



The David Sheldrick WILDLIFE TRUST

Newsletter 2011

Contents

AN OVERVIEW OF 2011 by Dame Daphne Sheldrick

Born to be Wild.....	06
Wangari Maathai	06
Poaching Epidemic	07
Is there hope for the Rhino?	08
Enduring Drought	09
Giant Bullfrogs	09
New Wildlife Bill	10
Overpopulated Planet	10

THE TRUST'S NEWS OF 2011

The Orphans' Project	12
The Nursery	14
2011 Nursery Arrivals and Rescue Stories	18



The Voi Unit	30
The Ithumba Unit	38
Wild Births	44
The Orphaned Rhinos	50
The Elephant Mover	52
Illegal Livestock	52
The New Ithumba Camp	53
Thanks	54
Saving Habitats	56
Kibwezi Forest	56
Umani Springs	58
Project Amu	60
Mobile Veterinary Units	64
Anti - Poaching	68
Wildlife Data.....	72
Fencelines	74
Water Resource	74
Communities and Education	75
Elephants and Ivory	76
The 2011 Ivory Calendar	78

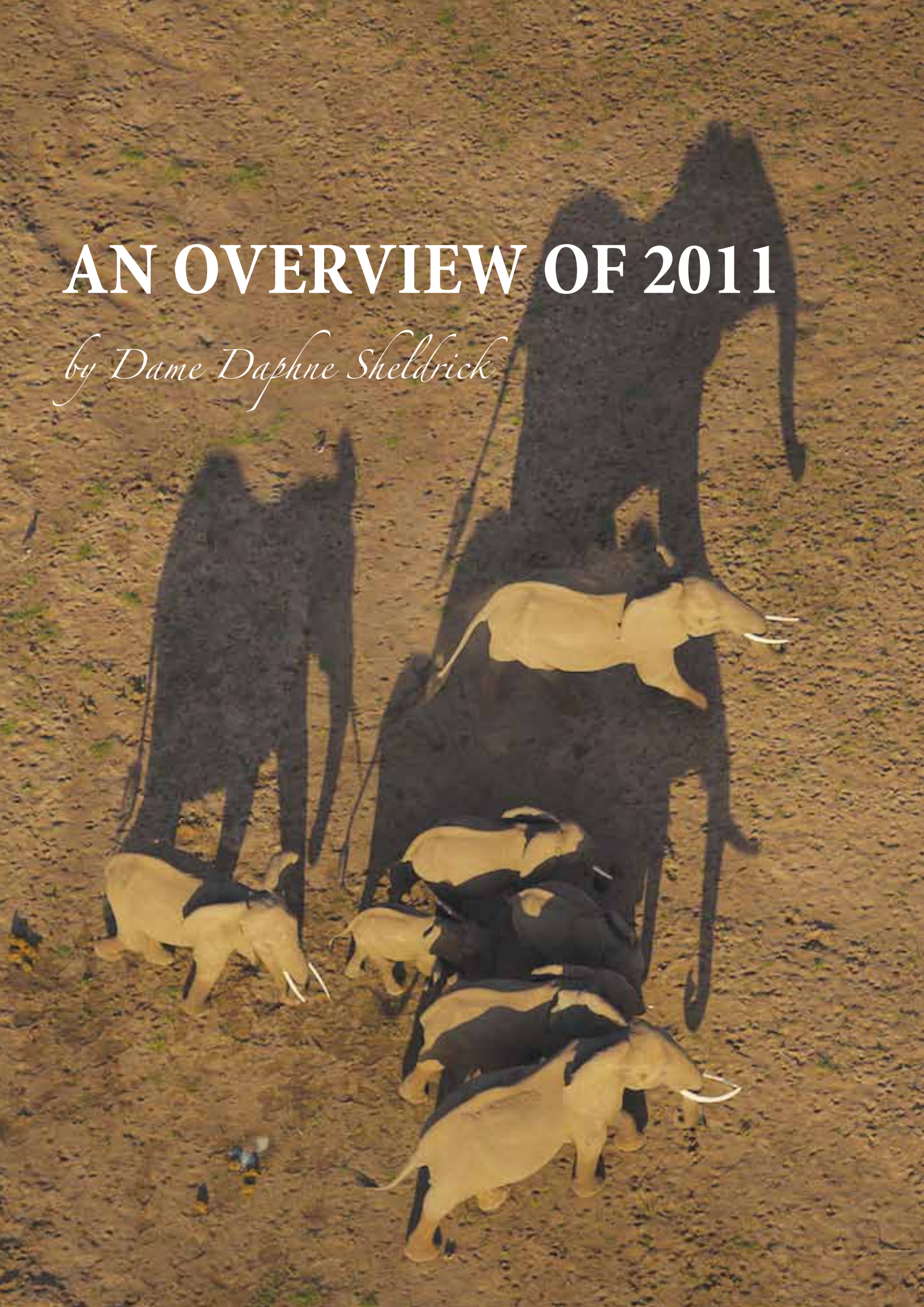


www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

Photographs Copyright of Nick Nichols, Robert Carr-Hartley and
The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

AN OVERVIEW OF 2011

by Dame Daphne Sheldrick





What a year 2011 has been. Amidst strife in North African and Arabian countries, unrest in neighbouring Somalia and relentless global financial concerns, reports of repeated hauls of illicit ivory and rhino horn intercepted en route to China have been endless. These illegal activities represent the death of not only hundreds of elephants but possibly the ultimate extermination of the rhino. It could perhaps be a year best forgotten, but there are always positives to temper the bad news.

The Trust has experienced great successes over the past twelve months and has this year evolved to carry the heavy burden of not only protecting Kenya's elephant populations and its diverse wildlife, but vast stretches of fragile land and threatened habitats. Whilst expanding our conservation efforts and undertaking these ambitious new projects we continue to stay true to our core values, principles and ideas remaining a sustainable and flexible organisation and in doing so we are achieving visible results.

Project Amu and the Kibwezi Forest are two initiatives, which work towards preserving irreplaceable and precious environments essential for the future of wildlife and mankind. All of our eco-tourism ventures go hand-in hand with sustainable conservation and have been another great success for the Trust; the Ithumba camp and the new Umani Springs property are both proving extremely popular, whilst a new camp is also in the early stages of creation in northern Tsavo East to share the popularity of the original Ithumba camp. Our Nairobi Nursery has also received a healthy number of visitors this year encouraging awareness and providing much needed support. Within the huge landscapes of Tsavo, the Mara Triangle and its neighbouring areas, the Trust's field teams have had a challenging year facing many obstacles, yet our mobile veterinary and anti-poaching units have soldiered forwards in the face of adversity saving countless lives of wild animals and preventing even further atrocities. Without the support and participation of the local communities entwined with in all of our projects we would not be able to achieve our visible and long-lasting results and it is for this reason that we continually invest in community outreach and development, ensuring that future

generations are prepared to protect and conserve their environment and wildlife.

Here in Kenya, as in many other countries there are precious wild corners where nature still remains intact in all its mysterious magnificence. This is where one can escape the hustle and bustle of a troubled world and listen to the heartbeat of nature, which uplifts the soul and calms the psyche. Just contemplating the struggles of a tiny ant as it heaves a huge grass seed ten times its size over insurmountable obstacles with perseverance and persistence - never giving up, makes human trials and tribulations retreat into perspective against the bigger picture of survival within the natural world around us.

One thing that the Trust will never forget is to thank all of our faithful supporters world-wide who have enabled 2011 to be a year of achievement, despite the doom and gloom. We are most deeply grateful and touched by this support and hope that 2012 will be, by and large, a good year that will bring positive changes and above all a reprieve for the beleaguered wildlife who have the misfortune of sharing the planet with over 7 billion homo sapiens.

Wangari Maathai

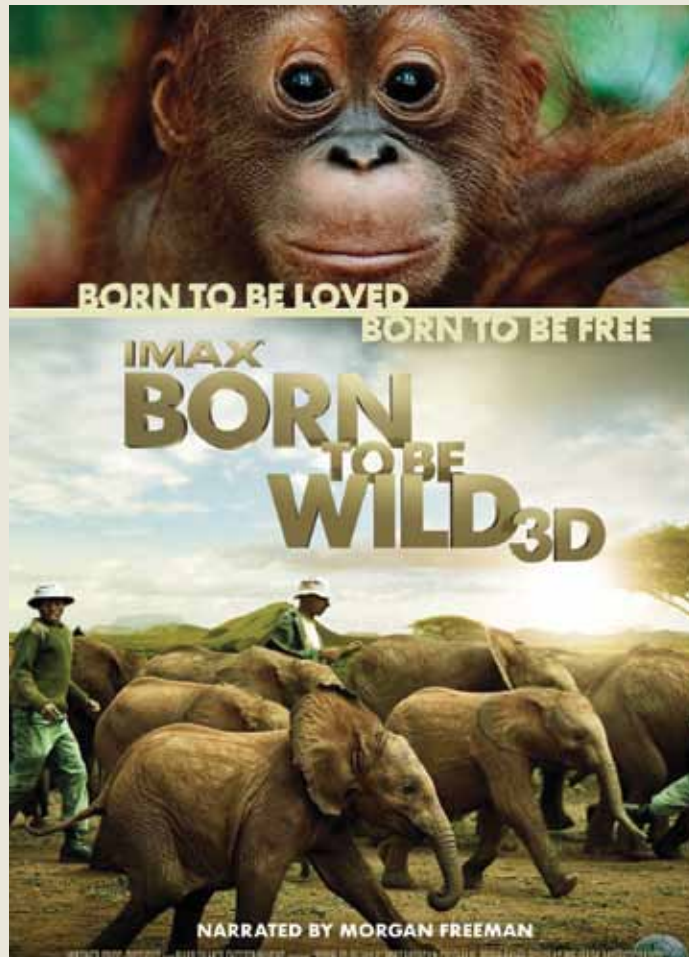
A great loss to the country was the death of Wangari Maathai, Kenya's Nobel Peace Laureate and a brave environmental champion who succumbed to cancer on the 28th September. Founder of The Green Belt Movement, she was a fearless crusader who campaigned tirelessly for the protection of natural forests, which are so crucial to precious water resources and soils, upon which all life depends. Often against all odds Wangari spoke up bravely against the evils of corruption, urging better governance and accountability. In death she leaves a lasting legacy of which Kenya can be justifiably proud, even though in life she was often targeted as a trouble-maker when trying to counter the illegal grabbing of forests.

By example she did her best and that is what everyone can and should do, irrespective of how ever modest, for the reward of being at peace with oneself is a rich one, knowing that your conscience is clear and that you have tried to do what you can. Perhaps the most meaningful memorial to greatness is the length of time a person is remembered after they are gone. The memory of Wangari Maathai and what she stood for will live on in the history of this country. She said "Without the mirror that the natural world presents to us, we no longer see ourselves..." And the ability to "see ourselves" warts and all is vital.

BORN TO BE WILD

A special event for the Trust this year was the new 3D IMAX film 'Born to be Wild', featuring the Trust's orphaned elephants and the orangutans of Borneo. The film premiered in Los Angeles, Washington and New York during the first 10 days of April and then in London in June and later in Paris. Narrated by Morgan Freeman 'Born to Be Wild' has apparently been the most successful IMAX production ever made and will be showing at science venues throughout the world, including China, for a very long time to come. An IMAX sequel again involving the orphaned elephants is being planned.

We thank Drew Fellman and all the IMAX team for the wonderful hospitality extended to Daphne, Jill and Robert Carr Hartley during the IMAX Film Premieres in Los Angeles, Washington and New York and for making us so welcome at every venue. We thank Richard Leakey for the kind words he spoke about the Trust and the need to protect elephants at the New York Premiere of Born to be Wild.



Poaching Epidemic



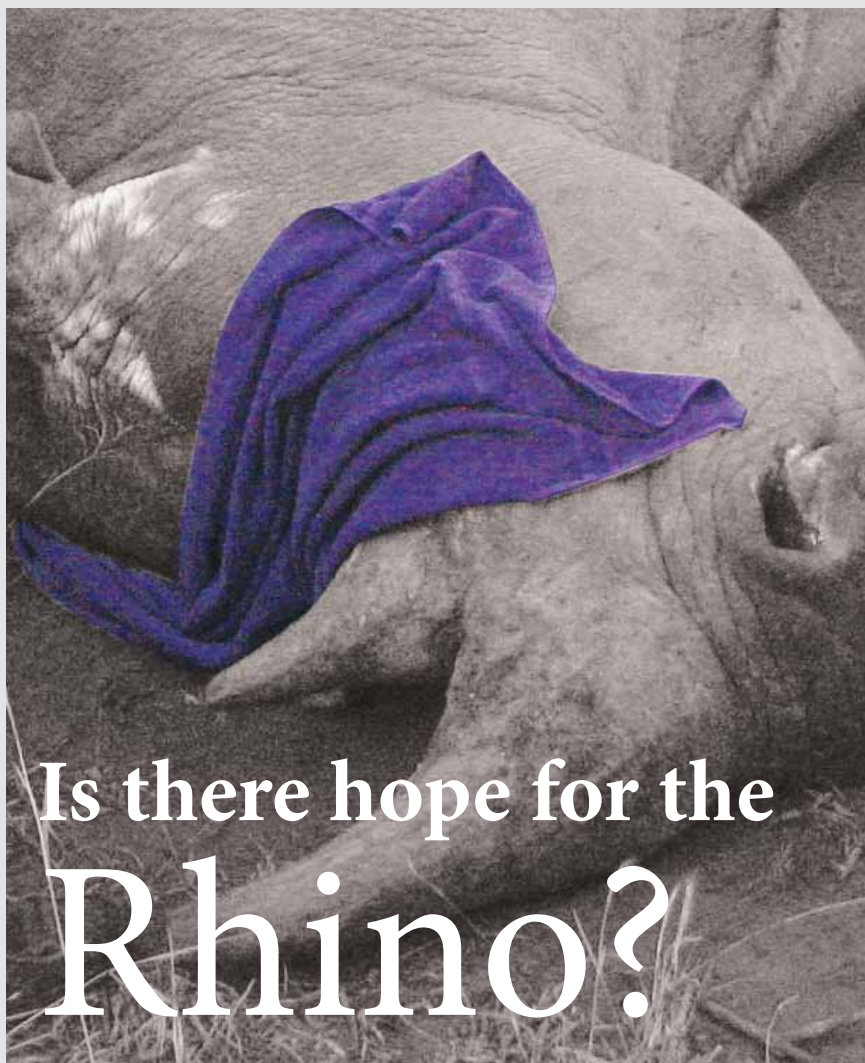
An extremely sinister threat to Kenya and its lucrative tourism industry, largely overlooked by the press, has been the serious escalation in the poaching of both elephants and rhinos for their ivory and horns, driven by the insatiable desire for these items from the newly wealthy Chinese masses as well as the growing populations of Vietnam, Thailand and other Far Eastern countries.

Informed sources believe the level of poaching is back to what it was in the 70's and 80's, with wildlife numbers down by 70% since the 1970's exacerbated today by the commercial aspect of the infamous bush meat poaching trade. In Kenya, the poaching problem has to be confronted and addressed at the judicial level rather than ignored with the usual impunity, "impunity" being a term levelled at this Coalition Government almost daily through the local Press. It is surprising that those who stand to benefit most from tourism, such as the tour operators themselves, have also remained mute when the bastion on which their business depends is being so latently and quietly eroded.

There was some consolation in the fact that a count of the Tsavo elephant population during 2011 within the entire Tsavo ecosystem (an area twice the size of the park itself -16,000 sq. miles) revealed a slight increase in elephant numbers, 12,572 as opposed to 11,696 as counted in 2008 within the same area. At the same time one cannot escape the fact that the number of elephants within that same ecosystem pre-1970 was estimated at 45,000, a far cry from the 12,572 existing within this crucial elephant habitat today. Tsavo is a vital home to the country's largest single population of elephants and is the primary hope for the survival of not only elephants but all wildlife in the future.

The plight of Black Rhinos continues with the demand for rhino horn rising, yet a glimmer of hope to save these magnificent creatures could perhaps lie in the research being undertaken at Onderstepoort in South Africa. The researchers have taken the rhino horn and coated it with ectoparasiticides coupled with an indelible dye similar to that used in the banking industry, which is visible on x-ray scanners and cannot pass through security checkpoints unnoticed, even if the horn is ground to a powder. Although not lethal in small quantities, ectoparasiticides can produce symptoms of severe nausea, vomiting, convulsions and/or nervous symptoms in extreme cases. In the selection of acaracides for inclusion in the treatment compound, care is being taken to only consider substances that do not impart collateral damage to innocent oxpeckers and other organisms. Based on current research it is believed that the treatment could remain effective for approximately 3 – 4 years after which re-administration would be required. Whilst the animal is temporarily immobilized to treat its horn, DNA could be taken from the individual as well as implanting high-tech GPS tracking devices and microchips.

Kenya used to be home to some 20,000 Black Rhinos country-wide, with Tsavo once holding 8,000 individuals, which in the sixties was the largest population in Africa. In those days on a game drive through the Park



you were sure to encounter at least 2 dozen rhinos especially along the Athi and Tsavo rivers where rhinos were particularly prolific. Sadly the poaching holocaust of the late seventies, eighties and early nineties drove Tsavo's rhinos to the very brink of total annihilation until some lone outliers, far removed from one another, were retrieved and placed under tight security in the fenced Tsavo West Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, which the Trust had a hand in establishing. Other individuals were free-released back into Tsavo East under tight security and should number approximately sixty individuals, yet today less than 20 remain. Rhinos are now also being targeted on private sanctuaries such as Lewa, Ol Pejeta, Ol Jogi, Mugie and even from their last bastion, Solio, all places where security is extremely tight; nor has the Tsavo West fenced Rhino Sanctuary escaped the wrath of the poacher. It is not inconceivable that rhinos could disappear entirely from the planet unless the myth surrounding their horns can be dispelled amongst Far Eastern people who regard it as an elixir of life with magical properties, capable even of curing cancer.



Enduring Drought

Up until mid-November, the North Eastern regions of the country, which included both Tsavo and Amu were again gripped by drought conditions and a shortage of permanent sources of water. Where Trust funded windmills and two permanent rivers provided water in Tsavo, the natural swamps and water pans throughout Amu, which sits within the coastal Lamu district, dried out completely. Once again the Trust was faced with the challenge of having to transport water to fill artificial troughs for Amu's wildlife. Desperate for water one hippo actually walked into a Mosque, but thankfully recent bountiful rain has since re-charged all the natural water-pans throughout the Amu area and flooded huge stretches of Tsavo, which is good news indeed.



Giant Bullfrogs

Other good news was the re-appearance of the Giant Bullfrogs in swamped patches of Tsavo after the heavy rainstorms that broke the drought in November. These Giant Bullfrogs the size of dinner-plates only appear after exceptional rainfall and it was heartening to see them again, knowing that the elephants and all of Tsavo's wild inhabitants will have a bountiful festive season at year end with both food and water in abundance for a change.

New Wildlife Bill

Overpopulated Planet

In August the new Wildlife Bill, initially drafted in 2007 with a great deal of stakeholder participation, popped up again, albeit in an allegedly adjusted format to suit the agenda of a certain segment. Stakeholders were given less than a week to go through and comment on this substantive document, amongst whom were two previous KWS Directors who felt that it lacked the legitimate stakeholder participation and transparency it should have had. In the end more time was allowed and everyone has since had their say, which may or may not influence the document that is finally presented to Parliament.

The Bill provides three centres of power (all under Government control) – a Directorate, an Authority and a Service. Everyone wondered where the money would be coming from to support an even larger bureaucracy than that already in existence, doubtful that it would enhance efficiency and would be more likely to counter it. Under Section 41 it allows the National Land Commission to declare any National Reserve, Conservancy or Sanctuary ‘mismanaged’ and at the landowners’ expense bring it under the control of KWS for a period of 5 years. Furthermore, “any wildlife which has caused or is causing damage or harm to human life and property” would be deemed a “Problem Animal” and could be killed as long as KWS was informed of its demise within 7 days with compensation of up to K.Shs. 1 million (US\$ 10,660). It also allows communities to claim compensation for pasture lost to wildlife, but what about wildlife pasture lost to domestic livestock that illegally intrude into the National Parks in sizeable numbers?

