

Dear Ingwelala User,

On 02 March 2016, the attached presentation was delivered to the Ingwelala members at a general information sharing evening. We were hoping for an earlier launch, but scheduled 2016 Board Meetings had to be taken into consideration to achieve full Board support.

The text that follows below can be read with the presentation to afford you better insight into this fundraising project that the Ingwelala staff are initiating.

It's a simple approach from the staff for you to support the cause to proactively up our game as a community in terms of wildlife protection. This is not limited to rhino protection.

Following on Mark Shaw's excellent and informative presentation on general security at the 2015 AGM, a number of staff initiatives and skills are in the making, to better equip us to fight this poaching scourge that ultimately threatens all our wildlife and precious ecosystems. That the incidents are on Ingwelala's doorstep is no secret, highlighted by Kevin in his Chairman Communications to Members and by Mark at the recent AGM.

In a nut shell, the staff are wanting to raise enough cash to purchase a surveillance aircraft, because through the past 24 months experiences, we know that a surveillance plane will be a useful asset to Ingwelala, and its surrounds, for a number of work purposes. Ahead of full moon, we can observe and gather much Intel about local animal movement and location and deploy the rangers more effectively in the right areas. During the various lunar phases the plane can assist us to adjust and jostle our strategy as the pieces constantly change on the chess board. Responding to gun shots will be tenfold more expeditious in place of having to wait for air support from Hoedspruit (or further) as is the current case. A positive reaction to every negative criminal action will over time send a strong message that our area of responsibility is manned, is patrolled and that we have serious intent to protect it.

The type of aircraft that is suitable, and highly successful in other conservation areas, is categorised in the Light Sport Aviation (LSA) class (Microlight) and is likely to be a Bat Hawk <http://www.bathawk.co.za/> or a Savannah <http://savannahac.co.za/>. Why either of these planes you may well ask? Well, they both have the ability to fly low and slow, particularly the Bat Hawk and are quiet when throttled back. Visibility for the observer/spotter sitting next to the pilot is excellent. Running costs are low due to the LSA category. Our financial goal will include erecting a hanger adjacent to the current apron on the Ingwelala airstrip.

**You may ask yourself, so what are the staff doing and how do they intend achieving this in the short term?**

Robere owns a two-seater tri-axle microlight, and in the interim has offered in his private capacity to relocate his plane from Hoedspruit to Ingwelala to assist Mark with the patrol planning, and respond to gun shots. However, a tri-axle microlight has its limitations in terms of fair weather flying conditions so the Bat Hawk or Savannah is the ultimate goal, as we want to shift to a company owned asset.

Robere's existing pilot qualification allows him to do a modest low cost conversion on the Bat Hawk. This affords us a resident pilot, (at no extra cost!).

Robere has been hard at work securing sponsorship from various sources for building material to erect a hanger and has to date come a long way with this task.

As an aside, and in the bigger Nkorho picture, staff have interacted with Members to fund raise for Nkorho. In particular Charlie Lynam in Bungalow #6 has been a stalwart in this arena. Several members pledged cash amounts, photographic courses raised money, wildlife photo-art images raised money, and wildlife images for calendars raised money, members bought the rangers predator proof tents, and down to selling boerewors rolls and refreshments at the recent Rugby World Cup matches and around the swimming pool at New Year all raised monies for Nkorho.

However, the surveillance plane is a "charity begins at home" initiative and is Ingwelala based.

When the plans were in place to secure a new sniffer/tracker dog, kindly aided by Thatch Risk Acceptances, an opportunity arose to extend the existing sniffer dogs' skills cadre by training them to locate rhino in areas where gunshots are reported (work in progress). Given the nature of the energetic pointer breed, (as the handler) I need to maintain a high level of physical fitness. Due to knee surgery in 2014 my physical training preference is cycling.

I am in training for the 2016 Argus Cycle, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, a 110 km cycle event. The staff appeal is for each bungalow to consider sponsoring me R20/km or any part thereof for a fair and honest finish ☺. I did manage to complete the 2015 Momentum 94.7 in 4h17 if you are considering a yard stick!

Riding for a worthwhile cause is a great motivator, and I will do my level best to make you proud. Our goal is to raise approximately R500, 000.00 and this works back to about R2, 200.00 per bungalow.

In my private capacity I am in training for my Private Pilot Licence (PPL). I hope to achieve this qualification by the final quarter of 2016, which will enable me to do a short conversion for the LSA certificate and assist Mark when Robere is unavailable.

Several Member cyclists have shown enthusiasm to form an Ingwelala cycling team, and it is envisaged that through this team's future fund raising efforts, enough funds will be raised to easily cover the plane's operating costs.

If you would like to support this staff initiative and contribute in any way, please contact me (John Llewellyn) directly via [reception@ingwelala.co.za](mailto:reception@ingwelala.co.za)

Kind regards,  
John and the Ingwelala Team