

THE DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST



NEWSLETTER 2010

NEAR THIS SPOT ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF ONE WHO POSSESSED BEAUTY WITHOUT VANITY, STRENGTH WITHOUT INSOLENCEN, COURAGE WITHOUT FEROCITY, AND ALL THE VIRTUES OF MAN WITHOUT HIS VICIS – LORD BYRON

For the Trust, this year seems to have flown by in a frenetic whirlwind of activity and before we even know, it is already time to again send best wishes for the year ahead to all our Supporters worldwide. We thank all for another year of generous support that has empowered the Trust to achieve a great deal, despite a difficult economic climate. We are most deeply grateful for whatever help, however modest, comes our way, for above all else it is the thought and motivation that counts.

This year many Supporters have organized special fundraising events in support of the Trust. We are indeed honored to have been selected as the catalyst through which they, too, can make a difference. Board members of our US Friends have been active in this respect, as have caring supporters in Germany, Hong Kong, and elsewhere not forgetting Rob Brandford of our U.K. Trust who did all the ground work for the Exhibition that accompanied Daphne's October presentation at the Royal Geographical Society in London.

The Trust is diligent about remaining faithful to its Mission Statement and ensuring that every cent entrusted to us for disbursement leaves its impact on wildlife conservation in the most practical and positive way.

There have been changes this year, with Stephen Smith, President of our US Friends Board stepping down to take a well earned break, handing over the Presidency to Brian Miller, another founder Trustee of the US Friends. We remain deeply grateful to Stephen for not only establishing our US Arm and the advantage of tax deductibility from donations made in the United States, but also guiding the US Friends so professionally due to his legal background. We warmly welcome Brian Miller as Stephen's replacement.

Richard Moller, joins the fold and will be based permanently at our Kaluku Field Headquarters abutting the Athi boundary of Tsavo East National Park. In conjunction with Lionel Nutter, he will oversee the Trust's field

projects specifically concentrating on managing the anti-poaching teams. Richard brings with him an exemplary conservation record of practical field expertise and experience, along with hundreds of hours piloting tail dragging aircraft such as our Top Cub. He will be cooperating closely with field personnel within Tsavo and its environs and hopefully his experience and initiative can help the Trust effectively increase its anti-poaching assistance in the region.

This year marked the 20th Anniversary of the Gaia Symphony, a Programme in which Daphne and the early elephant Matriarch "Eleanor" featured in the first of seven Gaia Symphony series around environmental issues, filmed by Jin Tatsumura, whose name is a household word in Japan. The Gaia Symphony has run in Japan ever since that first Programme on Elephants was done some 25 years ago, and has proved enormously popular there. The Anniversary celebrations, sponsored by Shumei International (famous



Dr. Roger Payne and Dame Daphne Sheldrick
in front of the Silk Screen at the Miho Museum



Dame Daphne Sheldrick delivers a lecture in Japan



Jill Woodley with Daphne and Jin Tatsamura and Dr. Roger Payne

for organic farming) centred around an ancient silk screen which has just come to light, and which currently hangs in the prestigious Shumei Miho Museum. This screen depicts an elephant on land communicating with a whale in the ocean and since it has now been proven that both elephants and whales communicate over distance using low frequency infrasound, Daphne's return to Japan focused on elephants while Dr. Roger Payne, an expert on whales, covered the whales.

Daphne traveled to Japan with Jill, her elder daughter, who came from France to accompany her. With Professional Interpreters she and Dr. Payne lectured audiences as large as 4,500 people in three very prestigious venues, and in between these public functions were exposed to beautiful Temples and stunning formal Japanese Gardens. They even went to the Imperial Palace compound to meet Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado an expert on the birds of Japan. They were taken to an amazing forest right in the heart of High Rise Tokyo where tree seedlings planted by the people of Tokyo some 100 years ago, have been left to evolve naturally without human intervention into a magnificent natural forest. This incredible forest in which stands a holy Temple is a celebration in itself of the power of Nature, and the wisdom of accepting that humans should not try to play God, for Nature knows best how to adjust to changing circumstances, something the late David Sheldrick recognized a long time ago. A celebration of Nature has been the theme of all the Gaia Symphony Programmes over the years.

CONSERVATION OVERVIEW

Designated by the United Nations as the year of Biodiversity, 2010 has highlighted time and again the threat facing many species on earth, not least of which is the Northern Serengeti Highway proposed by the Tanzanian Government which will run in an east/westerly direction just 30 – 40 kms south of Kenya's famous Masai Mara. The Masai Mara, which enjoys a higher rainfall than the Serengeti, is the dry season grazing reserve for the Serengeti migratory species which incorporates over 1 million wildebeest and 500,000 zebra, plus thousands of small gazelles and attendant predators. It is the most important tourist attraction Kenya has and is the lifeblood of the tourist industry which is the country's main foreign exchange revenue earner. This highway will threaten the very survival of the spectacular annual migration, the last remaining migration of large herbivores on the planet and acknowledged as the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth. With this highway will invariably come roadside development - human habitation, roadside kiosks, domestic predators, disease transmitted by the domestic animals to those living wild, fences, and worse still, wholesale illegal poaching for bushmeat. Since the alternative option of a highway south of the Serengeti would serve ten times more towns and people, many conservationists in Kenya view the proposed highway as a deliberate strategy to try and prevent the wildebeest migration from accessing Kenyan territory, even though it is difficult to even imagine how a responsible Government could contemplate disrupting such a wonderful natural phenomenon purely out of spite and for selfish reasons.

Scientists and Naturalists now conclude that the human species has wrought such unprecedented changes to the planet

that the Earth is moving into a new geological period – the epoch of “New Man”, which has triggered events that may well be irreversible. Uncontrolled human population growth in Africa, coupled with mass urbanization and resulting pollution have transformed once clean and beautiful landscapes. Corruption, avariciousness and the greed of those in Power has contributed to the malaise. Now, there is even talk of trying to accumulate DNA samples of threatened species which can be stored in a “Frozen Ark” hoping that one day the technology might exist to recreate species that have been driven to extinction! One should not forget, however, that perhaps most threatened of all could be the human species itself, which has stepped out of Nature and no longer fits in. Evolution has demonstrated that those that don't fit in usually end up being taken out!

There have apparently been 5 previous mass extinctions on earth, the worst being 251 million years ago when 54% of the world's species were lost. Now human related changes to Planet Earth

could trigger the 6th Great Extinction when 90% of earth's current species could disappear, vanishing at the rate of 30,000 per year (or a staggering three every hour!) In East and Southern Africa, already severely threatened are 32% of amphibians; 20% of mammals; 12% of birds; 4% of reptiles and 3% of Fish according to Climate Change Researchers at the University of Capetown. As one year ends, and another dawns, everyone should pause to think about such issues and consider what they, as an individual, can do about it, because everyone can at least do something, even if it is only just speaking up and speaking out. People power is needed now as never before, because we all have only One Home that we must share with all the other forms of life which have evolved to contribute towards the wellbeing of the whole. A reverence for all life on our planet is a philosophy that needs to be embraced by all.

In Kenya, 2010 began with thousands of fish dying mysteriously in Lake Naivasha and water levels of all other

Rift Valley lakes such as Nakuru, Bogoria and Elmenteita receding due to human destruction of their catchment areas. Lake Nakuru was down 40% and Lake Elmenteita 50% putting at risk 4 million of the world's 6 million flamingoes, who rely on the nutrients provided by alkaline Rift Valley lakes. Lake Tanganyika straddling the border between Tanzania and the Congo and which is the second largest in the world and also the second deepest was found to be warmer than it had been for the past 1,500 years which will bring about changes in its productivity.

A UN backed study indicated that tropical forests provide benefits worth an estimated \$6,120 per hectare (2.47 acres) per year, in terms of food, building materials, water purification, habitat for wildlife and insects etc., genetic biodiversity all vital to the overall wellbeing of the planet plus the ability to improve human food output in the future, which will be much needed. Storing heat trapping carbon dioxide and rejuvenating the human spirit are other aspects of a



Tsavo in the rains

forest's worth. Insects provide pollination services and other natural systems such as coral reefs provide nurseries for fish, and protect coasts from storm, aside from offering holiday destinations that generate revenue.

It has been painful to have to stand by helplessly and watch the desecration of Kenya's forest environments, and the burgeoning charcoal trade which is denuding the landscape of all its hardwood trees, the mass intrusion of domestic livestock into the fragile ecosystems of arid National Parks such as Tsavo compromising the survival of wildlife within their last refuge areas, and introducing disease to add to the decline, said to be

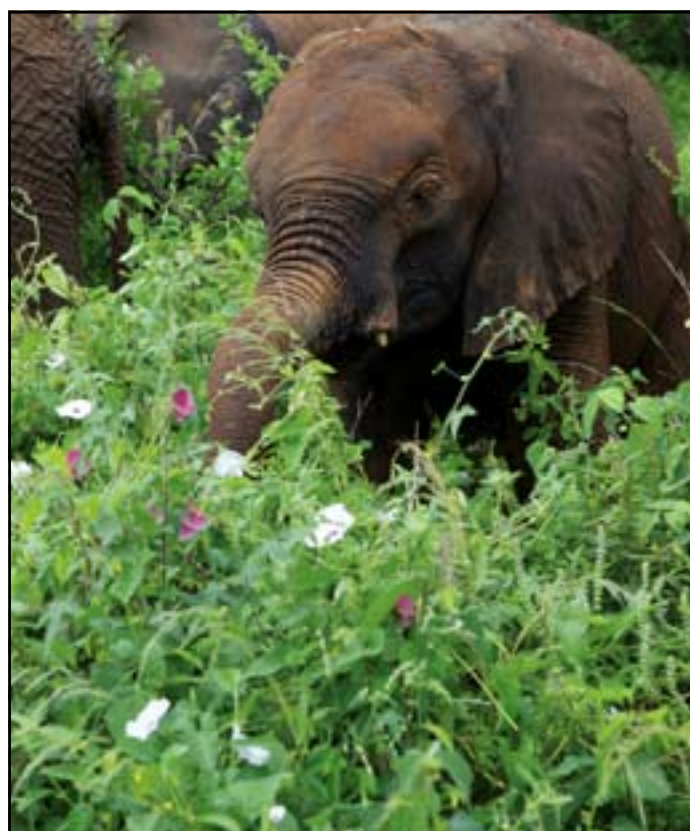


as radical as 60%. Where cattle have congregated, they have scarred the land with erosion trenches that will take years to heal. The will to address all these problems has been woefully absent under the current Coalition Kenya Government.

But then the rains came to temporarily ease the doom and gloom and Nature again demonstrated its incredible powers of recovery, lifting spirits and instilling hope. The Uaso Nyiro river rose 30 ft. in less than one hour, destroying riverside tented Lodges and Camps in Samburu National Reserve, so rather than the drought, suddenly floods became a topic of conversation! However, whilst flooding brought misery to some parts of Kenya, Tsavo was again covered in a healing profusion of snow-white blossoms of the creeper *Ipomoea mombassana* reminiscent of what followed the terrible 1970 drought. The land was transformed and hummed with life, and the animals that had survived the terrible 2009 drought

feasted after a period of privation and famine. At such times the wise words of ancient Confucius always come to mind – “if you would predict the future, take a look at the past”. There is truth in that for hidden within the bad news, is always some good and a glimmer of hope that things might get better in the future!

For us the good news of 2010 is that the Trust prospered and forged ahead throughout the year, irrespective of the challenges we have had to face and which are never far removed – for instance power outages on a daily basis, sometimes lasting all day long and obstructive petty officials



who try and thwart at every turn rather than help! The up and coming younger generations of Kenyans who will one day occupy the corridors of power are a source of real hope, and are well represented amongst our dedicated Staff, earning for the Trust the ultimate accolade from a famous National Geographic photographer, Nick Nichols, who this year has spent many months immortalizing our work for that prestigious magazine. He said that throughout his extensive working career in many parts of the world, he had never come across such an efficient organization as The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust! That utterance was an honor that left us all extremely proud.

Mercifully Kenya has a free Press so Kenya's youth is better enlightened about environmental issues and make use of the power of the Internet to broaden their horizons even further. They are aware of the challenges plaguing their

country. Amongst our Staff are many post graduates who are learning a great deal from the natural world and feel fulfilled by the impact they are making. Almost every Kenyan, even those in remote rural communities, has a Mobile Phone and most tune into the radio regularly. Many even have access to Television. More accountability is being demanded of the country's Politicians, since the promulgation of the country's new Constitution, so People Power is demanding changes within the corridors of power. Many pastoral communities are now protecting and nurturing their wildlife rather than neglecting or killing it. In fact, tribesmen that rescue orphaned elephant babies from remote wells are now largely aware that elephants are intolerant to the fat of cows' milk. They nurture the rescued calves tenderly keeping them re-hydrated with only water until they can be airlifted to the Trust's Nairobi Nursery. Our Elephant Keepers are drawn from many of Kenya's 47 different tribes, and they reach people in the far corners of this country by participating in regular Phone-In Programmes. These have proved immensely popular amongst their rural outlying communities, so much so that many tribesmen journey to Nairobi especially to see the orphaned elephants. Nor are they alone, for many other overseas visitors do the same, some even choosing Kenya as a holiday destination simply in order to be able to include in their Safari schedule a visit to the orphaned elephants.

This year, the focus of the Trust has shifted due to the sharp and very noticeable decline of wildlife both outside and within the Protected Areas due to poaching for bushmeat as well as for Elephant Ivory and Rhino Horn. We have been active working with local communities and private stakeholders to protect as much wild land and what wildlife is in it as possible. The

Trust has added to its own holding abutting the Athi Boundary of Tsavo whenever opportunity and funds permit and we have actively worked with the Kenyan Forest Service to secure a concession to manage and protect the Kibwezi Forest and all that it harbours, 15,000 acres in extent. The Trust has also been working with communities around Lamu to help them safeguard what lies within their jurisdiction. In this we have had a positive impact and left our mark, so we look back on our 2010 achievements with enormous pride, tempered of course with deep sadness for the plight of wildlife in today's avaricious world. We are always mindful of the fact that we owe our success to the support we have received from a caring global public whom we simply cannot thank enough.