The intrusion of livestock contributes to the demise of wildlife through the introduction of disease, monopolizing scarce water resources and trampling fragile environments into a dustbowl. Whilst Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA’s) are mandatory for the Private Sector within National Parks, they are conveniently overlooked by Government to address the wanton desecration of natural wildlife habitats in the Protected Areas. Any mention of a reward for the protection of wildlife is entirely missing in the new document. Nevertheless, one positive aspect that it does address is the mandatory imposition of stiffer penalties for poaching offences, which currently are woefully inadequate but nevertheless, few believe that the new Bill will be any better than the old version and in some cases that it may even work against wildlife rather than for it.

This year the human population of our planet reached a staggering 7 billion. Here in Kenya, according to the press, the human population at the turn of the 20th Century stood at 3 million; today it is over 40 million and set to treble in the next 30 years. This coupled with Global Warming poses another grave threat to the natural world, something that the next generation of Kenyans will find themselves having to address.

It has been estimated that some 200 million people will be forced to migrate by 2050 due to climate change. These statistics also state that 300,000 people will be left dead, 325 million will be seriously affected and 40% of the world’s animal and plant species will be annihilated, whilst the economic loss in the region will total US\$125 billion every year.

Whilst perhaps 7 billion humans on the planet could survive such a devastating loss of life, many wildlife species will become extinct. There are those that say “why bother...wildlife is doomed anyway”, but one can only do one’s best in a ‘holding action’ to stem the slaughter, hopeful that better times will ultimately emerge and that when they do, there will be something left.

We owe enormous gratitude to the US Friends of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and to Brian Miller, the current President and all who serve on the US Friends Board. A very special thanks is also due to Kristin Davis for her tireless support of DSWT.

We are also deeply grateful to Rob Brandford of our UK Charity and his team as well as his many volunteers who give their time so enthusiastically with all Trust related projects.





The Orphans' Project

The Orphans' Project has been acknowledged worldwide during 2011, especially with the popular BBC series 'Nature's Miracle Babies' and the release of the IMAX 3D film 'Born to Be Wild', whilst also being featured in the September issue of the prestigious National Geographic magazine. The orphans have furthermore appeared on millions of television screens, most recently in Australia, Germany, France, Czechoslovakia and Poland as well as in articles written in many different languages. Literally hundreds of visitors come to the Trust's Nairobi Nursery every day for just one hour between 11am and 12pm when we open our doors to the visiting public.

The year began with 38 elephant orphans still milk and keeper-dependent with 69 having successfully accomplished the transition from the Nairobi Nursery back into the wild elephant community of Tsavo East National Park leading normal wild lives. Those now living wild are known as the 'Ex-Orphans', those who are still keeper-dependent are known as the 'Juniors' or the 'Youngsters' and those in the Nursery are the 'Infants'.

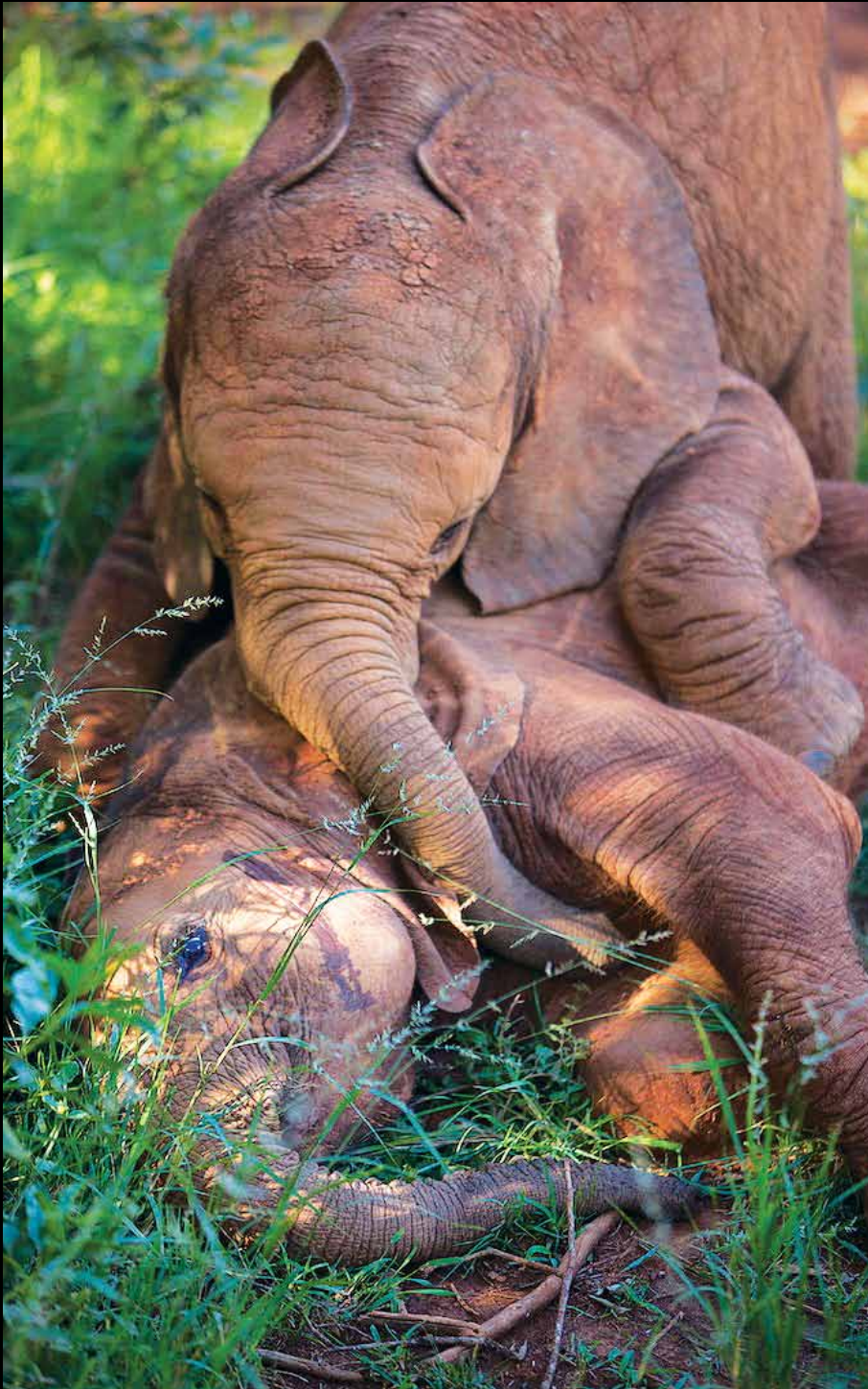




The Nursery

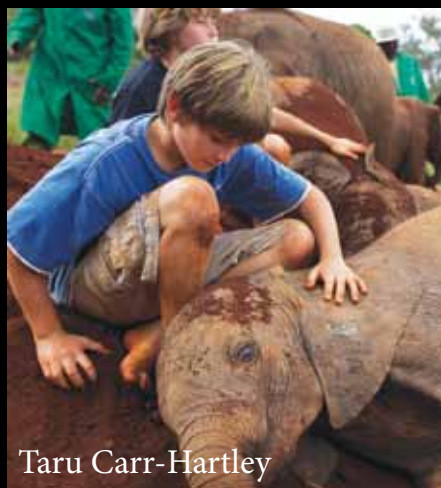
There were 18 infant elephants at the beginning of 2011 in the Nairobi Nursery. Baby bulls included Kibo, Chemi Chemi, and Kandechea and the females included Kudup, Kalama, Tano, Mutara, Turkwel, Olare, Shukuru, Sities, Murka, Makireti, Kitirua, Naisula, Ishanga, Naipoki and Wasin.





Roan Carr-Hartley





Taru Carr-Hartley



During the course of the last twelve months the Nursery elephants have encountered the Nairobi Park lions who have been hunting the resident warthogs, who seek protection around the Keepers and the Elephants within the Trust's compound and gardens. Over time the lions have become ever bolder and on several occasions have tried to take a warthog from the compound in broad daylight and within full view of Trust Staff. The targeted warthog usually heads straight for the nearest human for protection, which often happens to be the Keepers who are with the elephants in the forest. Naturally this creates immense panic, everyone taking evasive action in different directions, usually leaving a frustrated and noisy lion behind having been denied its kill. The Nairobi Park lions have not targeted the elephants themselves, probably because they are unfamiliar with elephants. Yet the lions did take an interest in orphaned rhino Solio when she was still small and not much bigger than a warthog herself, but her Keepers are never far away and she is enclosed in a large stockade adjoining blind Maxwell's compound at night. By year end Solio had outgrown vulnerability and would have given any lion a good run for its money.



2011 Nursery Arrivals and their Rescue Stories



2011 NURSERY ARRIVALS and their Rescue Stories



February 22nd 2011

Kainuk

Female

approx age 1 year



- This yearling female elephant calf was spotted by a tribesman in the South Turkana National Reserve at around 1 p.m. on the 21st February 2011 at a place called “Kainuk”, the mother having died with her tusks still intact. There was no obvious evidence of bullet wounds so it is assumed that she was probably a victim of drought since her calf was extremely emaciated with prominent cheekbones and sunken eye sockets suggesting that it had not been getting sufficient milk. The tribesman reported the presence of the dead elephant and its calf to the Head of Security and the Senior Warden of Mt. Elgon National Park who set out to retrieve the ivory of the dead mother having initiated the rescue of her calf and alerted the Trust that an airlift would be required to bring it back to the Nairobi Nursery.

She was flown to the Nairobi Nursery the next morning and was named “Kainuk”.

Although very stressed and “wild” the new orphan took some milk and water from a bottle and upon arrival in the Nursery had sufficient strength to give one of the Keepers a run around. However, she was so exhausted that she slept well between the three hourly milk feeds, taking her milk before shoving the Keeper around a bit more afterwards. By morning she was much calmer, especially when the other Nursery elephants were brought to her stable to be introduced to her so that she would know that she was not alone. She was so eager to join them and was warmly welcomed by all the older females, particularly the Nursery matriarch “Olare”, who lavished her with affection and kept her close throughout the day.

Kainuk shares her origin with “Turkwel” (now 2 years old) and also “Nasalot” who is now an 11 year old ex-orphan rehabilitated from the Ithumba Stockades. During the ensuing months Kainuk bonded with Turkwel and enjoyed favoured status.



June 19th 2011

Ololoo

Male

approx age 2 1/2 years

- This young bull calf was spotted alone in high grass in the Masai Mara National Reserve in the beginning of June 2011 by a research student based at Karen Blixen Camp. During the afternoon of the 18th June the same researcher and her fiancé again came across the calf, still alone in the same area, secretion from the temporal glands evidence of stress. It was then that they contacted our Nursery in Nairobi and arranged for an aircraft to be on standby the next morning should the calf be able to be captured.



After a three hour search the next morning the elephant was located hiding in thick bush and was kept under surveillance pending the arrival of the KWS Vet along with the Trust's Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit and some Rangers to help capture the orphan. Once the Vet arrived the calf was darted and sedated, before being loaded onto the waiting Land Rover and driven to the nearby airfield, where the capture plane from Nairobi had already landed. By 5.30p.m. on the 19th June the orphan was at the Nairobi Nursery; it had obviously been without its mother for some time because it was emaciated and feeble, passing a great number of worms in its dung.

Anticipating a possible collapse, which is usual in orphans of this age, we had all the life support aids at hand. Amazingly by the very next morning the newcomer, who has been named "Ololoo" (after the Ololoo escarpment that overlooks the Mara river) was also accepting his milk from a hand-held bottle and even sucking on the fingers of the attendant Keeper.



July 8th 2011

Kilabasi

**Female
approx age 18 months**

– Villagers of Chala, near the Tsavo Tanzanian border spotted this lone elephant calf coming from the Tanzania side. They had seen a large herd migrating from Tsavo West National Park into Tanzania a few days previously. Since there is a great deal of poaching of elephants in Tanzania it can probably be safely assumed that this orphan is another poaching casualty. The calf, aged between one and two years old was still milk dependent and already skeletal, with no chance of survival without access to milk.



The villagers from the community who now occupy what has always been an ancient traditional elephant migratory passage between Tsavo East, Tsavo West and Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania, are certainly not known to be ele-friendly, since there is a great deal of human/wildlife conflict in the area. Believing that all elephants pose a risk the villagers reported the presence of the calf to the Maktau KWS Community Officer who got in touch with the Trust's Ziواني anti-poaching team operating in the area. By the time the Team arrived to rescue the orphan it had retreated into thick bush, so the Trust's Voi Elephant Keepers were summoned to come and assist. Together they managed to locate and capture the calf during the late afternoon of the 7th July with hordes of curious community onlookers watching the events from afar.

The calf was bruised, dehydrated and weak but still strong enough to put up quite a struggle. Having been overpowered and bound, she was transported in the back of a pickup to the Trust's Voi Elephant Stockades, fed water and spent the night in a Stockade with the other Keeper-dependent orphans nearby, all of whom reached through the

2011 NURSERY ARRIVALS and their Rescue Stories

separating bars to comfort and touch her. The next day a chartered rescue plane was not available until 2 p.m. so it was only in the late evening of July 8th that she reached the Nairobi Nursery having been immobilized for the flight by the KWS Vet. We feared the usual bloating, which often follows immobilization and can compromise survival by slowing the body metabolism, exerting pressure on vital body organs that often proves lethal, but fortunately the new baby managed to survive the night and began taking milk from a bottle the next morning. We were therefore cautiously optimistic that she would make it. She was given the name Kilabasi, the name of a lone massif in the general area where she was found. Having spent several days in the Nursery taming stockade she was de-wormed before being allowed out to join the others.



12th August 2011

Dabassa

Male

approx age 20 months



- It was the 8th August when Galana Ranch staff first noticed a young elephant calf amongst a herd of adult bulls drinking in the Galana river just beyond the Eastern boundary of Tsavo East National Park, beyond the Sala Entrance Gate. Since this was unusual they decided to monitor the calf closely over the coming days and reported its presence to the Trust's Field Operations Manager Richard Moller, who again spotted the same orphan during an aerial surveillance exercise four days later on the 12th. The calf had already lost considerable condition and could not survive without its mother, being still milk dependent at the age of 20 months. It was obviously another poaching victim, since the poaching of elephants was rife in that area. Richard reported the presence of this orphan to the relevant KWS authorities who authorized the Trust's Voi Elephant Keepers to proceed to the area and rescue the calf. The rescue party was at the scene by 3.30p.m and did not waste any time, yet the rescue was challenging due to the presence of the four big bull elephant guardians. The Keepers were also mindful of the fact that it would take time for the rescue plane to come from Nairobi and be able to get the calf back to the Nursery before dark.

The bulls were protective of the baby, so the rescue team used the vehicle to shield them as they set about over-powering the calf. Being so feeble, he did not put up much of a struggle, as though resigned to whatever fate awaited him. The Nairobi Keepers received the go-ahead for departure by plane once the calf had been captured and were airborne by 4 p.m. arriving at the Galana Ranch airstrip 1 hour and 30 minutes later. Many ranch hands helped load the orphan, who was safely back in the Nairobi Nursery soon after dark at 7 p.m.

Ever since the creation of Tsavo in 1949 this particular area has been known for a single huge herd of elephants, given the name "The Dabassa Herd" by the late David Sheldrick. The area is also home to the Waliangulu tribe; traditional elephant hunters whose culture has always been interwoven with that of elephants in the same way that Masai

culture is interwoven with the killing of lions to prove bravery and the passage from boyhood into manhood. “Dabassa” was the name of a famous Mliangulu hunter who became a poacher once the Park was created. This range of the Dabassa herd, which was once several thousand strong, has always been an elephant killing field due to the presence of the Waliangulu tribe. Over the years this once spectacular herd has been consistently whittled away by poaching so that those that remain today are few and far between.

Orphan “Dabassa” is undoubtedly a tragic remnant of that once great herd, a very lucky elephant who has been granted a second chance of life. Undoubtedly he will always hold a very special place in his heart for the Galana bulls who saved him from falling prey to the Tsavo lions.



28th August 2011

Rombo

Male

approx age 2 years

– The village of Oltepes lies within a traditional elephant migratory passage linking Tsavo West and East and is an area of ongoing human-wildlife conflict. The tribal dialect name ‘Oltepes’ means “acacia” and at that particular time of the year the acacia trees drop nutritious pods, which all animals relish, including elephants, who will sometimes come to shake the tree so that the pods fall. Hence, every time the elephants move along this route and pause to feed on the acacia pods, they find themselves in trouble with a notoriously un-ele-friendly community. Rombo is the latest of several orphans from this area and is believed to possibly be the calf of a cow elephant who died from poisoned arrow wounds and was found by our Ziواني anti-poachinh team.



The calf had apparently been seen visiting the body of his slain mother several times, but was viewed by the community as a threat so they wanted him either killed or moved. Having received news of the orphan, our Ziواني team reinforced by some of our Voi Elephant Keepers drove to the area and managed to locate and rescue the calf during the afternoon of the 27th August. He had a spear wound through one ear, which had penetrated the shoulder, fortunately not too deeply. He was driven to the Voi Stockades for the night where he was comforted by the Keeper Dependent orphans based there.

Armed with a pole injection, the Keepers were able to administer a mild dose of Stresnil to the new orphan the next morning in order to overpower and bind him for the flight to Nairobi; by noon he was safely in the Nairobi Nursery. We named him “Rombo” the name of the general area of this human/wildlife conflict zone, which has yielded several of our orphans who have come in with spear injuries inflicted by the human community who have invaded the elephants’ ancient migratory route between the two Tsavos.

2011 NURSERY ARRIVALS and their Rescue Stories



10th September 2011

Kihari

Female

Approx age 1 year



– The Hombe Forest covers the lower slopes of Mt. Kenya and very fortunately the community that occupies this part of the country is elephant-friendly, mainly due to Edwin Kinyanjui of the Mt. Kenya Bill Woodley Trust, who has had a hand in rescuing orphans Kenia, Mumbushi and now little “Kihari”. Kihari is a yearling female who, like the others, wandered alone onto community land on the 9th September 2011 and whose presence was reported to Edwin Kinyanjui. The calf was kept under surveillance that day in the hopes that its mother would return during the night to reclaim it, but there was no evidence of other elephants in the area and the next morning the elephant was still alone. There had been a marked escalation of poaching within the Mt. Kenya National Park during this period (the location of some 28 carcasses discovered by Forest Department Scouts in the last few months alone). The orphan who was weak and dying was obviously yet another poaching victim. Being so weak, she was reported “friendly” towards humans, which for a wild calf of that age, did not bode well for her survival.

Her presence was reported to Warden Robert O’Brien, who is familiar with the work of the Trust having previously worked in Tsavo, who sent eight rangers under the leadership of Senior Sgt. Lokonyan to retrieve the calf the next day and drive it to the Nyeri airfield. By 10a.m. on the 10th September 2011 the yearling orphan, who at the request of the community has been named “Kihari” (the name of that specific area) was safely back at the Nursery and although very thin and weakened she still had sufficient strength to object to sharing her stable with a human Keeper. By the morning of the 11th she had yet to accept milk and collapsed in a coma during the afternoon. Life supporting dextrose drip infused into an ear vein revived her briefly, but by the evening she was again in a state of collapse, so the drip was replaced bringing her back a second time. Once back on her feet, she took milk during the night and by the morning of the 12th she was much stronger and has since continued to thrive.



23rd September 2011

Kasigau

Female

Approx age 2 ½ years

– On the 22nd September 2011 a young elephant calf strayed into the grounds of Kiwanjani Lodge near the Kasigau massif within the Tsavo Conservation Area between Tsavo West and East – the same ancient elephant migratory corridor between Tsavo East and West that yielded “Rombo”. Like so many of the orphans from this area who come in with spear wounds, this calf was, sadly, no exception. Apparently the orphan had been seen attempting to attach itself to several wild herds who had repeatedly rejected it, until in desperation it came to the



Lodge in an emaciated condition with a deep spear wound in the top of the trunk, seeking human protection and hopefully help.

The Lodge manager, who happened to have been a Trust volunteer in the past, reported the presence of the orphaned calf to Dr. Poghorn, the KWS Vet partnered with the Trust's Mobile Veterinary Unit, who alerted the Voi Keepers and the Trust's Ziواني Team that another rescue was on the cards. Meanwhile the injured calf had disappeared into thicket but was spotted again early on the morning of the 23rd September when the rescue was en route.

