

A man in a bright green long-sleeved shirt, olive green trousers, and a light-colored hat is smiling and reaching out to touch the trunk of a young elephant. The elephant is looking up at him with its mouth slightly open. In the background, the large head and trunk of an adult elephant are visible. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment with dry grass and some greenery.

The David Sheldrick WILDLIFE TRUST

Newsletter 2012



www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

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Overview of 2012

This year, despite endless trials and tribulations, which have inevitably dampened spirits, the DSWT can be proud to announce that seventy-one of our hand-reared Nairobi Nursery orphans are now successfully living wild amongst the wild elephant populations of Tsavo East National Park, having over the years presented us with a total of 10 recent wild-born babies of their own, most of whom reappear every now and then at either the Voi or Ithumba relocation stockades in Tsavo to greet their erstwhile human family who are still there rehabilitating and guiding another batch of ex-Nursery youngsters back into the wild where they rightly belong.

This success amongst many other great achievements this year is thanks to the unstinting encouragement of the global public. Support of the Orphans' Project through our digital Fostering Program has continued to grow, but then so have the number of orphans in our care due to the terrifying consequences of the illegal ivory trade. With more vulnerable orphans to hand-raise comes even greater responsibility. Increased quantities of the all-important powdered milk is constantly

in demand, as is more feed and supplies, extra elephant stockades, staff, keepers and veterinary support, all of which comes at a significant expense over and above the costs of the rescues and the on-going funding needed in order to rehabilitate all of the orphans back into the wilds of Tsavo.

We are proud to have been able to save the lives of over 140 orphaned elephant calves to date, despite having sorrowfully lost a number of others who came into our care too far gone to be able to retrieve, and who have been tearfully laid to rest in the nearby forest within Nairobi National Park. The elephants themselves, who so stoically weather tragedy on an almost daily basis, yet find the fortitude to turn the page and focus on the living, are the role models from whom we draw the strength to never give up.

From funds generated during the one hour public visit held every day at our Nairobi Nursery, where guests donate K.shs. 500/- per person to enjoy seeing the elephants take their noon milk feed and, weather permitting, a mudbath, we have managed to find the K.Shs. 700,000/- per month payment to the Kenya Wildlife Service, whilst affording to raise the orphans with the very best care and attention we can give. In addition to this contribution to the KWS our field commitments in Tsavo have also been substantial. Again, this would not have been possible without the extensive support of our own many donors and organisations which have made our work possible.

While turmoil in North Africa and the Arab world generally dominated the world press along with on-going global economic concerns, volcanic eruptions, devastating earthquakes and extreme weather patterns induced by Global Climate Change, in Kenya the weather has also been unusual and has been a daily talking point. Severe and persistent droughts continue to bedevil large swathes of north-eastern Kenya, as well as the expansive Tsavo National Park, whilst isolated torrential downpours and flash flooding have wreaked havoc elsewhere. At least the Rift Valley Lakes were again topped up, having previously threatened to dry out completely, but the fires that raged out of control on Mt. Kenya early on in the year, destroying huge areas of indigenous forest within a vital catchment area will have long-lasting repercussions, as will the illegal logging in other forests of the country exacerbated by the charcoal trade that is stripping Kenya of its hardwood trees.

With the support of so many caring people worldwide, we, too, have found the staying power to weather many storms and to be able to make a significant difference in terms of wildlife conservation, mindful that this would not have been possible without such support. We give heartfelt and grateful thanks to all our donors, however modest their contribution may be. Everything helps. We are proud to be viewed as a no-nonsense organization which works "where the rubber meets the road" at the field level of conservation, lean on bureaucracy, and sufficiently flexible to respond rapidly to field needs whenever they arise, dispersing donations for specific projects wisely and with full accountability and transparency. Flexibility and the wherewithal to be able to meet unseen emergencies has always been the hallmark by which the late David Sheldrick rated an NGO, and which is still upheld to this day by the Trust, having been established in his memory to remain faithful to this ideal.



On a Mission to Save Habitats

The main focus of the Trust has always been within the Tsavo East National Park, Kenya's largest and most important Protected Area, since it is home to the country's largest single population of elephants, and was established from virgin bush by the late David Sheldrick. The DSWT has remained steadfast to David's vision, which is incorporated in our Mission Statement:

"Embracing all measures that compliment the conservation, preservation and protection of wildlife which include anti-poaching, safeguarding the natural environment, enhancing community awareness, addressing animal welfare issues, and providing veterinary assistance to animals in need, rescuing and hand-rearing elephant and rhino orphans along with other species that can ultimately enjoy a quality of life in wild terms."

Within this undertaking the Trust is proud to enhance its focus on protecting the natural environment and include 'Saving Habitats' to our overall mission. Under this mandate the Trust's Kibwezi Forest Project has left us extremely proud, having acquired the full support of the Kenya Forest Service who awarded the DSWT a 30-year concession over this very special habitat in a pilot Private/Public partnership role. The Kibwezi Forest is a very ancient groundwater forest encompassing the Umani springs, the only source of groundwater available to all wildlife of the area, fed by ash-filtered water from the Chyulu Hills. Among the clouds of beautiful butterflies that characterize the forest during the wet seasons, is an endemic species of frog and no doubt other species yet to be identified. A beautiful but most importantly sustainable self-catering lodge is proving ever more popular, generating on-going revenue towards the protection of the Forest.

Similarly, Project Amu has been another milestone for the DSWT under our Saving Habitats mandate. We are especially honoured to have been instrumental in saving 63,000 acres of pristine wilderness and the rare wild treasures it encompasses through our financial support of Amu Ranch, within the Lamu district. The DSWT has enjoyed exceptional support at the local level, so much so that we are often mentioned by name in Friday prayers at the local mosques. Amu is home to the last huge herds to be found in the country of reticulated giraffe and Cape buffalo, as well as sizeable numbers of the rare Coastal Topi and species such as the critically endangered Aders' Duiker. Amu Ranch also harbours rare huge bodied and pale-coloured "Somali lions" with bluish eyes, whilst an endemic Kili fish new to science has also been discovered. No doubt there will be other species yet to be found.

A New Phase for the KWS

The reality of the threats to Kenya's Protected Areas at the field level is a challenge now being faced by Mr. Kibet Kiprono, who in October 2012 replaced Julius Kipn'getich as the Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service. Although hitherto unknown in conservation circles, Mr Kiprono is familiar with the security issues of the country as a whole having served as a District Commissioner in many different locations. Among the many challenges that the new Director will face is a push for stiffer penalties for poaching offences to try and stem the current slaughter of elephants and rhinos. We all hoped that this would be addressed through passage into law of the new Wildlife Bill, drafted way back in 2007, but which has yet to be passed due to continual amendments of the original agreed document to suit certain agendas. We look forward to the unfolding of a new conservation chapter in the country, a chapter that will have to first and foremost address the poaching crisis throughout the country.



KWS Ivory stockpiles

An Appetite for Ivory & Horn

For those of us who care about the natural world, the most alarming event during 2012 has been the escalation in the poaching of both elephants and rhinos, driven by the growing appetite for ivory and rhino horn in countries within the Far East, especially China, and the decline of smaller mammals due to the now commercial bush-meat trade. Chinese nationals are present in all Elephant Range States throughout Africa working on aid related projects and have been welcomed in Kenya by President Kibaki, who was reported by the Press on the 20th May as saying "Many Chinese have come to Kenya and we have seen the good work they have done in our country. We urge more of them to come and pursue their interests here". Unfortunately, one of those interests is their liking for ivory which has driven up the price paid to poachers dramatically, making poaching a lucrative living for many poor and unemployed Kenyans.



Amu Ranch

Whereas ivory has long been a status symbol of the rich elite in China, the demand has expanded in response to the growing wealth of the massive population as a whole, all of whom can now afford it and who aspire to own a piece of the largest land mammal on earth for both symbolic and status reasons. Apparently many people in China also believe that the tusks of an elephant fall out and are simply there to be picked up, unaware that the animal has to die to yield its teeth. A census undertaken in three major wildlife regions in Kenya in November 2012, namely the ecosystems of Samburu, Laikipia and Marsabit, reveals that the elephant population in that region is down by over 1,000 animals, and the endangered Grevy's Zebra population has fallen to just 1870 individuals from the previous 2,400 counted within the same areas in 2008. Regretfully a census done today of the Tsavo ecosystem would reveal equally depressing results, which means that Kenya is rapidly losing its precious wildlife heritage, which is the driving force of tourism for the country.

Kenya's stand to have the sale of all ivory banned when CITES meets again in 2013 in Thailand is something else that will need full backing but the urgency of more stringent law enforcement measures cannot be over emphasized and must be enacted sooner rather than later if elephants and rhinos are to be saved. After all, it takes 2 years to create an elephant, as opposed to just 9 months to make a human, so to kill such a noble and majestic animal, who should live for three score years and ten is a crime worthy of severe punishment.

