11 September 2016

Message from the Chairman

Dear Members of Ingwelala

Project Sky Hawk

ACQUISITION OF SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT

Introduction

As previously reported at the Members Information Evening held in Johannesburg on 1 June 2016, the Management and Staff of Ingwelala had previously proposed a fund raising initiative for Ingwelala to acquire a surveillance aircraft for conservation and anti-poaching activities, with Board approval.

Directors: Kevin A Alborough (Chairman), John M Saker (Vice Chairman), John H Llewellyn (Managing), Gavin R George, Andrew R Hauptfleisch, Christopher C Henderson, Ian P W Knight, Nicolaas J Roodt, Andrew Rossaak, Georg R Schwaeble, John M Vice, Ivan C Visée.

Project Sky Hawk

In order to progress this initiative, Project Sky Hawk was born. There are a myriad of worthy conservation initiatives in the country, many with high visibility and doing a fantastic job. We however feel the time has come to provide the Ingwelala membership community with the opportunity to make a direct and tangible investment into a conservation initiative that will have an immediate impact on our own and surrounding protected areas. Project Sky Hawk must be seen as an extension and enhancement to all the other work and structures we have in place, such as our Anti-Poaching Unit run by Ntomeni Rangers.

This aircraft will be used in the wildlife anti-poaching war that is having such a dramatic effect on our rhino population and is showing signs of moving to other species. In addition to the anti-poaching activities, the aircraft will also perform other important duties, namely:

- Mapping veld burns
- Veld rehabilitation planning
- Monitoring carcasses for anthrax control
- Water availability
- Alien plant mapping and control planning
- Identification of Raptor nest sites
- Elephant impact on trees and other species
- Veld utilisation and other such management information indices
- Possible emergency uses

In consultation with various anti-poaching experts and with the full support of the Kruger National Park, Game Reserves United, the existing local airborne anti-poaching initiatives and the newly established joint security initiative, the process of acquiring an aircraft commenced. The use of an aircraft is considered to be a very effective and efficient tool in the war against poaching and for maintaining security in the area. Whilst it doesn't replace rangers and other activities, and despite its limitations, it will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of most of existing wildlife security activities in our immediate area.

Aircraft Purchased

Detailed investigations, consultations and tests were undertaken in order to identify the most suitable aircraft within reasonable cost parameters for the needs of Ingwelala, Nkorho and the broader anti-poaching initiative. Of the numerous aircraft researched, viewed and even flown, the Savannah was eventually selected as the most suitable, and a search commissioned to find a second hand that matched condition and budget targets.

A Savannah for sale in Tzaneen was found quicker than we expected at a reasonable price of RK450 (incl VAT), this before we could start collecting donations to fund the acquisition. The Board kindly agreed to provide bridging finance so that we didn't miss the opportunity to make the acquisition. A technical expert was asked to check the aircraft over and provide us with a Pre Purchase Report before the decision was made to proceed with the purchase.

I am delighted to advise that all went according to plan and Ingwelala has now successfully purchased the Savannah aircraft and taken delivery (picture on the front page). Some slight modification work in the cockpit is currently taking place and once Robere Brockman (our Maintenance Manager) has completed his pilot conversion course on this aircraft within the next few weeks, it will be flown and based at Ingwelala (Robere currently has his own micro light aircraft stationed at Ingwelala). John Llewellyn is also studying for his private pilot licence and will subsequently need to do a pilot conversion course on the Savannah.

We are hoping that a hangar will be donated to Ingwelala so that we can protect our newly acquired asset (we have identified an unused one in the area). Any assistance in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

Funding

John Llewellyn and his team started a fundraising initiative for this project and some Members and Corporates have expressed an interest in donating money towards the acquisition as well as the ongoing running and maintenance costs of the aircraft. As mentioned earlier, the capital acquisition cost is R450 (incl VAT) and the monthly running costs are estimated to be in the region of RK15. It is hoped that all of this will be no cost to Ingwelala itself, but can be provided through the various fundraising initiatives such as donations, opportunities for advertising on the aircraft, Ingwelala cycling and running club etc.

So far the response from Members has been tremendous and to date, pledges to the value of RK300 against a target of RK500 have already been received and which will now be called in.

Donations

Further Donations can now be made directly to Ingwelala for this project by payment into Ingwelala's bank account via EFT, but must carry a payment reference of "Sky Hawk" and the Bungalow number (for example "Sky Hawk 91" in order that they can be identified and tracked. The bank details are as follows:
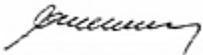
FNB HOEDPSRUIT   Branch Code   270652   Account Number 62023894901

Should you wish to make payment in another form (e.g. credit card, debit order, adding a monthly amount to your Bungalow account), please contact Reception directly to make the necessary arrangements.

Your support is needed

We are at an important crossroad in the development and protection of our special home at Ingwelala. We all need to do more to save this important asset and provide a legacy to our families into the future. I encourage you all, in whatever way you can, to support the ongoing fundraising of this important project.

Sincerely

Kevin Alborough
Chairman