The rescuers converged on the area where the calf had last been seen and managed to locate and capture it. It was a young bull aged about 2 ½ years with short tusks, weakened through milk deprivation. Once its legs were bound, the trunk wound, which was deep and suppurating, was hurriedly cleaned and the calf was given a long acting antibiotic before being driven to the nearest airfield to be airlifted to the Trust's Nairobi Nursery. It arrived just after midday and was named "Kasigau" after the lone isolated massif of the same name in the area. Although weakened and unable to get up from a sleeping position unaided, he was very soon hooked on his milk. After a week in the taming stockade and having been de-wormed, he was allowed out with the other Nursery elephants and was warmly welcomed into the fold by all.



30th October 2011

Ishaq-B

Female

Approx 1 year



– Ishaq-B was found in the Ndera Tana River Conservancy in Ijara district, Northern Frontier. This calf was saved under extremely challenging circumstances since Masalani airfield and the surrounding countryside was literally under water. The rescue plane sent on the 29th had to return empty-handed due to the rains, having left the three-man rescue team on the ground to cope as best they could the following day. The vehicle that had arrived to transport them got hopelessly bogged in mud, so the team had to wade several miles through the mud in the dark to Kitole Shopping Centre where they spent the rest of the night.

Early the next morning (30th October) they set off in a tractor loaned by the Ishaqbine community, which is the only vehicle capable of moving through such conditions. After a grueling journey lasting several hours they found and managed to capture the yearling orphan, which was incapacitated by a hugely swollen right rear leg whilst being incredibly weak. The orphan was then transported in the back of the tractor to Ishaqbine Conservancy Headquarters. There the calf was transferred to a Landcruiser in which the seats had been removed for the journey to Masalani airfield where the plane had again landed to airlift the elephant back to the Nairobi Nursery. This calf had apparently been without its mother for sometime, monitored by Conservancy Scouts and Police Reservists to prevent the local Pokomo tribesmen from killing it for bushmeat. It was interesting that later in the local Press there was a complaint from the community that "their" elephant had been taken from them.

2011 NURSERY ARRIVALS and their Rescue Stories



3rd November 2011

Layoni

Male

Approx 2 years of age



– This abandoned calf was first reported to The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust on Wednesday 2nd November having been spotted by visiting tourists. Having obviously been without a mother and milk for some time, the lone calf was very weak and had already been mauled around the nether regions by hyaenas. The DSWT Mara Vet Unit managed to locate the orphan the next morning, capture him and sedate him for the flight back to the Nursery, the Mara Vet accompanying him to Nairobi in order to reverse the immobilization.

Although not life threatening, his wounds were extensive causing him a great deal of discomfort. Before having his legs un-bound he was given a long acting antibiotic injection plus the usual prophylactic anti-pneumonia medication so that his wounds could be cleaned and anointed with green clay. This young bull had small tusks and was still sufficiently strong to prevent the Keepers from accessing his stockade, although during the night he took milk as well as water offered to him in a bucket. He was named “Layoni” the Masai term for “young boy” and it was a good 10 days before he was calm enough to risk a Keeper being with him inside the stockade in order to give him his milk from a hand-held bottle. However, as usual, once he was allowed out to join the other Nursery elephants, who welcomed him warmly, he calmed down and rapidly began regaining strength sharing a night stockade with Rombo, with whom he struck up a strong bond of friendship.



20th November 2011

Kithaka

Male

New born

– This tiny newborn male infant elephant was orphaned during the morning of 20th November 2011, apparently left by his mother when she and her herd were chased out of an area of human settlement near the Ruiri outpost in the lower Imenti Forest. The Imenti Forest, now surrounded by human settlement and cultivation, which has severed an ancient migratory route to the Mt. Kenya forests, has long been a hot-spot for both poaching and human wildlife conflict; its dwindling population of elephants in trouble every time they step out of their forest stronghold, which is under threat from logging. Several of the Trust’s orphans have originated from there including Ndume, Malaika, Wendi, and Imenti plus several others. This latest orphaned wandered into an adjacent village where KWS Rangers rescued it and transported it to the Lewa Downs airfield so that the baby could be airlifted from there to the Nairobi Nursery, arriving in the late evening.



This baby was a tiny male, no more than, and possibly even less than a week old, with the hind side of his ears still soft and petal pink and the umbilicus newly detached. He had apparently been seen with his mother previously so we hoped he had been able to ingest her first colostrum milk to trigger his natural immune system. He was named “Kithaka” the Meru word for “forest”.



30th November 2011

Orwa

Male

Approx 1 year old



- This orphan was from Orwa in the South Turkana Game Reserve. Orwa as he was named, had been without his mother for some time and was in an advanced state of emaciation upon arrival at the Nairobi Nursery, he was so weak he was barely able to stand without support. As an orphan alone and in such feeble condition, he had obviously been harassed by small predators, perhaps pye dogs or jackals who inflicted superficial bite wounds to his body. So relieved was he to suddenly find empathy and caring company, albeit from what to him must have been perceived as ‘the enemy’, that from the onset he was sucking on the Keepers’ hands, taking milk and entrusting himself into their care. This is very unusual for an orphan of his age, often signaling the end, so we were surprised to find that he had even survived the first night in the Nursery without descending into a coma and having to be put on life support. Very few elephants survive in that extremely harsh and arid desert environment, which is riddled with gun-toting Pokot and Turkana tribesmen, most of whom are anything but ele-friendly.

From the start Orwa was a loner, deeply saddened and depressed over the loss of his elephant mother and family, choosing to stay apart from the other orphans, trailing behind them; the epitome of misery, dejection and severe emaciation. Since his stools were problematical he underwent an oral course of antibiotics and since then has improved. We are hopeful that time and tender loving care will heal this tough little elephant from the lava wastes of the South Turkana Game Reserve both psychologically and physically.



2011 Nursery Deaths

(Those who came in too far gone to save are written in italics)

F “Wasin”

A week old baby rescued from a well on the Namunyak Group Ranch in Northern Kenya. He died on the 8th January 2011 having been with us 2 ½ months having eventually succumbed to pneumonia following difficult teething.

M “Kulalu”

A poaching victim who came in too far gone for us to be able to retrieve. Despite being on life support, he died soon after arrival.

F “Kongit”

A very young calf, probably colostrum deficient, who fell over a cliff near Mt. Elgon National Park in Western Kenya. Having been fed cow's milk by her rescuers she died of stomach complications after 5 days.

M “Kazita”

A yearling calf from Lewa Downs who arrived on the 14th March in a desperate state of emaciation and died that night.

F “Kudup”

The death of Kudup was a particularly painful and puzzling event. Rescued when just 2 months old from a well in the Milgis Lugga on the 13th May 2009, this calf thrived until the age of 2 years but then displayed the symptoms of edema of the legs and under belly and a rapid loss of body condition indicating an absorption problem known as “spru”. The postmortem revealed all major body organs healthy.

M “Mumbushi”

A two month old calf rescued from Mt. Kenya National Park with a deep machete cut across the side of his face. We cured the machete wound, but the onset of problematical teething depressed the immune system further and he finally succumbed to pneumonia on the 30th August 2011.

F “Mbuyuni”

A 2 year old poaching orphan from the notorious hot-spot linking Tsavo West and East who came in too far gone for us to be able to retrieve and died shortly after arrival. She had symptoms similar to Kudup – edema of the under-belly and a swollen jaw.

M (Un-named)

A 2 ½ year old bull from Meru National Park who arrived in an advanced state of extreme emaciation, riddled with worms and maggots. He died soon after arrival, too far gone to save.

F “Miaseni”

A 6 month old calf from Taita Ranch adjoining the Buchuma Area of Tsavo East. She was a poaching victim who arrived in a state of extreme emaciation, too far gone to be able to retrieve and died soon after arrival.

M “Sasab”

A 3 week old calf washed down the flooded Uaso Nyiro River and rescued near Sasaab Camp in the Kipsing was flown to the Nursery on 8th November 2011 and died on 8th December 2011, suffering from pneumonia and gastro enteritis, exacerbated by teething. Having been washed down a river this calf was vulnerable to pneumonia from the start.



The Voi Unit

At the Voi Rehabilitation Stockades in southern Tsavo East National Park there were 12 young orphans who were still keeper-dependent and in the process of rehabilitation at the beginning of 2011. Among these Juniors were females Lesanju, Lempaute, Sinya, Wasessa, Dida, Ndii, and bulls Siria, Taveta, Tassia, Mzima and Shimba with another 39 ex-orphans already rehabilitated and living wild.





Within the 39 wild ex-orphans are females Lissa and Mpenzi along with Big Boy Chuma who were rescued old enough to by-pass the Nursery stage. All others were reared from early infancy through the Nairobi Nursery including the Trust's 'big boys' Olmeg, Taru, Dika, Ndume, Edo, Lewa and Ajok, all now living wild independent lives; the rest fall under the main matriarch-ship of "Emily" including other splinter groups led by junior matriarchs who peel off from time to time to travel independently.

Several of the ex-Voi Unit Orphans now living wild, who were not Nursery reared, have had wild-born young, for instance, the old original Tsavo matriarch "Eleanor" who had 3 young with her when she last appeared and "Mary" who gave birth to "Donald" in 1995 but then separated permanently from Eleanor's unit (Eleanor having attempted to hijack her baby) and has not renewed keeper contact since. Assuming "Mary" is still living, she would now probably have had 3 additional calves subsequent to "Donald". "Lissa" (also orphaned old enough to bypass the Nursery) now has 4 calves ("Lara", "Lali", and "Lugard", joined by "Luzima" born on the 20th November 2011) while "Mpenzi", another who came in old enough to bypass the Nursery, has one calf, named "Asante" having lost her firstborn to lions a couple of years ago just below the Voi Safari Lodge.

The August Diary records a large "Party" at the Voi Stockades on the 19th, which illustrates the connectedness of the orphans and the fact that "family" and "friendships" are the cornerstone of





elephant life as they are to us humans. Emily's usual group (minus Irima) came to join the Keeper-dependent youngsters, followed initially by Lissa and her last born calf Lugard, and later by the rest of Lissa's family, who came down from Mazinga Hill. All intermingled happily as one large family, ex orphan Sweet Sally lying down so that Emily's baby, Eve, could clamber over her, which is always a favourite pastime for the very young. Next to turn up was Irima, a member of Emily's unit, accompanied by Lissa's second born, Lali. Then came a friendly wild herd to join the large group, forming one very large aggregation of elephants at the stockades during which time Sweet Sally enjoyed playing with a wild cow before moving off to allow Irima to take over while the Junior females such as Lesanju, Lempaute, Sinya and Wasessa were focused on little Eve, who enjoyed being the centre of attention, always under the watchful eye of her nanny, ex orphan Sweet Sally.

It has become evident that all the ex-orphans, even when separated, are in touch with one another obviously through long distance and low frequency "infrasound" hidden to human ears, which has been scientifically studied. The communication of elephants may also take place through other mysterious means such as telepathy and seismic sound detected through the soles of their feet.

The two newcomers to the Voi Unit, namely "Kivuko" and "Emsaya" were greeted with enormous excitement and enthusiasm by the Keeper-dependent group based at night in the Stockades, the





Matriarch of whom is Lesanju, ably assisted by females Wasessa, Lempaute, Kenia and Sinya. Before 10 days had passed, Kivuko and Emsaya were allowed out of their Stockades, and allowed to browse close by, being still weak and very thin. However, they soon regained their strength, and were able to join the older orphans as they browsed further afield.

Early in the morning of the 28th December three orphans, Layoni, Rombo and Dabassa embarked on a journey back to the wilds of Tsavo, having been in training for this moment since their arrival to the Nairobi Nursery only a few months before. The Keepers worked quietly and confidently leading the orphans into the Elephant-Mover truck, getting them comfortable and relaxed in their three separate compartments where they could still see and touch each other whilst enjoying their bottle-fed milk. This was a remarkable move for all three orphans but especially Layoni, who only a few months previously was a wild elephant living in the Masai Mara with his family, before his mother was speared and he was badly mauled by hyenas. Yet safely in the Nairobi Nursery with his wounds successfully healed Layoni, in such a short time, had become such a trusting and loved member of the Nursery team.

After just over six hours on the road, and with a short stop for some tasty greens along the way, the orphans and their Keepers arrived at the Voi Rehabilitation Stockades greeted by the excited Voi Juniors, all of who were jostling to get a look at the truck and its passengers. Although slightly wobbly on their feet the Nursery orphans all immediately staggered forward out of the truck and were enveloped into the herd, showered with kisses and strokes from all the Voi juniors who pushed and shoved to get closer to them. Watching this merry scene from a short distance away is the resident herd of over fifty curious impala; most probably relations of an impala called Bunty who Daphne Sheldrick raised at Voi many years before.

The move was a great success and the new Voi orphans are now a much loved part of the family, thriving in their new environment, learning the skills needed to reintegrate back into the wild from the older elephants at the stockades and the wild herds they encounter on their adventures in the bush.

2011 THE VOI UNIT Arrivals and their Rescue Stories



4th October 2011

Kivuko

Female

approx 2 years of age

— from the Taita Ranch abutting Tsavo East National Park, a hot spot for poaching, her mother obviously having been a victim of the poaching, which is extremely prevalent in this area. The calf had obviously been without milk for some time and was in a skeletal state of advanced emaciation, the cartilage of one ear having collapsed leaving her with a flopped ear. She was taken directly to the Voi Stockades and housed in the new Taming Stockade in order to be calmed down. Being so weak, she never put up much resistance and was soon taking milk from a bottle held by the Keeper who was in with her. She was named “Kivuko”, the place name of where she was first spotted.



8th October 2011

Emsaya

Female

approx 2 years of age

—two year old orphan, this time from the Galana Ranch abutting the Eastern Boundary of Tsavo East National Park near a place on the Galana river named Emusiya. She was rescued by the Voi Elephant Keepers with the help of workers from the ranch, and driven to the Voi Stockades, occupying the Taming Stockade next door to Kivuto. She, too, arrived extremely emaciated and rapidly calmed down, soon taking milk from a hand-held bottle and tolerating the presence of a Keeper in the Stockade with her.





Solango struggles towards the stockades

Solango

Solango was fortunate indeed to have a human family who loves him and who were there to help him when he needed it the most. Wild elephants are not quite so lucky. Solango was born in September 2001 and came to the Nairobi Nursery when just 1 month old, orphaned when he fell down a deep rock fissure at a place called “Kasimi Hamisi” in far-off Shaba National Reserve. It was the selfsame fissure that orphaned “Seraa”, who, like “Solango” fell in and was fortunate to have been found in time by Ian Craig of Lewa Downs.

It was on the 28th January that the Keepers based at the Voi Stockades came across “Solango” now a 10 year old living wild, struggling desperately trying to make his way back to the stockades on three legs, unable to put any weight on one back leg, which was hugely swollen at the knee joint. By his side was ex-orphan Burra of the same age to keep him company. Obviously Solango realized he needed the help of his erstwhile human family and Burra, too, understood this. It is important to note that Solango had not been a frequent visitor at the stockades for a number of years.

There was no visible external injury to indicate what could have caused such a disability but we feared that the leg might be broken, or at best, seriously sprained. The reason for this injury we will never know. Solango had obviously traveled from afar, because he was so exhausted by the time he reached the enclosure that having taken food and water, he lay down and slept solidly for 24 hours. When he awoke, the Keepers, with large planks of wood, helped him up.



We consulted the vets about what best to do, the outcome of which was that nothing could be done for this type of injury in an elephant and that only nature and time could heal it, if at all. We were advised against pain management, which would tempt him to use the injured leg more than was good for it so he was given only an anti-inflammatory and after that homeopathic healing aids for broken bones, damaged ligaments or muscle strains. Our very kind Homeopathic Specialist in England, Lesley Suter, told us which remedies to use (Symph, Rustox and Ruta plus loads of Arnica and Rescue Remedy) and to be prepared for a long haul ahead.

The good news was that by the end of the first week in February, Solango's injured limb was improving visibly. By the end of April, Solango made it clear to the Keepers that he felt he could now venture outside his enclosure, so the gates were opened up for him and he was able to hobble out to feed around the proximity of the Stockades, voluntarily putting himself back in for the night. And as the months past he was able to venture further afield, sometimes accompanying the Juniors as they browsed the lower slopes of nearby Mazinga hill, even managing to make it as far as their bush mudbath. Towards year end Solango was whole again and back leading a normal wild life amongst his peers with just the barest suggestion of a limp.

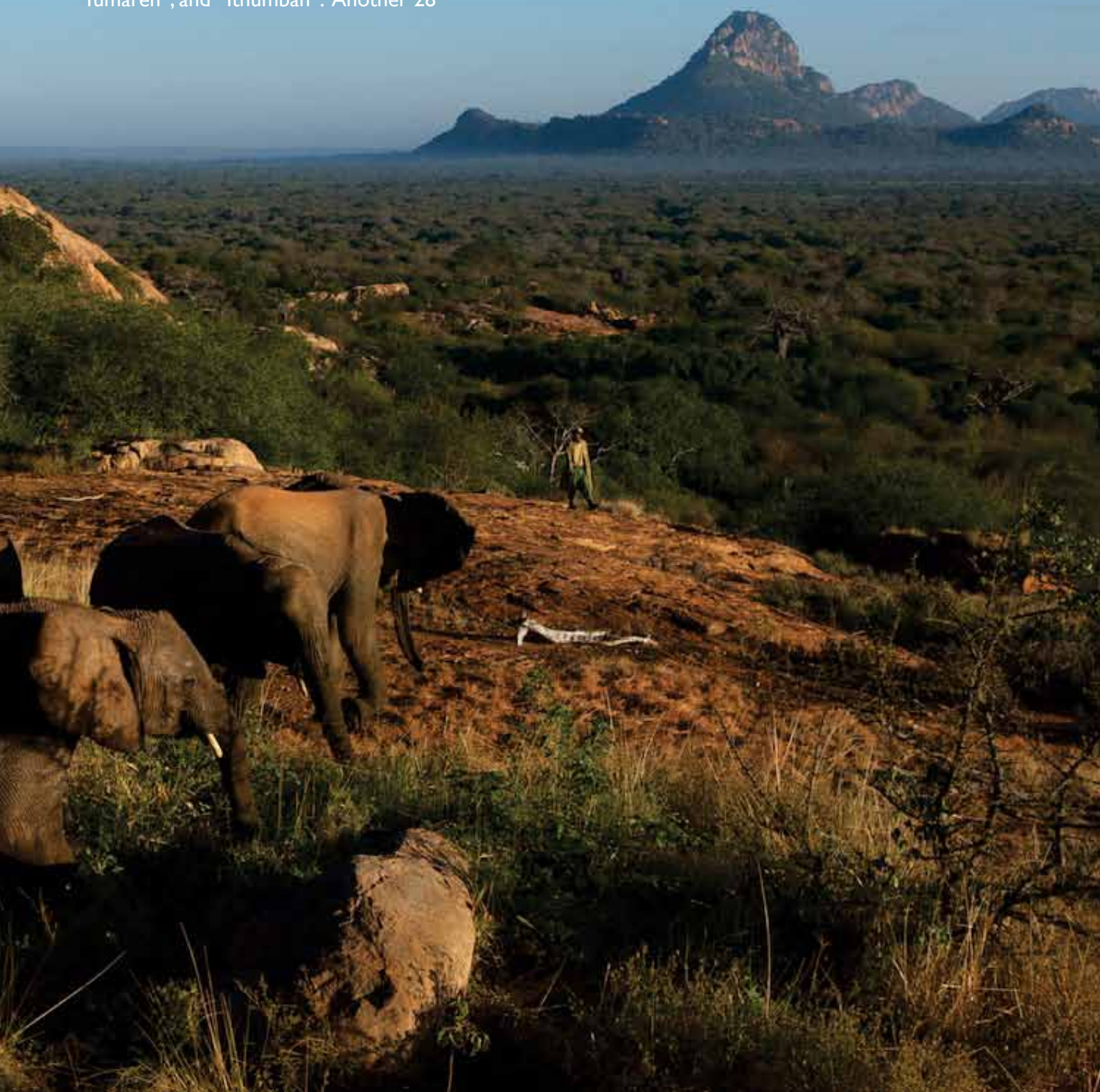




The Ithumba Unit

At the Ithumba Stockades in Northern Tsavo East just 8 orphans remained keeper and milk-dependent at the beginning of the year; bulls “Kilaguni”, “Sabachi” and “Meibai” (who was in the process of upgrading himself to the independent ex-orphan group) and females “Chaimu”, “Suguta”, “Melia”, “Tumaren”, and “Ithumbah”. Another 28

ex-Ithumba orphans were now living wild under the main matriarch-ship of 12 year old Yatta. Several wild recruits attached themselves to Yatta’s ex-orphan unit, probably wild elephants orphaned older than 4 years of age and as such old enough to be able to survive without milk.