Say No to Ivory

If the global public doesn't all come together to stand up for elephants and add their voice to those fighting against the ivory trade, the African elephant species could be lost forever. As long as there is a market for ivory, elephants will be cruelly killed for their tusks. The DSWT iWorry campaign aims to raise awareness of the urgent need to stop all trade in ivory internationally in order to protect the future of elephants. The first thing anyone can do is sign our petition to add your name to the list of people worldwide who cannot imagine a world without elephants. By signing our online petition you will help us to show politicians attending the meeting of CITES in March 2013 how adamant we all are that they should vote against any movement to legalise the sales of ivory in any form. We are aiming to secure 36,000 signatures before March 2013. You can help us by spreading the word to your friends and family. Engage with our social media campaigning and share the message to everyone you know to raise awareness that the ivory trade is a bigger problem now than ever. Time is running out. Visit www.iworry.org now to add your voice and Say No to Ivory.

The Rhino Truth

The poaching of rhinos, fuelled by the demand for their horns in the Far East, mistakenly viewed as a traditional cure-all, despite the fact that it is exactly the same substance as a fingernail, has reached crisis proportions and threatens the extinction of this ancient species. WWF declared the Javan rhino extinct in Vietnam in September, the Western Black Rhino extinct in the wild in November 2011 the Sumatran rhino almost certainly now extinct in Thailand, whilst between the months of January and October 2012 South Africa lost some 450 rhinos to sophisticated rhino poaching gangs, which involve white game ranchers, sports hunters, wild-life veterinarians and hospitality businessmen utilizing helicopters and immobilizing drugs. Worth more than the price of gold per ounce rhino horn has even been stolen from Museum exhibits in the U.K. and throughout Europe and all because of a mistaken myth. Here in Kenya rhinos have been disappearing quietly but rapidly with less than 500 individuals remaining country wide.

Going Global

The DSWT hosted several international celebrities during 2012. The Chinese NBA basketball star, Yao Ming visited the orphaned elephants at our Nairobi Nursery in August whilst championing the cause of elephants and other endangered species such as sharks in China. Yao Ming is much revered in China and hopefully his voice will be instrumental in changing attitudes. The well-known American rap-artist, Akon, also came to see the orphans, as did Chelsea Clinton who was filmed with the elephants for an American NBC Program, as well as a host of other celebrities and prominent figures who have all helped spread awareness about the Orphans' Project. The DSWT's fundraising "Harambee" Gala Dinner and Auction held in London on the

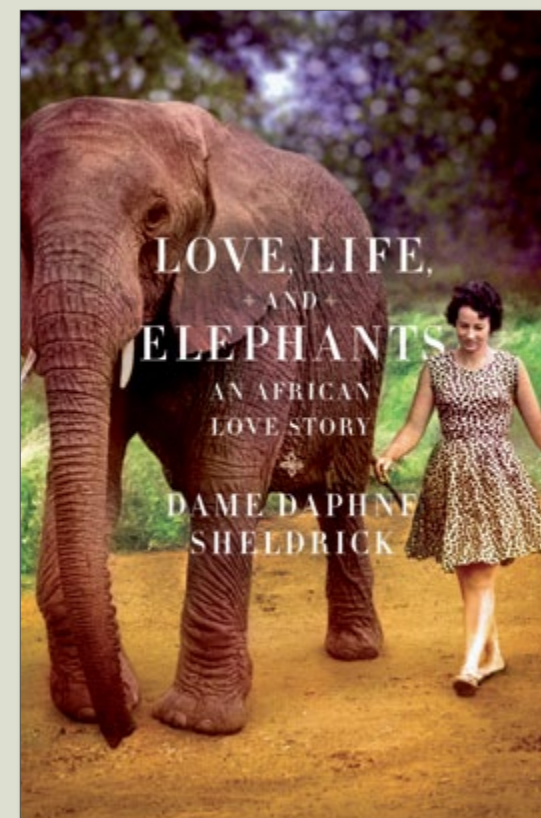


28th September, hosted by Rula Lenska and organized by our U.K. Charity, was a huge success. Many people travelled from far-off corners of the world in order to support this event, not least our U.S. Friends' Patron, Kristin Davis (star of Sex and the City) and many others who came from America, South America, Mexico and many European countries. An array of impressive auction pieces, most of which had been donated, raised over £100,000 for our conservation work on the night, a sum which will ensure that all of our vital projects continue.

By Dame Daphne Sheldrick

Love, Life & Elephants

Daphne's long awaited autobiography "An African Love Story – Love, Life & Elephants" having been edited down from the original 1,500 pages was published by Viking Penguin and launched in London in March 2012. This exciting event, which spread much needed awareness, entailed another daunting lecture for Daphne at the Royal Geographical Society, as well as TV and Press Interviews. The American launch under the reversed title "Love, Life & Elephants – An African Love Story" published by Farrar Strauss took place in May along with more interviews and a lecture at the New York Museum for Natural History. Daphne's book is to be translated into Mandarin and Cantonese for China and has been embraced by some 32 other countries to date, among them including unlikely places such as Korea, Slovakia and Russia so we hope that this will help spread the word and bring the natural world



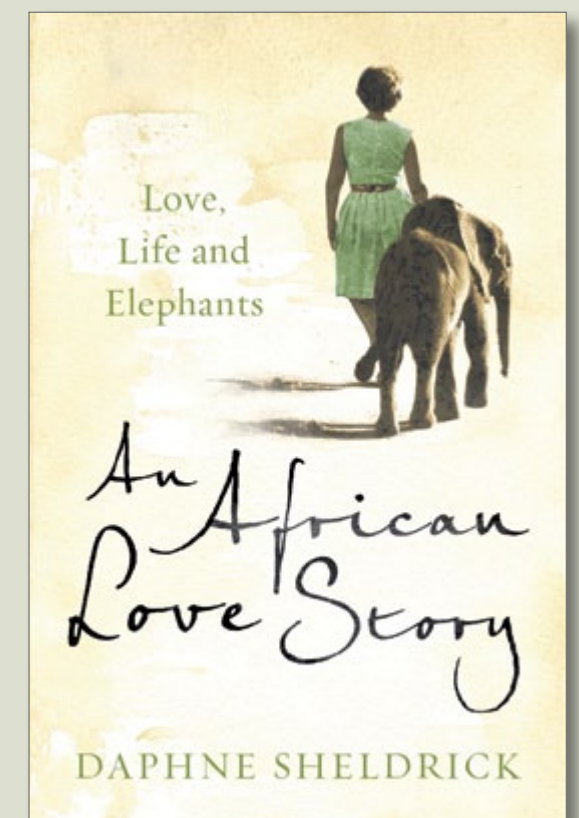
Yao Ming visits the DSWT Nursery

into the hearts of many people far removed. No one was more surprised than Daphne when the first English Edition of her book sold out within a week, and that it made it to the Best Seller list on Amazon and the New York Times. Supporters of the Trust were able to purchase a copy directly from the DSWT's UK Charity, the publishers having very generously agreed that the Trust purchase it at cost, so that the retail price could include all proceeds in support of the orphaned elephants. A further 3,500 copies were kindly flown to Kenya free of charge by British Airways for sale at the Nursery during the one hour a day that the Trust is open to the public between 11 a.m. and 12 noon, with all proceeds again benefiting the Orphans' Project.

Available in bookstores around the world Daphne's book can also be purchased through the DSWT's website:

www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

with proceeds going towards the Orphan's Project.

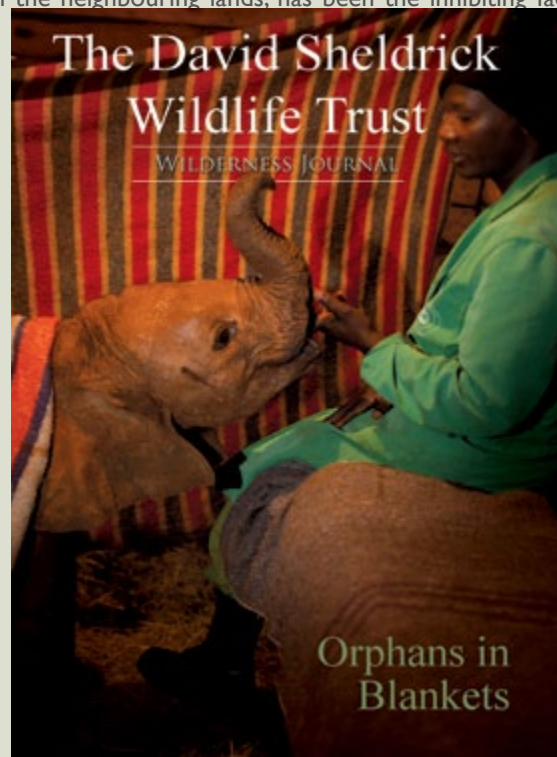




Nairobi National Park

Nairobi National Park hit the headlines when the Cabinet gave the Chinese the nod to construct a bypass through the Park rather than demolish illegal human settlements, which would have avoided having to allocate 120 acres of the Park in order to connect the Mombasa road to the Langata road leading on to Nakuru in the Rift Valley. This arbitrary decision was given without the usual environmental impact assessment study and caused quite an outcry within conservation circles causing the plans to be halted by the 'Friends of the Nairobi National Park' lobby group who sought the intervention of the National Environmental Tribunal accusing the Ministry of Roads and the National Environmental Management Authority of encroachment into the Park.

