably produce and market their products.

About the good woods project exhibition

The good woods project was started in Kenya in 1994 under "People and plants Initiative" of UNESCO and WWF.

The main purpose of the good woods trade exhibition was:

- Link good wood tree products producers such as wood carvers with local and international buyers
- Provide a forum for the

buyers to appreciate the importance of good woods products to poverty reduction and environmental conservation,

- Provide an enabling environment for the producers (farmers), wood carvers, regulators (the government) and buyers to exchange views on quality standards and certification of the good woods products for increased competition capability in the world markets.

Achievements of the Good Woods Project

- Through awareness campaigns, over 70 % of wood carvers use alternative farm grown tree species like neem, jacarada, mango and grevillea, which has translated into conservation of indigenous forests
- Developed high quality tree products designs and



Mr David Maingi, Manager, Good Woods Project shows Minister Zaddock Syongo, some of alternative woods that can be used by wood carvers at WWF-EARPO stand. This was at Mombasa during a crafts exhibition organised by WWF, together with other partners.

introduced them to international buyers increasing sales in the world markets..

- Certification scheme has been established and is pursuing the goal of getting Forest Management and Chain of custody certificates
- Improved forest management practices have been adopted by way of resource planning to ensure sustainable supplies of raw materials
- Sensitised policy makers on the importance of certification as a Forest management and conservation tool.
- Raised farm incomes by creating markets for good woods.

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Ecotourism Boosts the Kaya Livelihoods

You can conserve forests and improve livelihoods at the same time

The Kaya people, one set of communities living around the Kaya Kinondo Sacred Forest in Kenya, have boosted their incomes, thanks to intervention by WWF-EARPO, through its Eastern Africa Coastal Forests Ecoregion Programme. During the FY 03, more than \$ 5000 was collected for community development from cultural tourism. The Kaya Kinondo sacred forest is one of the 38 forests gazetted recently, with the help of WWF.

“Kaya Kinondo progress shows you can conserve nature at the same time improve peoples living standards. We respect indigenous people’s ways of life and work closely with them to achieve this. The Kaya Kinondo case is a success and will be replicated to other relevant sites within the EACFE”, says Mr John Salehe of WWF-EARPO when asked to comment on the project. Funding for this initiative was secured from Ford Foundation and the WWF Network

The many benefits

The project is supporting a number of activities that contribute to improved livelihood for the adjacent communities of the Digo tribe. They were facilitated to establish a functioning ecotourism programme. Communities were trained on ecotourism as one of the possible alternatives for raising revenue in order to contribute to community development activities. At the moment there is a tourism center, trained tourist guides. EARPO also initiated a marketing strategy in order to attract more tourists.

Alternative revenue earning activities for individual households are now in place. These include production of a variety of handicrafts, wood carvings from good woods (timber from planted trees other than the natural forests) including old mango trees, old coconut

trees, jacaranda and neem tree. Other tree based products include medicated soap, candles, mosquito repellants, shampoo, muscle cramp ointment, oils, herbal tea and many others. Communities have been trained in modern beekeeping and production of other bee products. Communities have now started to gain revenues from these initiatives and WWF EARPO is assisting in improving quality and standards in order to attract both local and external markets. WWF organized a trade show in Mombasa and brought the buyers and producers into direct contact. A documentary has been made in collaboration with Reuters for Africa Journal and this is intended to enhance Kaya Kinondo tourism.



Tourism centre at Kaya kinondo

In order for the communities to save their money, a village banking system has been put in place, with a bank building and a money safe. Exchange visits (within Kenya and in Tanzania) have been supported.



Tourists at Kaya Kinondo

Conservation issues



John Salehe, Eastern Africa Coastal Forests Ecoregion Programme Coordinator with Manager of Bank Building at Kaya Kinondo, Kenya

WWF EARPO through its coastal forests programme facilitated the communities to work together with the government (National Museum of Kenya) and managed to gazette thirty eight sacred forests in the Kenyan coast. There are yet more than a dozen of forests to be gazetted. These forests are now gazetted as national monuments under the National Monuments and Antiquities Act, and are now legally under the management of the local communities that live around these forests.

About the Kaya Kinondo Ecotourism Project

This project, being jointly undertaken by the National Museums’ CFCU and with funding from Ford Foundation, is striving to establish ecotourism as an alternative source of income for local coastal communities, whose traditional cultural beliefs are responsible for the conservation of the Kaya forests. It is contributing to the forest conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing objectives.

For more information, please contact:
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EARPO Awards Best Performers

Mr John Salehe, Programme Coordinator, East Africa Coastal Forest Ecoregion Programme and Mrs Patricia Mwendwa, Financial Controller, received awards of merit on 13 October 2004, after being announced by Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, Regional Representative, EARPO, as this year's best performers.

"They were selected because of their exemplary performance. They foster team work, make the work place lively, and were considered by their colleagues as having contributed greatly to achievement of EARPO goals and objectives", said Kanyamibwa during the presentation of the awards, which was attended by all members of staff.