Many projects have come to fruition thanks to funding from either our US Friends organization in the United States, our U.K. Charity based near London, and support from many other Organizations and Foundations. We are deeply grateful also for the support of our Orphans' Project through the Digital Fostering Programme which has empowered us to save and hand-rear from early infancy a veritable **herd** of elephants, as well as critically endangered orphaned Black Rhinos, none of whom would otherwise be alive today. That, in itself, is an achievement of which we, and all our Supporters, can be extremely proud as 2010 draws to a close and we embrace 2011.

THE TRUST'S 2010 ACHIEVEMENTS

- With cooperation from the Forest Service, we have negotiated a 33 year lease on the important Kibwezi Forest, home to endemic species of butterflies, frogs, fishes and probably many others, as well as the unique heritage of one of the last surviving Ground Water Forests in the country. Within the forest is the crucially important Umani Springs - the only Groundwater for the entire Chyulu Hills National Park and the source of water for Kibwezi town on the main Nairobi – Mombasa road..
- Using a legacy left to the Trust, we have built an attractive Self Help facility within the Kibwezi forest to generate funds for the protection of the forest and its denizens. We have funded a new anti-poaching team based at Umani, and have been able to control the illegal logging of hardwoods within the forest, previously out of control, as well as the illegal poaching of animals for bushmeat. A network of bush game viewing tracks have been opened up for visitors to utilize once the Lodge becomes functional which will be during the first half of 2011.
- Currently, we are in the process of fencing the entire Kibwezi forest, Phase 1 of which is completed and has been fully funded by our US Friends. In the past human/wildlife conflict has been a major problem in the area so this initiative is proving immensely popular with the neighboring communities. The Public/Private partnership of this crucially important Groundwater forest is the Forestry's Pilot Scheme for the better protection of Kenyan forests and the Trust is proud to have been selected by the Forestry Service as the pioneer of this brave new initiative. Above all, it will provide a safe haven for the wildlife, which hitherto has suffered immense depredation and harassment but which is now beginning to return in numbers to shelter in the forest and drink at the Springs.

- A comprehensive Management Plan has been drawn up for the Kibwezi Forest by Dr. Ian Games which has been exceedingly well received by all stakeholders and will be implemented in full.
- A Professional inventory of the forest trees within the Kibwezi Forest undertaken by Quentin Luke revealed some surprises, not least the number of Ficus species to which it is home. The Kibwezi Forest obviously holds many other surprises which will come to light after surveys are undertaken of the amphibians, reptiles, mammals and insects, all of which will involve professionals in the various fields in the fullness of time.
- The Ithumba Camp has again enjoyed great occupancy throughout this year and is seldom vacant. It has been an important revenue earner for KWS to help manage the Northern Area, generating a sizeable sum of money paid quarterly to them by the Trust. We ensure that standards are maintained within the Camp, that water is trucked in, and that fridges, cookers, and everything is in working order making it comfortable for visitors, who enjoy exclusivity, since they book the entire Camp. It is fully furnished, with linen, cutlery, crockery, and cooking utensils all provided, along with three resident Staff members who take care of guests. Visitors merely bring their own food and drink and the establishment operates at its own unique simple rhythm.



The Volcanic Chyulu Hills with Mt. Kilimanjaro behind

- This year, our Kaluku Field Headquarters on the Trust Land has been further upgraded. The complex is now powered entirely by Solar energy, complete with V Sat and Internet facilities, Workshops, Stores, and Water Storage Tanks. The Pilot's house has been completed and a small waterhole in front of the Pilot's house provides a drinking place for buffaloes, antelopes and ground birds, while resident dikdik, amongst whom are several orphans hand-reared by the Staff, stroll around unconcernedly. The Pilot's House is now occupied by Richard Moller as he tackles his new role as part of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust team. The Kaluku field Headquarters enjoys a wonderful ambience and all who live and work there, love it.



- The Vegetable Garden at Kaluku has been productive for a long time, and has proved a Godsend for the local communities who can buy Sukuma Weeki and other vegetables at a subsidized price, saving them the long hike into Mtito Andei town some 40 kms away. Now the Fruit Orchard is also becoming productive, which will allow access to citrus fruit and contribute towards better community health. This facility which has benefited the local people so much has generated immense goodwill for the Trust as has the employment we provide. The Peregrine De-snaring Team that patrols the Trust owned land and its environs benefits from this goodwill.
- The Trust's Seven Anti-Poaching De-Snaring Teams were not permitted to work in the Park for awhile but found themselves much in demand beyond, lifting snares in neighbouring community lands and on the private ranches that surround the Parks. But they were desperately needed back inside the Park where bushmeat snaring now had free reign, and eventually pressure from the field persuaded the Trust to sign a Memorandum of Understanding which, although restrictive about what we were at liberty to reveal, at least allowed the Units back in. Since the Units that work within the Park are accompanied by armed Kenyan Wildlife Service Rangers who have powers of arrest, they have since been able to be very effective in saving the lives of hundreds of animals and bring at least some of the perpetrators to book.
- Both the Ithumba and Voi Stockades have had a facelift this year, much needed at the Voi Elephant Stockades especially, which have been in use since the early 50's during David Sheldrick's Wardenship of the Park. Special "Taming Stockades" have been erected at each venue, where older newcomers can be confined in order to be tamed down and fed milk and rehydrants without the risk of sedation which often has a negative affect on elephants.
- Aside from the additional De-Snaring team mobilized this year based at Umani within the Kibwezi forest we are working closely with Wildlife Works Carbon. Their work covers Rukinga Ranch and more recently an additional five other ranches within that ecosystem. The vehicle for this team was purchased and specially customized by funds provided by our US Friends.
- The Trust has funded the establishment of a very detailed Data Base designed by Fran Michelmores for all our anti-poaching teams, aimed at capturing important trends relating to wildlife within the areas in which the teams operate, including location of snaring hot-spots, poachers' hideouts, sources of permanent water etc. etc. Such data will become very valuable over time and help maximize output and provide more detailed and effective reporting for ourselves, KWS and the scientific community.
- After a great deal of debate, the Kenya Wildlife Service agreed to a Conservation Fee paid by the Trust monthly from funds generated by Our Orphans' Project, as an alternative to imposing Nairobi

Park Entrance fees via their Smart Card system at the Service Entrance, as was their intention, something that was tried once before with disastrous consequences. This came into force in October 2010. Visitors come to our premises for just one hour a day to enjoy the orphaned elephants being fed their midday milk feed and take a mudbath (weather permitting) and the numbers could not be processed in time through the Smart Card process, which would leave many disappointed and disgruntled people who would be turned away, as they were before. The new arrangement negotiated between the Trust and KWS will spare inconvenience to our daily visitors, and avoid congestion and long cues at the Gate. During the Open Hour we host hundreds of local school children who are allowed in free as an important public relations exercise, as well as sizeable numbers of visiting tourists against a modest donation in support of the Project. Foster-Parents who are already supporters of the Orphans' Project are by appointment allowed to visit in the evening to watch the elephants returning to their Night quarters. We are grateful to those within the Service who worked closely with us to find a workable solution rather than initiate a system that would stifle the success of the project.

- With support from our US Friends, we have assisted The Kenyan Wildlife Service by re-building the electrical fencing around the Voi Headquarters in Tsavo East National Park and installing an un-shortable fence from the Rongai river to the Banda Gate of Nairobi National Park. This is patrolled daily by the Contractor against a monthly payment shouldered by the Trust. The same maintenance arrangement applies to the 64 kms of fence-line along Tsavo East's Ithumba Northern boundary installed by the Trust with help from Care for the Wild and Rettet Die Elephanten several years ago. In this way fences remain fully functional at all times. The Northern Boundary fence has been enormously successful in limiting human/wildlife conflict and has enabled the neighboring Wakamba community to harvest the crops they are able to cultivate in that area of extremely marginal rainfall. Furthermore, local people are employed by the Contractor to undertake the surveillance of the entire line, so it provides a livelihood for an impoverished rural community.
- Maintenance of the five Tsavo East National Park Windmills installed by the Trust, has been an ongoing and extremely crucial commitment of the Trust's this year, especially now that the Aruba Dam has silted and is no longer a permanent source of water for wildlife within the Southern section of Tsavo East National Park. There are only two permanent river systems that serve Tsavo

East - the Tsavo and the Galana, so water generated by the Trust's Windmills has been the only source available for wildlife within the main tourist circuits of the Park during the dry season. Without maintenance on these Windmills, the main tourist circuits of the Park would be devoid of all surface water, as well as all water dependent wildlife species which would be forced to fall back on the permanent rivers many miles away. This would deal a major blow to the Park's tourist revenue.

- Our maintenance now covers nine boreholes, all of which have been funded by the Trust over the years. In addition to those in Tsavo East, we also maintain the borehole in Nairobi National Park. This is an ongoing commitment for the Trust which has spanned many years.
- Thanks to two generous grants from caring Supporters and the Serengeti Foundation, the Trust has also drilled two new Boreholes in 2010, one on the Trust's land to avert another water crisis should the Athi River again dry up, which it is sure to do. During the 2009 drought the river dried completely, and we only managed to save the forty two resident hippos, and all the animals in the area by "bowsering" water in on a daily basis from the Tsavo River 60 miles away. A large tank sunk into the sands of the riverbed then provided the water needed to keep the resident pod of hippos alive, all of whom would otherwise have perished, as did large numbers in Tsavo West. Water troughs were strategically placed throughout the area to serve the other animals.
- Again, sponsored by a couple of valued donors, another borehole was sunk at Ithumba since the existing one has also been taking the strain, especially now that so many wild elephants make use of the water trough at the Stockades in addition to the 37 orphaned elephants who were, or still are, based there. We operate the De-Salinator on this borehole which provides potable water for the KWS Ithumba Headquarters. The new borehole will service the Ithumba Camp, and the Orphans' new concrete drinking pond established at the mudbath venue, which is also widely used by wild elephants. To date water for the Ithumba Self Help Camp has had to be trucked in regularly, so the new borehole will save the Trust this expensive commitment as well as relieve the pressure on the existing Stockade borehole.
- The Trust has continued to help The Kenyan Wildlife Service when called upon with donations of Security Fuel, Aviation fuel and by repairing vehicles and equipment, and servicing roads and some of the Park's infrastructure, aside from all the field projects we run in support of the Parks.



The Ithumba Orphans and their Keepers



Umani Springs



The Umani Springs self-help lodge



Kibwezi Forest and the Umani Springs Lodge



Ithumba Camp



Ithumba Camp bedroom tent by night



Umani Springs swimming pool



The Ithumba borehole being drilled



The Kibwezi Forest fence line, phase 1



The carcass of a poached elephant



The Mtito Borehole being drilled



The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Mobile Veterinary Unit treating an injured elephant



A wild elephant herd, Tsavo East National Park

- Our two Mobile Veterinary Units, one that covers the Tsavo Conservation Area and one that covers the Central Rift have been very busy throughout the year. With the increase in poaching cases they have been called upon all too often to treat spear wounds, poisoned arrow wounds, snare wounds and bullet wounds and have been able to save a life that without their timely intervention would have definitely been lost. These Units are fully funded by Vier Photen and the Minara Foundation respectively.

THE ORPHANS' PROJECT

ORPHANED RHINOS

Keeper Dependent, and at our Nairobi Nursery at the beginning of the year was **Maxwell**, born blind in Nairobi National Park in December 2006 and lacking both an optic nerve and retina. He was abandoned by his mother in the Park forest adjacent to our base when very young. As bull rhinos have to fight for territory and rank, Max will always need a protected and sheltered life, but to compensate, he is spoilt rotten. We have given him as much space as we can, provided a concrete drinking trough within his Stockade which is filled with clean water, plus a delicious mudbath made from trucked in red earth. He still enjoys cooked oatmeal bottle feeds at four hourly intervals throughout the day, and cries his “wanting” mew if one does not appear on cue, so even though he no longer really needs it, we have not had the heart to remove it from his diet. Whenever a Trust vehicle is returning from Tsavo, it brings a load of delicious gruyere branches rich in minerals for the orphans, which Max also relishes. He has his very own Mineral Block to lick, plus fresh cut greens placed in his Stockade on a daily basis along with a handout of Lucerne and Copra cake daily.

Although blind from birth, Max gallops round his Stockade at speed, expertly avoiding every obstacle, so one would be excused for not noticing the fact that he was sightless. Above all, he lives for the usual twice daily visits of Ex Orphan Shida who, although now a wild rhino in every respect is still a stickler for routine, opting to return to his old Nursery Stockade to be viewed by human visitors during the Open Visiting hours where he also partakes of a hand-out of Copra and Lucerne. Both Maxwell and Shida clearly enjoy the attention of all the visitors, Max pressing his huge frame up against the bars of his Stockade hoping for a “rub” under the tummy, so irresistible that he collapses in a state of blissful torpor. Shida also enjoys a nose rub, but because he has a long protruding horn, which he sharpens against the steel bars of the Gate to his Stockade, we have had to “box” off a patch to ensure that unsuspecting visitors don't find themselves disemboweled during the sharpening process!

Shida, orphaned at 2 months old in 2003 when his mother (named Stella) died of old age in Nairobi National Park, is now virtually full grown at seven years old, but probably won't qualify as a breeding bull until the age of 10. He is short for his age, but has been well endowed horn-wise, so we are happy to “view” him on a daily basis and know that his horn is still where it ought to be rather than winging its way to South East Asia, as have so many others this year. Whenever Shida returns and puts himself back in his old Stockade, we close the Gate and put the ropes in place to box off the square within reach of his horn, and when the spectators have departed, his Gate is opened up again, and off he goes, all the rhino exclusion zones demarcated with string (once a hot wire) to protect our cars and equipment from his attention. Rhinos are extremely inquisitive and few changes within the yard escape his notice.

Blind Max now has a new passion, and that is another recent rhino arrival - little **Solio** whose mother was shot in self defense on Solio Ranch in mid September 2009. When she first arrived in the adjoining Stockade, sensing a stranger, Max was bent on either killing or ejecting her, believing that she did not “belong”, threatening to demolish the poles that separated him from her. However, after the introductions were done, rhino style, through an exchange of dung, he has fallen in love! He sleeps as near to her as possible on the other side so a corrugated iron overhang shelter had to be erected to protect him from the rain on cold wet nights.