Benjamin



Ithumba orphans with wild elephants

The rehabilitation of the Ithumba orphans in Northern Tsavo East has followed the same pattern as those from the Voi Rehabilitation Centre. Splinter groups led by Junior matriarchs regularly separate from the main herd to travel independently, again accompanied by whoever feels like coming along. However, the Ithumba ex-orphans have remained in much closer touch with the Keeper-dependent youngsters from the Nairobi Nursery who are still based at night within the stockades.

Nine of the Nursery elephants were ready to be moved to the Ithumba Rehabilitation Centre in Tsavo during the year. Melia, Suguta and Tumaren were transferred early in December 2010, the young bulls Kibo and Kandechea were upgraded on the 13th May 2011, along with Olare, who had been the main Nursery matriarch, sadly missed, especially by Murka. They were followed a few days later on the 19th May by Murka herself as well as females Naisula and Kitirua. Murka was especially delighted to be reunited with Olare.

Next to undertake the journey to Ithumba on the 6th August 2011 were the two “pushy” boys of the Nairobi Nursery, Chemi Chemi, labeled ‘Al Qaeda’

by the Keepers and the relative newcomer from the Masai Mara named Ololoo, who arrived armed with 2-3 inch tusks, which he took to using freely at milk feeding times in an attempt to usurp the share of the others. It was important to get both these young bulls to Ithumba where they would have the company of bigger boys and girls to teach them manners and keep them in order. With them went Kalama, the one Nursery female whom Chemi Chemi had befriended despite being a veritable “pain” to most of the others with his “pushy” post-traumatic stress behavior.

As usual and as mysteriously, all the ex-orphans now living wild lives at Ithumba still turn up during each translocation to be at hand to greet the new arrivals, somehow able to anticipate their arrival, even when none had ever met any of the newcomers from the Nursery previously. The only plausible explanation must surely be long distance telepathy, not just between the elephants, which would not be unusual, but between the elephants and the Keepers. All the orphaned elephants know all the Keepers and vice versa since the human Keepers, bar those who head each facility, are rotated between all our elephant units. Elephant extra-sensory per-

ception is so incredible that it will probably remain one of those unsolved mysteries forever. But those of us who have been privileged to work intimately with these amazing animals over many years are sure that they communicate not only through low-frequency infrasound hidden to human ears and through the detection of sound through the soles of their feet, both of which have been scientifically documented, but also telepathically.

By May all the natural waterholes had dried out in the North which resulted in mounting pressure on the stockade borehole at Ithumba, burdened further since the wild elephants had also become accustomed to drinking from the Stockade water trough as well. The borehole was soon unable to meet the demand, so the Trust's water bowser had to make several trips a day to ferry water in from the new holding tank above the Ithumba Camp along with additional supplies collected from the stagnant pools in the Tiva watercourse in order to satisfy the thirst of everyone when the tank also became drained. Each morning as many as 40 wild elephants could be waiting patiently for the arrival of the first bowser-load of water enabling the

Ithumba dependent Juniors to enjoy a great deal of wild interaction and become confident and blasé in amongst adult strangers.

Recently Yatta has recruited additional wild orphans into her ex-orphan unit, aside from "Mgeni" who has evolved into an almost permanent member of her herd. The Keepers have named one of the newcomers who is about 10 years of age, "Kijana" (Young Boy) and the other who is about 14 – 16 years old "Kimethena", the name of the hill that marks the Northern boundary of the Park. The very first wild bull to befriend the orphans and accept the Keepers, named "Rafiki", (the friend) has also revisited the stockades at intervals throughout the year, usually accompanied by wild male friends and always welcomed very warmly by both the senior and junior orphans, especially Ithumbah, who originated from the area and may have even met Rafiki when living wild before being orphaned. Rafiki is very much part of the orphan Family, a special wild elephant who is always gentle and accommodating to the Juniors as well as being comfortable around their Keepers, happy to walk with them in the bush and join in the mud bath ritual.



Ithumba Stockades



Wendi

All the orphans have their own unique personality and all are individuals in their own right, each with a dramatic rescue story. However, one of the most unique and full of character orphans the Trust has ever reared is Wendi, whose name in the Meru dialect means “hope” and who, on the 11th September 2002 came to us newborn. She had been found lying as though dead beside a waterhole in the Imenti Forest in Northern Kenya, where a dwindling and beleaguered population of elephants is cut off from their traditional migratory route to the Mt. Kenya forests by human settlement.

After a very wobbly start, Wendi eventually evolved into a mini-Nursery matriarch until she graduated to the Ithumba Rehabilitation stockades where she eventually became a Junior matriarch of the Keeper-dependent orphans. In the fullness of time she became an ex-orphan member of Yatta’s main herd and today, at 9 years of age she is a very important splinter group leader of the 28 other ex-orphans now living wild under the overall leadership of Yatta.

First to approach the elephant moving truck as the new orphans step out is always Wendi. She will often also be waiting at the stockades at dawn with

her accompanying colleagues to escort the Junior Keeper-dependent elephants out into the bush to browse, frequently meeting up with them at their noon mudbath or in the afternoons to escort them back to the stockades before peeling off to rejoin Yatta’s main ex-orphan herd. During such reunions there is obviously silent communication going on, because when Wendi and her colleagues decide to separate, it happens smoothly, the others making no attempt to follow obviously having been told not to do so.

Wendi confounded all those skeptics who assumed that she would never be able to cope with life as a wild elephant having been raised by humans from the day she was born. However, we have learnt that elephants are born with a genetic memory, where things essential to survival are imprinted at birth and that exposure to the wild, hones that genetic memory. The orphans’ love their Keepers who shared their growing years but this does not necessarily render them more vulnerable to poachers as elephants communicate and orphans like Wendi will have been “told” by wild friends that not all humans are to be trusted. The reality is that in today’s world all elephant with ivory are vulnerable and that is why the Trust’s focus for 2012 is firmly on anti poaching support as the price and demand for ivory rises.



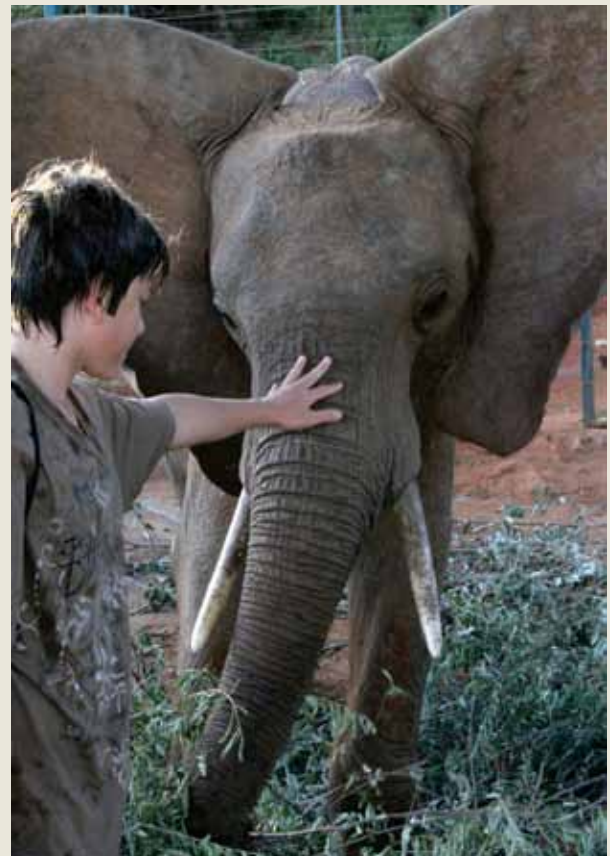
Kora

On the 13th July the Keepers happened upon ex-orphan “Kora” and noticed that he had a poisoned arrow protruding from his shoulder. With him was his best friend, Lualeni and also Kamboyo. The trio returned to the stockades with the Junior group where the Keepers managed to extract the arrow head, which was coated with deadly Akokanthera poison. Amazingly, Kora seemed to understand that the Keepers were helping him as irrespective of the pain involved, he stood quietly as the wound was cleaned and dressed and later when he was injected with a long-acting antibiotic flown in from Nairobi. He was kept in the stockades for several days so that his condition could be monitored closely should the poison, which affects the rhythm of the heart, take effect. Throughout this ordeal, Lualeni remained steadfast, actually sleeping in the compound to be near him, until the Keepers let her join him and the other youngsters inside at night.

The Keepers are convinced that ex-orphan Kamboyo, who was with Lualeni when Kora was brought back, must have informed Yatta and the other ex-orphans of Kora’s predicament. The very next morning Zurura, Makena, Loijuk, and Rapsu were lined up outside Kora’s stockade studying him, joined later by Yatta, Wendi and the entire ex-orphan unit plus their wild hangers on. Since then, they all kept in regular contact with Kora, who opted to remain with the Keeper-dependent Juniors until September, browsing with them during the day and returning with them to the stockades at night. Lualeni did the same for several months, but then rejoined the Senior ex-orphans making a point of meeting up with Kora and the Juniors at some point during the day. The poison obviously made Kora feel slightly unwell for a few days, but otherwise it had no serious affects, so he was very lucky. In the evil and avaricious world of today, where poaching is driven by the rising demand in China, no elephant is safe, irrespective of where they happen to be and on the day that Kora was arrowed, two large wild bull elephants lay dead, poached within 12 kms of the Ithumba Stockades. Following this, the Trust sought permission from KWS to have a second specially recruited and trained anti-poaching

presence in the North who could assist in the battle against poaching and help to keep our elephant orphans safe.

Sadly in December poor Kora returned once again to the Ithumba Stockades with more arrow wounds, but on this occasion not coated with deadly poison, which was probably fired from the bows of bushmeat poachers. The Keepers cleaned the wounds, which were not life threatening, packed them with Green Clay and off he went again to join his ex-orphan group determined to enjoy the green season in their company rather than as a stockade-based Junior.



Wild Births





The Trust can now boast several wild-born babies of ex-orphans; Emily has little “Eve”, Edie has “Ella”, Lissa has “Lara”, “Lali” and “Lugard” (a boy) and now “Lazima”, Mpenzi has “Asante” and even Eleanor has three wild born babies who are un-named. Mulika now has “Mwende” the first baby born to our Ithumba orphans and Yatta has “Yetu” her first wild-born calf.

MULIKA and Mwende

Mulika was found in Meru National Park and rescued from the mud of a drying waterhole in 2001. She came to the Trust’s Nairobi Nursery when she was about 7 months old. From there in the fullness of time she graduated to the Voi Rehabilitation stockades, embarking on the gradual reintegration back into the resident wild elephant community of Tsavo East National Park under the guidance of older females.

Mulika was mated by the same wild bull that mated Yatta within days of one another, early in 2009, something that took place not far from the Ithumba Stockades and was witnessed by the Keepers. We suspected for a long time that they both might well

have fallen pregnant but this became evident only when their breasts became more enlarged some 6 months later and began to fill towards the end of their 2 year pregnancy. Daphne did not expect to be at hand when Mulika brought her wild-born first baby back to show the Keepers at the mud-bath. It was a baby girl and Benjamin, one of the Keepers, chose a Kamba word for “the Loved One” as her name ‘Mwende’ (pronounced Mwerndeh). To actually be there was, indeed, a heart-warming event which made the 13 years involved in rearing and granting this elephant a second chance of life, so very worthwhile.

As soon as the younger orphans arrived for their milk and a mudbath on that auspicious day, they crowded around Mulika, all wanting to fondle the newborn with tender trunk touching and elephant kisses. With them were ex-orphans Chyulu and Lenana who had joined the Juniors that morning and who instantly took over the role of nannies to the newborn, walking alongside them to the Voi Stockades later on. There Mulika went back into her previous Stockade where she enjoyed a hand-out of Dairy Cubes, Copra Cake and cut Grewia branches.

Meanwhile Robert Carr-Hartley was on his way in the Trust’s recently acquired I85 Cessna to monitor Mulika and her calf for all her foster-parents, following Mulika and her escort as she made her way out into the bush with her precious baby.





Lugard, Lali and Lara



LISSA and Lazima

Ex-orphan Lissa, born in 1986, was a poaching victim of the three decades commonly known as “the poaching holocaust”, which followed the transfer and subsequent death of David Sheldrick, the Founder Warden of Tsavo East National Park. She was spotted by Lissa Ruben near Mackinnon Road on the Nairobi Mombasa highway. Lissa was an emaciated, forlorn and lonely two year old, who was little more than a bag of bones with a severely misshapen hind leg that had obviously been broken at some stage, but had somehow managed to join sufficiently to enable the calf to move slowly.

Lissa was reared successfully at the Nairobi Nursery and graduated to the Voi Stockades and gave birth to her first calf in mid January 1999 when she was 14 years old. Accompanied by ex-orphan “Mpenzi” the chosen nannie, she returned to proudly show her new baby to the Keepers and the other orphans in their care before leaving again. We gave the calf, who was female, the name “Lara”.

On the 22nd November 2002 Lissa returned to the base of Mazinga Hill within sight of the Voi Stockades accompanied by a large herd of about 50 wild elephants, all in a great state of excitement. Sensing that something unusual was taking place, some of the Keepers climbed a huge rock and from that vantage point could see that Lissa was obviously in labour, lying down and getting up at intervals. After a while, her second baby popped out and to the Keepers’ amazement, a large wild bull barged his way through the attendant cows and immediately mated poor Lissa who had only just given birth. Apparently birthing hormones closely resemble those of a cow in estrous and in a perfect world where elephant

families were still intact, a young mother would be protected by her older female relatives. However, at that point in time, Tsavo was far from the perfect world, most of the wise of females slaughtered for their ivory tusks. There were virtually no remaining intact herds within the entire Tsavo ecosystem, the population having been reduced through poaching from 45,000 to just 6,000.

Once the second baby had arrived excitement within the herd was intense with trumpeting and rumbling, elephants urinating and milling around trying to encourage the baby to its feet, removing the foetal membranes with both tusks and feet until the calf was up on wobbly legs and was escorted to its mother to suckle. Things finally settled down again and the wild elephants started to disperse leaving Lissa and Mpenzi to take the newborn under shade. The Keepers were then able to get close enough to sex the calf, who was another little female and who was given the name “Lali”. Lissa and her two calves, Lara and Lali continued periodic visits to mingle with the Keeper-dependent juniors based at the Voi Stockades. In March 2007 there was another pleasant surprise, for Lissa and her family had a new addition, this time a little boy, whom we named “Lugard”, still with Mpenzi as the family “nannie”.

Time past and in November 2011 Lissa appeared at the Junior orphans’ bush mudbath with her fourth wild-born calf, another little boy whom we named “Lazima” meaning “It has to Be” in Swahili, who had probably been born at the beginning of the month or even in October 2011.

And so, Lissa, the tragic little orphan from Mackinnon Road, rescued in 1988 during the infamous poaching holocaust, who came in as a bag of bones with a misshapen hind leg, is now 25 years old and a very successful wild elephant mother of four wild-born young, 2 girls and 2 boys and as such one of the Trust’s proudest success stories.



Lissa and Lazima



YATTA and Yetu

Two months after the birth of Mwende on the 19th January 2012, Yatta gave birth to Yetu, Mwende's new half-sister. The Ithumba Unit's second wild-birth was sealed twenty-three months ago between twelve year-old Yatta and a young wild bull of twenty-six years. 'Yetu', which in Swahili means 'ours' is a beautifully wild and healthy addition to a growing herd of elephants bridging the gap between the human and animal worlds.

Yatta's story, like all the orphans rescued by the Trust, had a sad and cruel beginning. She was found in September 1999 in Tsavo East National Park below the Yatta Plateau when she was just one month old. She had been bellowing for hours walking around the body of her dead mother who had been slaughtered by poachers for her ivory. After being cared for in the Nairobi Nursery, in February 2001 it was decided that Yatta was to be moved to Tsavo to begin her reintegration process into the wild herds of Voi. After 2 successful years at the Voi Unit, Yatta was then chosen to move to the new Ithumba Rehabilitation Stockades to support, teach and care for the younger orphans translocated from the Nairobi Nursery.

Before the sun rose the morning after Yetu's birth, Yatta along with her nannies and birthing partners, including Mulika and Mwende, Wendi, Kinna, Selengai, Nasalot, Taita and Ithumbah, arrived at the Ithumba Stockades proudly presenting their bundle of joy to their human family. Amazingly

calm yet visibly exhausted Yatta introduced Yetu to the Keepers who walked amongst the herd as if they were elephants, touching and caressing the new baby girl as if she too were human. Yatta and her baby remained at the stockades, waiting for the orphans to be released for their daily walks into the surrounding wilderness until 8.30am when all the elephants, orphaned, wild, young and old moved forward in unison with the baby sheltered between their huge bodies, into the bush. Over fifty elephants had appeared that morning to greet and support Yatta and her baby, celebrating the birth with much trumpeting and rumbling, showering Yetu in trunk-kisses and gentle embraces.

Having received word of the birth from the excited Keepers, Robert Carr-Hartley and company were immediately en-route to Tsavo to join the celebration and document this truly special event. First to welcome them was Wendi who led them deep into the bustling crowd of huge bodies, flapping ears, flailing trunks and stomping feet. And there, only hours old encircled between her mother and her doting nannies was Yetu, her pink petal-like ears fluttering back and forth against the heat of the morning, her trunk reaching up delicately yearning for the comfort, reassurance and love all elephants need to survive. With total trust Yatta guided Yetu forwards calmly greeting her human well-wishers, showing no hesitation or anxiety, wanting her baby to be a part of her extended human family.





The Orphaned Rhinos

At the beginning of 2011 we had three orphaned rhinos, two of whom, Maxwell and Solio, were Keeper-dependent, but 8 year old Shida was now virtually a wild rhino, having been carefully reintegrated into the resident wild rhino community of Nairobi National Park. Solio was born on Solio Ranch on the 1st April 2010 and came as an orphan on the 24th September 2010 when only six months old, her mother having been shot apparently in self-defense. By year end she was already half the size of Max.

Maxwell, now in his fifth year, was born blind in Nairobi Park in December 2006 having been abandoned by his mother when he was just 3 months old. Subsequently an ultra-scan of his eyes by a South African specialist established that he had been born with no optic nerve, so there was nothing that could be done to restore his sight. Nevertheless, aside from being blind, he is a magnificent specimen. Sadly, however, he can never be set free to lead a normal wild rhino life, for he would be killed instantly, since rhino bulls fight for territory and rank upon which hinges the right to be a breeding bull, something to which all males aspire. With the poaching of rhinos as it is today, one could perhaps be forgiven for thinking that Max could be one of the few lucky ones, able to enjoy a sheltered and protected life in his enclosure rather than being brutally killed for the myth of a keratin horn, which in fact is identical to the substance of a fingernail. Were the Chinese and Far Eastern nations to bite their fingernails they would in fact be ingesting the selfsame ingredient, but apparently that is something of which they cannot be convinced of. Hence, every rhino carries a fortune on its nose.