The spearing of some 10 Nairobi Park lions by Masai tribesmen in the neighbouring Kitengela dispersal area was another huge cause for concern during 2012, especially knowing that the lion population in Africa used to be estimated at 200,000 with beliefs now that only 30,000 individuals remain. Nairobi National Park used to be a microcosm of the Masai Mara, filled with migratory wildebeest, zebra, as well as Thomson's and Grants gazelles, with which the Masai pastoralists used to live in harmony alongside. It could be that again, but only if the Park were ring-fenced and re-stocked. Solio Ranch, which is half the size of Nairobi Park, is one such example, reflecting in miniature what the country used to be like, but political expediency, which favours the Masai landowners on the neighbouring lands, has been the inhibiting factor.



The DSWT Wilderness Journal

A new magazine-style website was launched during 2012 created to reveal stories and experiences from the DSWT's areas of operation and throughout Kenya, covering exciting, curious, strange, beautiful and traditional stories, which are captured, documented and shared by members of the DSWT team. With such demand from our supporters worldwide for more detailed stories from 'behind the scenes' of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, the Wilderness Journal is a wonderful addition to the Trust's main website, offering a deeper understanding of the projects, habitats, people and animals the Trust is dedicated to supporting and protecting. Following the themes of Nature, Culture and History, these monthly articles showcase stunning photography of amazing wildlife and tribal cultures throughout some of the most uniquely beautiful and environmentally-diverse



Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick with keeper Edwin Lusichi and the Nursery orphans

landscapes in the country. You can follow these stories at www.dswtwildernessjournal.com

Give a Gift

Already fostered an orphaned elephant or rhino? Looking for a new way to directly support the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's essential wildlife and habitat projects in Kenya? Then the DSWT's exciting new 'Make a Wish' gift-giving website is a wonderful way to make a donation towards what you or your loved ones feel most passionately about.

In response to requests from our global supporters to create an alternative way of supporting the Trust within its dedicated project areas, on top of our very successful orphan fostering program, a new gift-giving website has been designed allowing anyone to select a feel-good gift, which can be suitable for any budget and be chosen for any occasion. From giving the gift of milk to a baby elephant to equipping our anti-poaching teams with the

field kits they need, a variety of carefully selected gifts are available for selection, making a real difference to both the protection of wildlife and the support of communities in Kenya.

Please visit giftshop.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org to make a wish for the DSWT today by following our easy online gift selection process.



The Orphans' Project Overview

We began 2012 with 48 milk and Keeper-dependent elephant orphans, of which 15 infants were in the Nairobi Nursery, 17 at the Voi rehabilitation stockades having graduated from the Nairobi Nursery, and 16 based at the Ithumba rehabilitation stockades also having been moved from the Nursery to begin assimilation back into the wild elephant herds of Tsavo East National Park and a normal wild life again. 71 previous orphans had already accomplished that transition, six of whom that we know of having had wild-born calves; Lissa with 4, Emily with 1, Edie with 1, Mpenzi with 2, Mulika with 1 and Yatta with 1, all of who are being monitored throughout the year.

There has only been one translocation this past year, transferring Kasigau, Makireti and Ishanga from the Nairobi Nursery to the Ithumba Rehabilitation Stockades in Northern Tsavo East on the 17th August 2012 for the second stage of their journey back into the wild. Due to the absence of rain in Tsavo and the on-going drought conditions, the transfer of other older elephants from the Nursery to Tsavo was put on hold.



The Nursery Unit

Resident in the Nairobi Nursery at the beginning of 2012 were orphans Tano, Mutara, Turkwel, Shukuru, Sities, Makireti, Ishanga, Naipoki, Kainuk, Kilabasi, Kihari, Kasigau, Ishaq-B, Kithaka and Orwa. Kasigau, Makireti and Ishanga were moved to the Ithumba Rehabilitation Unit on the 17th August, 2012





Rearing the orphaned elephants is invariably a roller coaster of sadness and despair tempered by satisfaction and joy when one who arrives near dead, gradually heals and begins to play. However, when one of the older established Nursery residents who are much loved is suddenly unwell, everyone is un-nerved, for infant elephants are so fragile for the first 3 to 5 years of life. They can be fine one day, and gone the next. This year precious 3-year-old “Shukuru” who was extracted from a manhole on the Mombasa pipeline when just a few days old, fell into this category and was “dull” for many weeks. After medication and a change of milk formula she fortunately made a full recovery much to everyone’s delight. Another who caused us a great deal of concern was little Kithaka who came in new-born on the 20th November 2011, having been orphaned in the Imenti Forest near Meru. He is still known as our little “Bonsai” elephant, for he failed to grow as he should, suffering from a pancreatic enzyme deficiency that prevented the absorption of nutrients. Luckily, a visiting veterinarian identified this problem, and not a moment too soon, as by this stage Kithaka was almost dead. Since receiving Pancreatic enzymes in each milk feed he is at

last beginning to grow, but remains tiny for the age of 1 year. Nevertheless he makes up for his lack of size with personality and mischievousness and the calculating intellect of a yearling.



Angela Sheldrick



Sonje

7th February 2012

Female

Approx age on arrival; 1 year

- In the Galana Wildlife Conservancy abutting the Eastern boundary of Tsavo East National Park, a lone calf of approximately 1 year old was sighted alone on the 7th February 2012. It was again sighted alone by the Galana Conservancy Warden on the 11th February, it now being clear that this was a milk dependent orphan and as such has no chance of survival on its own. The Warden and his team monitored the calf all day, having reported its presence to the Senior Warden of Tsavo East National Park and the Trust's Voi Unit Elephant Keepers based at the Voi Elephant Stockades, communicating that a rescue was on the cards. The capture took place on the 11th and the orphan, a female calf, was too weak to put up much resistance. She had a huge hard swelling on the top joint of the right hind leg, possibly the result of a previous fracture that had healed. Two small scars at the site

of swelling indicated a possible arrow or spear wound, leaving the calf walking with a pronounced limp. It was clear that this was a very lucky little elephant to have been found before a hungry lion, who was roaming the area, made a meal of her, which undoubtedly would have happened had she not been rescued that day.

The Galana Conservancy is the home of the small Waliangulu tribe who are traditional Elephant Hunters, elephants interwoven into their tribal culture in the same way that the spearing of a lion marks the passage to warrior-hood for members of the Masai tribe. It was therefore decided by the Rescue team that the elephant orphan be named "Sonje", the Mliangulu word for "lame". Back at the Nursery, Mishak Nzimbi, was allotted the task of calming little Sonje, who was quite aggressive to begin with, persuading her to accept milk from a hand-held bottle, something that this Elephant Whisperer managed to accomplish before nightfall. She began taking her milk eagerly, but was riddled with stomach parasites, which necessitated a de-worming once she was a little stronger.



Murera

21st February 2012

Female

Approx age on arrival; 2½ years

- This 2½ years old female was spotted by the Manager of the Offbeat Safari Tented Camp on the 21st February, lying in grass in the Murera area of the Meru National Park, apparently incapacitated and unable to walk. The Camp Guides said that they had seen this orphaned elephant over the past few days and had reported its presence to the KWS Park authority. The Manager forwarded us a photograph of the elephant so that we could assess its approximate size and age and whether a rescue was possible. Having agreed to attempt a rescue with the help of some Rangers, he had managed to capture the injured elephant and drove it to the Meru Mulika Airstrip to await the arrival of the chartered Caravan Plane and by 7 p.m. that night the injured elephant was safely back in the Nairobi Nursery, but too aggressive to handle, despite being severely

incapacitated. She had obviously stood on poisoned spikes concealed on an elephant path which pierced clean through the sole of the right foreleg foot, and had a paralysed her right back leg as a result of what appeared to be a dislocated hip. We named her "Murera" and it was obvious that both she, and we, were in for a long haul for she was severely handicapped and in unbelievable agony as a result of a particularly brutal and cruel means of poaching not uncommon these days. However,

she took water, and throughout the night, a little milk, but collapsed and had to be put on life support during the afternoon of the 22nd which afforded us the chance to be able to take a closer look at the injured foot and to clean the sepsis from the deep holes in the sole, whilst packing the wounds with antibiotic ointment and green clay, and administering a long acting Penicillin injection. The veterinary prognosis was never encouraging, casting a shadow over whether this elephant would ever be able to lead a normal life again, because although the foot injury could be healed over time, the tendon, ligament and possible bone damage which left the back leg paralysed could be irreparable. Meanwhile all of the Nursery orphans came to her stockade door every day to give her rumbles of love and encouragement, which imparted the important will to live.