Solio, a female believed to have been born on the 1st April, 2010 was detected by a visiting wildlife photographer who heard a snort coming from a nearby bush, and went to investigate further. The wounded mother rhino was then apparently still standing, but had collapsed by the time the Ranch patrol and a Kenyan Wildlife Service Vet arrived to assess her injuries. Lions and other predators were already in the process of homing in on the dying mother and her six month old calf, so the mother was euthanized and the rescue of little “Solio” was initiated. However, this proved extremely difficult because



Baby Maalim, just days after his arrival at the Nursery

she was so feisty, charging everyone in sight, so that she had to be tranquilized. Being so dehydrated and stressed, when she eventually fell unconscious, she actually stopped breathing for 20 long minutes and everyone present was convinced that she had been lost. It was much to the KWS Vet's credit that he would not give up, but instructed everyone to pump her body using their feet to try and stimulate the beating of the heart again and her lungs to begin breathing. Meanwhile, he administered adrenalin directly into the tongue, having been unable to raise a vein and then, suddenly, to everyone's immense relief, the calf emitted a high-pitched squeal and literally came back from the dead! She was then roped, bundled into a travelling crate and driven to the airport to await the arrival of the rescue plane, only to find that the crate was too large to fit through the door of the plane. The Trust Keepers who came with the plane were therefore left to guard the crate and its precious cargo until road transport could be arranged to drive the orphaned rhino to the Nursery overnight. Thanks to Lewa Downs, this was organized, and Solio arrived at our premises at 5 a.m. during the morning of 23rd September – a pocket rocket, who was so aggressive that no-one could get near her for two full days!

Repeatedly she bashed her head at full charge against the restraining poles of her Stockade until we feared that her button horn might become detached. However, rubbing a rhino's body, especially under the stomach, is a sure way to the heart, and by attaching a bottle brush to the end of a broomstick, the Keepers persevered, at the same time offering her milk via a long rubber hose attached to the end of a bottle! Finally, the "scratching" as the Keepers called it, and the smell and taste of milk calmed the little rhino down sufficiently for someone to actually enter her Stockade and substitute a human arm for the bottle brush "rub" and a rubber nipple for the milk hose-pipe. However, it was a good 10 days before little Solio plucked up sufficient courage to actually follow her attendant Keeper beyond the confines of her sleeping quarters, the secret to this being the special Rhino Coat carrying the specific scent of one Surrogate Mother whom she recognized as being the person who could provide the milk she needed and whom she should follow, as she would have done her own mother.

Today, Solio is a calm and loving little rhino, eager to be out and about every morning doing the rounds of the resident Nairobi Park rhino dungpiles and urinals by way of introducing herself into the Park's resident rhino community, first having made herself known to our other two rhinos, blind Maxwell and Shida, through a similar exchange of "Visiting Cards".

Tragically, one that didn't make it was our beloved little **Maalim**, aborted prematurely by his Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary

mother in Tsavo West National Park at a time when some of the rhinos within the fenced Sanctuary were being removed for free release, numbers supposedly having risen beyond the carrying capacity of the area at their disposal. This miniature was found by a Kenyan Wildlife Service Ranger called Maalim in the Sanctuary on 17th December, 2008, and came in more dead than alive and could have fitted into a lady's handbag, but was instead airlifted back to the Nursery in style by a Caravan aircraft, since the signal alerting us to the need for a rescue plane was too poor to describe the size of the orphaned rhino in question! We never expected the tiny apparition that appeared that day to survive even a night, let alone almost two years, but survive he did from day one, until September 2010 when, sadly, he developed pneumonia having ingested milk into premature lungs that were unable to cope. We lost Maalim on the 17th October, 2010 but only after putting up a very brave struggle. It was a devastating blow, coming at a time when we believed he was improving, and also on the same day that elephant orphan "Kimana" also died.

The story of Maalim and His Mattress which was posted on our website, captured the imagination of all his many foster-parents and even larger fan Club. The mattress upon which he lay as a tiny, wizened premature being as he was massaged with Coco-butter oil to alleviate his dry skin, took on huge importance in his daily life. Every night when he returned to his Night Quarters, he would heave it around until it landed on top of him, and only then would he settle down to sleep with his nose poking out one end, and his tail at the other!

On a happier note, it was a great thrill for Daphne and Angela to be able to see "Hoshim" again up at Solio Ranch, who grew up in Tsavo with Angela and who, along with another early rhino orphan named "Stroppie", was transferred to Solio just before David Sheldrick left Tsavo having been posted to Nairobi in November 1976. At Solio, Stroppie and Hoshim were afforded a safe haven, secured in a 50 acre paddock abutting the main Solio Wildlife Sanctuary which was home to the largest population of Black Rhino left on earth, where an earlier ex Sheldrick orphan named "Reudi" grew up to become the dominant breeding bull who has probably fathered most of Kenya's remaining rhinos. Sadly, at the time of Daphne and Angela's recent Solio visit, Stroppie was no longer alive, having died of old age last year in her early forties. At 37, Hoshim is now possibly one of the oldest living Black Rhinos left on the planet, having been dumped on Daphne's doorstep all those years ago as a newborn.



Maalim playing June 2010



Shida making his daily return to his stockade



Maalim playing with his Keeper



Archival image of Angela Sheldrick with Hoshim



Solio with Emanuel



Shida in Nairobi National Park



Maalim just days before he passed away



Maxwell still having his porridge



Maxwell

ORPHANS' RE-INTEGRATION OVERVIEW

2010 began with 20 infant elephants in our Nairobi Nursery; 13 ex Nursery reared Youngsters based at the Voi Rehabilitation Centre in Southern Tsavo East National Park, and another 33 at the Ithumba Rehabilitation Centre in Northern Tsavo East. Most of the Ithumba orphans were either already Keeper Independent and fully rehabilitated back amongst the wild elephant community, or else in the process of becoming so, with just a handful still completing their milk dependent period, (which in elephants, spans the first three years of life) who returned with their Keepers to the Night Stockades each evening.

Elephants still resident in the Nursery at the beginning of the year were Chaffa, Dida, Kimana, Suguta, Mawenzi, Ndi, Sabachi, Kibo, Nchan, Kudup, Kalama, Kilaguni, Chaimu, Turkwel, Olare, Melia, Tumaren, Tano, Mutara and Shukuru.

Already based at the Voi Rehabilitation by January 2010 were Shimba, Wasessa, Mzima, Siria, Lesanju, Lempaute, Sinya, Taveta, Tassia, Kenia, and Shira who were joined by Dida, Ndi and Kimana on the 11th May 2010.

At the Ithumba Rehabilitation Centre, home base to a further 28 orphans, the number occupying the Night Stockades changed all the time, with regular comings and goings taking place with every passing month, some of the Juniors being taken by the Seniors for a trial night's outing away from the safety of the Stockades. Alternatively, some of the Seniors occasionally opt for a quiet and more peaceful night back in the shelter of the Stockades and return to join the Juniors.

The Senior and overall Matriarch of the Ithumba Orphans was, and still is, "Yatta", now 11 years old and leading a perfectly normal wild life in amongst the wild elephant community of Northern Tsavo East along with others that have accomplished the transition and joined her. She is ably assisted by three other older elephants transferred from the Voi Unit along with her to oversee the Youngsters when the Ithumba Stockades first became functional – namely Mulika, Nasalot and Kinna. By year end both Yatta and Mulika were showing signs of definitely being pregnant, their breasts filling up and becoming visually prominent, which is a sure indicator that a happy event is not far off.

69 of our Ex Nursery reared Orphaned Elephants were independent of their Keepers and living perfectly normal wild elephant lives amongst the wild elephant community of Tsavo East National Park by the end of 2010, a figure that does not include others reared previously who were orphaned

older and could bypass the Nursery stage.

"Emily" remains the overall principal Matriarch of all the Ex Nursery Voi orphans now living wild, with Splinter Groups breaking away periodically usually led by Junior Matriarchs who replace those that upgrade themselves to a Keeper independent wild status. For instance, Edie often travels separately to Emily with whoever wants to come along with her, whilst Natumi has another bunch with her who originally formed part of Emily's Group. However, Splinter Groups obviously keep in close touch with one another and with the main herd, all our hand-reared orphans viewing each other as members of a bonded "family" irrespective of their varied background.

The Rehabilitation process of the Ithumba Orphans in Northern Tsavo East National Park has mirrored the same pattern as that of the Voi Unit. Yatta's main group fraternizes on a daily basis with members of the wild elephant community, and often travels with wild friends. In fact, Yatta has recruited older orphans she has come across during her wanderings into her unit one of whom, named "Mgeni" has remained on a permanent basis, but for a short spell whilst Yatta was being attended by a very large wild bull who obviously proved a deterrent. Mgeni is now an entrenched member of her herd, intermingles with the Keepers and even responds to their commands, as do all the orphans, even those now living wild lives.

As at Voi, Splinter Groups peel off frequently from the main Ithumba herd to travel independently of Yatta and her satellites, again usually led by Sub Matriarchs who were Junior Matriarchs in their time, and again accompanied by whoever feels like coming along. "Wendi" (hand-reared from the day she was born) is the Chief Splinter Group Leader, but other ex Junior Matriarchs such as Sunyei, Galana, Naserian and Lojok sometimes do the same, obviously with the tacit approval of Yatta and the older members of the main group. All the Ithumba Ex orphans keep in much closer touch with the milk/Keeper dependent Youngsters secured at night in the Stockades, turning up regularly to escort them out to selected feeding grounds, or meeting up with them out in the bush, at the noon mudbath or during the afternoon browsing session in order to spend time with them, always paying particular attention to their selected favourite calves amongst the dependent Youngsters.



2010 ELEPHANT NEWCOMERS TO THE NAIROBI NURSERY



CHEMI CHEMI - a 8 month old baby bull from Loisaba Ranch, Laikipia found on the border of the Ranch with the tribal land of the warlike Pokot people, where almost every able-bodied man carries an AK 47 and doesn't hesitate to use it. The Pokot are certainly not known to have any elephant friendly tendencies, so this calf is probably a victim of either human/wildlife conflict, or poaching. He was rescued by Ranch personnel and flown to the Nairobi Nursery on the 22nd February, 2010.

SITIES - aged about 6 weeks when rescued. She merely walked into the Mgeno Ranch Headquarters abutting Tsavo East National Park during the morning of 22nd March 2010 on the day that CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) voted against the proposed sale of the Tanzanian and Zambian stockpiles to Japan and China, those two countries having failed to fulfill the conditions under which such a sale could be condoned. Mgeno ranch lies within the Tsavo Conservation Area, on a migratory route between Tsavo West and East. The calf is believed to either have been the victim of human/wildlife conflict but could also have been a poaching casualty. She was named "Sities" to mark that auspicious day when the CITES vote, for once, favored the elephants above trade.

KANDECHA - a little bull aged approximately fourteen months old, who was spotted alone amongst a herd of 28 huge bulls near the Kandecha area of Tsavo East National Park on the 17th June 2010. Some of the bulls guarding this orphan carried huge ivory, one in particular a rare specimen with enormous tusks reaching right to the ground. The calf was monitored by our Mobile Veterinary Unit all day, who went in search of a female herd nearby to which he could belong, but when it became obvious that he was, indeed, an orphan, and losing strength rapidly, a rescue became urgent. This was a daunting prospect in amongst so many "Protectors", but it was executed expertly thanks to the expertise of Robert Carr-Hartley, and just happened to be able to be filmed by the IMAX crew in 3-D from the back of his open vehicle. Kandecha was held at the Voi Stockades over night, and flown to the Nairobi Nursery the next morning on the 18th June, 2010.

MAKIRETI - also aged about 1 year, spotted on the 7th July 2010 by Community Game Scouts patrolling the Tsavo West boundary abutting Mohoho Farm near Ziwani, an area that has seen the mutilation of many orphaned elephant calves by local Masai tribesmen aggrieved by attempts to expel their livestock who have been illegally grazing in the Park. The



The Nursery herd - Nairobi National Park



Sities with Angela Sheldrick



Elephants in the mist



Sities leaves her stable in the morning



Murka with a spear still lodged in her head



Tiny little Kandecha in the midst of a herd of big bulls in Tsavo East National Park



Taru Carr- Hartley providing entertainment for the nursery herd



Suguta with Emanuel



The rescue of Ishanga



Sities having her bottle



Taru and Roan playing with Shukuru



The rescue of Sities



The rescue of Kandecha



Dame Daphne with some of the orphan babies



The rescue of Kitirua - Amboseli National Park



The rescue of Makireti

Ithumbah stuck in the mud just before she was rescued



name of this particular orphan, who was luckier than many others, means “one left in the wilderness” in the Taita tribal dialect. She was flown to the Nursery the same day of her rescue - the 7th July 2010.

MURKA - On that same day, the 7th July 2010, another orphaned elephant calf was spotted by KWS Rangers in the Rombo Area of Tsavo West National Park, not far from the Murka Mine. This elephant, aged nearer two than one, had a spear lodged deep into her forehead midway between her eyes, the shaft of which had been bent backwards parallel to her back as she tried to escape through dense thicket. She also had deep, festering axe or machete wounds on her back and legs.

Several attempts to encircle this unfortunate victim of brutality in thick bush proved difficult for she was extremely aggressive and still had sufficient strength to exact revenge that could prove fatal. Eventually, after the Vet attached to our Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit had scaled a tree to

escape being crushed, he managed to dart and immobilize her and extract the spear which had penetrated 20 cms. into the skull and nasal passage sinuses at the top of the trunk. This entailed a great deal of strength and wire cutters to extract the steel blade, which left a deep hole through which her breath was expelled. The wounds on her body although severe, mercifully were superficial and had not pierced any vital body organ.

Once her wounds had been cleaned, she was given a long acting antibiotic and driven to the Voi Stockades where she spent the night. The next morning (8th July 2010) she was sedated and flown to our Nairobi Nursery.