Shida was born in August 2003 and orphaned at 2 months old when his mother died of old age in Nairobi National Park, her teeth so worn that she was no longer able to feed. For three years he was diligently escorted around the dung piles and urinals of the resident Nairobi Park rhinos until accepted as rightfully belonging within the wild rhino community. He viewed the Trust compound as the hub of his territory and a safe retreat when threatened. On his way back to the Trust compound on the 9th February, orphaned elephant Tano in a playful mood gamboled up to Shida wanting to play and since this was unusual it startled Shida, something that is always the recipe for a charge where rhinos are concerned. Interpreting this as aggression Shida reacted instinctively, going into "auto defensive mode" tossing Tano high into the air several times and then rolling her along the ground as he attempted to skewer her with his sizeable forward pointing horn. Miraculously Tano emerged unscathed, although none of us can understand how. This incident could have ended tragically, not just for Tano, but also for the Keepers who had become involved to save her. Also having already had one Keeper killed by orphaned rhino Makosa several years ago, we could not risk another similar tragedy, so we requested that the KWS authorities move Shida. He was sedated on the 15th February and moved to Tsavo the same day, a radio transmitter having been inserted into his horn so that he could be monitored at the other end. With him went a Trust Keeper whom he knew well and who would be able to keep us informed about his progress. We suggested that he be released not within the enclosed Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary where he would be at risk from established residents holding territories, but rather outside where surplus rhinos from the enclosed Sanctuary had recently been set free and who probably had not yet established fixed territories. However, the Senior Warden, Daniel Woodley, decided otherwise and Shida was released at Goss Camp within the fenced Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary where KWS Rangers were based. Having heard this, we immediately sought and obtained permission from KWS to hurriedly establish a holding pen for Shida and work began on this enclosure immediately, hoping that the Trust Keeper would be in a position to protect him until the holding pen was ready. Shida in the meantime embarked on a quest to locate his territory walking dramatic distances from Goss Camp. Keeper Mishak would catch up with him

and lay a dung trail back to Goss Camp, but Shida was in no mood to pay attention to any human and merely kept on walking. However, after several days he did begin to return to the new stockade at night where a handout of Lucerne awaited him, and this routine seemed to be working well over the weeks, but very tragically one night he was trailed and killed by a wild rhino and found dead the next morning. News of his death on the 18th March was received with deep grief by all at the Trust Headquarters in Nairobi. We had invested eight difficult years in getting this orphan into adulthood and established within the resident rhino community of Nairobi National Park and we hoped it would represent a “mission accomplished” but tragically this was not to be, with Shida sealing his fate that day he so nearly killed Tano giving a graphic display of his incredible strength and unpredictable nature, which we had not seen up until this point. Everyone here felt responsible for his untimely end, having made the decision to have him moved afraid of the consequences if we didn’t act, which made his death even harder to take, for he was a much loved member of the Nairobi Nursery.

Blind Maxwell was distraught when Shida left. He missed Shida sorely, went off his food, was restless and vocalized his “wanting” by mewing and pacing up and down in his stockade morning and evening in a disturbed manner. But over time orphan Solio gradually replaced Shida in his mind. Today Solio is the light of Max’s dark world. He eagerly awaits interaction with her through the separating poles and sprays her stockade with urine to mark her as his own, something her attendant Keeper could do without, since rhino urine is extremely pungent.

Rearing these critically endangered animals is likely to involve a good deal of heartbreak since their reintroduction into a resident rhino community, which holds established territories, is extremely problematical involving some 3 years of contributions of the new-comer’s dung and urine

to established communal rhino dung “middens” and bush “urinals”. We learnt this lesson the hard way with orphan “Reudi”.

To date Dame Daphne Sheldrick has hand-reared some 15 Black rhino orphans amongst whom was Reudi, born in 1965 at a time when the rhino population of Tsavo National Park numbered 8,000. Having been so badly beaten up by other rhinos when we attempted to offer him a natural wild life, he was moved to Solio Ranch where he became the main breeding bull of a population of protected rhinos that multiplied until they numbered over 90. It was the Solio population that saved Kenya’s rhinos from extinction, rhinos taken from there to repopulate the areas from which they had been all but eliminated by poaching in the late 70’s, 80’s and early 90’s. Hence many of the rhinos currently living in Kenya today can probably be genetically traced to ex-orphan Reudi.

Ex-Tsavo orphans Stroppie and Pushmi were also moved to Solio Ranch, fearing for their safety following the transfer of David Sheldrick to head the Planning Unit in Nairobi. Already there were indicators that the poaching of rhinos was escalating. These two were enclosed in a 50 acre paddock abutting the main Sanctuary, which was where Stroppie lived until dying last year at the grand old age of 40 and Pushmi (Hoshim), now aged 38, lives still, arguably the oldest living Black Rhino in Kenya and possibly the entire African Continent.



Shida in Tsavo just weeks before his untimely death

The Elephant Mover

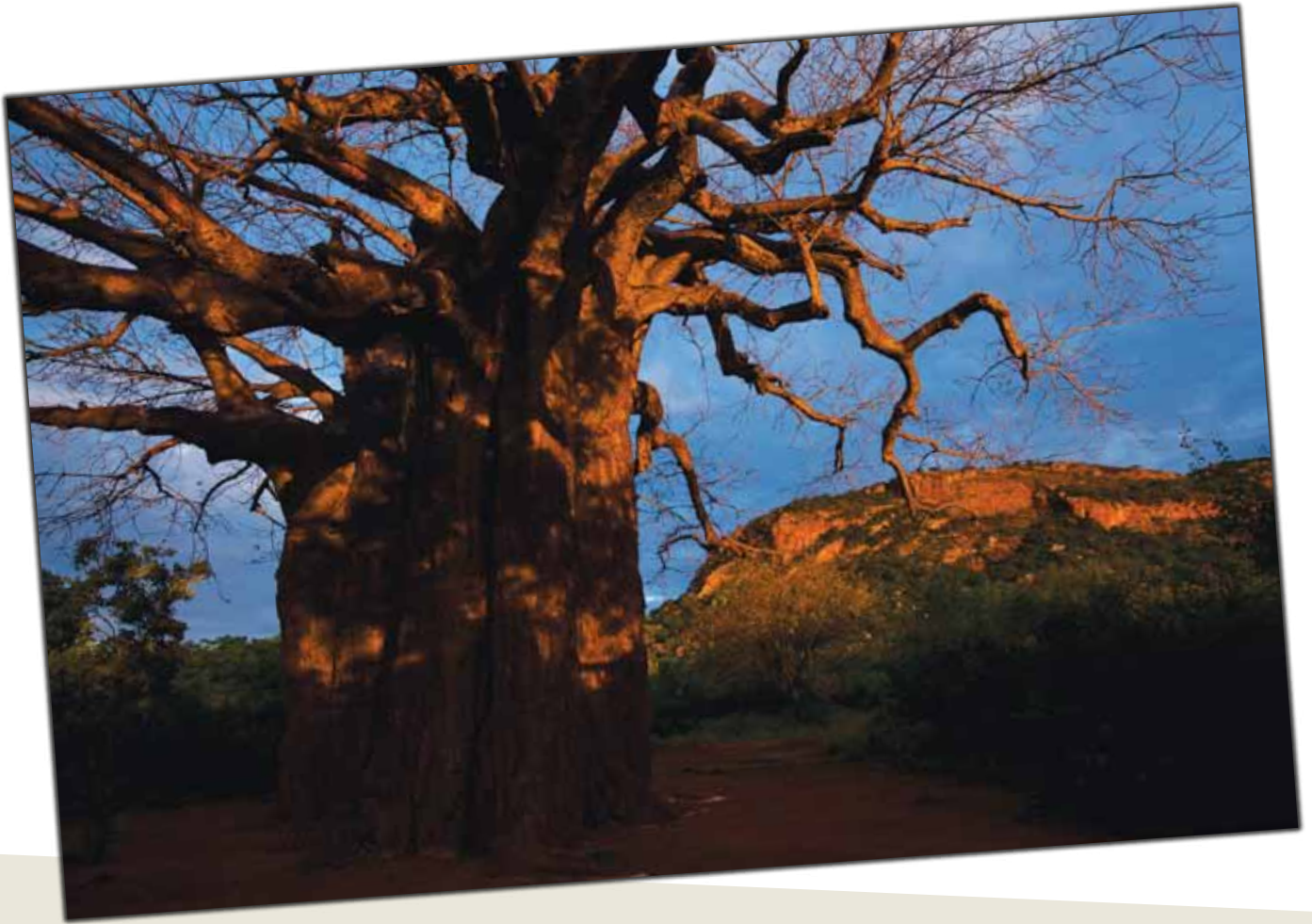
This year's transfers went exceptionally smoothly with the Trust having acquired the chassis of a huge Mercedes tanker on which a special custom designed body had been built, carefully thought out by Robert Carr-Hartley (Angela's husband) to ensure maximum comfort for the elephant occupants. Three large side panels can be lowered to lie flat against the loading and unloading ramps, leading into three separate but spacious compartments, each to accommodate one elephant with a surrounding passageway so that the Keepers can have contact with their charges en route. The elephants can also see and touch one another through the separating bars and there is space for milk, cut greens and water for the journey. The Truck has good ventilation, and air suspension, both of which enables the ex-Nursery orphans to arrive at the other end fresh and calm, rather than exhausted and stressed. This new elephant mover has revolutionized the transfer of infant elephants to the Trust's two Rehabilitation Centres at Voi and Ithumba.



Illegal Livestock

The illegal intrusion of large numbers of domestic livestock into Tsavo, monopolizing waterholes and impacting on the habitat and pasture for wildlife has been a contributory factor that has persuaded many of Tsavo's wild elephants to leave the boundaries of the Park in search of browse and water and probably a quieter life. Domestic livestock also introduce the additional risk of parasites and disease to wildlife, which cannot be protected from such ailments. Beyond the Park boundaries elephants are also at risk of being killed as "problem animals" especially by communities that are not ele-friendly and are bent on free meat. The real problem is, of course, not the so-called "problem animals" but the continuation of illegal intrusion of domestic livestock into the Protected Areas.

Our orphaned elephant Loisaba, who had been living as a wild elephant for many years died at 13 years old having succumbed to Tuberculosis spread from domestic livestock, reinforcing the seriousness of the disease factor. Although KWS attempts to try and drive domestic livestock out of the Protected Areas, they are simply herded back with impunity, even transported in from remote drought-stricken areas near the Somali border, rendering KWS powerless to do much about it since the Government lacks the will to enforce the law. This supports the fact that wildlife should be protected from politics through the installation of a completely Independent Board of Trustees drawn from all walks of life outside of the Government. This Board's brief would be simple 'to safeguard wildlife and protect it from political expediency'.



New Ithumba Camp

The original Ithumba Camp is a great success and has received back-to-back bookings these past few years. This simple yet comfortable camp in Northern Tsavo East generates ongoing revenue for the KWS on a quarterly basis, another important contribution shouldered by the Trust.

Recently KWS issued further tender notices for additional properties in the Tsavo Conservation Area and one of those was on Ithumba Mountain, very close to the existing camp. The Trust tendered for this site in order to protect the integrity of the Orphans' Project and the facility, all the while increasing revenue for the Park, particularly the North of Tsavo. Having gone through the official tender process we are fortunate that KWS have granted the Trust this lease and we will embark on the process to create a second self-help tourist facility in 2012 along the lines of the original template, with the revenue, over and above overheads costs, made payable to KWS for conservation of this unique area.

Thanks

Our orphans could not exist without the special milk formula generously donated by Pfizer International who have most kindly continued the legacy of their predecessors Wyeth Laboratories in donating powdered milk this year, each batch weighing some 2,100 kgs. as well as donating damaged tins of SMA Gold unfit for sale at normal outlets. Especially we thank Natasha Sweeney and Gill Markham of Pfizer for coordinating these donations.

We are deeply grateful to Finlays Fresh Produce for handling the Import Process for us, particularly James Bartingdon and Mary Muthara, Bernard Muindi, Anthony Mwakesi and the Skytrain stalwarts who clear the milk through Customs for us. Grateful thanks also go to Neil Willsher for coordinating the clearance and arranging for the milk to be delivered to our doorstep, not forgetting the part initially played by Dicky Evans who started this ball rolling in the first place when he was in charge of Homegrown. James Wilson has willingly given financial support to get large quantities of tinned milk and Green Clay to Kenya for the orphaned elephants.

We are equally as indebted to British Airways who have generously transported tons of elephant milk to us entirely free of charge, as well as donated blankets for the orphaned elephants and arranged for other items such as medication etc., to be brought out to us. Most special thanks are due to their Community Relations team, especially Mary Barry Mary Brew and Laura Phillips as well as Mick Goss and Bimal Shah of the BA Cargo Team. We thank BA

crew who continue to bring tins of SMA First Infant Milk and blankets when they can, including a large donation of Yellow SMA First Infant Milk in December for baby "Kithaka".

Mary Barry and her team at BA have again most generously donated a number of work related free tickets for DSWT personnel over the year.

We are deeply grateful to Care for the Wild International, Rettet die Elefanten Afrikas Ev., Vrienden van de Olifant, Terre et Faune, Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA) and Verein der Elefantenfreunde, the Annenberg Foundation, Pengo Life Project and the Waves Charitable Trust for generous grants in support of the Orphans' Project and to Esther and Philip Wolf for their promised donation of photographic images of the very early orphans, which will fill a gap in our archival material. We have enjoyed prompt and efficient help from Agriner Limited who has pulled out all the stops to ensure a supply of Replacer milk from Israel for the older elephant orphans based at our Rehabilitation facilities.

National Geographic Channels have supported the orphans Project with gift fosterings for the 1st birthday of their Staff children and the development of two PSA's to be aired across their network while Opinion World, the online community continues to fundraise for the Trust. We are grateful to Google who continue to support us with an annual Google Grant in Adwords and "Your Vets" who continue to support and promote our Orphans' Project.

IMAX Melbourne created an Elephant Montage in their theatre and

raised funds for the Trust during the airing of Born to be Wild at that venue. SetFire Media continue to host and manage our Elephant Diaries website entirely free of charge, and we are deeply indebted to them.

Sales Force have donated Laptops and old phones for use in our field operations. For these we specifically thank Nidia Marquez. The Body Shop Foundation gives a Grant in support of the Trust's Community Field Trips

Nelsons have contributed towards the health of our orphaned elephants through donations of homeopathic products and Bach Flower remedies as has Lesley Suter, our faithful Homeopathic specialist in England who is always at the end of an email or telephone with advice and a supply of homeopathic remedies. Aside from this Lesley raised valuable funds for the Trust climbing Kilimanjaro as did Shirley Minassian through doing the same – a very stout effort from both Supporters, for which we are deeply grateful. Quentin Somerset continues to run endurance marathons to raise funds for us and we applaud and thank him for doing so.

We are similarly deeply grateful to Ray C. Carter and his Stemtech team for donations of Stemtech in support of orphan Dida and other sickly individuals. Thanks to Cindy Wines for Tree Liquids and GNLD who donate supplements such as Calmag and vitamins for the orphaned elephants on an ongoing monthly basis.

Our thanks go to all the kind folk who have donated substantial sums to the Trust this year such as Jorge

Perez Companc, Pete Fullerton, Mary Margolis, Geri Bauer, Mike Foster, Norah Hamblin, Richard Inskeep, Linda Rodgers, Nigel Goodman, Helen Smith, and Wendy Davis as well as Shiva Bavamalar for his contribution towards boreholes. We appreciate all help that comes our way, however modest and thank one and all of the kind folk who have contributed towards the Orphans Project, either financially, or in kind, most sincerely. We are grateful for the money donated for the Trust Canteens as well as gifts of sweets and other treats for the Keepers and we thank Thomas Topfer and Rettet die Elefanten and their Trustees for the canteen parties they organize for the Keepers at each of our Orphan facilities every time they visit the Project.

We thank Ultimate Security who gave us a discount on the Guards that guard our premises by night, and we thank KWS for also providing armed Night Security Guards to protect us, as well as Mudbath Day Guards to protect our overseas visitors.

We are deeply grateful to Nonee Magre for saving the eye of orphan Kainuk and for her advice on other elephant eye issues and we thank Gail and Robbie McFarlane for procuring Fujithalamic eye ointment for us from South Africa. We value the prompt help and advice of veterinarian Sanjay whenever called upon to help.

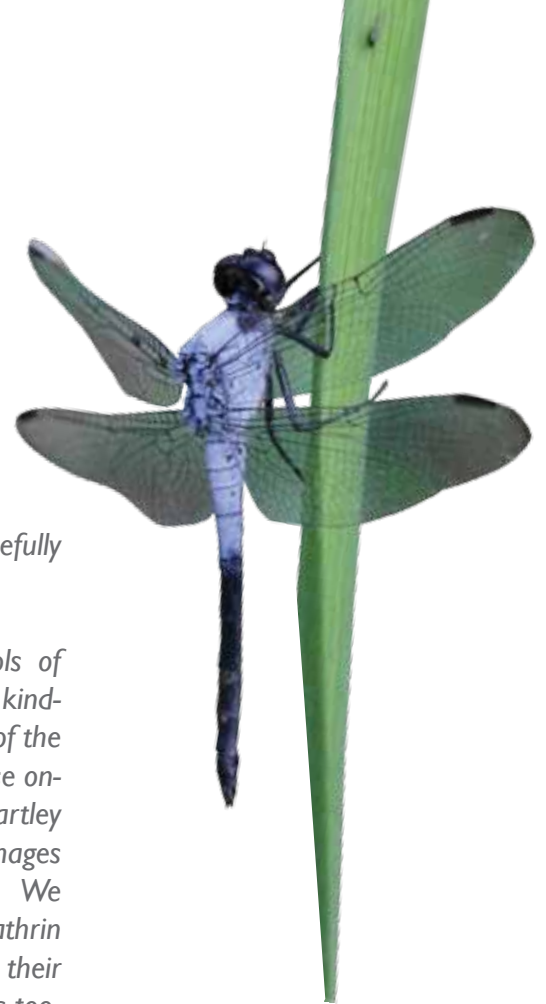
Thanks to Anton Bowker-Douglas and Air Mauritius for used blankets for the orphans and to Mrs. Joyce Henderson and other retired kind folk who lovingly hand-knitted blankets. Many people have brought

blankets for the orphans all gratefully received.

Sincere thanks to Nick Nichols of National Geographic who most kindly donated hundreds of images of the orphans for our archives, likewise ongoing thanks to Robert Carr-Hartley for the use of all his beautiful images for Trust's internet purposes. We thank Joachim Schmeisser, Kathrin Kohler and Gary Roberts for their gorgeous images of our orphans too.

Dennis Mathews of MatBronze has kindly donated small elephant bronze sculptures to the Trust for fundraising purposes and we thank Val Warner for the beautiful print of Keeper Abdul with orphan Wendi at Ithumba printed on linen.

We thank the Capricorn Foundation for their generous donation towards the sponsoring of schools in the Tsavo Conservation Area through our Community Outreach Programme. Angela Lorimer's Rock the Rectory Fundraiser for the Trust was a towering success, while Gayle Cauwood raised important funds for the Orphans by running in the London Marathon in support of the Trust. Our U.K. Office has valued the voluntary help of Tony Mustoe, Abi Irving, John and Peter Croome, Abi Nichol, Richard Hyndman, Brian Hunter, Jacqui McAleer, Julie Blackwell, Barbara Emery, Hennie Beavis, all of whom have given their time and their skills willingly to help the cause.



The following Foundations and individuals have been exceedingly generous in their support of our US Friends organization, which we value immensely, and for which we thank them most profusely. The Alexander Abraham Foundation, Coto Foundation, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, the Geri Bauer Foundation and the William JJK Gordon Family Foundation. Kirsten H. Anderson, Robert and Martha Falkenberg, Pete Fullerton Jr. as always, Eric Margolis and William Blair & Co., have likewise been extremely generous donors through the U.S. Friends, to all of whom we are immensely grateful.



The Springs in Kibwezi forest

Saving Habitats

Kibwezi Forest

Gazetted in 1936, the Kibwezi Forest is now part of a network of protected zones within the Tsavo Conservation Area under the protection of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and the Kenya Forest Service. The Trust has embarked on this exciting new project in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service, having secured a 30 year concession to conserve and sustain the environment, providing benefits through resource utilization and tourism. The project embraces conservation and protection programs covering natural resource management as well as protection activities including anti-poaching patrols, preventing unsustainable and illegal use of the Forest's resources.

This amazing Forest shares a common boundary with the Chyulu Hills National Park, spanning nearly 60Km² of diverse groundwater and dry forested habitats underlain by volcanic lava. Of vital importance to this area are the Umani Springs, an increasingly important water source for flora, fauna and local communities alike, providing the only surface water available during the dry seasons in the entire region. This unique ecosystem is an exceptional biodiversity hotspot providing a habitat for a number of wildlife species, most notable of which is the African elephant as well as an impressive collection of rare and endemic mammals, birds, reptiles, butterflies, invertebrates and fish, sightings of the Nile crocodile and two exceptionally large pythons have also been recorded at the springs.

