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RANGERS: HOLDING THE THIN GREEN LINE. SERIES TWO

"My comments to my colleagues around the world are to work hard & with honesty in protecting nature, in order to rescue this world inheritance as well as turning the world into a better place to live."

I am a District Game Scout/Ranger working in southern Tanzania, I have been working in this job for ten years.

I became a ranger, after being sponsored by GTZ, as I was one among VGS from Namwinyu village & I had a secondary education. Then GTZ sponsored me to attend Scout College at Pasiansi College, thereafter I qualified to be a ranger & employed to work with Tunduru District in its Natural Resource Department.

We have a wildlife corridor, which link Selous Game Reserve & Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique.

We are very proud of our protected areas, they are among few protected areas which contain intact natural vegetation or "virgin forest". They also protect elephants, Lesser Kudu, Lions, Leopard & Buffaloes.

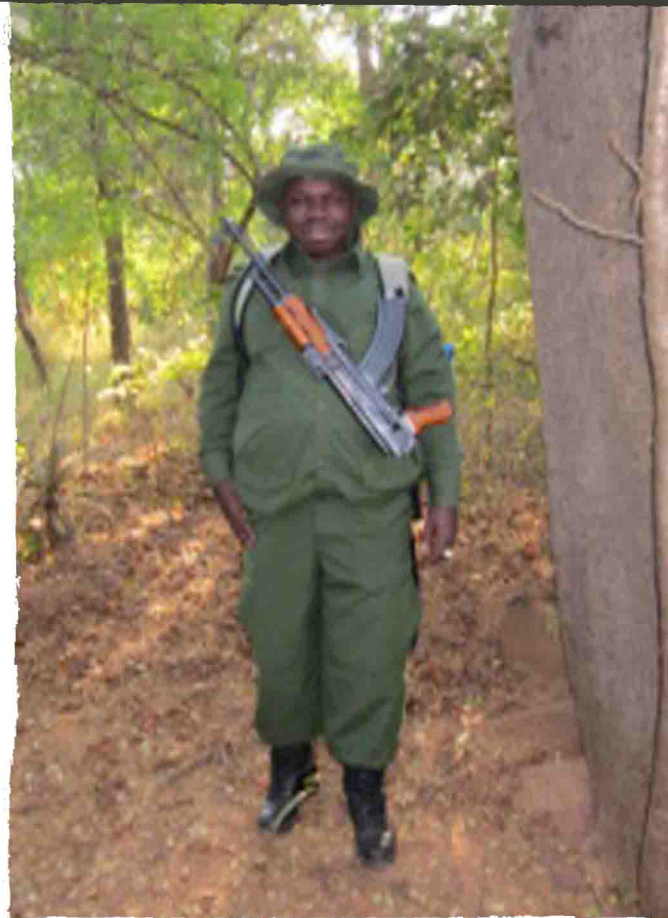
We also have a very big cave in Misiaje village, it accommodates more than 100 people at a time. It also contains a unique kind of soil used by the local communities as fertilizer & by poachers as a gun powder. We also have a famous stone known as "Jiwe la bwana" which means a Stone of Lord, on this stone there is a human foot print (hominid).

My main role is to organise & participate in patrols. During hunting season I prepare & issue hunting licenses for local hunters. I also resolve human-wildlife conflicts.

My inspiration is to get further education related to my job, so as to increase my skills.

In 20 years to come I would like the Government to upgrade all Game Controlled Areas to be Game Reserves. The essence of upgrading is to ensure closer support from the Government particularly wildlife protection funds. By doing this our wildlife will be more secured compared to now.

Due to poaching incidences, in 20 years to come the Thin Green Line is going to decrease tremendously if urgent efforts to fight poachers won't apply.



"My most challenging day was when I went to Chikomo Village to control human-lion conflicts. On the way a lion suddenly came from no where & jumped over me! Despite being armed I couldn't do anything but lie down with my gun. I thought I was already killed by a lion!"



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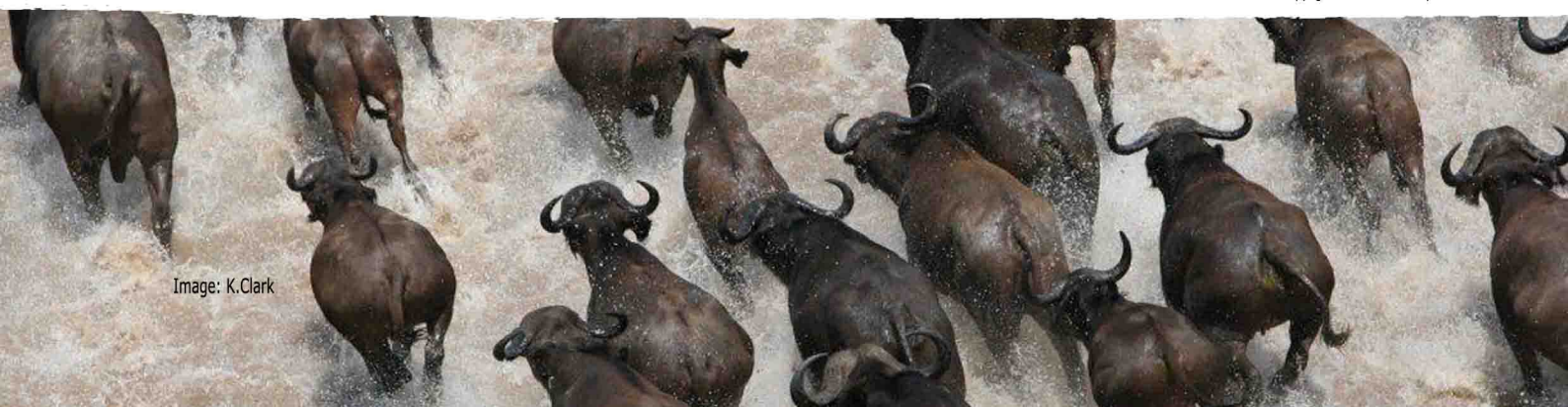


Image: K.Clark