We and all the Keepers, were appalled and shocked by the vicious attack this poor baby had sustained at the hands of Masai tribesmen. The elephant was far too ferocious to be able to approach, so all we could do was wait for her collapse, which we knew would come. Only then, as we inserted life support in an ear vein, could we actually ascertain the extent of her injuries,

which were so severe that we doubted she could possibly survive such a trauma and so much pain. We did not expect this calf to even come round, let alone live, and even contemplated removing the life support to allow her to slip away peacefully and put an end to her suffering. However, much to everyone’s surprise she was up and on her feet again by 9 a.m. in the morning, giving the attendant Keepers an extremely difficult run around within the “Taming Stockade”. Nor was she interested in the input of the other orphans, who were brought to the door to meet her. All she wanted to do was to kill every human within sight, and who could blame her!

Murka was in the Taming Stockade for 10 days before we attempted to set her free amongst the others, but when we did, she immediately fled, and everyone had the unenviable task of rounding her up again, roping her legs, and pinning her closely in amongst them as they managed to walk her back to the Stockade. There she spent another 10 days, initially taking milk only from a bucket held to her mouth

outside the Gate, but eventually from a bottle held by the Keeper who stood the other side of the Taming Stockade's centre partition. The hole in the head which compromised her suction ability left her trunk unable to draw up water and we wondered whether this elephant could ever lead a normal elephant life again!

The second time Murka was allowed out, she behaved impeccably, instantly forming a strong bond of friendship with the other newcomer, Makireti, both elephants standing with their heads close together, remembering, recalling and mourning the loss of their loved ones. In order to clean the wounds, Murka still had to be mildly sedated with a small dose of Stressnil administered with a pole syringe, for she remained extremely fearful of being approached from behind.

KITIRUA - is a female Amboseli orphan, aged approximately 18 months who was sited on the 14th September in amongst her elephant family, the Researchers' study W.A. group. She was again spotted on the 29th, this time alone and visibly thin and not in good shape, obviously not having had access to the milk of her mother for a week or more. The fate of the mother is not known for sure, but likely to have been a victim of poaching, especially as Chinese road construction personnel are working on roads nearby. At the suggestion of the Amboseli Researchers, she was named Kitirua, the name of a hill close to where she was found. With the input of the resident Nursery elephants, the newcomer calmed down within a few days, and was able to be let out amongst them, instantly forming a strong bond of friendship with the next new arrival, "Naisula".

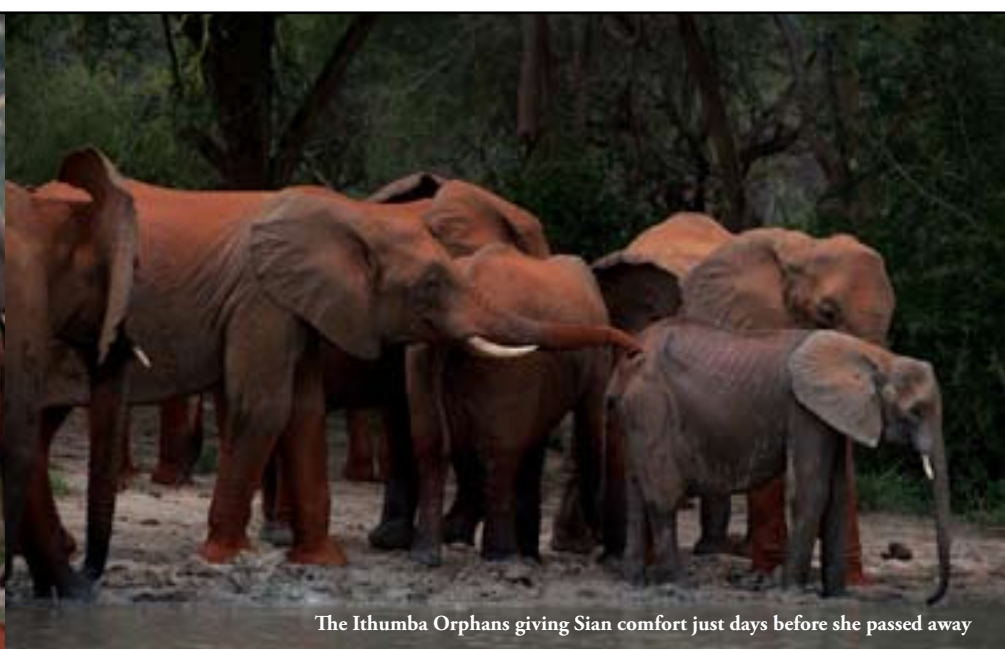
NAISULA - October brought beautiful "Naisula" to us, an orphan again nearer two years of age than one, from the Archer's Post area abutting Samburu National Reserve,

where there has been a great deal of poaching ever since the Chinese have been undertaking aid related road works in the area. This elephant was quite unique, because she was so gentle and friendly towards humans from the start, instantly accepting milk from a bottle, and even sucking the fingers of the Keepers. Normally orphaned elephants of her age, and especially those who have no reason to like humans, come in extremely aggressive. Naisula was the exception, so calm that we feared that she might have lost the will to live, and would collapse during the night. However, she didn't, taking her milk on schedule, but with signs of a heavy infestation of stomach parasites in her dung. Having been de-wormed the next morning, she was allowed out with the other Nursery elephants, immediately forming a very strong bond of friendship with Kitirua. These two newcomers, who are neighbours at night remain very close to one another when browsing out in the bush, feeding slightly apart from all the others, which is an indication of shared mourning for their lost elephant loved ones. Naisula is a beautiful elephant, with unusually large dark eyes shaded by long eyelashes, and whilst she is calm around the Keepers, happy that they offer her life saving milk and provide companionship and company, at the same time she is wary of strange humans.

ISHANGA - an extremely fortunate female yearling orphaned calf rescued in the nick of time by our Ziواني De-Snaring Team in Tsavo West National Park on the 23rd November. As the Rescue team was positioning themselves to move in and capture the lone calf, a lion rushed out of a nearby thicket and seized the elephant by the throat. The KWS Ranger accompanying the team fired two shots in the air to drive the lion off, after which the orphan was overpowered, driven to the nearest airfield, and airlifted to Nairobi. The deep lion bites around her throat needed a lot of attention, and inhibited her feeding for several days, but she has since



Nasalot with Chaimu



The Ithumba Orphans giving Sian comfort just days before she passed away



Dame Daphne with the Voi Orphans
with Kimana right of frame

recovered well, and is gradually putting on weight – a very lucky little elephant to still be alive. She was suspected to be a victim of poaching as she was desperately thin on arrival obviously having been without Mum for some time before being rescued.

NAIPOKI - This 3 month old female calf was rescued from a well from the Namunyak Conservancy area in Northern Kenya by local tribesmen on the 13th December, and her rescuers attempted to reunite her with an elephant herd they came across in the neighborhood of the well that night. However, the calf was obviously rejected by the herd, because she was again discovered at the bottom of the same well the following morning and on the 15th December we were alerted that a rescue was necessary. The calf was airlifted to our Nairobi Elephant Nursery that same day.

BYPASSING THE NAIROBI NURSERY
AND SENT DIRECTLY TO ITHUMBA

ITHUMBAH - a 2 year old female calf found bogged in the black cotton mud of the Ithumba dam on the 25th September by the Ithumba Head Elephant Keeper, “Benjamin”, during a routine drop-off of rocks in the area around the new Borehole. Everything needed for a new orphan was immediately flown up to Ithumba

so that this two year old could be raised in situ rather than flown to the Nairobi Nursery which was bursting at the seams. We also felt there was a chance she might be reunited with her mother, although given her very poor condition she was probably already an orphan even before becoming bogged in the mud. Needed was injectible antibiotics to guard against pneumonia and stress related problems; Buscopan in case of bloat caused by an overload of gut parasites; bags of infant elephant milk formula, oatmeal porridge, glucose, rehydration salts etc., etc. The calf was duly extracted from the mud by the Keepers and driven directly to the Stockades, where a small wooden “Taming Enclosure” had been hurriedly erected within the main Stockade, so that the Keepers could calm the calf down and offer her rehydrants and milk.

We congratulate Benjamin and his dedicated team for that feat.

DEATHS DURING 2010

The death of **Bhaawa on the 13th December, 2009** came too late to be noted in our 2009 Newsletter, hence it is recorded here under 2010. Like many orphaned elephants that came in during the drought of 2009, Bhaawa simply wasted away. We never managed to determine the reason that

so many 2009 drought victims wasted away before our very eyes.

CHAFFA – another mysterious loss on the 14th January, who was gaining weight, playing with her little friends and apparently recovering from the bout of pneumonia she had suffered earlier. However, she did have the “turning back foot syndrome” which we had learnt during 2009 was always a precursor to death, but autopsies undertaken on all such victims could shed no light on this new symptom.

NAIMINA AND ENESOIT upgraded from the Nursery to the Ithumba Stockades to relieve congestion in the Nursery, having come in older than two, died within a day or one another, Naimina very suddenly, gripped with violent stomach pain during the night and Enesoit displaying similar symptoms the next night. We suspected that both deaths could be 2009 drought related, or as a result of consuming a poisonous plant whilst browsing out in the bush.

SIAN - a 9 month old Ex Amboseli orphan from the SA Research Elephant Family, who came into the Nairobi Nursery on 17th January 2006 and was transferred to the Ithumba Rehabilitation Centre in May 2007, where she appeared to thrive until 2010. However, she died suddenly on 26th June. A postmortem examination revealed that Sian had only one lung, the second lung never having developed fully – obviously a birth defect.

NCHAN - rescued in May 2009 from a well in the Milgis Lugga, Laikipia when 2 months old, thrived in the Nursery until 14th April, 2010 when she died very unexpectedly of peritonitis as a result of a ruptured duodenal ulcer.

MAWENZI - This orphan, who was almost 2 years old when she died, had been unwell and not thriving as she





should for many months. She finally lost the battle and died on Sunday 8th August - the autopsy revealed the same necrotic tissue in the small intestine that the 2009 drought victims suffered plus a massive build up of fluid around the heart.

KIMANA – who came into the Nursery when two weeks old way back in May 2008, and who was transferred to the Voi Rehabilitation Centre as a healthy but rather stunted calf where he became progressively weaker. Having been repatriated back to the Nursery, he died on the 17th September, 2010. The autopsy revealed one unusually enlarged ventricle of the heart and enlarged lymph nodes.

SALAITA - The sudden death of this orphan from Tsavo West on the 11th November, came as both a shock and a very unwelcome surprise, since he had been thriving just hours before, with no indication that anything was remiss. Rescued as a two year old on the 25th September 2010, Salaita was flown from Tsavo West directly to the Ithumba Stockades to join the other two year old named “Ithumbah”. The cause of death was pleural pneumonia.

THE NURSERY ELEPHANTS

The routine of the Nursery Elephants centers around their three hourly day and night milk feeds, one of the Keepers detailed the task of “Mixer” for the day. Each Nursery elephant has a book in which all feeds are recorded, as are remarks regarding appetite and sleeping patterns at night, the consistency of the stools and whether or not the calf is as active as it should be. These are all indicators that need to be taken seriously.

The elephants’ day begins at dawn when they take their first milk feed, followed by fun and games within the compound

until the Keepers are ready to escort them out into the bush to browse. Infant elephants begin experimenting with green vegetation as early as aged 3 or 4 months, most of which usually just passes through undigested. Browse becomes important from the age of 6 months, but infant elephants have to have milk certainly for the first two years of life, and ideally for 3 years of life and cannot live without it. A number of our orphans come into the Nursery at the age of 2, and are dying from milk deprivation.

Once heading out into the bush, the Nursery elephants normally split into two, or even three groups – the older elephants going further afield than the Youngsters, with the younger elephants feeding closer to home and fragile newborn infants kept sheltered and warm around the Stockades. However, they all meet up periodically to enjoy time as one group, when the older females all home in on the babies, wanting to “mother” them, laying their trunks across the back of the little ones in a gesture of love.

The mudbath hour, between 11 a.m. and 12 noon, when we open our doors to the visiting public for just one hour is the highlight of all the elephants, save the very fragile infants who are precluded due to the risk of contracting pneumonia, which is the prime killer of young elephants. The mudbath is always a highly charged affair which is full of fun, particularly when the weather is conducive for wallowing. The orphans enjoy a game of football with each other and their Keepers, kicking the ball with both front and back feet so expertly that many visitors wonder whether they have been “trained” to do so! They play in the mudbath pool, roll in the mud, slide on the banks and charge up and down the cordon that separates the visitors from the mudbath, sometimes even spraying mud on the guests! Mischievous members of the group, enjoy scaring the African children who come to see them daily,



many of whom have never set eyes on an elephant before! An elephant running towards them naturally causes disarray, which the elephants enjoy, but then the culprit often lies down at their feet just to show that it is only just a game!

On a hot day the resident warthogs and their piglets also often appear anxious for a cooling mudbath, and invariably this triggers a warthog chase, but only as long as the warthogs run away! Then, all the elephants join in, trumpeting and knocking down small shrubs in a display of aggression aimed at the intruders. However, if the warthogs refuse to budge, the elephants pretend they are not interested and should one of the targets turn round during the chase to confront the chasers, then confusion reigns and the chase turns into a humiliating retreat! The resident warthogs, of which there are many, are very familiar with the elephants, living under Containers at the compound, begging at the Staff canteen, and keeping as close to the elephants and their Keepers as they dare where they feel safer from the lions.

“Kilaguni” has no tail, since it was bitten off by the hyaenas who turned up to feast on his poached mother. The fact that he was missing a tail made him very envious of the tails of others, turning him into a “tail biter” during his Nursery time! He also often presented his rear end to the visitors who “oohed” and “aahed” empathizing with his misfortune, which he obviously enjoyed, because the orphans enjoy being the centre of attention and often “show off” in front of the human spectators!

There was, however, a serious downside surrounding Kilaguni’s tail injury in that the scar tissue restricted his anus, and he had difficulty passing stools, especially as he began to eat more solid browse. Often the Keepers had to literally help him by scooping out the

dung by hand. We consulted a number of Vets, who cautioned us against further intervention which would result in more scar tissue and possibly exacerbate the problem. Instead, we were advised to add molasses to his milk feeds to soften the waste and over time this did the trick. Kilaguni no longer suffers such difficulties and is a healthy elephant despite missing a tail!