The Kibwezi Forest was once a sustainable habitat, providing natural resources and a secure environment for both wildlife and the local tribes within the area, but now due to overpopulation within the local communities, the Forest is under threat from many factors, including over-grazing, illegal logging, poaching, charcoal production and untenable water extraction. These unsustainable activities are having a severe effect on the forest's biodiversity and ecological balance. As one of only two existing groundwater forests in Kenya, the Kibwezi Forest Reserve and its water lifeline, the Umani Springs, must be protected to end the devastating effects of overconsumption and environmental abuse in order to preserve the future of not only the environment but the lives that rely on it.

2011 SAVING HABITATS



An exciting addition to the Forest is the 'Umani Springs' eco-retreat, a 'self-help' property designed and constructed with a legacy left to the Trust. 'Umani Springs' as the property is named, was constructed so that revenue from it might in time ensure that all conservation initiatives within the forest become self-sustaining. The Trust has made huge steps since this recent partnership with the Kenya Forest Service in reversing the environmental degradation of the past years. With this support the Kibwezi Forest is now slowly regenerating and the Trust's core programs are achieving great successes. Construction and on-going monthly maintenance of 3 electrically fenced boundaries stretching 25kms has been completed, including the opening-up of access tracks throughout the Forest for both security and tourism. Security is continuous and led by the Trust's two new anti-poaching and de-snaring teams (Chyulu and Kenze Teams) patrolling throughout the greater ecosystem. The regeneration and rehabilitation of the Forest is also taking place through an indigenous tree nursery as well as ongoing natural resource management.

Working closely with communities is an important component in all conservation initiatives. In order to effectively manage and sustain the forest's habitats, whilst improving the quality of life in the surrounding communities, sustainable use of natural resources must be practiced. This can only take place with regular community liaison, environmental education and the encouragement of activities that reduce the demand for access to the forest. Community activities include poverty reduction through income generating activities and tourism, control and management of problem animals as well as the support of higher education standards. One of the key components of the community program is the erection of the electric fence adjacent to community land, which protects community crops from wildlife damage. This very important fenceline interspersed with staffed gate-houses, monitors legal access to the Forest and has been funded in its entirety by the US Friends of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

Fig Tree Kibwezi forest



We thank Dr. Ian Games, Quentin Luke, Dino Martins, Ruth Horsey, Mark Glen, Geoff Hobbs and Erwin Overkamp for their expert help, advice and support of the Kibwezi Forest and Umani Springs. Also huge thanks go to all our US Friends for providing funding for the entire Kibwezi forest fenceline and gate houses. We would like to thank Lionel Nutter who works tirelessly as the Trust's Field Manager keeping everything seamlessly in order.



Umani Springs

Umani Springs, the Trust's new self-catering retreat opened for business in May/June 2011. Built by Mark Glen and his team, this stylish property flips the community conservation self-help concept on its head by offering the epitome of African comfort, whilst actively pursuing environmental stability and wildlife preservation. It is an exclusive yet modest home-from-home boasting three tranquil bedroom areas, a spectacular pool and sunbathing oasis and a relaxing living room, offering the ultimate escape in indoor and outdoor living.

Self-catering at Umani Springs is a perfect choice for the adventurously independent traveler, allowing you to create your ideal home from home get-away, whilst enjoying the exclusivity of the Kibwezi Forest and its wild neighbouring environments.

The Forest is a birdwatcher's, botanist's and entomologist's delight and is perfectly situated to make the most of all the sites and sojourns on offer within the greater Tsavo Conservation Area. The highlights to be explored include visits into the Chyulu National Park and the Kisula Caves as well as wilderness walks around Kibwezi forest's own springs and woodlands. Day trips further afield into Tsavo West, visiting Mzima Springs, or the incredible wildlife and landscapes of Tsavo East are also in easy reach.

Umani Springs is already proving popular and by visiting the Kibwezi Forest Reserve and enjoying this beautiful property you are actively supporting the conservation of a unique groundwater ecosystem. All profits gained from Umani Springs are channeled back into the forest, the preservation of its flora and fauna and the futures of the communities within the area.



Saving Habitats

Project Amu

Project Amu is one of the largest and most ambitious projects that the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has engaged to date. This exciting initiative was instigated in February 2011, commencing with an agreed long lease for Amu Ranch established between the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and the local Lamu communities.

This partnership was created under the new umbrella of the Lamu Conservation Trust, an indigenous conservation community, which has been initiated by Robert Carr-Hartley with the support of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, to act as a united voice of the greater Lamu community including local government departments and other conservation stakeholders in order to conserve the indigenous cultures, wildlife and marine ecologies of the Lamu Eco-Region.

Project Amu works through the empowerment of local communities to ensure long term success and in doing so maintains the natural integrity of the area for future generations, whilst immediately providing value for the communities who have so fortunately taken an active interest in preserving their heritage.

The lease for Amu Ranch, which covers over 60,000 acres of beautiful yet fragile lowland forests and savannah woodlands, is just the foundation of a greater vision projected by both the David Sheldrick and Lamu Conservation Trusts. Outside of Kenya's National Parks there are few parcels of viable land left that can support large numbers of wildlife, and as these natural habitats become increasingly threatened by human expansion, securing and protecting such wilderness has taken on the utmost significance.

Amu Ranch was underway as a group cooperative in the 1970's instigated by its community who were anxious to protect their way of life. Their efforts in trying to safeguard their land, which is bigger than several of Kenya's national parks, were unsuccessful due to lack of resources and support, but now stabilised by the Lamu Conservation Trust with the on-going support of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Amu and its community can actively protect their land, diversity and culture.



2011 SAVING HABITATS Project Amu

DSWT Cessna 185



Carmine Bee Eaters on Amu



Amu sits within the magnificently diverse inland coastal belt of Lamu, which claims one of the largest Mangrove forests in the world, some of the oldest coastal forests in Africa and encompasses some of the most important habitats on the East African coast. The environmental diversity of the Greater Lamu Eco-region is incredible. In the 1970's this region used to support an elephant population of 26,000, within ten short years only 300 individuals remained, yet despite this mass slaughter, the African Elephant and a vast array of species still reside within Amu and the Lamu district.

Species include Lion, Buffalo, Giraffe, Leopard, Hippo, Cheetah, Zebra and a major breeding population of Topi, Waterbuck, Lesser Kudu, Desert Warthog, Spotted Hyaena and several primate species. IUCN-listed forest-dependent species within the area also include the conservation depended Harveys Duiker and Suni, the near threatened Lesser Elephant Shrew, the Somali Galago and the critically endangered Hirola (Hunter's Hartebeest). The critically endangered Ader's Duiker has also been recorded, constituting

a significant range extension for this species. Nine threatened plant species including the critically endangered *Euphorbia tanaensis* also occur within the region.

Yet globally threatened species and their environments in this eco-region are under severe threat due to increased human/wildlife conflicts triggered by illegal hunting, habitat destruction and the disruption of migratory movement patterns. Also as a result of past and present illegal logging, self-subsistent agriculture and shifting cultivation the forested areas rich in indigenous plant-life are struggling to restore their natural balance. It is essential that logging and unsustainable agricultural practices are brought to a complete halt and that regeneration of the forest and particularly the indigenous trees is facilitated.

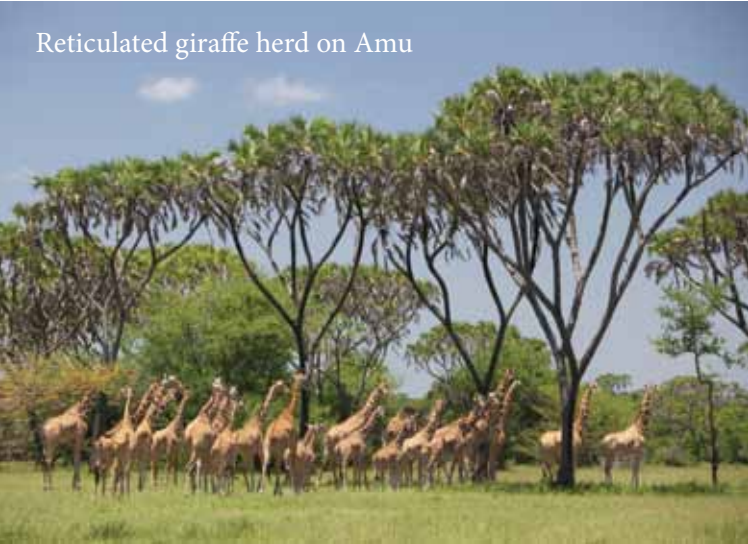
In a few short months Project Amu has instigated the construction of the physical infrastructure of the Amu area having established two camps and an administrative office in Mukunumbi, opened over 200kms of tracks, cleared an airstrip and activated security including two full-time anti-poaching teams, putting a halt to indigenous logging, poaching, unsustainable agriculture and illegal squatting and encroachment. Project Amu's other activities also include introducing a wildlife water relief program during drought-stricken periods, utilizing innovative temporary water troughs placed strategically within the ranch, which are bowser-filled daily with water transported from permanent sources. A tree planting scheme and the creation of an indigenous tree nursery has also been instigated with over 800 trees already planted in devastated areas.

With the support of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, a Cessna 185 aerial surveillance plane, a boat and several vehicles, as well as heavy machinery are now fully active on Amu. Nick Trent has been employed to oversee this new and crucially important assignment and heads up the Lamu Conservation Trust Technical Support Team with the experience and dedication needed for this huge challenge. Nick has many tail-dragger flying hours under his belt and is familiar with the country, especially Tsavo, having worked within KWS during Richard Leakey's time.

As Project Amu and the Lamu Conservation Trust's relationships grow with local communities, key government bodies and conservation stakeholders, it will expand its efforts into additional vitally important biodiversity hotspots and forested areas within the Greater Lamu Eco-region. There are

already several other Group Ranches with a similar template to Amu who are eager to join this new community conservation movement, so it is hoped that as support grows, so too can the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's commitment to these initiatives.

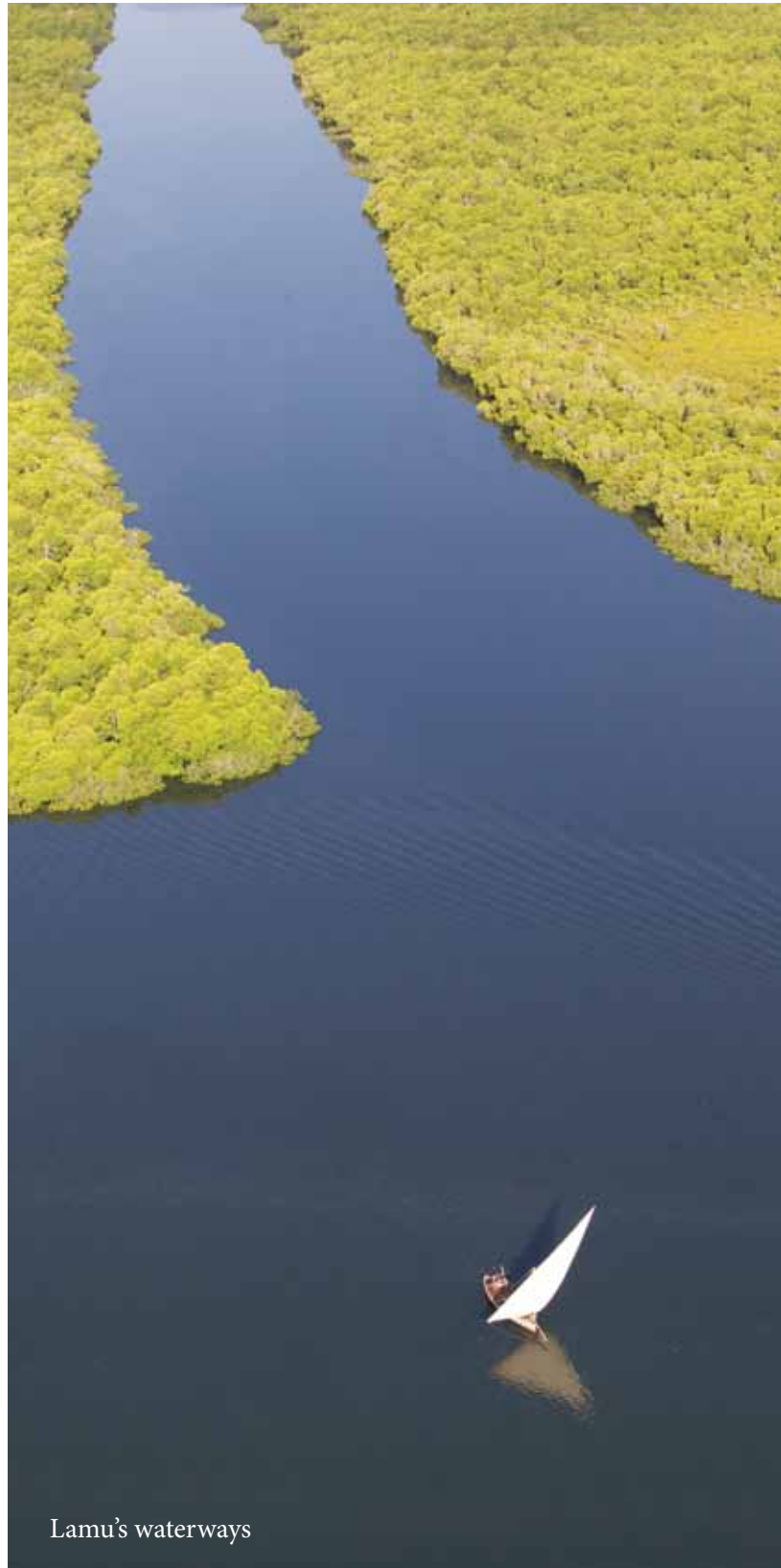
Reticulated giraffe herd on Amu



Boni tribe -
communities abutting Amu



Buffalo on Amu



Lamu's waterways

Speared hippo - Masai Mara



Treating an injured elephant

25/06/11



treating an injured lion



Treating a snared zebra



Leopard trapped by a cable snare on the foot



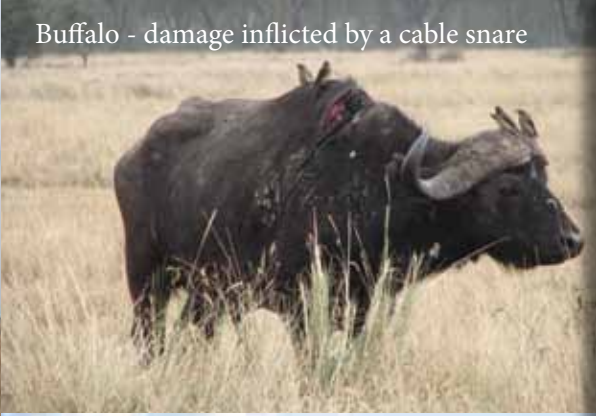
20/06/2011 15:24



20/06/2011 15:24

20/06/2011 16:24

Buffalo - damage inflicted by a cable snare



Treating snare wounds on an elephant calf



Wound from a snare



MOBILE VETERINARY UNITS

The Trust's two fully equipped Mobile Veterinary Units headed by vets seconded to the Project courtesy of KWS, continue to alleviate suffering on an unprecedented scale and this year have again saved the lives of literally hundreds of snared, sick and wounded animals as well as over 300 elephants. They have removed cable and wire snares, which would have proved lethal, healed spear and arrow wounds and relieved suffering; certainly a "feel good" project of which we are proud.

The Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit based at the KWS Voi Headquarters headed by Dr. Jeremiah Poghorn Kaitopok covers a vast area including the Tsavo Conservation Area, neighbouring ranches and community land, Tsavo East and West National Parks as well as Amboseli, the Chyulu Hills National Park and the Shimba Hills National Reserve.

The Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit based in the Masai Mara and headed by KWS vet Dr. Dominic Mijele, ably assisted by DSWT's Felix Micheni, covers the Masai Mara National Reserve, the adjacent Mara Triangle, neighbouring community areas, plus the zone around Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru in the Rift Valley and on occasions operates as far West as Ruma National Park and Lake Victoria.

Summary of Treatment and Rescue cases for the Tsavo Veterinary Unit

Species	Snares	Arrows/Spear Injuries	Rescue	Other Injuries	Totals
Elephant	46	111	49	65	285
Giraffe	18	-	-	-	18
Buffalo	10	-	4	4	18
Lion	5	-	9	19	33
Impala	13	-	-	2	15
Zebra	8	-	2	12	22
Leopard	1	-	-	4	5
Grant's Gazelle	-	-	-	4	4
Cheetah	-	-	1	2	3
Baboon	-	-	-	1	1
Waterbuck	13	-	2	3	18
Hyena	-	-	-	1	1
Caracal	-	-	-	1	1
Hippo	-	-	1	1	2
Vervet Monkey	-	-	-	1	1
African Wild Dog	2	-	-	1	3
Common Duiker	2	-	-	1	3
Eland	2	-	-	1	3
Oryx	-	-	-	2	2
Eland	-	-	-	1	1
Striped hyena	-	-	3	-	3
Ostrich	1	-	-	1	2
Totals	120	109	71	125	444

Summary of Treatment and Rescue cases for the Mara Veterinary Unit

Species	Snares	Arrow/Spear Injuries	Rescue	Other Injuries	Totals
Giraffe	21	10	-	2	33
Cheetahs	-	4	1 cub	6 (Mange disease)	11
Lions	1	13	5	8	27
Black rhinos	1	4	-	2	7
White rhinos	-	7	-	4	11
Elephants	7	38	5	10	60
Zebras	32	29	1	2	64
Waterbucks	6	-	-	1	7
Buffaloes	5	4	3	1	13
Jackals	-	-	-	1	1
Elands	3	1	1	1	6
Colobus monkey	-	-	-	1	1
Wildebeest	-	-	-	5 (Mange Infestation)	5
Topi	-	1	-	-	1
Impalas	1	-	1	1	3
Hippos	-	-	-	3	3
Hartebeest	-	-	-	2	2
Hyenas	-	-	-	2	2
Wild dog	-	-	-	1	1
Roan antelope	1	-	-	-	1
Leopard	-	-	1	-	1
Vultures	-	-	-	36	36
Total cases	78	111	18	89	296

Notes from the Field

By Felix Micheni, DSWT Mara Veterinary Unit

“As 2011 draws to a close I reflect back on a year that revealed mixed fortunes. The beginning of the year was exceedingly dry following the failure of the long rains resulting in drought conditions that brought an upsurge of human/wildlife conflict with the wild animals competing with a mounting human population for diminished resources of pasture and water.

The main objective of the Mara Vet Unit is to treat sick and injured wild animals in order to save them from certain death and avoid them becoming dangerous due to being wounded. Elephants especially seem to understand that although it may have been humans that wounded them in the first place, it is humans that are helping them. An example of this was demonstrated by a bull elephant whose leg was badly injured and yet after treatment, he sought refuge in a nearby friendly manyatta (homestead) for close to a week until he felt strong enough to return to a wild existence.