Overwhelmed with joy, Patricia and her colleague thanked staff for the support and team work. "This present is for all of us because we couldn't have achieved these awards without your cooperation and guidance", said Salehe, holding high the certificate of merit signed



Patricia Mwendwa and John Salehe show their awards

by Dr Sam Kanyamibwa and Dr Yaa N'tiamoa Baidu, Director of Africa and Madagascar Programme. Patricia on her part praised the entire staff for the good atmosphere created in EARPO to enable staff effectively carry out their duties.

EARPO awards best performers each year for their exceptional work performance and team spirit, as a way to encourage team work and quality hard work. The best performers are selected by fellow staff members through secret ballot, following carefully selected criteria.

Uganda Struggles with Athrax

The disease has killed more than 200 Hippos

It is now official. After three months of speculation, scientists have found out that it is anthrax responsible for more than 200 hippo deaths in Uganda. *The New Vision*, a Ugandan daily newspaper, reported Wednesday 20 October 2004, that "Hippos and other animals in Queen Elizabeth National Park and Katonga Wildlife Reserve in western Uganda are dying of anthrax". Mr Nicholas Kauta, Commissioner in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Industry, who is also spokesperson for the team of tourism and agriculture ministry ministers formed last week to contain the disease, reported that in

addition to the hippos, other victims included waterbucks and buffaloes. He said anthrax, which was earlier reported in Queen Elizabeth, a habitat to half the number of hippos in Uganda, could have spread to the Katonga reserve.

The hippo deaths occurred in Katako, on the northern shores of Lake Edward, Kyamdura river, Kashaka, Kasenyi and the Kazinga channel, between Lake Edward and Lake Albert near the border with the Congo. Queen Elizabeth National Park has been the most affected. Queen Elizabeth

National Park, about 205 miles west of the capital Kampala, is home to about half of the estimated 10,000 hippos in Uganda. The park is Uganda's second largest.

Anthrax exists in the soil as spores that can survive for more than five decades. It is believed that the animals ate grass and were exposed to the disease-causing organisms in the soil. Anthrax, which is caused by bacteria, kills animals as well as human beings within a short period after infection. Indeed

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More Companies Join Corporate Club

After the signing ceremony at WWF-EARPO offices in Nairobi on Friday 27 August 2004, witnessed by Corporate Club's Goodwill Ambassador, Dr. Manu Chandaria, Sarova Hotels and Commercial Bank of Africa became the latest companies to join the Corporate Club (CC). This brought the number of CC members to 15.

Dr Sam Kanyamibwa signed on behalf of EARPO, while Mr. Isaac Awuondo, MD Commercial Bank of Africa and Mr. Vohra, Chairman of Sarova Hotels signed on behalf of their companies. The occasion was also witnessed by Corporate Club manager, Mrs Hawa Sow; EARPO Directors and other staff.

"Our company pledges total support to the protection of the environment. We shall closely work with WWF to ensure protection of nature", said the Mr. Isaac Awuondo, MD Commercial Bank of Africa. He said that his company had already started environment and sponsorship programmes under its Corporate Social Responsibility strategies. "We got a needy child and paid

his school fees. He is now working with us at the bank after school", said Awuondo.

About the Corporate Club

The Corporate Club is the private Sector's way of forming partnerships with WWF to stop the degradation of natural resources and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature.



Dr s. Kanyamibwa (l) and Mr Vohra, Chairman of Sarova Hotels sign agreement. Looking on are (L to R) Mr V. Keraro (WWF), Dr Chandaria and Stella Miano (Sarova)

WWF believes that corporate engagement is a key to transforming markets, to changing domestic and



Dr. Kanyamibwa (L) and Mr. Isaac Awuondo, MD Commercial Bank of Africa exchanging agreements

international law and to adopting and promoting a sector-wide shift to sustainable development and corporate best practice. WWF's approach to working with business is constructive and solutions-oriented. It is both collaborative in its methods and challenging in its objectives. And it is always forward-looking : WWF works with companies to help them change the way they do business.

More on partnerships: <http://www.panda.org/>

For more information, please contact: Hawa Sow, Corporate Club Manager, EARPO, Email: HSow@wwfearpo.org

Uganda Struggles with Athrax

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it was reported in the *The East African* newspaper, September 27, 2004, that four people who ate dead carcasses of the hippos died. Many more had been hospitalized.

Efforts to contain the disease

Government of Uganda provided Shs 60 million and UWA released 100



People look at the carcass of a buffalo killed by anthrax in Queen Elizabeth National Park

million shillings to contain the disease. Mr David Duli, WWF Uganda Project Officer says much has been done since then. "Carcasses of the dead animals have been buried in deep pits using tractors. Education and awareness messages have been aired on FM Radio stations for the public not to enter and graze in the park and not to eat any form of Bush or wildmeat. The Kazinga Channel one of the main tourist attraction in the Park was closed and this is the channel where most hippos died. However other parts of the park remained open to tourism", said Duli when contacted for comment on the anthrax situation in Uganda.