Throughout the year, there has been rivalry for the Leadership role of the Nursery elephants between Suguta and Olare, both very close in age. This became more pronounced with the arrival of baby “Sities”. For a time there was an unhealthy stand-off between these two would-be Matriarchs, but in the end they came to a peaceful sharing compromise.

The transfer to Voi of Dida, Kimana and Ndiu took place in May. A few nights later Kibo suffered a nightmare, possibly triggered by the disappearance of some of his friends, obviously still psychologically haunted by having fallen down the well at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, which left him orphaned. He woke up screaming, desperately scrambling around trying to climb out of his stable in panic mode and nothing the Keepers could do calmed him. In the end they moved him out into the Stockade vacated by Dida, but this did not suit him either, being at the end of the line and exposed to the unknown on that side, so instead he was transferred into the stockade vacated by Ndiu which is in between Olare and Suguta, and there he settled. Interestingly, previously he had insisted upon being in the original tiny stable he occupied, even when he could barely fit into it, protesting every time we tried to give him a bigger “bedroom”. The nightmare solved this problem!

June saw the departure from the Nursery of Kilaguni, Chaimu and Sabachi to Ithumba and also the arrival of little Kandecha. Next to arrive were both

Murka and Makireti, Murka being the most difficult of all the orphans we have ever had to tame down, having suffered such mutilation at the hands of humans. Today Murka’s wounds have all healed, even the hole in her head which compromised the suction ability of her trunk for so long, making drinking water impossible except by bottle. She is a wonderful, friendly, loving elephant, whose psychological wounds have also been healed. She has demonstrated elephant forgiveness in a very humbling way.

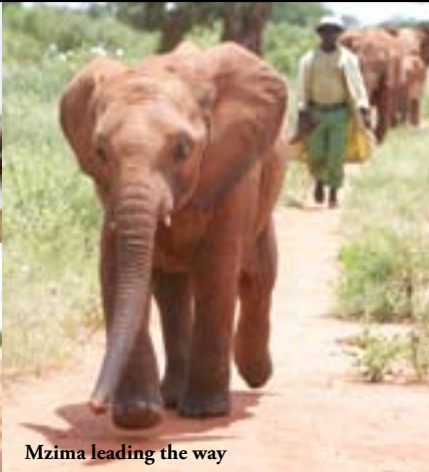
August was a sad Nursery month – the loss of precious little Mawenzi while another two rescue alerts ended sadly as well, both orphans dying before they could reach us, one from Sagalla ranch abutting Tsavo East and the other from the Tassia area of Laikipia who died before the plane even landed. However, the miraculous healing of orphan Murka was a source of immense wonder and joy for us.

VOI UNIT ORPHANS

Following the severe drought period of 2009, the area around the Voi Headquarters, and Tsavo East generally, enjoyed some heavy rainstorms at the beginning of 2010, which turned the barren landscape green again. Emily, Edie, their babies and some of the Ex Orphans accompanying them remained in the area, often meeting up with the Keeper Dependent orphans now based at the Voi Stockades. Siria and Shira were particularly comfortable amongst the older Ex Orphans and Icholta stood out as being the most friendly towards the new Youngsters. Lesanju, as the Matriarch of the Keeper Dependent Youngsters, backed up by Lempaute was not at all comfortable with these “wild” interactions, probably fearful that the older elephants might hijack her “family”. Invariably, she would try and steer them in the opposite direction to avoid contact with the older Ex Orphaned group.



Voi Stockades



Mzima leading the way



Emily greets Joseph Sauni



A Tsavo waterhole



Roan Carr-Hartley in a baobab tree



The Voi Orphans



Emily at the Voi stockades with Eve



Removing the arrow from Laikipia's trunk



The arrows taken out of Emily and Laikipia



The Voi Orphans enjoy their daily mudbath



Burra with Eve



“Burra” reappeared in February returning to the Voi Stockades in amongst Emily’s group, not having been seen for awhile. Burra, will turn 10 in May 2011, having come into the Nursery as an 8 month old victim of horrendous snaring in which he was almost strangled by the wire, leaving him unable to feed, and with one ear literally cut into two separate halves. Burra will always remain extremely recognizable.

By April, the Southern part of the Park was drying out again, and Emily’s Unit obviously decided to follow the wild elephants by moving further afield beyond the boundaries of the Park in search of browse. Ngutuni Ranch is a favourite browsing area for wild elephants as well as Emily’s Unit but an area that holds many human related dangers. During a late evening at the beginning of May Emily was spotted near Ngutuni with an arrowhead in her rump which was obviously causing her a lot of discomfort, so early the following morning (5th May) the Keepers set out again to try and locate her. In fact, they came across her just 200 yards short of the Stockades obviously already on her way back for help.

Once she arrived, those with her were locked into the Stockades with a hand-out of Copra, but Sweet Sally who is one of the Nannies to little Eve, refused to go in, and became visibly disturbed when Emily went down having been darted. The Keepers had their work cut out to keep her and little Eve at bay whilst the Vet removed the arrowhead from Emily’s rump, cleaned the wound and administered a long acting antibiotic injection.

We all hoped that Emily might have learnt her lesson about leaving the boundary of the Park along with the wild herds, but a few weeks later she returned again, with yet another arrowhead embedded in her rear end! With her was Laikipia who had one in the top of his trunk! Since the KWS Vet attached to our Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit was away at the time, a chartered plane had to fly another Vet from Nairobi to deal with Emily, on this occasion assisted by Robert Carr-Hartley who was still in Tsavo with the IMAX film unit. The removal of the arrow from the muscles of Laikipia’s trunk proved more problematic than extracting that in Emily’s backside, but happily both operations ended successfully.

Clearly, it was a disgrace, and a threat to the Park’s elephants generally. (Many of the wild orphans were suffering the same fate, keeping our mobile veterinary unit extremely busy), that the Ngutuni electric fence, which should be maintained by the Ranch owners, had been allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair. Yet again, it fell to the Trust to try and do something about it by undertaking repairs and mobilizing a fencing team to monitor the line regularly. Meanwhile, orphan Shira, (a member of the Voi Keeper Dependent group), joined a visiting wild herd and went off with them.

The Keepers trailed the herd, calling Shira by name, but she had no desire to return, and has not done so since, so perhaps she was ready to resume a wild life again, having found another loving “family” who welcomed her. Shira would have been just over two years old when she went off with the wild group which is the youngest any orphan has left the fold. She could perhaps just survive without access to milk. Perhaps, however, she has found a friendly surrogate mother who is still lactating who will allow her to suckle, possibly having lost her own calf during the drought. We feel sure that Shira, had she needed help, would have returned.

In August Emily’s group was again spotted outside the Park, this time in amongst a huge herd of wild Tsavo elephants, and not at Ngutuni Ranch, but instead on the Sagalla Ranch, where there is not so much human pressure and an abundance of food. The Keepers, who came across her and her satellites during one of their motorized patrols did their best to try and herd the orphans back, but the wild elephants objected to their presence and in the end the Keepers were forced to give up.

In September Lolokwe and Nyiro, who had obviously separated from Emily’s main group to travel independently, joined the Junior orphans to the delight of Siria who felt very privileged to have two Big Boys to play with, while Lesanju and the girls were not quite so enthusiastic. Later on that month Emily was seen below the Voi Safari Lodge with some of her group in attendance – namely Sweet Sally, Ndara, Mvita, Loisaba, Morani, Laikipia, Icholta and a wild recruit. Little Eve went to engage a wild baby of her age in amongst another visiting herd, whilst Ndara kept a very close eye on her. Missing from Emily’s entourage on this occasion were Lolokwe and Nyiro who were also in the area but traveling independently, Edie and her calf, Ella, along with Seraa, Burra, Thoma, Mweya, Mpala, Solango and Irima.

For many months we have been concerned about the whereabouts of Aitong, whom we believe was heavily pregnant having been mated at the same time as Emily. She was last spotted about a year ago near the Voi Safari Lodge on her own. The reason for such concern is the fact that Sweet Sally, who had always been Aitong’s virtual shadow, was no longer with her but instead with Emily’s group, which could point to some misfortune having befallen Aitong. That said, however, perhaps she has merely found another friendly family with whom to travel. We will never know for sure, and derive comfort from the fact that Aitong was without Sweet Sally when she was last seen.

By September Emily’s group again became conspicuous by their absence around Mazinga Hill, although they passed by the Stockades briefly just once at the beginning of October and again in December. The Met Office predicts drought

conditions during 2011 and certainly the main November/December rains have fallen far short of expectations. There is no doubt that human induced Global Warming and Climate Change are far reaching, triggering extreme weather in many parts of the world.

THE ITHUMBA UNIT

The Northern Area enjoyed copious rainfall at the beginning of 2010 and also in November and December when the orphans' mudbath was transformed from a Black Cotton clay "Goo" into a beautiful pool deep enough for the elephants to submerge themselves entirely.

The year began at Ithumba with Loijuk as the main Junior Matriarch of the Keeper Dependent elephants at Ithumba, comprised of Naserian, Sian, Lualeni, Kora, Olmalo, Kenze, Makena, Lenana, Sian, Chyulu, Zurura plus the three more recent arrivals from the Nursery named Meibai, Enesoit, and Naimina, Meibai and Enesoit, all drought victims.

Yatta, was Senior Matriarch of the Keeper Independent now wild orphaned group, ably assisted by Nasalot, Kinna and Mulika, like Yatta, transferees originally from the Voi Unit. Living wild with Yatta's group were those orphans who had successfully upgraded themselves from Keeper dependency to the wild status, living as a loosely affiliated wild "family" unit. In January Yatta had amongst her herd a wild boyfriend, who was paying her special attention.

Loijuk is a very clever Junior Matriarch. She learnt how to open the latch to her Stockade from both the inside and the outside and in mid January let herself and her Stockade companions out after dark to join Wendi and Nasalot who turned up outside. Loijuk and the Youngsters then headed off with the two Ex Orphans for a "wild" night outing!

Ol Malo was last sighted at the stockades during the evening of the 14th February together with Wendie and Yatta. She refused to return to

the night stockades, and later left with the Seniors, and has not been sighted since. We were concerned about Ol Malo after an absence of a couple of days as she was not a particularly strong member of the orphaned herd. The KWS Ithumba Warden accompanied by Benjamin took to the air and during a two hour flight saw many herds of wild elephants, some with small babies and many teenagers the size of Ol Malo, but were unable to physically identify her amongst all the others. Most encouraging was the fact that they saw no elephant carcasses. Hopefully, Ol Malo has joined a wild herd and is settled as part of their family, because she has not returned. In the past, before she returned with a hernia and went back into the Night Stockades with the Youngsters, Ol Malo had been in the habit of disappearing for many days at a time, returning either alone or accompanied by wild bulls, leaving again unaccompanied having taken water. She always had a free spirit and was unpredictable in her movements, so having found no evidence to the contrary, we assume that she is still



Kristin Davis visiting the Voi orphans



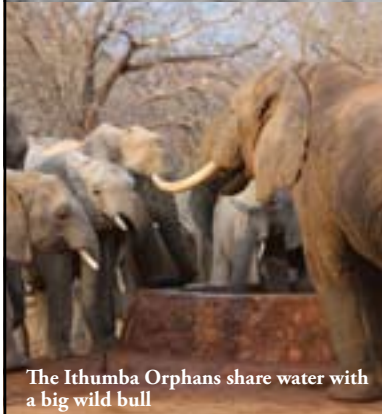
Ithumba Orphans



The Seniors visit the Juniors in their night stockades



Ithumba Stockades



The Ithumba Orphans share water with a big wild bull



Mgeni



Taru Carr-Hartley with Wendie



Robert Carr-Hartley with Wendie



Dust baths - Ithumba



Ithumba Mudbath



Big wild bulls at the Ithumba stockades



The Ithumba Juniors





The Ithumba Orphan herd - Seniors with the Juniors

alive. It does seem strange, however, that Ol Malo has severed her bond with Yatta, of whom she was extremely fond, but it would not be the first time an orphan has flown the nest overnight!

The very sudden and tragic deaths of both Naimina and Enesoit in February anchored Loijuk, who grieved deeply and was left with only Meibai out of the three more recent arrivals. Meibai became the “darling” of all the orphans, cosseted and fussed over, the only surviving “Baby” of the family up until the arrival of Kilaguni, Chaimu and Sabachi in June.

As usual, their arrival was mysteriously anticipated by all the Ithumba elephants ahead of time, illustrating that mystical elephant perception we have noticed and recorded over the years which defies human explanation. Very early in the morning Kinna and Kenze left Yatta and the Seniors and

came to join Loijuk’s Juniors who remained close to the Compound prior to the arrival of the three Nursery elephants, already en route to Ithumba. Then 20 minutes ahead of their anticipated arrival time, Rapsu, Buchuma, Taita and Yatta’s wild recruit “Mgeni” arrived in time to greet the newcomers. It was understandably overwhelming for Kilaguni, Chaimu and Sabachi to suddenly find themselves enveloped by so many large strangers, all vying with one another to get as close to them as possible and lay a trunk lovingly over their backs! Only Meibai would have recognized them having spent a brief time with them in the Nursery before he himself was transferred to Ithumba. That same afternoon all the remaining Ex Orphans arrived en masse, escorted by both Yatta and Wendi, when the Keepers had a difficult time trying to keep tabs on the three new arrivals in the midst of a veritable herd of very large excited others amongst whom was



the wild boy “Mgeni”, now an integral part of the Orphaned herd and perfectly at home in the company of the Keepers and human onlookers alike.

It was interesting that all the Ex Orphans were equally excited to meet up again with Nursery Keepers they had not seen for many months, and even years, recognizing them instantly and wrapping prickly trunks around their necks. This also proved an overwhelmingly emotional experience for the Keepers, many of whom had very moist eyes as a result! The entire event was filmed by the IMAX crew, who were already at Ithumba and waiting for the arrival of the three ex Nursery elephants.