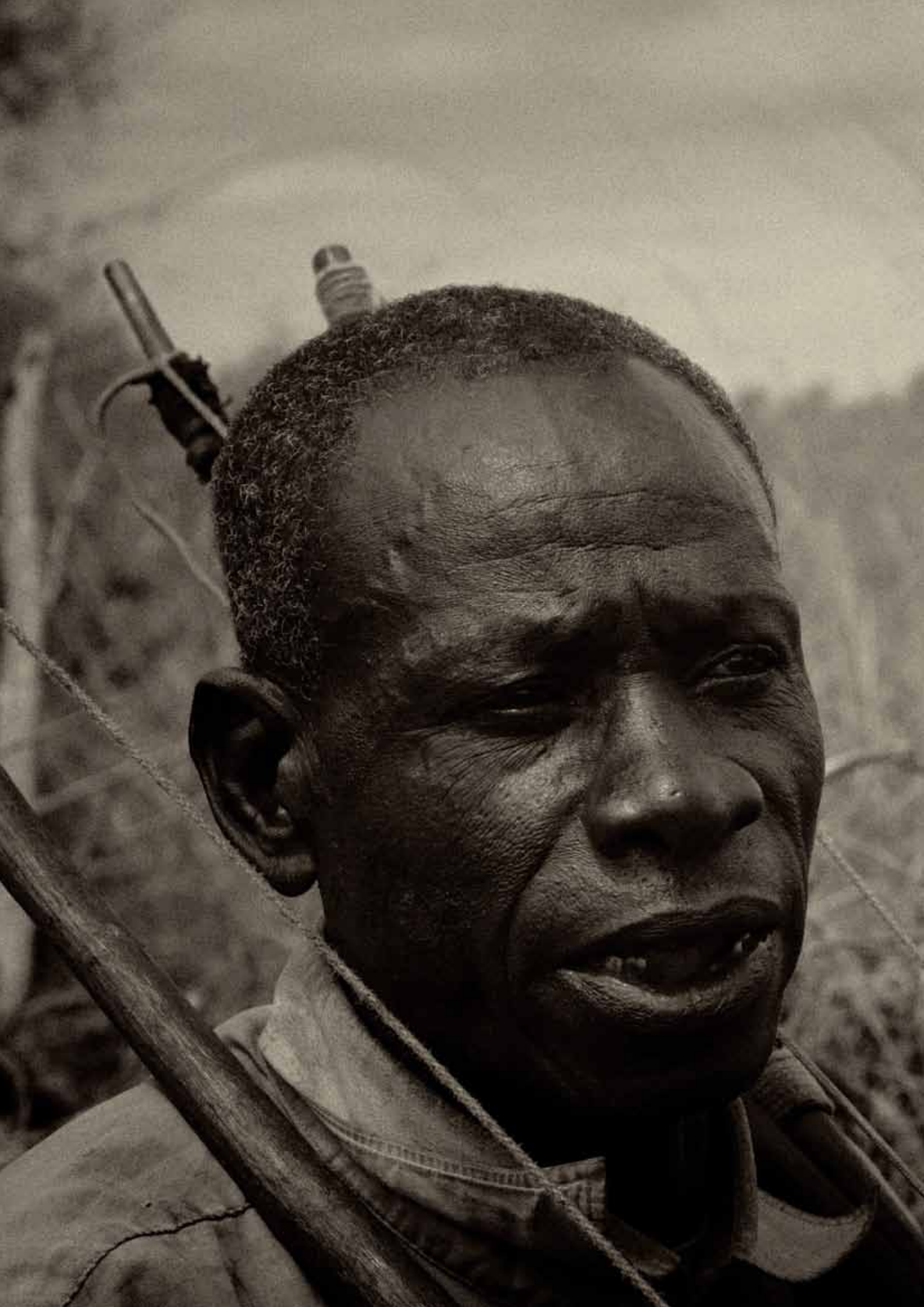
This year’s clinical interventions have included injuries to Lions, Giraffes, Cheetah and Buffaloes alleviating suffering and forestalling the onset of septicemia, which can be fatal. Numerous animals that would otherwise have perished have been saved in this way.

The unit has also been involved in the monitoring of diseases such as Bovine Tuberculosis (BTB) in Buffaloes, Mange in Cheetahs and the investigation of parasites in Thomson’s Gazelles and Wildebeests; many such diseases passed on to wildlife by domestic livestock.

During the year, the unit has rescued two young orphaned elephants (Ololoo and Layoni) in the Masai Mara area, definitely saving their lives since both were still milk dependent having lost their elephant mother. These two orphans are currently being hand-reared at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust’s Elephant reintegration Centres in Tsavo East National park.

Throughout, the Mara Vet Unit seeks to build a good working relationship with the local Maasai community who are the custodians of a lot of wildlife residing outside the Protected Area, whose survival depends on the local people. We thank everyone who has made a contribution to the success of the operations of this Veterinary Unit both in cash and kind without which all the interventions and activities would not have been possible”.

The Trust’s special and grateful thanks to Rex Dobie’s Minara Foundation and the Austrian NGO Vier Pfoten (Four Paws) for fully funding our two Mobile Veterinary Units.





ANTI-POACHING

The Trust is running 8 fully-equipped Anti-Poaching and De-Snaring Units working together with the Kenyan Wildlife Service in protecting the greater Tsavo Conservation Area covering a vast 60,000km². These skilled frontline teams who are accompanied by armed KWS Rangers are equipped with vehicles, camping equipment, radios, GPS's and cameras. They patrol daily to combat elephant and rhino poaching as well as the threat of bushmeat snaring. With sophisticated technical experience and deep local knowledge, the teams are making a significant difference in deterring, prosecuting and preventing illegal poaching and snaring within a huge wildlife habitat. A new sophisticated database has also been designed for the Trust by Fran Michelmores Root, which has increased the effectiveness of our teams and made their reporting so much more comprehensive. Every team, which is fully mobile, utilises a user-friendly data-base recording system to capture information vital to interpret and understand trends.

Arrested poacher with poisoned arrows



Poached Elephant with Ivory removed



This year the eighth special Anti-Poaching and De-Snaring Unit was recruited to focus on the Northern Area of Tsavo East National Park into which wild elephants are only just beginning to return, having abandoned this area for close-on three decades after the poaching holocaust of the late 70's, 80's and early 90's. Establishing the second rehabilitation base for some of our ex-Nursery orphans has been the catalyst that has persuaded the wild elephants to return to this area of 3,000 sq. miles which they shunned for so long. It is crucial that they are not driven out again by the poaching menace.

Supporting these anti-poaching teams is the Trust's Top Cub aircraft, which is ideally suited for aerial monitoring and surveillance. With this invaluable resource the Trust actively assists the teams and the Kenyan Wildlife Service by providing aerial support throughout the Tsavo Conservation Area.

The Trust's new Field Operations Manager, Richard Moller, who began work on the 10th January, oversees all the Trust's anti-poaching activities as well as undertaking aerial surveillance and monitoring patrols for the KWS Regional authorities with many hours spent in the air monitoring vast stretches of land. Richard is based at the Trust's Kaluku Field Headquarters, which has recently had new stores, an operations room, and offices built and added to it, and is situated on the Trust's land bordering the Athi river/Mtito watercourse boundary of Tsavo. He is respected within wildlife circles and has enjoyed full cooperation from the KWS Field Personnel with whom he works.

As a result of regular air coverage over the Tsavo Conservation Area and in conjunction with KWS, joint ambushes have been laid at strategic places identified from the air to combat persistent poaching activities, following which some arrests have been made. Poachers hideouts, snare lines and shooting platforms erected over waterholes have also been destroyed as have charcoal kilns. Another illegal activity identified from the air is the intrusion of livestock and their enclosures within the Park. Livestock intrusions probably pose the greatest threat to the Park going forward.

Despite the great achievements of these ground teams who help prevent ongoing snaring and poaching, the pitiful sentences meted out by Magistrates to wildlife offenders are no deterrent whatsoever. Many offenders are merely released on the spot or at best spend only a short time in prison before returning to their illegal activities all over again. This is an aspect that the current Government and especially the Judiciary needs to address urgently if wildlife is to be saved in this country.



snared Lesser Kudu



Poacher with snared Impala



Poached Elephant



snares retrieved by DSWT de-snaring teams



Poached Elephant

Poaching hotspots exist in the ranches neighbouring Tsavo East, especially Rukinga and Taita. Many Somalis now reside there manning small roadside kiosks during the day, but undertaking commercial elephant and bushmeat poaching at night. This lucrative evil remains an extremely sinister threat to Tsavo's elephants, the few remaining rhinos and, indeed, to all wildlife species. According to the Bushmeat crisis Task Force the commercial arm of bushmeat poaching involves highly organized criminal syndicates with effective logistical capabilities, exporting bushmeat to West Africa, where it is considered a delicacy, to the Middle East and also the capitals of Europe. It is a multi-billion dollar commercial international trade. In fact, it has been estimated that the bushmeat consumed in the Congo alone exceeds 1 million metric tons per annum, the equivalent of 4 million head of cattle. This commercial aspect is coupled with a mounting local demand on a subsistence level from a burgeoning human population in a country where there is mass unemployment and also mass poverty. In many marginal areas people simply have to try and survive as best they can, as they always have and whereas subsistence poaching was perhaps sustainable, now, coupled with the commercial aspect and the mounting human population, it certainly is not. Wildlife is literally being eaten out of existence, as has been the case throughout most of West Africa. Were it to disappear in Kenya, with it would go the entire tourism industry with mass employment repercussions, as tourism provides a livelihood for millions of Kenyans in one way or another and wildlife is the country's primary tourist draw.

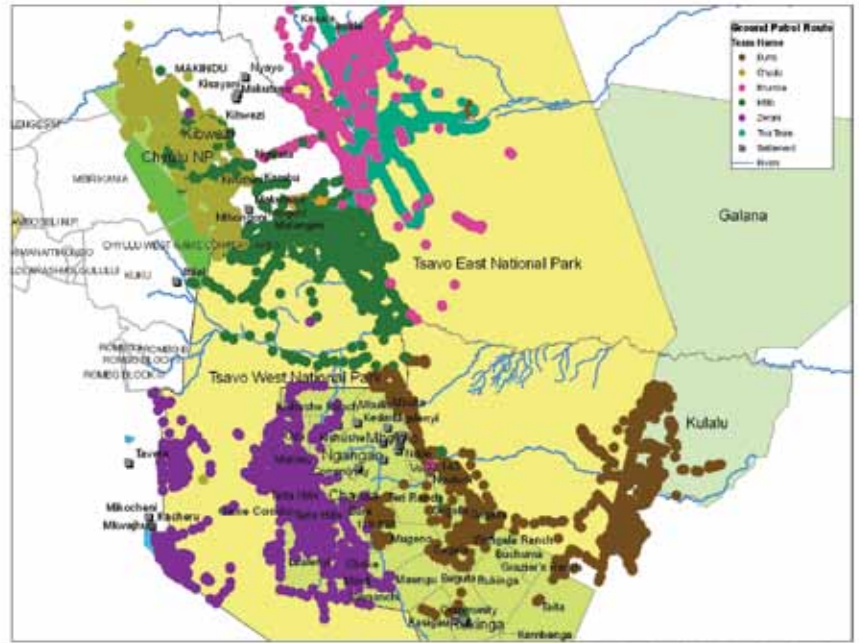
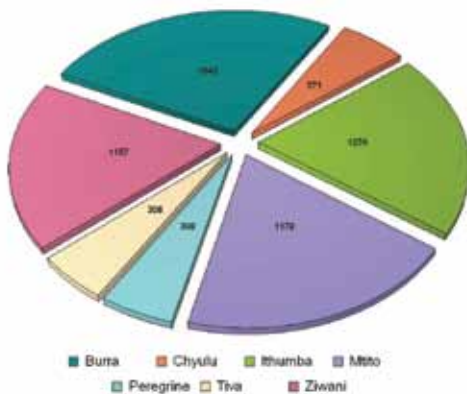


John Karani Team Leader

The Trust is deeply grateful to the many organisations and individuals that have supported our Anti-Poaching teams - the Cullman Conservation Foundation, Vier Photen, and the Eden Wildlife Trust, the US Friends of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, plus many kind individuals who have had a hand in saving hundreds of wild animals who, without our teams, would have perished.

We are deeply grateful to Andrew and Dorrie Brass for donating to the Trust their 4x4 vehicle when they left the country and we thank Kim and Glen Edmonds for instructing our anti-poaching team drivers in off-road and 4x4 driving techniques free of charge. We would like to give a very special thanks too to East African Canvas who continued to give us invaluable support by generously donating new camping equipment for our anti-poaching teams throughout the year.

Total Number of Snares Confiscated by DSWT Patrol Teams 2011



Wildlife Database

The Trust's very sophisticated and detailed monitoring database designed by Fran Micheltmore-Root captures vital trends relating to wildlife & illegal activities taking place within the Tsavo Ecosystem where our eight anti-poaching and de-snaring teams operate. This remarkable new system includes information about snaring hot-spots, carcass details, poacher's hideouts & shooting platforms, sources of water, community outreach activities, illegal livestock grazing as well as the number and variety of wild animals seen in the field.

The database also shows detailed information about poachers arrested. Already we have found several re-offenders popping up in the arrested-men data field. This gives us the ability to know which communities to target for education & sensitization to wildlife conservation. Over time such data will become a valuable indicator of wildlife trends for KWS, the country and the scientific community as a whole. It will also allow the Trust's Management to run more efficiently and see trends in illegal activities. The database also has mapping capability, which is not only useful for reporting but also for management strategies. The Trust maps & monitors about 158,000Km² and the database is able to make comparative analysis of this space, which boosts the Trusts ability to operate in the field efficiently.



Notes from the Field

By Richard Moller, DSWT Field Operations Officer

During the year of 2011 the Aerial Unit has also been added into the database design, allowing us to view maps and monitor sightings and movements. The database is able to capture all incidences from both the ground and the air, correlating data to form a clearer image on a larger scale, leading to increased efficiency in preventing and prosecuting illegal activities.

Aerial Unit: The Tsavo Conservation Area (TCA) is vast, covering 21,000 square kilometers of Tsavo East and West National Parks including the Chyulu Hills National Park, the Kibwezi Forest Reserve and huge adjacent ranches. Coverage from the air in an aircraft well suited for the job of bush flying is thus a vital and necessary tool if the continued threat to these Protected Areas is to be tackled in a meaningful way.

During 2011 the Trust's Top Cub, registration 5Y DTP, has been put to extremely good and valuable use in the TCA working in close conjunction and in support of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Trust's De-Snaring teams. In fact just over 500 hours have been flown in reconnaissance over the TCA, equating to 40,000 miles of low level flying (under 200 feet above ground level), so as to truly be an effective "eye in the sky" for security, anti-poaching, rhino surveillance, wildlife monitoring, cases of 'human/wildlife conflict' and support to the DSWT sponsored Field Veterinary Unit based in Voi. The Trust's aircraft and pilot was also deployed to assist KWS for the TCA Elephant Census carried out in February 2011.

In early May 2011 a formal agreement was signed between KWS and DSWT regarding low-level aerial coverage over the TCA. With very clear and concise reporting lines, KWS are notified daily on all observations during these reconnaissance flights and in most cases the flight is carried out with KWS Officers as rear seat observers.

The further development of the Trust's database has now incorporated an aerial component and records huge amounts of information that is collected daily. With over 200 recorded flight paths and over 2,000 waypoints the database is now banking valuable observations that include many varying types of illegal activity, wildlife sightings and other notable observations. Being in a position to cover more of the road-less areas of the TCA by air, several elephant tusks (20) have been recovered before poachers could take them. Notably 2 tusks from a very big lthumba bull were recovered in October 2011 (TENP) weighing a massive 56 and 50 kilograms (123 and 110 pounds) each.

In 2011 Tsavo has truly lived up to its tradition of being a "true wilderness" capable of revealing some magnificent wonders of the natural world. One such example is the fact that the gene pool of "large tuskers" still exists, possibly more so than in any other elephant holding area remaining on this planet. Another is Tsavo's ability to "bounce back" and change over night from a grey and dry "drought ravaged" environment to a lush "carpet of green". November 2011 experienced this contrast spectacularly.

In 2011, the joint KWS/DSWT efforts of the aerial unit and the de-snaring teams have without doubt contributed to alleviating the huge pressure from illegal activities and challenges within the TCA.

A very big thank you must go to Phoenix Aviation, in Nairobi, who generously carries out all the maintenance checks on 5Y DTP. Through this assistance they too have made a significant contribution to the TCA conservation efforts.

Finally I would like to thank all at KWS, TCA for their support towards the DSWT in 2011 and look forward very much to continuing that trend in 2012.



Northern area fence line Tsavo East



Community members maintaining the northern area Tsavo fence line

Fencelines

With a burgeoning human population, pressure on protected areas is increasing; human-wildlife conflict is on the rise as habitation and cultivation presses up against National Park boundaries. Electric fences are a very important solution in Kenya today, protecting the people and their crops from the wildlife and the wildlife from the people. However fences are only as effective as their ongoing maintenance and good maintenance comes with a significant financial commitment each year. The David Sheldrick Trust has over the years been erecting and more importantly, maintaining, hundreds of kilometers of fencelines to limit human-wildlife conflict. These lines include, 63kms along the Tsavo East Park Northern Boundary, a 25km electric fence erected in 2011 circumventing the Kibwezi Forest's three boundaries, effectively fencing the Forest into the Chyulu National Park, as well as an un-shortable barrier fence along the South Eastern boundary of Nairobi National Park, from Ongata Rongai to the main Kenya Wildlife Service HQ, a distance of approximately 15 kms, erected in 2011. Our electric fencing has not only proved highly effective in reducing the effects of conflict between wildlife and local communities but also curbing the nocturnal intrusion of poachers and criminals. We employ community members to maintain the fencelines and through ongoing fence maintenance, significant funding is ploughed into those communities bordering National Parks, bringing both cooperation and goodwill.

Water Resource

The installation and maintenance of nine boreholes and five windmills in Tsavo, which are all funded by the Trust, have been a major commitment over the years and something that the Trust takes extremely seriously. These windmills provide the only source of permanent water other than the Galana and Tsavo rivers throughout much of the year. Constant vigilance and maintenance of the windmills is needed to keep them functional, which is essential to avert a major catastrophic die-off of wildlife in the dry seasons, which have become more dramatic in recent years.

Ever since its inception, the Trust has also undertaken the maintenance and repairs of the main Nairobi Park borehole, having installed a 15 kilowatt generator at the borehole site in order to keep the water flowing for KWS staff as well as the elephant orphans and ourselves, even during the regular and frequent power outages. However, since the consumption of water has risen to a level beyond the capacity of the existing borehole to cope. The Trust was left with no other option than having to resort to purchasing potable water by the bowser load from private sources for ourselves and the elephants. With dozens of infant elephants to feed every three hours day and night, this has involved a considerable additional outlay, so we sought and obtained authority to sink a new borehole to alleviate the crisis. Sadly, however, the water from this new borehole, which has had to be drawn from the third and last aquifer below ground, is turbid and unfit for human consumption, but at least it gives us the water to use for other purposes, which is better than nothing.

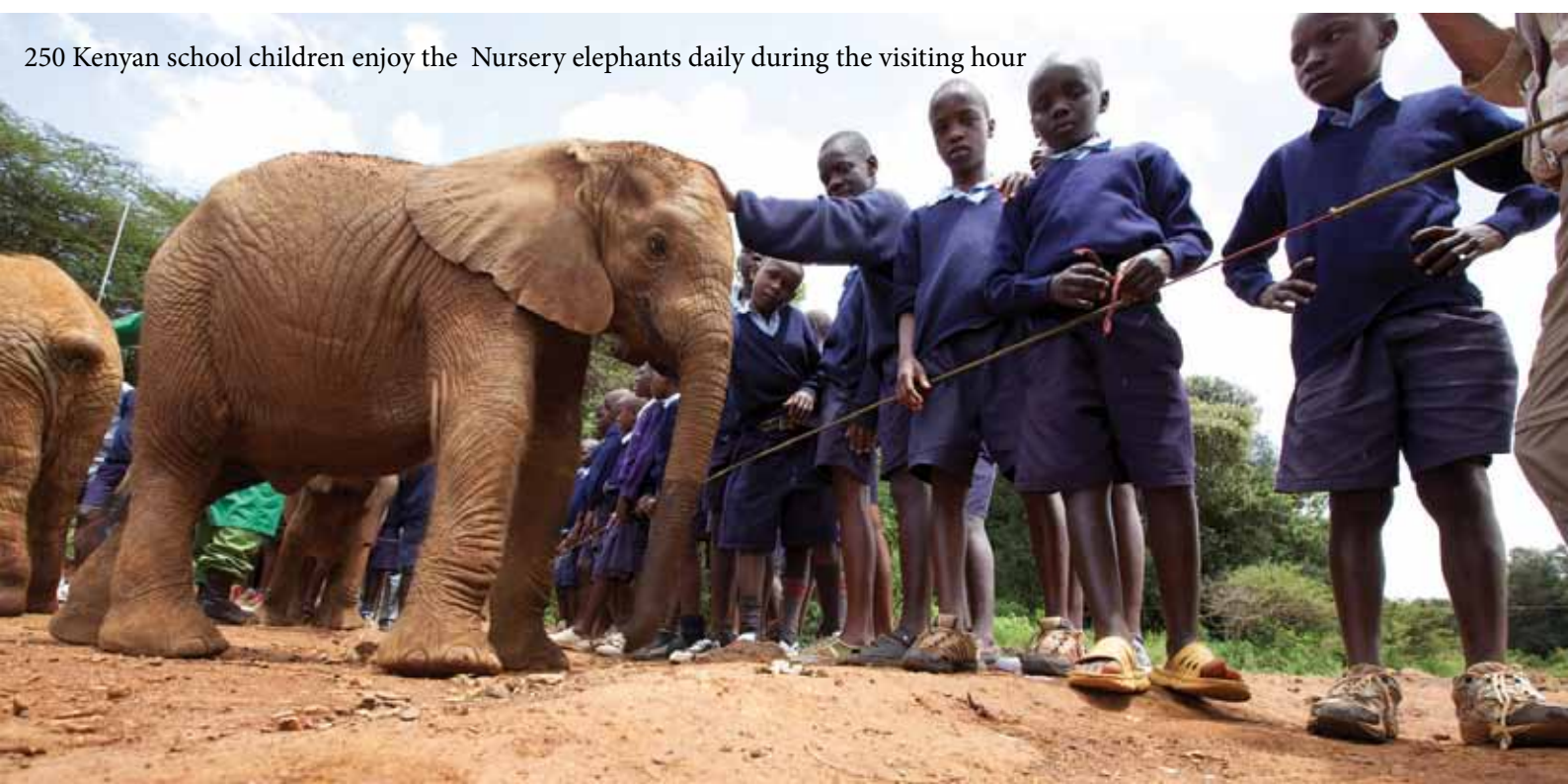


DSWT funds and maintains 5 windmills in Tsavo East National Park

Communities and Education

As a community initiative, this year the Trust selected sixteen schools around the periphery of Tsavo for support, providing them with donations of specially designed termite proof desks, as well as stationery and text books. The children also enjoy regular cinema shows illustrating environmental issues and highlighting the value of their wildlife heritage. On top of this the children are encouraged to plant hardwood tree seedlings grown in our Nurseries on the Trust land abutting Tsavo, collecting whatever rainwater they can in tanks and guttering provided by the Trust for this purpose. The Trust also organises regular field trips into the Tsavo National Park in the Trust's bus made available through a grant from the UK Dulverton Trust; in 2011 over 2,000 school children have enjoyed field trips into Tsavo National Park.