Kanjoro

20th March 2012

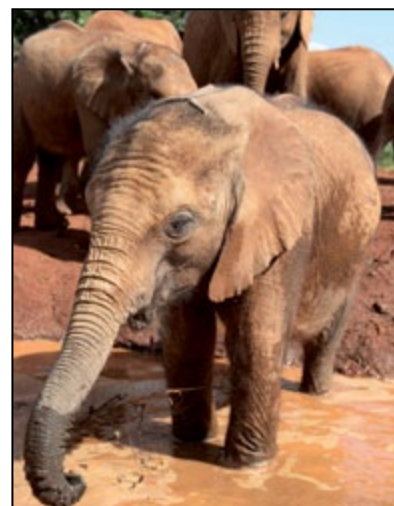
Male

Approx age on arrival; 20 months

- A lone male baby elephant aged about 18 months was spotted alone on Ol Malo Ranch by the Ranch's Samburu Scouts who reported its presence to the Ranch Owner/Manager, Colin Francombe. A Scout was then allotted the task of monitoring the calf to verify that it was, indeed, an orphan with no chance of rejoining its natural family. This man spent the next two days and nights diligently watching the elephant and verified that it was obviously an orphan, since it made no attempt to join up with passing wild elephant herds, and nor did the wild elephants make any attempt to make contact with it. The baby was also visibly fearful, most of its tail already having been bitten off by predators. It spent most of its time hiding in thick cover, obviously terrified of further predator attack. Being still milk dependent the orphan was

losing condition rapidly and becoming visibly weaker. It was likely to have been orphaned either through "problem animal control" when its mother and herd ventured onto neighbouring agricultural settlement, or else was a victim of poaching, which is especially rife in the adjoining tribal Pokot country.

The rescue team equipped with all the necessary paraphernalia and medication immediately set off by air from Wilson Airport in Nairobi heading to the Ol Malo Ranch airstrip, where a truck and helping hands were awaiting them so that they could be driven to the location of the orphaned calf. The calf was easily and very proficiently rescued thanks to so many willing helpers, whilst Keeper Amos was leading the team. By late evening the young bull was safely in a stable between Orphans Mutara and Ishanga, who eagerly extended their trunks to greet and comfort the new arrival, their close proximity having an instant calming affect on the newcomer, who was soon taking milk from our "Elephant Whisperer" (Keeper Mischak Nzimbi). He had the guts to actually jump into the stable with this wild orphan in order to feed it and after a bit of shoving and pushing, it downed the milk hungrily followed by two bottles of water and rehydrating electrolytes in quick succession. We would like to thank the Ol Malo Ranch owners and their Staff for the amazing cooperation they extended to our team, and also warmly congratulate the Scout who monitored this calf and saved its life. His vigilance kept hyaenas at bay and prevented them from inflicting more serious damage to this unfortunate orphan who was given the name "Kanjoro" – after the lugga in which he sheltered.



13th April 2012

Male

Approx age on arrival; 2 weeks

- Gunshots were heard during the evening of 13th April 2012 by the local community near Wamba in the Samburu tribal area of Northern Kenya. The next morning a severely wounded female elephant with a calf at foot was spotted in the area, with bullet wounds in the chest and front legs having rendered her so severely wounded that she was unable to even move. The matter was reported to a KWS patrol within the area who summonsed the KWSVet, Dr. Mutinda to come and assess the injured mother. It turned out that the female elephant's wounds were too severe for any hope of recovery, so having reported the matter to the Nairobi KWS Headquarters, it was decided she be euthanized, and the calf saved and sent to the Nursery in Nairobi National Park. The calf had its last feed of mother's milk at 9 a.m. before the cow was laid to rest. By 1.30 p.m. the Rescue Team had landed at the nearby Wamba Airstrip, and the calf, surrounded by a curious crowd of tribes-people, was loaded onto the plane and airlifted back to the Nursery, arriving in the afternoon. The baby, which was in good condition, was a 2 weeks old baby bull and was given the name "Barsilinga" after the area where his mother died, and from whence he was rescued.



Barsilinga



Balguda

22nd April 2012

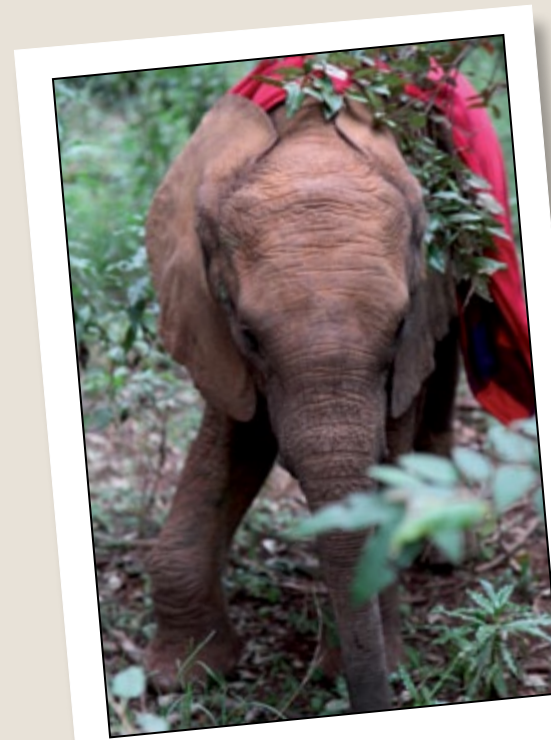
Male

Approx age on arrival; 6 - 7 months

- A lone male calf, aged approximately 6 - 7 months spotted by tourists wandering on its own below Aruba Dam in Tsavo East National Park, who was very vulnerable to attack from the lions who frequent the area, was rescued late during the evening of Saturday 21st April 2012. The baby spent the night at the Voi Stockades and was flown to the Nursery the next morning on Sunday 22nd April, 2012. Having taken milk, and appearing strong and in good condition, he was allowed out to join the 20 other Nursery elephants that same afternoon so that adjustments could be made to the sleeping arrangements. He was given the name "Balguda" - the name of an area of the Park not far from where he was rescued.



Mutura and Barsilinga

*Bomani*

20th July 2012

Male

Approx age on arrival; 1 year

- News was received from Tsavo that two orphaned elephant calves were in need of rescue simultaneously on the same day, Friday 20th July 2012. One was a lone calf of about 1 year sighted by the KWS fence maintenance team along a portion of the Nairobi-Mombasa road, and the other had been alone since the 18th July on Mgeno Ranch abutting Tsavo National Park. The one-year-old calf approached the KWS team working on the fence-line, desperate to attach itself to anything for company. The men continued with their work, but when they returned again in the evening, the baby elephant was still there and again approached them, trailing them back to their base camp. The men were not too comfortable about the baby following them, fearing that the mother might appear at any moment, but once back at camp, they offered the little elephant a bucket of water, which it emptied instantly, before lying down in an exhausted sleep right there beside their camp and the empty bucket. By now, it was beginning to get dark, and fearing predators, the maintenance team phoned the KWS Community Officer, who, in turn alerted the Trust's elephant keepers based at the Voi Stockades, that a rescue was needed that

night. Immediately the rescue team set out and they captured the orphaned calf 7.30pm. The calf was then driven to the Voi Stockades in the back of Joseph Sauni's Pickup where it hungrily took some formula milk and water, and where it was comforted by Kenia and Ndii, who imparted love and assurance. The calf was a male, very emaciated, thin and exhausted, obviously having been without his mother for several days and who had done a lot of walking since being orphaned.

Meanwhile, the other orphaned calf from the Mgeno Ranch had also been rescued, but died soon after arrival at the Voi Stockades. Having spent the night at the Voi Stockades, the yearling orphan (named "Bomani" the Swahili word for "in the compound") was airlifted to the Nairobi Elephant Nursery the following morning (21st July 2012) an event filmed by an NBC television team who were in Nairobi represented by Chelsea Clinton, filming both the orphaned elephants as well as needy human children in the slums.