Nasalot took an instant shine to little Kilaguni, something that has since endured. Kilaguni was a favourite amongst his human family as well - a very gentle and sensitive little elephant made more appealing and easily recognizable because he lacks a tail. Nasalot has since regularly turned up to be with Kilaguni, instantly taking control of the Youngsters from Loijuk, “kissing” Kilaguni by putting her trunk into his mouth, escorting him to his milk bottles at the mudbath and standing beside him whilst he downs the contents, then shepherding him into the Pool and remaining close beside him to ensure that he is in no danger. To begin with the three newcomers were wary of such a large waterhole, not having seen one before, but this soon changed.

Loijuk was not comfortable when the older females paid too much attention to the new arrivals in her group, fearful that they might try and take them from her. This actually happened when a Splinter Group came to join the Juniors at the mudbath, and Naserian, accompanied by Kora, Lualeni and Challa surreptitiously managed to sneak away taking Meibai and Sabachi with them. It was Loijuk who first noticed the absence of the two Youngsters, and by rumbling and charging around, alerted the Keepers to the fact who trailed Naserian’s group and caught up with them heading fast towards the Kalovoto seasonal river - a favourite feeding place of all the Ex Orphans. Naserian was not at all happy for the Keepers to round up the two Youngsters and return them to the Stockades. She trailed them back rumbling and grumbling and then stood for a long time looking through the wire at them before leaving as darkness set in!

On another occasion a familiar large wild bull took control of the Junior orphans as soon as they emerged from their Night Stockades, and would not relinquish them to their Keepers, charging the Keepers every time they approached. The Keepers believe that it was the same wild bull who paid a lot of attention to the three small newcomers when he met up with them at the noon mudbath one day, standing very close to all three as though “teaching” them. It was unusual that the three small calves were not at all daunted by the close proximity of that very large wild elephant bull, which would suggest that his body language and “talk” was both interesting and friendly!

Sian had long been a member of the Ithumba Unit and even one of the Junior Matriarchs until her health began to fail. As she became progressively slower and weaker, all the Ithumba orphans were extremely conscious of her increasing frailty and lavished upon her their special attention and care at all times. Either Zurura or Loijuk were never far from her side, feeding close to her, remaining behind with her when she trailed the group, and constantly comforting her with the tender touch of their trunks. Likewise, all the Ex Orphans also always paid her particular attention whenever they met up with the Juniors, each and every one concerned for her and demonstrating that concern in a tender and loving way. All were visibly distressed when she died on the 26th June 2010 – her one lung unable to cope with the oxygen demands of her growing body.

As the trees began to shed their leaves towards the end of June in preparation for another dry season, browsing became the main preoccupation of the Ithumba orphans, the established Juniors and Ex Orphans demonstrating to the latest arrivals how to remove nutritious bark from dry branches, lift roots of herbs by using their front feet and even pulling down high branches for

the Youngsters to feed on and shaking the *Acacia tortilis* trees so that the nutritious pods fell to the ground. Meibai, who used to enjoy the adoration of all the older elephants, had to take a back seat now that Kilaguni, Chaimu and Sabachi were there and much smaller. At first he was a little resentful and jealous, but soon began warming to them, enjoying taking on Sabachi for Pushing Bouts.

In August a completely strange wild elephant turned up at the Stockade compound first thing in the morning and escorted the Juniors out into the bush to meet up with Yatta's main Ex Orphans at an obviously pre-determined spot, the Keepers trailing the group at a distance, prepared to repossess their charges if necessary. The reintegration of the Ithumba orphans, their interaction with the wild community, and their care of the Juniors has been both humbling and enlightening, teaching us humans a great deal about the elephant psyche. "Rafiki", the wild elephant bull who was the first adult wild elephant to befriend the orphans and their Keepers returned in August, meeting up with Nasalot and Naserian at the Stockade Compound and introducing himself to Kilaguni, Chaimu and Sabachi. Rafiki (whose name means "the friend" in Swahili) is, indeed, a great friend of all the orphans at Ithumba as well as the Keepers. During the dry seasons he brings many wild elephant friends to drink at the Stockade trough, and enjoys spending time with both the Juniors and the Seniors, lying down in the mudbath so that the Youngsters can climb all over his large body.

Napasha, now the oldest Bull within Yatta's Ex Orphans, rescued as a 9 month old in November 2002 again taught us "that elephants never forget" when he snatched a bottle of milk intended for one of the Babies at the noon mudbath and ran off with it, downing it as he went hotly pursued by all the Keepers! Obviously, Napasha had not forgotten his milk dependent period!

By October, Loijuk who had long been the Junior Matriarch of the Keeper Dependent Babies, decided to upgrade herself permanently to Yatta's Senior set. Her departure left Lenana, Chyulu and Makena undecided as to who should take over the role of Junior Matriarch, but this was resolved when Wendi turned up leading a Splinter Group and took Lenana and Chyulu off with her to join the Senior Set, leaving Makena behind!

Lenana and Chyulu obviously approved of their new status, because whilst they returned for a drink at the Stockades in amongst the main Ex Orphaned herd for two days following their promotion, they made no attempt to rejoin the Junior fold, leaving Makena reluctantly established as the new Junior Leader.





People all over the world who viewed the BBC series “Elephant Diaries” will remember Makena as the baby of the Nursery and a star of the series. As a Junior Matriarch in charge of 6 younger elephants, Makena enjoyed a great deal of support in her new role, not only from Loijuk and other members of the Senior Set who turned up almost daily to meet up with the Youngsters and chaperone them out to feed, or joined up with them at the mudbath venue, met up with them on their return journey in the evening, or waited for their return actually at the Stockade compound.

The sudden death of “Salaita” on 11th November was a tragedy that no one expected proving yet again the frailty of elephant babies and especially how susceptible they are to pneumonia following a depressed immune system caused by the shock of losing their elephant family.

December brought a great deal of intermingling between the Keeper Dependent Junior Group and the Ex Orphaned Seniors now living wild following the transfer from the Nairobi Nursery to Ithumba of Suguta, Melia and Tumaren. Throughout the entire month, there were only seven days when the Ex Orphans did not come to join the Juniors, either in Splinter Groups comprised of younger members from Yatta’s main herd, usually led by Wendi, or Yatta and the older Seniors themselves. Suguta, Melia and Tumaren were greeted very warmly by the Junior set, Makena having rejoined them after being treated to a Wild Outing by the Ex Orphans at the end of November. During her brief absence little Ithumbah stepped into the Leadership slot. Since she originated from the Ithumba area, she was more familiar with the terrain than Chaimu, the other female in the group.

At first Suguta, Melia and Tumaren, as newcomers, were overwhelmed by

the variety of green vegetation at their disposal brought on by recent rain and wasted no time getting stuck in! Wendi turned up during the night, leading a Splinter Group of four other Ex Orphans and waited until dawn to greet the new arrivals the moment they were let out. Then the usual excited trumpeting and urinating greeting took place after which she and her group spent the entire day with the Juniors, showing them the ropes. The following morning Wendi was waiting to embrace the Juniors again, on this occasion with three others from Yatta’s main group who were not there the day before, namely Kora, Lualeni and Rapsu. When Wendi decided to leave the Junior group later that day, Lualeni was left behind to be with them throughout the day. That night she slept in the Stockade Compound in order to be at hand for the Youngsters the next morning when Yatta’s Senior Group joined them later, including amongst whom was the wild recruit named “Mgeni” (the visitor). Selengai made a huge fuss of Ithumbah, who has always been her particular favourite and Nasalot as usual focused on Kilaguni. When Yatta’s group separated, they took Lualeni with them, leaving Nasalot on Junior duty.

A day later Meibai was taken from the Junior Group by the Ex Orphans for a Wild Outing which spanned two nights before Yatta returned him back to rejoin the Juniors. Several days later Wendi and a Splinter Group arrived and again took Makena off for a Wild Outing, leaving Ithumbah once more in charge of the Juniors, this time ably assisted by Suguta who had been a rapid learner. Meibai returned to the Juniors yet again, but later that month he suddenly raised his trunk in the air, and sped off alone in an Easterly direction, obviously having been summonsed by Yatta and the Ex Orphans to come and join them, something he had tried to do the previous day, but turned back. Since then he has been escorted back to

have his milk feeds, but is obviously in the process of upgrading himself on a permanent basis. The year 2010 ended with only Ithumbah, Suguta, Chaimu, Melia, Tumaren, Sabachi and Kilaguni, Keeper and Stockade dependent up at the Trust’s Ithumba Reintegration Centre and with 28 Ex hand-reared orphans now living perfectly normal wild lives amongst the wild elephant community of the Northern Area – in fact 29 if “Mgeni” can be counted amongst them, even though we cannot claim to have rescued and reared him from early infancy like the others!

OTHER ORPHANS

The Trust throughout 2010 has rescued and raised a number of orphans other than baby elephants and rhinos. These have included Hyraxes, Ostriches, a baby Eland calf, a Zebra calf and a baby Buffalo, an orphaned Dik Dik and a Duiker.

The Trust’s tried and tested experience raising orphaned elephants and rhinos has been called upon to help raise orphaned elephant in many countries in Africa this year - South Africa, Namibia, Uganda, Sudan, West and North Africa, Zambia, Chad, Mozambique and Equatorial Guinea. However, it is not simply about the correct milk formula, but also the intensive care and 24 hour husbandry that is the key to rearing the orphaned elephants. Most places have not been in a position to provide this. Furthermore, when rearing elephants, one has to think long term, and ponder what sort of future one can offer the elephant when grown, should one be successful in steering it through fragile infancy, childhood and into adulthood. Elephants are essentially “human”, and as such they deserve a quality of life in wild terms fulfilling their natural role in nature along with friends. Just as life imprisonment is no future for a human, a lifetime of captivity is no future for an elephant and can be equated to keeping a human in a cupboard for




life, for elephants need space. No artificial situation, however suitable it may appear to us humans, can possibly provide an elephant with the space it needs for a quality of life. They belong to Nature; they need a family and friends just as we do, and it is our belief that they should be returned back where they rightly belong when grown.

One of the 2010 orphans that needed help was a baby elephant in Chad who lived for seven months, but then sadly succumbed to pneumonia. Wild elephants are gunned down daily in Chad by well organized and well armed poaching militias who come on horseback from neighboring Central African Republic with Global Tracking devices, Satellite phones, and with Satellite imagery. The population of elephants in that country has fallen from 20,000 in the 1980' to just 3,000 today, 105 having been killed in April 2010 alone within the Logon Oriental area. The same sad story is being repeated in many other Elephant Range States today.

The Trust's Orphans' Project, which is the first of its kind world-wide and which, has received international acclaim and a great deal of international Press and TV coverage this year. A number of Television documentaries have featured our orphaned elephants, as have magazines and newspaper articles.

Some of the other orphans raised this year





BORN TO BE LOVED

BORN TO BE FREE

IMAX

**BORN
TO BE
WILD 3D**



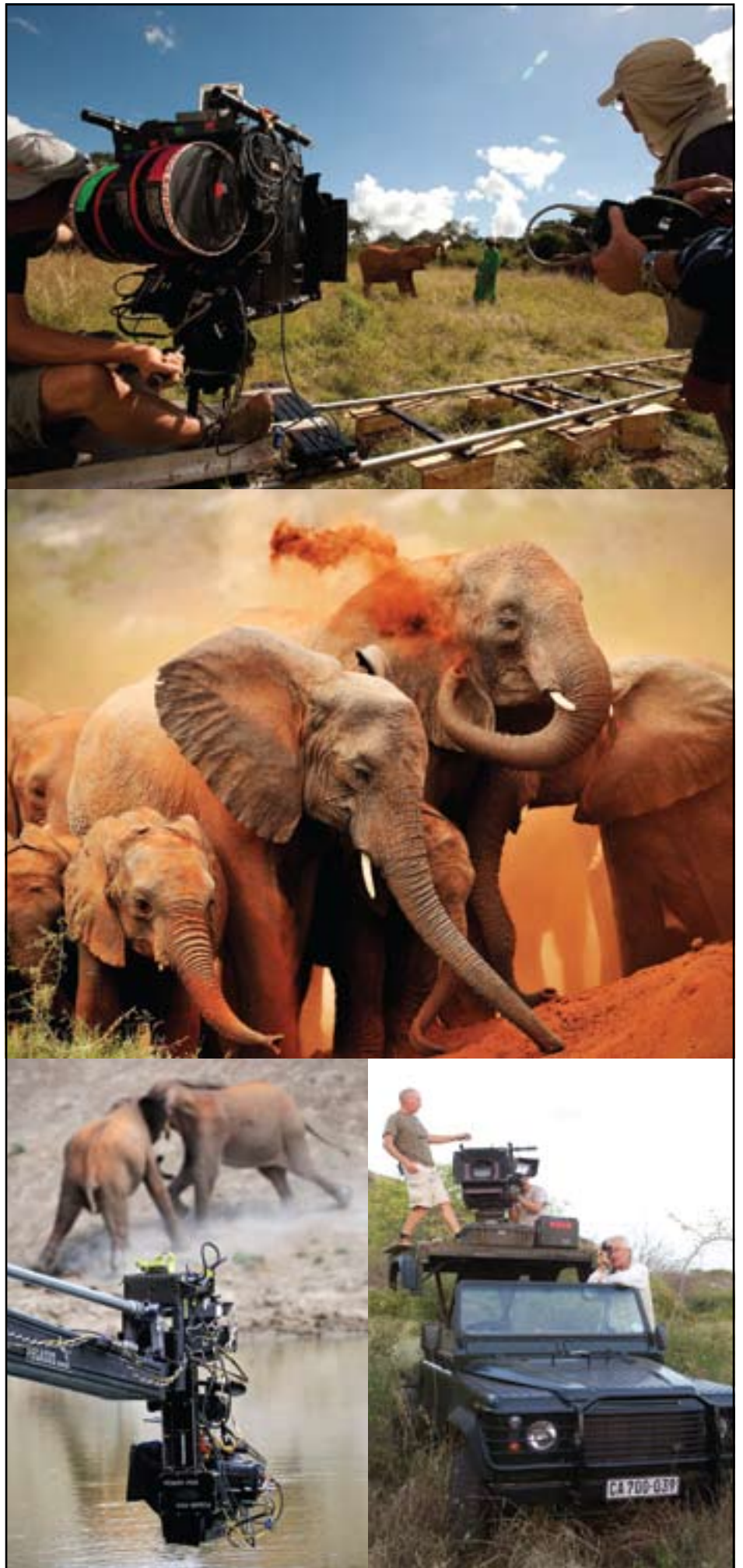
NARRATED BY MORGAN FREEMAN

WARNER BROS. PICTURES AND IMAX FILMED ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT "BORN TO BE WILD" WITH MORGAN FREEMAN, PRODUCED BY DAVID BOGUSLAS AND MARK MOTHERSBAUGH
SCREENPLAY BY PETER THILLAYE, DIRECTED BY BETH SPIEGEL, FEATURING DR. BIRUTE MARY GALDIKAS, GAYE DAPHNE M. SHELDON, EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JILL FERGUSON, SUPERVISING PRODUCER DIANE ROBERTS, PRODUCED BY DREW FELLMAN
IMAX NARRATED BY MORGAN FREEMAN WRITTEN BY DREW FELLMAN EXCLUSIVELY IN IMAX THEATRES APRIL 8 DIRECTED BY DAVID LICKLEY
IMAX.COM/BORNTOBEWILD

IMAX

Spent a month here filming the orphans at the Nairobi Nursery, and at the Voi and Ithumba locations for a 3-D documentary for the Big Screen entitled "Born to be Wild" due to be released worldwide in all IMAX Studios this Spring. This involved an enormous Camera that had to be lifted by a Crane and operated by a very specialized crew. We were unsure how successful the IMAX crew would be capturing the antics of the orphaned elephants, but they managed to get some spectacular footage, not least the capture of Kandecha in amongst the 25 very large bulls. Other Television Crews have featured the orphans for programs in French, German, Israeli, Japanese, Swiss, Italian and Mexican. The orphans also featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show, NBC and CNN in the USA, and on CBC's The Nature of Things in Canada. Again BBC have featured our work in the UK and so have a couple of Australian Television crews. National Geographic Magazine photographer Nick Nichols came on two different trips to document the orphan's project covering both the wet and dry seasons for a magazine feature on our orphans scheduled later in 2011.