He also said that the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Industry is

mobilizing vaccination campaigns for livestock in the area. Bushenyi District banned movement of animals to and from areas near the National Park. The water department is also taking tests of the water qualities in the area. No more death of the animals have been reported in the last few days but UWA is planning an aerial surveillance to assess the impact which could have been inflicted on other species of wildlife other than the Hippos.

WWF-EARPO has projects around Mt Rwenzori, which is near the affected National Park.

For more information, please contact:

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Staff News**Dr Kwame Koranteng, New Regional Representative**

Dr Koranteng holds a PhD in Biological Science with specialisation in fisheries and marine ecosystems analysis. He has an outstanding working experience in fisheries research and marine monitoring. Before joining EARPO, he was Director of the Marine Fisheries Research Division of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Ghana. Dr Koranteng has worked with a number of international organisations. He is officially beginning work in January 2005.

Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, who has been Regional Representative for WWF-EARPO since 2000 is now Deputy Director for Africa and Madagascar Programme. He took up his post in July 2004 and is stationed in Gland, Switzerland.

George Wamukoya, formerly Policy Manager was elevated to post of newly created Unit Head, Development and External Relations

Victor Keraro, who has served EARPO as Director, Finance and Administration for 10 years left EARPO in November 2004.

Samuel Mikenga is new Communications Manager, EARPO from August 2004. He replaced **Catherine Mgendi**, who left in April 2004.

EAME Programme: **Jane Mbendo** is Policy Officer, while **Modesta Medad** is Fisheries Community Officer

Staff Changes in Finance Department

Patricia Mwendwa is Financial Controller.

Sospeter Mwangi Kaguongo is Senior Accountant, Operations

Mark Kiarie is Accountant, Operations

Lawrence Otieno is Programme Support Manager

Marrianne Musungu is Assistant Accountant, GAA Donor Relations

Felix Mbogo is Accountant, Network Donor Relations

Juliana Atieno is HR Assistant Manager

Calendar of Major Events, January-March 2005

8-17-21 January, Rolle, Switzerland. Programme Office Representatives Training

17-21 January, Mombasa, Kenya. Certification assessment-good woods project

17-31 January, Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique. EACFEP national task force meetings and launch Kaya Kinondo bank

20-25 January, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Marine Advisory Group Meeting

24-28 January, Windhoek, Namibia. Africa and Madagascar Programme Environmental Education Network Meeting

27 January -2 February, Ithala Game Reserve, South Africa. Species Working Group 2005

20-24 February, Hyderabad, India. Global Freshwater Team meeting

21-24 February, Istanbul, Turkey. Global Climate Team meeting

28 Feb-4 March, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. AMP Forest Forum

7-10 March, Nairobi, Kenya. AMP Policy Workshop

16-19 March, Accra, Ghana. Africa/Madagascar Programme Team Meetings

Mid-March, Mombasa, Kenya. Launch of Coast Tree products Company

21-23 March, Madagascar (tbc) Africa/Madagascar Programme Subcommittee Meeting

28 March-1 April, Zanzibar, Tanzania. EACFEP Regional Task force meeting

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

WWF-EARPO announces the following vacant posts in its new Uganda projects:

- 1 Site Project Manager
- 2 Community Environmental Planning Officer
- 3 Project Administrator/ Accountant
- 4 Project Coordinator/ Executant
- 5 Project Extensionist

For more details, please see address:

http://www.ugandajobline.com/jobseekers/job-info.php?job_id=116

OR contact: dduli@wwfuganda.org or dduliwwfug@afsat.com

Deadline 20 January 2004

This quarterly newsletter is designed and produced by WWF-EARPO.

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OBITUARY

Death occurred of WWF-EARPO Conservation Director, **Dr Thomas Kabii**. The deceased died in a fatal motor accident, 28 November 2004, on his way to attend a WWF policy workshop in Mara. Before the accident, he had led a team of EARPO staff to meetings with Corporate Club members at Kericho and Mau Forest, where he chaired meetings, took the Corporate club members around projects and planted a tree.

Late Tom joined WWF in March 2003 as Conservation Programme Director after he completed his PhD on Environmental Management at the Edith Cowan University in Australia. He worked for Ramsar as Regional Coordinator for Africa between 1994 and 1997. Tom started his career as civil servant in Kenya working for Kenya Forestry Research Institute and Kenya Wildlife Service, respectively.

Since he joined WWF EARPO, late Tom consistently demonstrated professionalism combined with humour and excellent human relations. Tom was very friendly, always maximizing his efforts for the service of the organization. He was a leader who could inspire people through the force of his principles, ideas and dedication. He had a clear vision and strategic mind to put that vision into practice. All the staff at EARPO who viewed him as dependable, professional, humorous and tactful leader particularly miss him.

Tom was buried on 7 December 2004 at Saba Saba, Muranga, Kenya. He is survived by a widow and 3 children.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.