*Kwale*

7th August 2012

Male

approx age on arrival; 10 months

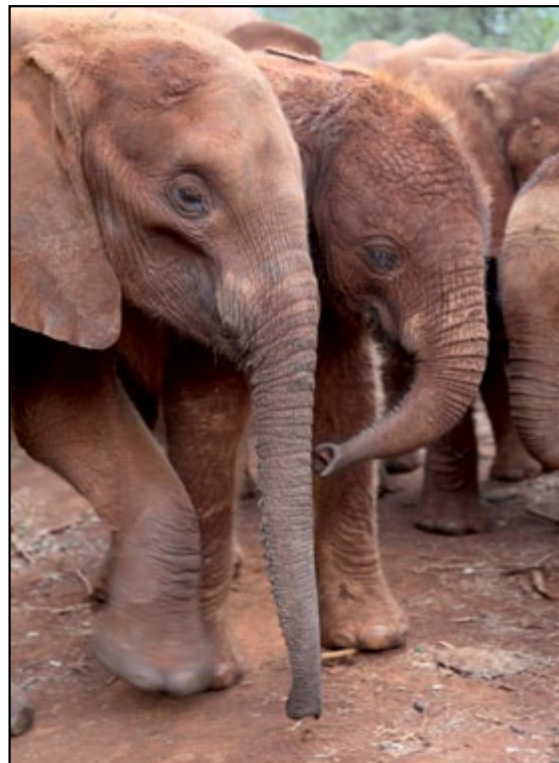
- Yet another orphan, aged approximately 10 months, likely also to have lost his mother to the ivory trade, originated from the Kwale area near the coastal Shimba Hills, was flown to the Nursery on the 7th, the same day that another orphan from Narok in the Masai Mara National Reserve also came in. Sadly, however, the Narok orphan died un-named soon after arrival. Little Kwale settled in quickly and was soon out and about with the other Nursery inmates.

21st August 2012

Male

Approx age on arrival; 7 months

- This orphan from Amboseli National Park came in on the 21st, a surprise, since we were told that he was partially "albino", fathered by a famous half albino Amboseli Bull who is well known to the Amboseli elephant researchers. The newcomer was indeed unusually pale in body colour, with blonde eyelashes, tail hairs, and pale amber coloured eyes. It is believed that his mother could have been a casualty of the reprisal killing of some 30 elephants along with buffalo and lions by the Masai community who were demanding a greater share of the revenue generated by the Park.



Faraja



Teleki

8th September 2012

Male

Approx age on arrival; 1½ years

- No less than 4 elephant orphan rescues took place during the first 8 days of September highlighting the extent of the poaching crisis. Out of these all but one were too far gone to retrieve, the only survivor being the 10 month old baby bull from Mt. Kenya given the name Teleki. He was flown to the Nursery on the 8th with a nasty machete gash on the shoulder, the result of having strayed onto community land. He owes his life to a member of the Bill

Woodley Mt. Kenya Trust who was able to keep away his attackers. Not surprisingly the baby was extremely aggressive upon arrival, bent on protecting himself from further injury at the hands of "the enemy" so it took the Keepers two full days to calm him down sufficiently to accept milk.

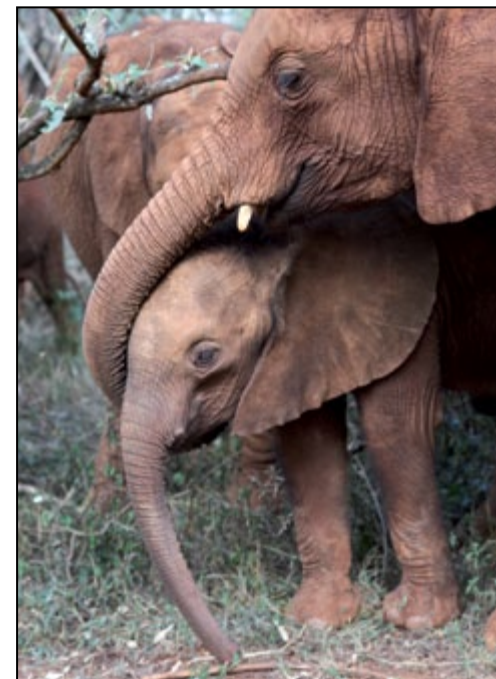


30th September 2012

Male

Approx age on arrival; 7 months

- Another poaching victim from the Tsavo Ranches was flown to the Nairobi Nursery on the 30th September who was calm enough to be allowed out to join the others on the 2nd October. He has befriended other newcomers such as Kwale, Teleki and Faraja, all of whom like to distance themselves a little from the main herd, in order to spend quiet time remembering and grieving their lost loved ones. This is common practice amongst newcomers who come in old enough to understand the circumstances of their being orphaned.



Ngasha



Narok

3rd October 2012

Female

Approx age on arrival; 18 months

- Believed to be yet another victim of poaching, this orphan was sighted during the afternoon of the 3rd October 2012 when, desperate for company, it appeared within a local settlement surrounding Narok town. At 7 a.m. the next morning the baby wandered into a homestead and the owner immediately reported its presence to the Kenya Wildlife Service personnel based at Narok, who contacted the Trust's Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit. Assisted by local people and with aerial support in the sky, the Mobile Veterinary Unit managed to locate the calf in thick bush during the afternoon, when it was successfully captured and driven to the nearest Airstrip from whence it was airlifted to the Nairobi Nursery, arriving at 4.30 p.m. The female calf, estimated to be about 18 months old, was named "Narok", and was out and about with the other Nursery elephants by the 10th, befriended by Naipoki, Kainuk, Ishaq-B and Turkwel.

9th October 2012
Male
Approx age on arrival; 3 months

- On the Western side of Amboseli National Park, about 1km from the Tanzanian border, there is the Lemoyian well where the resident Masai cattle herders water their livestock. A commotion at the well heard during the night prompted an investigation at daylight, showing where a mother elephant was desperately trying to extract her calf who had fallen down the well. The matter was reported to the Amboseli Research Station but when herds of cattle began coming to drink at 8 a.m., the mother elephant fled, abandoning her calf. Officials from the Amboseli Research Station assisted by community members managed to extract the calf, which was driven to the Amboseli Park Airstrip, from whence it was airlifted back to the Nairobi Nursery. The calf arrived in the Nursery at about 5 p.m. on the 9th October 2012 – a baby bull of about 3 months old, who has been named “Lemoyian”.



Lemoyian



Photograph by Nick Brandt

Quanza

30th October, 2012
Female
Approx age on arrival; 1 year

- In the general area known as Lemomo near the international border between Tanzania and Kenya, three of Amboseli’s famous female elephants were gunned down by Tanzanian gun-toting poachers on the 28th October 2012. Tanzania is currently one of the main hotspots of poaching in Africa, where there is evidence of collusion between armed Tanzanian poachers and tribesmen in neighbouring Kenya who pass on information about the movement of the famous Amboseli elephant herds. Traditionally, Amboseli elephants migrate into the Kilimanjaro forests within Tanzania and have done so since time memorial, an ancient migratory route firmly implanted within their mysterious genetic memory. The Amboseli population is the only elephant population in Africa where some elephant families remain naturally intact, led by old, wise matriarchs,

such as Qumquat, born in 1968, who grew up to become the leader of the researchers’ Q Elephant family. She carried distinctive beautiful long, thin tusks, and had kept her family safe for over 4 decades.

Her baby, Quanza, born on the 12th October 2011, was the first calf to be born following the devastating drought of 2009 which took such a heavy toll of wildlife in the area, her name being the Swahili word for “first”. She was located and captured during the afternoon of the 30th October, 2012 and flown back to the Nairobi Nursery that evening, arriving after dark, still in good health, but understandably very traumatized and “wild”, understanding full well who murdered her elephant mother and other family members. She probably even witnessed her mothers face hacked in half and her beautiful long thin tusks being carried off by the thugs who killed her loved ones. It took her a few days to understand that not all humans are evil, and in this she has been helped by the other 25 Nursery elephant orphans who have been through the same loss, not least little “albino” Amboseli baby, “Faraja” who will impart to her that she is fortunate to be amongst those few have been rescued and who have found an alternative family and given a second chance of life.

Qumquat was one of three other female family members that died that tragic day, the others being her daughters Quantina and Quayee. Just a few days previously the family had been photographed together, calm and trusting of their human admirers. Within the family were three calves, but only the youngest, Quanza was found still alive, standing beside the body of her dead mother.



Mishak with Barsilinga



Some of the Nairobi Nursery team

2012 Nursery Deaths

F Moju A five-month old calf rescued on the 27th January from Kora National Reserve from an area known as “Moju” following rampant poaching in the area. This calf was minus its tale upon arrival at the Nursery and had been severely bitten around the hindquarters by hyaenas. She was also emaciated and weak, having been without milk for some time, not helped by having had cows milk before arrival. Despite our best efforts we simply could not stem the diarrhea, and the calf died during the morning of 29th January.

F Lemek A 2 month old baby retrieved from the Masai Mara National Reserve on the 28th January, who, from the start, proved extremely problematical to feed. During the week she was with us we simply could not get a sufficient quantity of milk down her to sustain life. She became progressively weaker and died at 5.30 a.m. on the morning of the 5th February 2012.

