



Why malaria?

"Quite early in the adventures, we realised that we needed to spread goodwill around as South Africans, and change perceptions about SA.

"By that time we had seen the huge impact of the disease, arriving at a remote rural village to find a baby screaming, a mum not knowing what to do, and at least two days of travel by dugout canoe to the nearest clinic."

A source of inspiration came from David Livingstone himself, as the team found an old Livingstone notebook in Malawi while travelling up the Ruvuma River in rubber ducks, and used it day-to-day to follow in his footsteps.

"That was the turning point," he recalls.

"We realised we had to do something about malaria, as we were also getting it so often, while villages we came across didn't have a single net and people were dying like flies.

Interestingly, Kingsley points out, malaria has affected generations of explorers and it appears that it was responsible for the death of the Egyptian boy king Tutankhamen, as well as Alexander the Great.

In the beginning they funded the malaria projects themselves, buying the nets and doing it all on their own, but soon realised that the problem was far bigger than they could manage.

"We pulled in loyal support from Land Rover SA and numerous other local companies and supporters, which led to the One Net One Life malaria campaign, which involved distributing life-saving nets to moms, pregnant mothers and those with vulnerable children under the age of five."

The initiative has subsequently grown to include education, the supply of teaching materials and libraries, as well as additional community programmes, such as Gill's distribution of spectacles to poor-sighted people on behalf of Rite to Sight.

"This project changes someone's life in a second, and we were fortunate to be involved with campaign that did over 600 cataract operations during last year's Boundless Expedition."

A unified effort

"Despite all the great work that is done by ourselves and numerous aid agencies, we still often come across villages that don't have a single mosquito net, so there's still a lot of work to do," a clearly focused Kingsley states.

For the latest venture, One Net One Life has grown into the United Against Malaria 2010 Expedition, which set off from the Lesedi Cultural Village in the Cradle of Humankind on World Malaria Day, 25 April. It was

accompanied by a rousing send-off by the cultural dancers and a guard of honour comprising a stunning array of early Landies from the Land Rover Owners Club.

The task at hand: a 12-country expedition that covers some 20 000km and will be distributing a total of 10 000 mosquito nets. In reality, with most moms sharing the net with two or three children and infants, at least 30 000 lives can be saved.

It's an epic journey that started in South Africa and takes in an explorer's dream array of the continent's highlights through Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya.

It encompasses Ross Holgate and his wife Anna placing a United Against Malaria flag on top of Mount Mulanje in Malawi, visiting Lake Victoria (Africa's largest lake), travelling to the lip of the Kalambo Falls that are twice the height of the Victoria Falls, going to Lake Kivu and the mountain gorillas in Rwanda.

Eventually, it concludes with a team that includes cricket hero Jonty Rhodes placing a UAM flag on Uhuru Peak, the summit of



Main photo, left: Kingsley Holgate's latest United Against Malaria Expedition recently got underway, with Kingsley joined by a few Landy friends in Mozambique.

Above, top: Making a stop at a rural village, the expedition caused quite a stir; Above: The Land Rover convoy, making headway through Mozambique. Ahead of Holgate's new Discovery 4s lie 20 000km of adventure, and humanitarian aid.