



# LOST IN action

he completed his BSc Honours in Zoology and Wildlife Ecology from the University of Dar es Salaam and was put in charge of conservation education and community conservation services at Serengeti National Park.

It was from this post that Kisamo applied to join the CB course. In his letter of motivation, he stressed the urgent need for highly trained conservation professionals to guide conservation efforts in TANAPA and more broadly in Tanzania. Kisamo was accepted for the CB course in 2001, funded by a Fellowship from the MacArthur Foundation.

Kisamo's research project was on the impact of community conservation initiatives in villages around the Udzungwa Mountains National Park in Tanzania. His supervisor, Dr Jane Turpie, vividly recalls the week they shared setting up the study. It coincided with the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the USA and they watched events unfold on a TV rigged up in a remote bush camp. As they viewed New York's twin towers falling, they had long discussions on the state of the world. Jane says, 'Kisamo was a gentle soul, yet a determined conservationist who commanded huge respect from his peers. It is incredibly unfair that his dedication to Tanzania's wildlife has led to his death.'

After graduating from the CB course, Kisamo was appointed director of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, set up to implement the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora. During his tenure he oversaw several major illegal ivory busts. In 2009, he returned to TANAPA as chief park warden in law enforcement, and also served as director of conservation and resource management.

The 2001 CB class, with students from across Africa, the UK, USA and Chile, was one of the strongest in the course's history. Most of the 15 graduates have gone on to make significant contributions to conservation across Africa. Kisamo's death has been greeted with disbelief by his classmates, who fondly recall his calm demeanour, even when under the most intense pressure. He was always friendly, good humoured and respectful, which makes his murder so much more incomprehensible.

Chief Executive of WWF-SA, Morné du Plessis, who was director of the Fitz in 2001, remembers Kisamo's role in the class: 'Kisamo added significantly in terms of his extensive conservation management experience. His was the sober voice of pragmatism and rationality in discussions. He had an extreme passion for conservation and the prospect that this provided for the people of Africa in general, and Tanzania in particular. Kisamo was a man of the utmost integrity and complete commitment to his career, and he was always rational in his views. He spoke only when he had something worthwhile to say, and when he spoke, he commanded the complete attention of those listening. Kisamo's death ripples far wider than his family, friends or his nation. It is an immense loss to conservation in Africa.'

Kisamo is survived by his wife and two children; our thoughts are with them.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the FitzPatrick Institute's MSc programme in Conservation Biology (CB). The 'CB course' has trained more than 250 students from 44 countries, including 24 in Africa. One of the reasons for its long-term success is the bond forged among classmates during their intensive programme of coursework.

The extended CB family is in mourning; we lost our first graduate on 18 December 2015, when Emily Stephen Kisamo was murdered in Arusha, Tanzania. At the time, Kisamo was head of law enforcement for the Tanzanian National Parks Authority, TANAPA. Although his gardener confessed to the murder, concerns remain that it was linked to his leading role in the fight against poaching.

Kisamo was born in Marango, at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro, on 12 June 1964. After finishing high school he was employed as a trainee park warden. Supported by TANAPA, he obtained a diploma in wildlife management from the College of African Wildlife Management at Mweka, and was appointed deputy warden of Katavi National Park. In 1996

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