F Lumo A 1 month old female calf orphaned near Salt Lick Lodge, Taita Hills Conservancy on the 12th February, who had obviously been without her mother for sometime, and came in severely malnourished and with life threatening diarrhea. It is likely she was fed cows milk. She died on the 18th February 2012.

F Dida Although not entirely unexpected, the death of 5 year old Dida on the 10th March 2012, who had been reared from the age of just 1 month was a particularly painful loss for us. This calf never thrived having been transferred to the Voi Unit from the Nursery with edema of the underbelly indicating a possible heart condition. The post-mortem verified this suspicion, but she also had malformed lungs that lacked the capacity to cope as the calf grew and needed more oxygen to maintain health.

F Kerio An 18 month old female rescued from the Kerio Valley, who came in severely emaciated and in a near death condition on the 31st March. She was put on a drip before even being loaded into the plane, but died in the Nursery soon after arrival.

F Maralal A 2-3 month old calf rescued from a well in the Karisia Forest near Maralal on Easter Monday 9th April 2012, who came

in with her digestive system in turmoil due to having ingested mud and dirty water, her condition exacerbated by teething. She died on the 24th April 2012, having succumbed to diarrhea, which left her very weak, despite being put on oral antibiotic and life supporting drip.

M Ndondo A yearling calf, obviously another poaching orphan, rescued from Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy having come to a remote manyatta on the 26th June, trailed by hyaenas bent on making a meal of him in his emaciated and weakened condition. Having been without milk for weeks this calf died soon after arrival.

M Lorian Rescued from Simba Farm near the Rumuruti forest during the evening of the 24th June 2012. Estimated to be about 2 weeks old. He was a robust, large calf, and it never occurred to us at the time that he might be colostrum deficient. He died on the 11th July 2012, having passed watery stools from the onset, which no medication could correct. He may not have benefited from his mother's first colostrum milk and was immune deficient as a result.

M Un-named Rescued from the Kilabasi area on 8th September 2012 from a poaching attack. The Mobile Veterinary Unit removed an arrow and treated the baby at the Voi Stockades, but the poison had already taken affect, and the calf died a few hours later.

M Un-named On the 8th September a calf was reported near Lake Jipe. The calf was then carried back to a Ranger's base camp where they gave it water, which revived it a little but it was extremely feeble. It was held at the Ranger Camp overnight awaiting the rescue plane, and was barely alive by morning, so was put on life support for the flight back to Nairobi. There it never regained consciousness, and died several hours later.

M Nyika Rescued from Taita Ranch abutting Tsavo East in July 2012, this calf came in extremely emaciated and grief stricken. He never thrived from the start, even though blood tests revealed no untoward symptoms

to suggest any infection. He died very suddenly (and unexpectedly) during the early hours of the 20th September 2012 at a time when we were hopeful of his recovery.

M Un-named A yearling poaching victim from the Wamba Area of Laikipia, rescued by the community, who sadly died before the rescue plane had even taken off from Nairobi.

F Miasenyi A 2 – 3 year old poaching victim, rescued from the Ranches peripheral to Tsavo in the Miasenyi area near Kilabasi on the 20th September 2012 and taken directly to the Voi Stockades. She died a week later.

F Selengai Orphaned at the tender age of just 1 week in 2003 she spent her first two years of fragile infancy in the Nairobi Nursery. She was transferred to the Ithumba Rehabilitation Stockades from whence she made the transition to a wild life as a member of Yatta's ex-orphan herd. This precious orphan fell victim to poisoned spear poaching on, or around the 2nd October 2012 when she was 9 years old. Her cruel death has been a particularly painful and bitter blow to the Trust Orphans' Project, illustrating all too vividly the threat Kenya's elephants are under during the current poaching pandemic.

M Kinango This unexpected death on October 15th left us all gutted. Having lost body condition during the teething process, Kinango was again unwell on the 3rd, despite having managed to push out his first 4 baby molars. The post-mortem examination indicated a mild infection of the gut, which, according to the vet, should not have been sufficiently severe to cause death. We can only assume that his immune system had been so compromised by the teething process that it could not cope.

M Rukinga
Orphaned on Rukinga Ranch abutting Tsavo this baby came in healthy at about 1

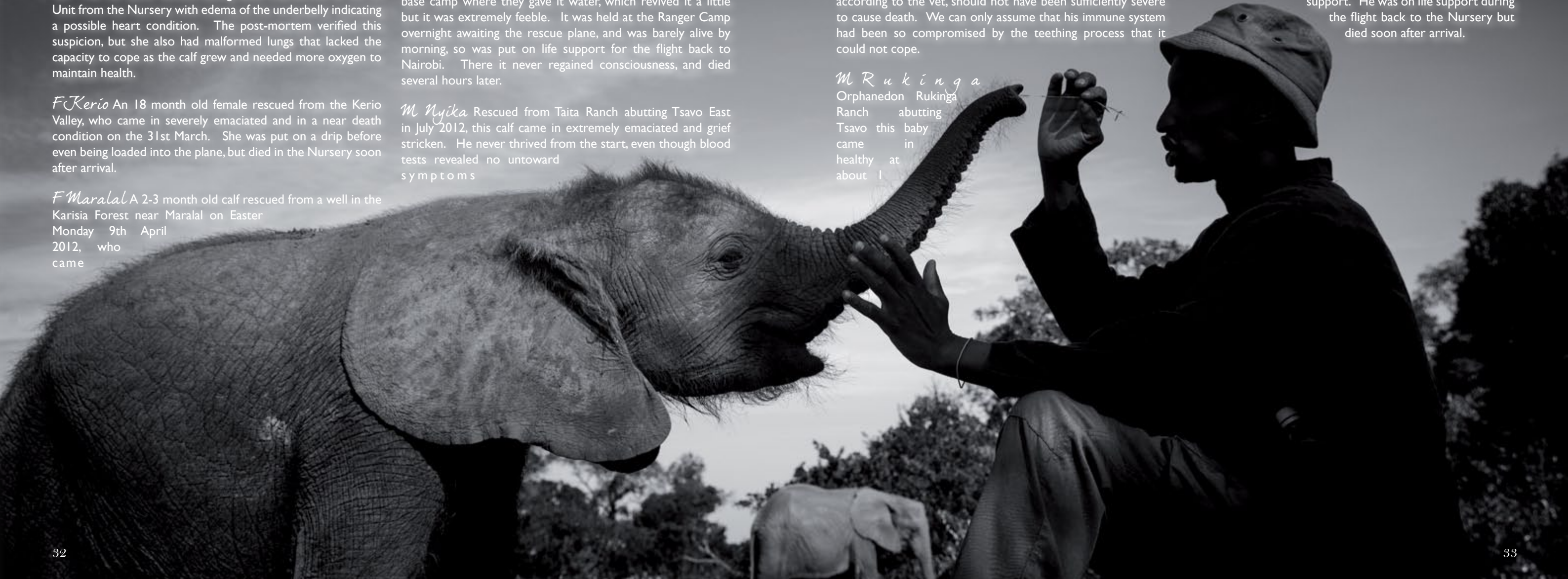
month old and thrived in the Nursery for a week or two until his teething began, which triggered all the usual symptoms – fever, lethargy and diarrhea. He continued to deteriorate, despite the presence of an Onderstepoort trained veterinarian working full time on him. He rallied briefly, but then died on the 6th November 2012.

M Tikondo This Amboseli orphan, born on the 27th October 2012 and rescued from the Kimana Swamp on the 17th November was the baby of the daughter of the famous Matriarch known as Theodora. The calf had obviously been without milk for some time. Thereafter we simply could not get control of the diarrhea that always accompanies the teething process. He died on the 28th November 2012.

M Oza A young bull of about 17 months rescued on the 18th December 2012 who arrived in a state of advanced emaciation having been without mother's milk for far too long for us to be able to save. He collapsed soon after arrival, rallied briefly after life supporting drip, but died 2 days later.

F Un-named A female calf of about 2 years in the Masai Mara who had been seen alone around one of the lodges for the past 2 weeks. She was rescued on the 21st December, but died soon after arrival – again too far gone for us to be able to retrieve.

M Un-named A male calf of about 2 years old from Borana Ranch in Northern Kenya rescued on the 28th December, again who was already so enfeebled that he could not stand without support. He was on life support during the flight back to the Nursery but died soon after arrival.



The Voi Unit

Based at the Voi Stockades at the beginning of 2012 were ex-Nursery Orphans Shimba, Wasessa, Mzima, Lesanju, Lempaute, Sinya, Taveta, Tassia, Kenia, Dida, Ndii, Emsaya, Kivuto as well as Layoni, Rombo and Dabassa who were moved to Voi in December 2011.