In addition to hosting tourists at the Nairobi elephant orphans' 11 a.m. – 12 noon mudbath hour, the Trust also hosts local school children for free on a daily basis, who travel from all corners of the country in huge numbers just to see the little elephants enjoying their noon milk feed and weather permitting, a cooling mudbath. So popular has this become that we have had to restrict numbers to 250 per day, bringing the children in batches of 50 at a time. 2011 saw more than 56,000 Kenyan school children visit the Nursery orphans and meet the elephant Keepers who speak to the public and the children about their charges every day.



250 Kenyan school children enjoy the Nursery elephants daily during the visiting hour

ELEPHANTS AND IVORY

From 2009 to June 2011 mainland China and Hong Kong had seized over 6,500kgs of illicit ivory; China having overtaken Japan as the major consumer of illegal ivory with more than 90% of wildlife seizures being African elephant ivory. A growing number of affluent Chinese value elephant ivory above that of antique mammoth, viewing it as a symbol of wealth and status. Seizures of ivory in 2010 reached a record high (28,000 tons) but have been overtaken by the known seizures of 2011, bearing in mind that known seizures represent just a fraction of what passes through un-detected.

The price of ivory has also risen in China, particularly for large tusks, which can fetch US\$ 7,000 per kilo, compared to the US\$ 157 in 2008. Smaller tusks vary in price from US\$ 750 – US\$ 900 per kilo. Likewise here in Kenya the price paid to the poacher has also soared, up from KShs 300/- per kilo to over KShs 10,000/-, representing a veritable fortune for an unemployed and impoverished Kenyan, many of whom are picking up their bows and poisoned arrows all over again.

China joined Japan as an approved Ivory Trading Partner, a decision taken by CITES (The International Convention Trade in Endangered Species), naively endorsed by the U.K. Government as an attempt to satisfy demand and thus reduce poaching. Despite a system being in place in China demanding that every piece of legal ivory should have an identification certificate, it was recently exposed that 63% of at least 6,500 ivory pieces being sold in Chinese outlets had no legal identification and were therefore illegal. Surely then China's status as an Approved Ivory Trading Partner should be withdrawn?

The truth is that this year seizures of illegal ivory alone runs into tens of thousands of kilos and there are simply not enough elephants left on the planet to meet the growing Asian demand for ivory. Over the past 70 years the elephant population of the conservancies of Northern Kenya has apparently decreased radically, likewise Kenya's single largest population of elephants within the Tsavo ecosystem has declined to a mere 12,000 today from its previous level of 45,000. Within the same time frame the population of elephants Africa-wide has fallen from 3 ½ million to less than 400,000 today.

Yet the struggle to save elephants cannot only be fought in the forests and savannahs of Africa alone, nor even in the ivory markets of the Far East, but within the corridors of power of CITES (The International Convention for Trade in Endangered Species) to which 175 Nations are signatory. CITES meets every three years and every time elephant battles at this forum prove the most divisive and contentious, with Southern African States, (including Zimbabwe where poaching is uncontrolled and rife) eager to sell their so-called legal stockpiles to Japan and China. They claim an over-population of elephants, despite evidence that elephant and rhino poaching is on the rise now that Chinese and Vietnamese Nationals are there in numbers.

In 1999 CITES approved the legal export of 58 tons of ivory from Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Botswana to Japan and in 2009 another 108 tons of Southern African ivory to China and Japan, despite an outcry that this would simply stimulate demand, which, indeed, it did. Irrespective of the upward trend in poaching across Southern and Central Africa, as well as within East Africa, Tanzania and Zambia sought approval from CITES in 2010 to again sell their stockpiles; a deal thwarted by the opposition of 23 African Elephant Range States, Kenya included (known as the African Elephant Coalition). Undoubt-

edly, there will be further pressure from the Southern African States and Tanzania to sell their stockpiles, along with the assumption that CITES may be tempted to approve the move, since all the countries of the world seek to trade with China and money talks. Elephants, rhinos and other endangered species end up mere pawns in a game of global trade fuelled by greed, rather than a concern for the plight of the world's endangered species.

Elephants are a key species that play an important role in the ecosystems in which they live. Their absence could result in the collapse of entire ecosystems and the disappearance of many other species. They are the Gardeners of Africa's rain forests, the main and only agent capable of widespread seed dispersal far from the parent trees. In fact, scientists now believe that some tree species are likely to depend entirely on elephants for seed dispersal and therefore survival, just as some orchids depend wholly on a single insect pollinator for propagation. Dr. Blake who undertook a scientific study in this respect states "we need to generate some higher ideal in the general public beyond the next car and big house life goal....elephants are simply one more natural resource that is being caught up in human greed on the one hand and human need on the other. We somehow need people to become re-acquainted with Nature, or they can have no clue as the interrelatedness of cause and effect." And Dr Blake continues to explain that should elephants disappear for good from the forests they once dominated "overall we can expect a loss of biodiversity and a simplification of forest structure and function" with the result that forests will degenerate into an expanding monoculture of weeds.

If elephants are to survive as a species not only must illegal poaching be halted, but humans must ensure that elephant habitats are left in a natural state where the age old laws of Nature are enacted to keep wild populations in balance with the environment. In the same way that it is unthinkable to consider artificially "culling" our own excess human population (now numbering a whopping 7 billion and rising still) so it should be equally unthinkable to accept murdering elephants as a management tool or as a convenient source of protein; since they too are "human" in so many respects. Importantly, the insatiable demand for ivory in the Far East must be addressed by the International community and cannot be ignored for selfish reasons of trade.

In 2011 to mark African Law Enforcement Day an illegal consignment of 5 tons of ivory originating from Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania, which was confiscated in Singapore, was torched by President Kibaki in Tsavo West National Park, aimed at signifying the commitment of Kenya and several other African State partners to fight poaching.

Central Africa's Forest elephants have at last been scientifically proven through DNA testing to have been separated from the Savannah variety for at least five million years and are therefore a distinct species – as distinct from each other as living elephants are from the mammoths, a split almost as old as that between humans and the chimpanzees. Being fewer in number, they are even more critically endangered than *Loxodonta Africana* the Savannah type.

THE 2011 IVORY CALENDAR

JANUARY 2011 - 20 elephants were killed by Somalis on the ranches abutting Tsavo. KWS recovered **10 tusks** en route to Mombasa.

3 suspects seized as they headed towards Meru with **81 tusks and 2 rhino horns**, , allegedly part of a cartel that admitted to **killing 41 elephants and 9 rhinos** in the Northern tourist circuit encompassing the Mt. Kenya forest, Isiolo, Meru and Laikipia. One of the poachers already had a Court case pending on a similar charge.

A Chinese National arrested at Nairobi Airport while attempting to smuggle **65 kgs Ivory** onto a connecting flight to Guanzhou, China.

FEBRUARY – 92 kgs. Ivory seized at Jomo Kenyatta Aiorport, Nairobi.

MARCH – 247 tusks representing 124 dead elephants seized in Thailand having originated from Kenya, hidden in Cartons labeled “frozen mackerel”!

MAY - Police investigating possible collusion of airport officials in a bid to ship **1.4 tons of ivory** through Nairobi Airport on May 6th (115 tusks, supposedly to have originated from the Embassy of the Republic of Papua, New Guinea and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Brunei).

1 ton of ivory seized en route to Nigeria packed in Boxes with pepper and tobacco to confuse Sniffer Dogs at Jomo Kenyatta Airport Nairobi (representing the death of some 58 elephants) . A week earlier 96.5 kgs. was intercepted.

Civil Aviation authorities at Entebbe Airport seize **5 kgs. ivory** (representing the death of 2 or 3 elephants) being smuggled out by a Chinese National.

600 kgs. Ivory seized by Vietnamese officials hidden in a container of Rubber shipped from Tanzania.

JUNE – Portuguese authorities seize almost **300 pieces of Ivory** along with coral and African Blackwood in personal baggage container shipped out of Mozambique

JULY – Ivory worth Shs. 110 million confiscated at Katuna border town in Kabale District, Uganda.

Tanzanian National arrested at Nairobi Airport in possession of **114 pieces of Ivory** weighing 1,304 kgs.

8th – Malaysian Customs officials discovered **664 elephant tusks** in a Container that came from the United Arab Emirates. (The elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) which monitors the illegal ivory trade reported that nearly 17,000 ivory and other elephant product seizures had taken place in various parts of the world since 1989. In 2009 ETIS did a study which showed that Malaysia has progressively gained prominence in successive ETIS analyses as a transit country for African Ivory).

AUGUST – 1,041 tusks, seized in Zanzibar (**representing the death of 500 elephants**) hidden in sacks of dried fish, destined for Malaysia.

At Nairobi Airport, Kenya **81 tusks weighing 249 kgs**, were recovered plus **5 rhino horns** bound for Malaysia.

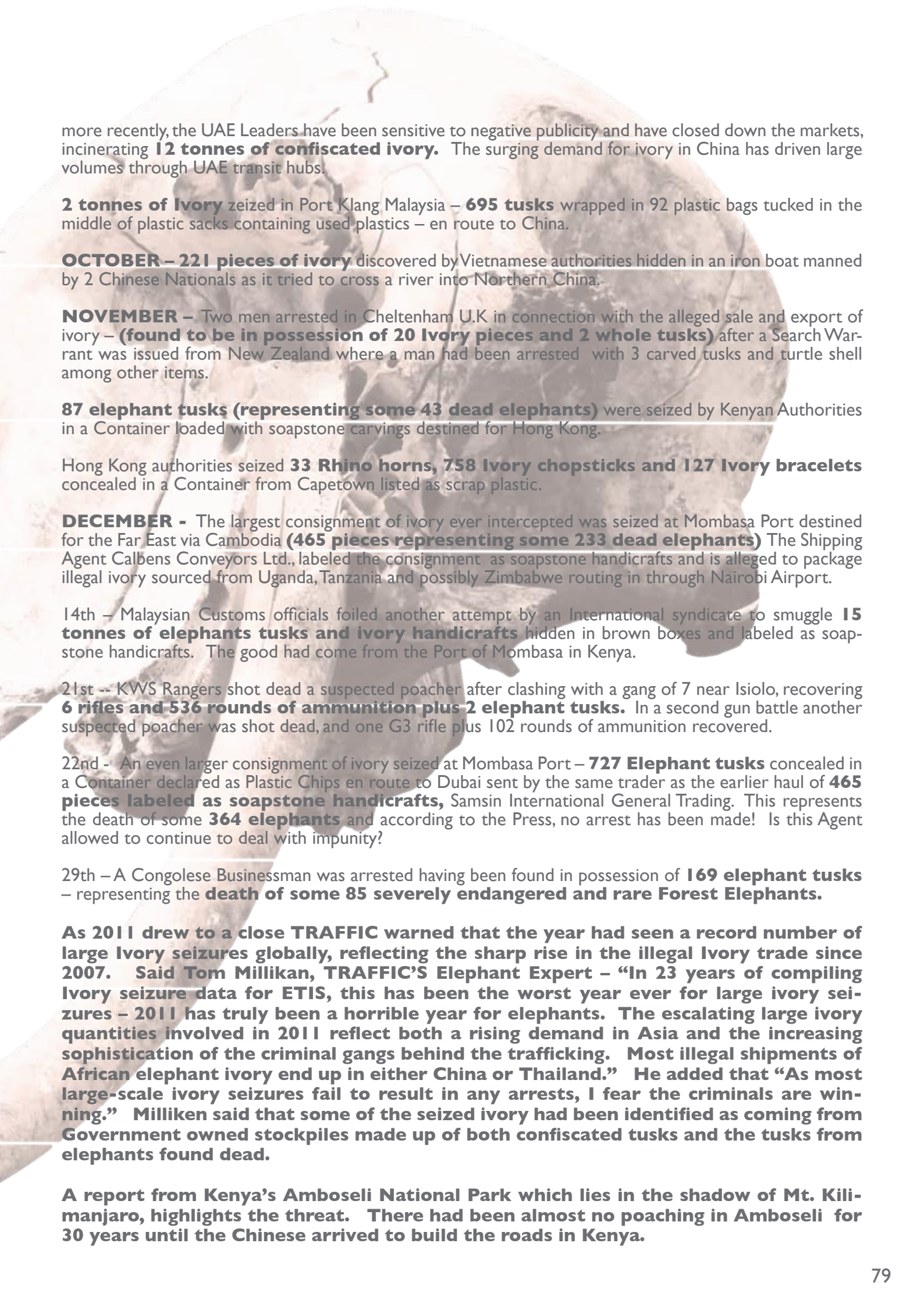
794 pieces of Ivory seized in Hong Kong having been shipped via Malaysia.

SEPTEMBER – Zambian Police confiscated **166 pieces of Ivory** en route to the Republic of Congo in a Minibus with diplomatic number plates.

Malaysian authorities confiscated **700 tusks** en route to China from Tanzania – the third seizure since July.

200 kgs. Ivory seized in Hanoi,Vietnam. (**Last year the Vietnamese authorities seized 2 tonnes of elephant tusks illegally imported from Kenya destined for China**)

A quantity of ivory seized in Dubai (tusks and bracelets) in transit to the Far East. The United Arab Emirates withdrew from CITES in 1987 and imported ivory to be worked into ivory artifacts for sale. However,



more recently, the UAE Leaders have been sensitive to negative publicity and have closed down the markets, incinerating **12 tonnes of confiscated ivory**. The surging demand for ivory in China has driven large volumes through UAE transit hubs.

2 tonnes of Ivory seized in Port Klang Malaysia – **695 tusks** wrapped in 92 plastic bags tucked in the middle of plastic sacks containing used plastics – en route to China.

OCTOBER – 221 pieces of ivory discovered by Vietnamese authorities hidden in an iron boat manned by 2 Chinese Nationals as it tried to cross a river into Northern China.

NOVEMBER – Two men arrested in Cheltenham U.K in connection with the alleged sale and export of ivory – **(found to be in possession of 20 Ivory pieces and 2 whole tusks)** after a Search Warrant was issued from New Zealand where a man had been arrested with 3 carved tusks and turtle shell among other items.

87 elephant tusks (representing some 43 dead elephants) were seized by Kenyan Authorities in a Container loaded with soapstone carvings destined for Hong Kong.

Hong Kong authorities seized **33 Rhino horns, 758 Ivory chopsticks and 127 Ivory bracelets** concealed in a Container from Capetown listed as scrap plastic.

DECEMBER - The largest consignment of ivory ever intercepted was seized at Mombasa Port destined for the Far East via Cambodia **(465 pieces representing some 233 dead elephants)** The Shipping Agent Calbens Conveyors Ltd., labeled the consignment as soapstone handicrafts and is alleged to package illegal ivory sourced from Uganda, Tanzania and possibly Zimbabwe routing in through Nairobi Airport.

14th – Malaysian Customs officials foiled another attempt by an International syndicate to smuggle **15 tonnes of elephants tusks and ivory handicrafts** hidden in brown boxes and labeled as soapstone handicrafts. The goods had come from the Port of Mombasa in Kenya.

21st -- KWS Rangers shot dead a suspected poacher after clashing with a gang of 7 near Isiolo, recovering **6 rifles and 536 rounds of ammunition plus 2 elephant tusks**. In a second gun battle another suspected poacher was shot dead, and one G3 rifle plus 102 rounds of ammunition recovered.

22nd - An even larger consignment of ivory seized at Mombasa Port – **727 Elephant tusks** concealed in a Container declared as Plastic Chips en route to Dubai sent by the same trader as the earlier haul of **465 pieces labeled as soapstone handicrafts**, Samsin International General Trading. This represents the death of some **364 elephants** and according to the Press, no arrest has been made! Is this Agent allowed to continue to deal with impunity?

29th – A Congolese Businessman was arrested having been found in possession of **169 elephant tusks** – representing the **death of some 85 severely endangered and rare Forest Elephants**.

As 2011 drew to a close TRAFFIC warned that the year had seen a record number of large Ivory seizures globally, reflecting the sharp rise in the illegal Ivory trade since 2007. Said Tom Millikan, TRAFFIC'S Elephant Expert – “In 23 years of compiling Ivory seizure data for ETIS, this has been the worst year ever for large ivory seizures – 2011 has truly been a horrible year for elephants. The escalating large ivory quantities involved in 2011 reflect both a rising demand in Asia and the increasing sophistication of the criminal gangs behind the trafficking. Most illegal shipments of African elephant ivory end up in either China or Thailand.” He added that “As most large-scale ivory seizures fail to result in any arrests, I fear the criminals are winning.” Milliken said that some of the seized ivory had been identified as coming from Government owned stockpiles made up of both confiscated tusks and the tusks from elephants found dead.

A report from Kenya's Amboseli National Park which lies in the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro, highlights the threat. There had been almost no poaching in Amboseli for 30 years until the Chinese arrived to build the roads in Kenya.

**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:

KENYA

**The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
P.O.Box 15555
Mbagathi, 00503
NAIROBI
KENYA
Email: rc-h@africaonline.co.ke
Telephone : +254 (0) 202 301 396
+254 (0) 733 891 996**

**The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is a charity registered in the U.K.
Charity No 1103836.**

Cheque donations made out to The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust by U.K. taxpayers should be accompanied by the Gift Aid Declaration, which can be printed off the Trust Website www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org. The Gift Aid Declaration Form can be located on the HOW TO DONATE page under U.K.

UK

**The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
2nd Floor
3 Bridge Street
Leatherhead, Surrey
KT22 8BL
Or contact +44 (0)1372 378 321/
+44 (0)1372 844 608 or email
infouk@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org**

The US Friends of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt 'Public Charity' to which contributions, gifts and bequests are deductible for U.S. income, gift and estate taxes. Checks can be made out to U.S. Friends of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

USA

**U.S. FRIENDS OF THE DAVID SHELDRIKWILDLIFE TRUST
201 N. Illinois
Suite 1600 South Tower
Indianapolis IN, 46204. USA
Or contact (317) 610-3245 or email
infous@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org**





THE DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST

P. O. Box 15555 Mbagathi, Nairobi, 00503 Kenya

Tel: +254 (0) 733 891 996, +254 (0) 20 230 1396

Email: rc-h@africaonline.co.ke

Website: www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org