We were honoured when the US Vice President and his family, who were only in Kenya for two days on their way to the Fifa Football World Cup in South Africa, requested a special visit to the orphaned Elephants, again highlighting their international appeal.



ANTIPOACHING UNITS

The Trust's first Anti-poaching teams began operating in Tsavo in conjunction with The Kenyan Wildlife Service in 1999. We now run seven Anti-poaching teams who work within the Tsavo Conservation Area, who, last year, concentrated on sensitive boundaries of the Park and throughout the region generally. Over the years poaching tactics and trends have changed but today the threat still remains as sinister as ever. Traditional poisoned arrow poaching continues as does that of well organized syndicates armed with sophisticated equipment which are also exacting a devastating toll of Kenya's irreplaceable wildlife heritage. In order to become more effective in tackling such human related problems, the Trust's new specially designed Database will better empower us to monitor & assess field data and gauge the effectiveness of the different teams with graphs and maps.

The demand for bushmeat, both locally and also for export, is making many species face the very real possibility of literally being eaten out of existence. According to the Bush Meat Task force this lucrative evil has attracted criminal syndicates with sophisticated and efficient logistical capabilities and now represents the most significant immediate threat to the future of wildlife in Africa - a multi-billion dollar international trade impacting on wildlife numbers as never before. That consumed in the Congo alone is reputed to exceed 1 million metric tons per year, in other words the equivalent of 4 million cows! Despite the health risks involved (Ebola being just one) bushmeat is considered a delicacy by people of Bantu origin not just locally but also in the capitals of Europe that have sizeable urban African populations. In Cameroon special markets are even officially designated as outlets for bushmeat!



A desnaring patrol



A KWS ranger trying to rescue a snared bushbuck



The Director of KWS Mr. Julius Kipng'etich visits our Ziwani desnaring team



Bushmeat poachers arrested by the Burra desnaring team



An arrowed Lesser Kudu male



A snared Zebra



The remains of a snared buffalo



An arrested elephant poacher



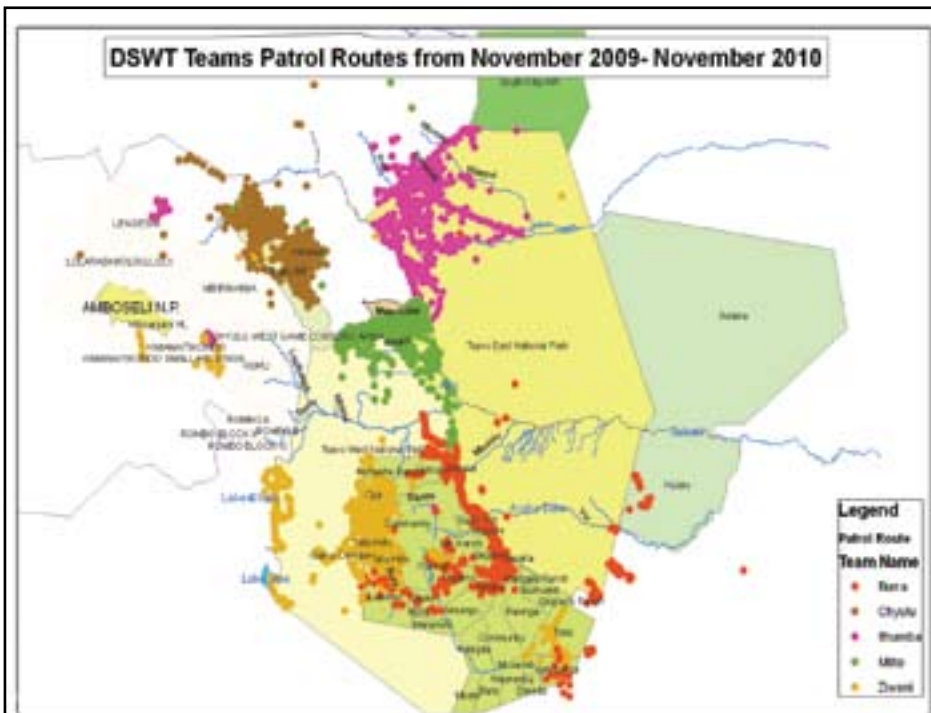
Butchering a dead elephant



Bushmeat



A poached elephant at Lualenyi Ranch



In Kenya, bushmeat poaching in all the Protected Areas and beyond poses an extremely sinister threat to the country's dwindling wildlife. The Tsavo Conservation area covers 64,000 km² and within this vast area conservation challenges are immense if not insurmountable without enforcement of deterrent sentencing for offenders, eliminating corruption, even within the ranks, and dealing with habitat destruction, and human-wildlife conflict.

Now that the Trust has its Top Cub Aviation Unit, we are in a position to provide vital operational support not only for our teams, but also for KWS. The conservation challenges ahead are daunting. Poaching is on the rise, as recent press coverage and arrests throughout the country prove. Notorious offenders are often released almost immediately with little or no deterrent sentencing at all, indicating collusion at a very high level. Kenya is rapidly losing its most precious resource and it is our hope with Richard Moller, who now works for the Trust as our Operational Field Manager will be able to effectively enhance our Anti-poaching input through closer supervision of our existing teams, and perhaps even add a few more, funds permitting.

THE MOBILE VETERINARY UNITS

The Trust's two Mobile Veterinary Units are "feel good" projects, for they have alleviated suffering on an unprecedented scale and saved the lives of literally hundreds of snared, sick and wounded animals that otherwise would have had no chance of recovery.

The Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit covers the Tsavo Conservation Area, which includes both Tsavo East and West National Parks, neighboring ranches and community areas, as well as the Chyulu Hills National Park,

Amboseli National Park and the Shimba Hills National Reserve. The Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit covers the Masai Mara, neighboring community areas, areas around both Lake Naivasha and Lake Nakuru and operates as far West as Ruma National Park and Lake Victoria.

In 2010 the Trust said goodbye to Dr. David Ndeereh, the Vet seconded to our Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit from the Kenya Wildlife Service's Veterinary Pool, who had been with us for the past 7 years and who was recalled by KWS to make way for Jeremiah Poghon Kaitopok to take over his position. We would like to thank Dr. Ndeereh for his many years of dedicated service.

*We owe special thanks to the **Cullman Conservation Foundation, The Eden Wildlife Trust the Serengeti Foundation, IFAW and Safaricom** for their support of our De-Snaring Teams and to **Rex Dobie's Minara Foundation and the Austrian NGO Vier Pfoten (Four Paws)** for fully funding our two Mobile Veterinary Units. **Jerry Ranger of Powertraveller** has donated **state of the art portable solar charging equipment for use by our antipoaching teams in the field.***

*Deep gratitude is due to **Phoenix Aviation and Bill Parkinson** for housing our Topcub Aircraft whenever in Nairobi, and for undertaking its maintenance at cost.*

*We thank **Kim and Glen Edmonds** for instructing our anti poaching team Drivers off- road and 4x4 driving skills free of charge.*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Literally hundreds of school children visit the Nursery orphans during the one hour that we are open to the Public every day, so much so that now they have to book in advance, and are sometimes ushered in, in batches of 50 at a time, because there would not be standing room around the mudbath cordon to accommodate them all! Normally the donating public stand on one side of the cordoned off mudbath, accessing it through a pathway on the left side of Daphne's private home, whilst school children who come in free, access the compound from the other side. Local school children also have access to the orphans growing up and based at the Voi Rehabilitation Unit, as do others who come to see the Ithumba milk and Keeper dependent orphans, which often entails also seeing some of the visiting Ex Orphans. Being in amongst so many large and friendly elephants is a life changing experience for them.



Every year, the De-Snaring Team Leaders select 4 schools from their respective areas around the periphery of Tsavo to benefit from the Trust's support by way of donated desks, text books, sporting equipment, hardwood tree seedlings which they have to plant and nurture, plus lectures on wildlife issues and environmental films projected by each team's mobile cinema unit. In addition each school enjoys field trips into Tsavo transported and guided by the Trust (with a picnic lunch) in the Bus that was donated by the Dulverton Foundation several years back, and which has proved invaluable ever since. The field trips are a special treat for the children, many of whom have probably never ever traveled in a bus before, or even seen a living elephant. Throughout 2010 over 3,600 children have enjoyed field trips sponsored by the Trust, and 11,200 school children between the schools we have supported have benefited from the Trust's community outreach programs throughout the Tsavo Conservation Area.

Perhaps the Program that has the greatest outreach impact has been the regular radio broadcasts at which our Elephant Keepers speak in their particular tribal dialect to their tribal countrymen living in distant places. The aim of the radio Programmes is to generate educative radio messages that



Desk donations



School children visit the Voi Nursery elephants



Field trips to the Voi Orphans



Trust funded radio broadcasts



Donation of sports equipment



Mobile cinema units



Field trip



School children visit the Ithumba Orphans



Field trip

might help change peoples' attitudes and practices in relation to wildlife and environmental conservation. The Trust's Wakamba Keepers broadcast through Musyi FM Radio, the Samburu Keepers through the national Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, and the Kikuyu Keepers through Kameme FM. This has wide coverage - the greater Nairobi area, Central Province, parts of Eastern Province, Embu, Machakos, Kitui, the entire Meru district, parts of the Rift Valley, Ngong, Kiserian, Mai Mahiu, Kinangop, Nakuru and Eldoret. The Kikuyu tribe is the largest in Kenya, now represented in virtually all the other tribal areas of the country.

Historically, the Wakamba tribe have been bushmeat poachers as well as poachers of elephants and rhinos. Their homeland stretches east from Nairobi towards Tsavo and northeast to Embu with the tribe (estimated at about 4 million people) well represented in other parts of the country as well, mainly the Shimba hills, and Coastal areas and along the Kenya Tanzanian border.

The first programme was introductory covering the Trust's various conservation projects, the bushmeat crisis and the role of the community in reducing bushmeat offtake, as well as enlightening people about the Trust's Orphans' Programme. The second broadcast highlighted the consequences of poaching and its impact on the economy of the country, focusing on elephant and rhino poaching as well as bushmeat. It also covered human wildlife conflict, pointing out that this was often as a result of humans encroaching into wildlife areas, and not only confined to wildlife straying into human farmland. Measures were suggested whereby people could better protect their crops as well as their domestic animals from predation. The 3rd Session was mainly to respond to the many questions raised by the first two Programmes while the 4th Programme focused on the negative results of deforestation and its impact on water resources.

These regular broadcasts were funded by our US Friends, and the German NGO Rettet die Elefanten and they have been extremely well received. Many of our Keepers are extremely well known locally through these programs.

THANKS

*Once again, we would like to reiterate that the Orphans' Project owes its success to a **caring global public**, and their generous donations, and support through the Trust's digital fostering Programme. We thank **Care for the Wild International, Rettet die Elefanten Afrikas Ev., Vrienden van de Olifant, Terre et Faune, and Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA) and the Annenberg Foundation** for their generous **Grants** in support of our Orphans' Project.*

*Of course the orphans could not survive without the input of **Pfizer International**, the current manufacturers of the SMA Formula milk who have continued the generous legacy of support we have enjoyed over the years from their predecessor, **Wyeth Laboratories**. We thank **Natasha Sweeney** for kindly organizing the latest donation of 2,100 kgs. of powdered milk for our orphaned elephants and for the damaged tins that are delivered to British Airways T5 so that crew members can deliver them to the elephants when they travel to Kenya.*

*We are enormously indebted to **British Airways in general, and specifically their Community Relations team** for providing free work related flights in support of the Orphan's Project and to **BA Cargo** who have recently transported 2,100 kgs. of powdered milk free of charge for the elephants. We thank **BA crew** who personally bring the **donated tins of milk and blankets** for the orphaned elephants.*

***Flamingo Ltd, specifically their James Bartington, Neil Willsher and Thomas Frankum** have been enormously helpful in getting the milk to us, with **Home Grown and Sky Train Imports** clearing the milk at this end for us throughout 2010, and delivering it to our door. Thankyou **Mary Muthara and all who have made this possible. Flamingo** have also paid Customs Duty as a donation towards the project and we are so deeply grateful for this extremely generous contribution.*

***Nelsons** have contributed towards the health of our orphaned elephants through **donations of homeopathic products and Bach Flower remedies**, all amazing aids to help with the recovery of the orphaned elephants and for keeping them alive during their long milk dependency and fragile infancy thereafter.*

***Wisla Fabrics** have kindly donated **Webbings and Strappings** needed for **Elephant Rescues**, for which we are most deeply grateful, and which have streamlined our rescue operation.*

*Thanks to **GFO Logistics, especially Graham Hill** for all their help in importing goods into the U.K. for us.*

Lastly, but by no means least, we owe enormous gratitude to the **US Friends of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust**, especially **Stephen Smith, the Founder of our US Friends Organization** and to **Brian Miller, the current President** as well as to all who serve on the US Friends Board and do so entirely voluntarily, and with such enthusiasm. Special thanks to **Wendi Wendt and Marilyn Marchetti** for organizing two very successful fundraisers in support of our work, and to **Angela Godinho and Anne and Nick Eisele** for their support. We thank Stephen Smith's Law Firm **Kreig de Vault LLP** for their patience in kindly continuing to allow the US Friends office space within their premises throughout 2010 and **Nancy Hattabaugh** and **Janice Hamilton** for all their hard work for the US Friends.