Layoni, Rombo and Dabassa, settled in well and at the beginning of 2012 enjoyed a lot of interaction with the Voi ex-orphans under the leadership of Emily, who visited the Voi Stockades frequently, as did wild elephants, when the adjacent area remained lush following reasonable rains at the end of 2011. At the beginning of the year Emily's group had recruited into their unit a young teenaged bull, who, according to the Keepers, was gentle and "polite" and demonstratively fond of Emily's wild-born calf, "Eve" (who will be 4 years old in December 2012) as well as Edie's first wild born baby named "Ella" (now 2 and a half years old). Like the Ithumba Unit's young, these Voi Unit wild-born babies are never short of caring ex-orphan nannies relieving the young mothers of a close caring headache.

Also in the area, and returning less frequently than Emily's Unit, was the now wild unit of ex-orphans Lissa and Mpenzi, both of whom used to be part of Eleanor's original unit, who never passed through the Nairobi Nursery. Both now had their own wild-born family and formed a separate group to that of Emily. When Mpenzi, appeared at the beginning of the 2012 she was obviously heavily pregnant with her second calf, having previously given birth to little "Asante", a female born in 2008 after her firstborn had been lost to lions in 2006. Mpenzi gave birth to a baby girl on the 20th April 2012, whom we named "Mpia", and who is a great delight to all of the Keepers and a beautiful new addition to the Voi family.

A happy event in March 2012 was a visit from two of Emily's Big Boys, best friends Solango and Burra who turned up unexpectedly to join the juniors as they browsed the slopes of Mazinga Hill. It was Burra who escorted Solango back to the Stockades last year after breaking his leg, and who kept in touch with him during his long period of convalescence. It was wonderful to see him now completely healed. The two ex-orphans spent time with the juniors before heading to the Stockade water trough for a drink.

The Voi Unit dependent orphans and their Keepers found themselves in a serious situation at the end of June when they were ambushed on the western slopes of Mazinga hill by seven very aggressive lions, who chased off the men and surrounded the elephants, attempting to isolate one from the main group. This is a tactic used by opportunistic lions in Tsavo who are bigger and more aggressive than their savannah peers and quite used to targeting young elephants lacking adequate protection from a number of adults. Nor are they averse to nabbing the odd human as well. Very fortunately and possibly thanks to Wasessa who as a Tsavo orphan was rescued from that very area, and could have been taught what to do and what not to

do when confronted by lions, the orphans did not break ranks, but instead gathered fearfully together in a tight circle confronting their would-be killers. Meanwhile, the Keepers raced back to the Stockades in order to return by vehicle, fortunately arriving in time to avert a tragedy. Using the vehicle they managed to chase off the lions but both men and elephants alike were left extremely shaken, the elephants trembling for hours afterwards and very lucky to have all escaped unscathed.

July was a very busy month for the Voi Elephant Keepers, who were called upon in rapid succession to rescue 4 orphaned elephant calves from the Ranches abutting Tsavo that had degenerated into an elephant-killing field. Armed Somali herdsmen/poachers began targeting the elephants on these Ranches to avenge the fact that KWS had again attempted to expel their livestock illegally grazing in the Park.

By August and September the Park was parched and most of the elephant herds, including the ex-orphans were noticeably absent, having left the Park boundary, whilst hordes of cattle still illegally dominated permanent water sources; ironically the waterholes fed by windmills installed by the DSWT, not for cattle, but for the elephants. Of the ex-orphan unit only Tsavo showed up briefly towards the end of the month, now an 11 year old Big Boy with sizeable tusks, who was last seen with the family unit of Lissa and Mpenzi. In view of what was taking place in and around Tsavo in terms of poaching, it was also an enormous relief when the Big Boy of Emily's Unit, 11 year old Big Boy Laikipia, turned up at the Voi Stockades on the 12th September followed on the 14th by most of Emily's unit, minus only three Bulls, namely Burra, Solango and Siria.

In November, the smallest member of the Voi Unit, two year old "Panda", rescued from Mgeno Ranch in July, who bypassed the Nursery to remain at the Voi Stockades to complete her milk dependency, began to reveal tell-tale signs of ill-health, including isolating herself from the others, opting out of joining them in the noon mudbath, and generally looking lethargic and lagging behind the others on their way out to browse. From past experience we have learnt that these are all indications of chronic malfunction of one of the major body organs and when her hind legs began to swell we resorted to a long course of injectable penicillin as well as a change of milk. Thankfully Panda has recovered and is making steady progress, growing in weight and strength.

Dida's Story

Dida had long been a frail member of the Voi keeper-dependent unit with whom all the older females fully empathized, obviously aware of her condition, which the vets thought must be a heart problem. It was touching to see how they all went out of their way to take it in turns to keep her company and ensure that she was comforted and always protected from the playful exuberance of the boys. Dida eventually passed away during the early hours of the 10th of March, and although not entirely unexpected, her death was nevertheless a painful loss for both her elephant friends and the human family who had loved and nurtured her from the age of just 1 month, when she came to the Nursery as an orphan having been extracted from a manhole on the Mzima-Mombasa pipeline. The Keepers quietly removed her inert body the moment she died so as not to overly distress her elephant friends when daylight broke. Perhaps it would have been better to leave it there for closure, because all the orphans searched for her for days afterwards. Dida graduated from the Nursery to the Voi Rehabilitation Unit in May 2010, but never grew as she should, remaining so stunted that she could have been mistaken for a calf of one of the larger elephants who were, in fact, younger or of a similar age. The post-mortem undertaken on her body verified what was suspected - a defective heart, but also damaged lungs that lacked the capacity to sustain the health of a growing elephant. When major body organs fail, and do not respond to medication, there is not much we can do about it, other than give the patient lots of loving tender care during life and a peaceful and comfortable end surrounded by love. Ourselves, the Keepers and Dida's foster-parents were deeply saddened at her passing, but could take comfort knowing that she enriched the lives of so many followers all over the world and at least was granted some life, which was happy, free, and amongst friends who empathized with her and went out of their way to care for her at all times.



Roan Carr-Hartley with a young Dida



Treating Ndara

Ndara's Story

There was no sign of Emily's ex-orphan group during the month of March having obviously moved further afield with their wild friends to access better browse. However light showers of rain at month end brought them back briefly, and amongst them was 13 year old ex-orphan Ndara who had three poisoned arrows embedded in her body, one of which had penetrated deep into the joint of one front foot leaving her very lame.

Dr Poghorn, the vet attached to the Trust's Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, was summonsed to sedate her in order to remove the arrows and treat the wounds, but 10 days later Ndara returned to the Stockades limping heavily, her front foot hugely swollen. The vet suggested that if possible she be monitored, but the Keepers could not find her the next day, nor for several days thereafter until she came back alone voluntarily on the 28th of March, this time barely able to even walk. She was given a hand-out of Lucerne and monitored by the Keepers overnight having been told that the next day we would try and get a vet down to treat her. It so happened that an experienced international vet just happened to be visiting the Trust and with a Nairobi based KWS vet to accompany him, they both flew to Voi in a chartered aircraft, armed with all the specific medication needed to immobilize Ndara again and treat what was obviously a serious joint injury and bone infection. All this was accomplished, and once the injured joint had been thoroughly cleaned and packed with antibiotic ointment and green clay, and after being given an injectable anti-inflammatory and long acting antibiotic, she was successfully revived and ushered back into the enclosure that had housed Solango when he returned with a broken back leg. The veterinary prognosis was gloomy since the poisoned arrow had seriously compromised the joint but mercifully Ndara's foot improved visibly over the ensuing weeks and months while she enjoyed careful nursing, cut browse and extra supplements, and more importantly the company of the junior group who enjoyed interacting with her before going out every morning. After a month she was able to move beyond her enclosure and browse around the stockade compound, putting herself back in for the nights, until she made the decision she was fit and healthy enough to return to the wild.



Ex-orphans visit the Voi stockades



School kids visit the project



The ex-orphans return to visit Voi stockades



The Voi stockades



Shimba



Wild elephants near Voi



Burra rests his trunk on little Dida



Lissa with three of her wild born young



Some of the Voi Unit dependant orphans



Joseph Sauni with Emily



Shira left of frame with Lempaute

Shira's Story

Another event worthy of note during 2012 was the reappearance of orphan Shira, who joined a wild herd soon after being transferred to the Voi Unit from the Nairobi Nursery, and who had not been seen for several years. As the orphans were approaching their mudbath venue, a 4–5 year old female elephant ran out of a passing wild herd, instantly joining the orphans amidst great excitement. The Keepers surmised that this could only be Shira, because the newcomer mingled happily with the orphans, although she now appeared wary of the Keepers after living as a wild elephant for several years and having spent only a short time at the Nairobi Nursery. Lesanju and Sinya were not best pleased by her unexpected return, obviously fearing that being older she might usurp the leadership role. As of old, Shira walked back to the stockades with the juniors and went in without hesitation which convinced the Keepers that it could only be her, even though a fondness for the human Keepers was absent and she was careful to keep in the midst of the other elephants in order to shield herself from human contact. After a few days she re-joined her wild herd again, which just happened to be passing nearby, the Keepers were secretly relieved, no longer comfortable and confident with a larger and wilder Shira in their midst! The wild herd, and especially one youngster to whom she was probably a nannie, welcomed her return as enthusiastically as the Keepers welcomed her departure!