A very special thanks to **Kristin Davis** for her tireless support of the work of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and for her invaluable participation in the New York fundraiser as well as **The Oprah Winfrey Show**.

We thank **Ted Hodgkinson** for organizing a Charity Event in Hong Kong in support of the Trust in January, and **Richard and Bizzie Frost** for the Rhino Fundraiser they organized in Saudi Arabia both of which raised a sizeable amount of money for the Trust.

We are deeply grateful to **Rob Brandford** of our UK Charity, to **Harriet and Alex** and all his Volunteer Helpers who help so enthusiastically with all projects related to the Trust not least of all in organizing **Daphne's Royal Geographical Society "Protector of the Giants" lecture in September**; to **Joachim Schmeisser and Kathrin Kohler** as well as **Robert Carr-Hartley and Nick Nichols and Gary Roberts** who donated stunning enlarged photographs to grace the occasion. Proceeds generated by the sale of these images raised an extremely useful sum of money for the Orphans' Project. Particularly we are most deeply grateful to **Dan and Amber Prior** who compiled the short film for Daphne's RGS talk, incorporating archival material to depict the time-span she has been working with orphaned elephants, and for **Toby and Beccy Strong** for filming the event and working so hard on the DVD of the event.

We are deeply grateful to **Anton Bowker Douglas and Air Mauritius** for the donation of used Air Mauritius blankets for the infant elephants; to **Lindsey and Cinnie Bell** who have done "body talk" on ailing orphans and to the many people worldwide who have assisted us by donating healing drugs and medicines for our orphans. And once again, no Trust Newsletter would be complete without special thanks to **Pete Fullerton, the orphans' "angel"** whose generous support of **Elephant Rescues and the orphans generally** has continued throughout the year yet again, irrespective of growing numbers. A special thank you too to **Erik Margolis** for his most generous support throughout 2010.

We are deeply indebted to the **National Geographic Channel**, who were the main sponsors of **The Protector of the Giants function at the Royal Geographical Society** and who kindly also sponsored 50 Orphaned Elephants for children of the Staff when they turned one. **Baneberry Finance** was another key sponsor of this function, and we thank them enormously also, while **Survey Sampling International** were likewise very generous. **Pet Vaccination Clinics**, veterinary practices in U.K. have promoted the Orphans' Project and collect donations in support of the elephants while **MnO International** donated a royalty from the sale of limited edition T-Shirts that featured the DSWT name and logo on their label.

We thank **Manchester Outfitters** for continuing to allow us discounted rates for Staff Uniforms, and **Ultimate Security** for their generous discount on the Night Security Guard. We are deeply grateful to **GNLD** who also donate free of charge monthly Vitamin and Mineral Supplements for our orphans, and to **Bridget Hewett** for coordinating delivery.

Many kind supporters have again donated generously towards the Staff Canteen, with **Rettet die Elefanten Afrikas** providing all the provisions for a number of Celebratory Feast for the Keepers in all three Orphan Stations. Such treats are deeply appreciated by the Keepers and Staff of the Trust.

We would like to further thank **Rettet die Elefanten Afrikas** for their ongoing maintenance support for 64 kms. of electric fencing along the Northern Area boundary fence line, as well as their generous support towards the community Radio Programs in various tribal dialects..

We thank **EcoAge** for **hosting and supporting a weekend festival in London** and are deeply indebted to the **Tsikenakis Charitable Trust** for a handsome Grant in support of our conservation work, to the **Waves Charitable Trust** for their continued support of the Orphans Project and also our Community Outreach Programme towards which the **Capricorn Foundation** has also contributed generously.

Our UK Branch is deeply indebted for the generosity of Angela Lorimer, Alex Wood, Brian Hunter, Richard Hyndman, Jacqui McAleer, Tony Mustoe and Abi Irving, John and Peter Croome, Mike Foster, Andrew McDonall, Christopher Green, Reginald Peacock and Michael Morris. Grateful thanks to one and all such donors.

A special thanks to Robert Carr-Hartley, Nick Nichols, Mia Collis and Drew Fellman for the use of their photographs through much of this Newsletter.

ELEPHANTS AND IVORY, RHINOS AND HORN AND CITES

The Wildlife trade is a multi-billion dollar illicit trade with live wild animals, body parts and trophies such as ivory and rhino horn smuggled from Africa and India to destinations in S.E. Asia. In terms of money, it competes with the illegal narcotics and arms and ammunition trade and is estimated to be worth 10 – 20 billion dollars per year. The illegal poaching of both elephants and rhinos this year has been exceedingly serious, far more so that what has been revealed in the local Press, driven by the insatiable appetite for Ivory and Rhino Horn in the Far East, and the presence of foreign Dealers now within the country engaged in aid related construction works. Elephant ivory currently fetches \$350 per kilo at the other end in the Far East, the poacher in Africa paid \$40 - \$50 per kilo which, to an impoverished, unemployed tribesman with a large family to support, is a fortune. Rhino horn fetches an astronomical amount of money per kilo – said to be five times the price of gold.

Many illegal hauls of ivory intercepted en route to the far East throughout the year have been identified by DNA analysis as having originated in Kenya as well as Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe with as many as 30,000 elephants reputed to have been poached in Zimbabwe alone. Chinese Nationals have been arrested in Kenya, in South Africa, the Congo, Cameroon and other elephant range States on 710 different occasions, even apparently found with ivory in their luggage when returning from the World Cup!

The poaching of rhinos has reached extremely serious proportions this year, again driven by the demand in the Far East. The price it fetches there has recently been shrouded in secrecy,

though known to have definitely escalated by several thousand dollars per kilo! It came as a shock to read that sophisticated syndicates in Southern Africa had accounted for some 300 rhinos this year and even more shocking to find that some of those poachers were White Afrikaner Professionals such as Hoteliers, Businessmen, Professional Hunters, and even Veterinarians, using Helicopters to go about their nefarious business! Again the Buyers were identified as Chinese and Vietnamese Nationals currently working in South Africa.

Nearer to home in Kenya, rhinos have been poached in the Protected Areas and horns have been vanishing mysteriously from Armouries. Rhinos have also been poached on the Private Ranches of Solio, Ol Pejeta, Ol Jogi and even Lewa, where previously they were considered secure. Of those originally free released into Tsavo East National Park, approximately 11 remain whereas by now they should have proliferated to a projected 58! Tsavo is prime rhino habitat, at one time home to no less than 8,000 Black Rhinos (the largest Black Rhino population in the world) so there is no explanation for their disappearance other than poaching. Moreover it is unclear how many Black Rhino remain in Nakuru National Park, the Tsavo West Rhino Sanctuary, Meru National Park and even Nairobi National Park.

The Signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meet every 3 years to discuss the issue of trade in endangered species. The 15th Conference of the parties took place this year in the Gulf State of Doha from the 13th – 25th March 2010. It came, as usual, against the backdrop of huge illegal hauls of ivory being intercepted en route to the far East, China and Japan, Japan being the largest consumer of illegal ivory. The tusks of 119 elephants (239 tusks

in all) were seized in Bangkok, Thailand in February, with the tusks of a further 148 elephants intercepted in Thailand in April said to have originated in Nairobi and sent via Doha. May saw the tusks of 24 elephants in amongst an illegal haul of sandalwood seized locally near Thika before reaching the Airport, just 3 weeks after 2 tons of ivory (representing some 200 elephants) had been intercepted in Vietnam, this time disguised in a layer of seaweed. The ivory from a further 58 elephants was seized in Thailand in July, but all these seizures were known to be just the tip of the iceberg since only about 10% of illegal consignments are intercepted, the majority slipping through the net un-noticed, disguised as mobile phones and all sorts of other items.

Such seizures simply reinforce the fact that as long as there is a demand and a market for Ivory and Rhino horn in the Far East, elephants will continue to decline in both Africa and India. The Africa wide elephant population has dropped to about 250,000 today from its previous 3 1/2 million, practically eliminated from many former Range States. China's demand for ivory is rising, Chinese citizens and Companies prosecuted for illegal ivory smuggling in no less than 23 of Africa's 37 elephant Range States, according to the Environmental Investigation Agency.

Whilst the 9 year moratorium supposedly restricted further demands by four of the Southern African countries, (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia) to sell additional stockpiles, having sold theirs off in 2008, this time round Tanzania and Zambia sought the permission of CITES to sell their stockpile, (a combined amount of 112 tons) as well as down-listing their elephant populations from the fully protected status of Appendix I to Appendix II which would allow them to hunt and

trade in live elephants, supposedly to fund conservation initiatives. Supporting them were Japan, China, the Southern African SADC block, Uganda, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the Japanese Federation of Ivory Arts and Crafts, American Safari Club International plus an outfit called the Global *Guardian* Trust and, amazingly, also Canada. Opposing it were 23 countries styled “The African Elephant Coalition”, Kenya and Mali co-chairing this group. They requested a 9 year moratorium on further Southern African sales be extended to 20 years, to allow Africa’s beleaguered elephant populations to recover.

Before the request to market the stockpiles of Tanzania and Zambia could be sanctioned, these countries were supposed to demonstrate that (a) their population of elephants was secure, (b) that their law enforcement was effective and (c) that the sales were not detrimental to elephants generally, none of which they were able to do. It had become clear that not only were Tanzania and Zambia transit countries for many of the large intercepted illegal hauls, but were even the actual source of many! Illegal seizures of ivory had peaked in 2002, 2006 and 2009 Tanzania and Zambia being heavily involved after DNA testing, Tanzania found to have been implicated in about 11,632 tons or one third of all the global ivory seized worldwide between 1989 and 2010. Undercover investigations undertaken by the Environmental Investigation Agency uncovered irrefutable evidence of poaching on a massive scale in Tanzania’s Selous National Reserve. Zambia, likewise was guilty of extensive poaching besides being a major transit route for Zimbabwe’s poached ivory.

During the time that the panel of experts mandated by CITES was within Tanzania and Zambia, attempting to gather accurate information to feed back to the CITES Secretariat, an atmosphere of suspicious secrecy and fear prevailed in terms of transparency. Stakeholders were obstructed from even accessing the panel whilst they were there and even warned off saying anything detrimental that might jeopardize the proposed stockpile sales.

The European Union usually votes in unison as a block, and if the countries can’t all agree, then there is an abstention. However, on this occasion even the European Parliament was overwhelmingly against the sale of the Tanzanian and Zambian stockpiles following clear evidence of illegal practices. Yet, in spite of this clear evidence, the Panel of Experts still recommended support for the down-listing of the Tanzanian elephants to allow legal hunting and also recommended sanctioning the sale of 90 tons of ivory! In the case of Zambia, they gave the green light for both the down-listing and the stockpile sale. Nevertheless hard evidence, sense and conscience finally prevailed, and on the last day

of the Meeting both proposals were rejected by secret ballot resulting in a vitriolic verbal backlash from both countries, and Botswana recommending that the Southern African States pull out of CITES altogether!

The question is this - how far must the population of a species fall before conservation is put ahead of commercial interests, and will this come about in time to save the elephants when it is money that talks loudest, and where corruption is endemic? Too often CITES Meetings are dominated by commercial self interests, influence peddling and questionable political alliances rather than impartial consideration of the species in question. Some people, including ourselves, even question whether CITES has a role to play at all any more, although when it worked as it should and banned all trading in ivory in 1989, the elephants enjoyed a reprieve, but for far too short a period of time to allow recovery. And will CITES ever work as it should again? Will the Japanese end up eating the last Blue Fin Tuna having insensitively even served this critically endangered fish already on the brink of extinction at a CITES dinner in Doha during the actual Meeting in March! And will the Chinese, Thais, Vietnamese and other Far Eastern peoples kill the last elephant for its tooth and the last rhino for its horn? It is up to international People Power and CITES, assuming it endures, to ensure that they don’t!

There should, of course, be no one-off sales of ivory irrespective of who is the Seller and who is the Buyer, for such sales introduce uncertainty and encourage graft and poaching, stimulating conflict amongst conservationists who ought to be working together to ensure the survival of endangered species. Countries should instead be compensated for burning their ivory and rhino horn stockpiles, as did Kenya in 1989, and only then will elephants and rhinos have a chance of surviving the onslaught of avariciousness and greed.

We end the 2010 Newsletter with some good news from India – that the last Dancing Bear walked free there during 2010 and that the keeping of elephants captive in Zoos and Circuses is to be banned. (That said, unfortunately India still sanctioned sending elephants to unsuitable destinations in foreign Zoos - i.e. recently to Turkmenistan).

Finally, the Scientists have decided that Elephant Legs are unique in that power is supplied independently to each limb, which can accelerate or brake independently of the others. They are, in essence, animals that have the capability of 4 wheel drive apmng with their many other mysterious attributes! And we begin 2011 by wishing all our Supporters a Very Happy New Year.

**Online donations can be made directly through the website
WWW.SHELDRIKWILDLIFETRUST.ORG**

If you would like to contact the Trust to find out more about a specific issue, to make a donation or for any other reason, please use the details below.

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