Voi orphans



Playing with Joseph

Voi Rescue Stories

An orphan named Talio was the first calf to be rescued by the Voi Keepers during the month of July 2012; the two year old was immediately sent to the Nairobi Nursery for care and recuperation but sadly passed away in July.

The second and third rescues conducted by the Voi unit were in July and remarkably both were on the very same day. Bomani was rescued late in the evening by the Voi Keepers, whilst another older orphan named Panda was taken into their care earlier on in the day. Bomani spent one night in the Voi Stockades before being flown to Nairobi as it was too late to send a plane to rescue him. He is still at the Nursery in Nairobi and is in good health, enjoying his newfound adopted family of Keepers and orphans.

After the above missions, a 4th calf was rescued in August by the Voi keepers and transferred to the Nairobi Nursery, having been aged at approximately 6 months. This orphan was named Nyika and died after some time at the Nursery. The month of September witnessed three orphan rescues in Voi. On the 6th of September the Voi unit rescued an orphan

from the Kilabasi area, which had severe arrow wounds. She was captured and taken to Voi stockades and treated by the Tsavo Mobile Vet Unit, but sadly the un-named calf succumbed to the effects of the Akokanthera arrow poison which had killed her mother. On the 20th of September the Voi keepers rescued a 2-3 year old female orphan called Miasenyi who sadly died one week after her rescue, and on the 30th of September the Keepers rescued Ngasha who was flown to Nairobi and has recovered successfully and is doing well.



Talio

2nd August 2012

Female

Approx age on arrival; 2 years

-A lone elephant calf of approximately 2 years old had been seen by members of the local community of Mgeno Ranch abutting Tsavo. It was quite obviously a poaching orphan who had been without its mother and milk for some time, for the slaughter of elephants on the ranches during August had been in reprisal for driving out Somali livestock illegally grazing the Park. The community, who are not known to be ele-friendly, and were fearful of the proximity of the calf, called the KWS Community Officer who alerted our Voi Keepers that a rescue was needed but by the time the rescue team arrived, the calf had retreated into thick bush. Having searched for two hours, the rescue had to be called off, as it was getting dark. On the 2nd August the lone calf reappeared again, and was captured by the Community Scouts to await the arrival again of the Trust's Voi Rescue Team who had again been alerted.

The calf was a female, of about 2 years old, very thin and weak and in a state of collapse by the time the rescuers arrived. She had to be put on a life supporting Dextrose and Saline drip for the journey back to Voi but was strong enough upon arrival at the Voi Stockades to be able to stand supported when she took milk and rehydrants. She was given the name "Panda" to identify the specific place from whence she was rescued. It was decided that she remain at the Voi Stockades.



Panda



The Ithumba Unit

The still milk and keeper-dependent orphans based at the Ithumba Stockades in the Northern Area of Tsavo East at the beginning of 2012 were Sabachi, Kibo, Kilaguni, Chaimu, Suguta, Tumaren, Kandecha, Murka, Kitirua, Naisula, Chemi Chemi, Melia, Kalana, Ololoo and Olare. Kasigau, Makireti and Ishanga were moved to Ithumba from the Nairobi Nursery on the 17th August 2012.



Wild born babies Mwende and Yetu

Abundant rain towards the end of 2011 revitalized the aridity of another long dry season in the Northern Area of Tsavo, transforming the countryside into a veritable Garden of Eden, resplendent with flowers, butterflies, creepers and every shade of green in Nature's palette. The Orphans' artificial mudbath was also transformed into a mini lake in which even the wild ex-orphans and their wild elephant friends could submerge entirely. Younger elephants for whom it was suddenly too deep, enjoyed practicing their swimming prowess, and all elephants in the area were happy to get together to meet family members and friends. The wet seasons in Tsavo are party-time for the elephants and the marked contrast between the wet and dry seasons is a mind-blowing miracle testament to the powers of recovery.

It was a wonderful celebration for us on New Year's Day, welcoming the onset of 2012 as spectators at the noon mudbath when all the ex-orphans of Yatta's now "wild" unit, including Mulika and her wild-born baby "Mwende", turned up along with their wild friends to join the Keeper-dependent junior group at their noon milk and mudbath venue. It was an eye-opener for us when tiny Mwende, (Mulika's baby born on the 6th November 2011) swam proficiently around a sea of adult elephant bodies, closely guarded by her mother and ex-orphan nannies, Kinna, Wendi and Selengai. The events of New Year's day were an auspicious start to 2012 which would unfold as a very challenging year as the green bounty of the wet season turned to autumn colours sooner than usual and the trees and shrubs began to shed their leaves reverting to dormancy in order to survive until rains again revived them.

On the 19th of January the keepers noted that Yatta, along with Kinna, Mulika and her calf, plus Selengai (Yatta's favourite) and Makena were missing from the ex-orphan splinter group that returned, noting also that those that did turn up that day appeared unusually detached from the junior keeper-dependent group, despite spending some 2 hours pottering around the stockade compound. It was almost as though they were awaiting the arrival of others. The next morning – the 20th - all the ex-orphans

came to the Stockade compound early at 5.30am, and as daybreak lit the sky the keepers were enthralled to see a tiny new-born calf in amongst a sea of elephant legs. Yatta's new baby had arrived at last, probably born the day before when she and some nannies were absent. Like Mulika, she had brought the new-born back to the stockade compound to show her human family of keepers. The new baby was surrounded on that day by some 60 other elephants, all the excited ex-orphans, all the Keeper-dependent youngsters who also homed in to see the latest arrival, plus many wild friends who kept their distance, taking advantage of a chance to take a drink at the stockade water trough, where several bulls had also gathered. The baby was another little girl whom we named "Yetu" (meaning "Ours" in Swahili), born after a 23 month gestation, as opposed to Mulika's 21 months.

It was interesting that later on in the year a totally wild mother brought her newborn baby to the stockades, ex-orphans Wendi and Sidai attending the baby as nannies. Those of us who know elephants intimately know full well that this wild mother must have been reassured by the ex-orphans that the stockade water trough was a safe place to drink and that the Keepers, unlike other humans this wild elephant had so far known, could be trusted. This is touching evidence yet again that elephants can communicate sophisticated messages to one another.

By mid-February all natural waterholes in the Northern Area had dried-up and the Ithumba ex-orphans, plus growing numbers of wild elephants, were returning daily to the stockades to drink from the stockade water trough. Included now amongst these were several female cow units with their young. Even though the borehole that serves the KWS compound and orphan stockades had been re-drilled after partially collapsing, the demand on the trough soon began to out-strip the capacity of the borehole, so the Trust's large water-bowser had to swing into action. This ferried water from a newly constructed concrete tank on the slopes of Ithumba Hill established to serve the Ithumba Camp. The wild elephants soon fully understood the role of the Trust's water bowser, regarding it as a valued "friend" since it refilled the stockade water trough so regularly, which was usually drained during the night.

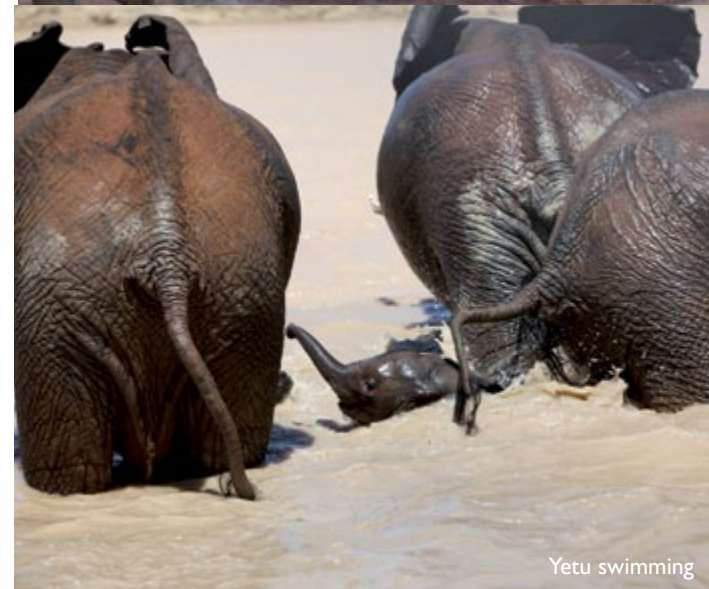
The anticipated rain during the so-called "long rains" of April/May (which are only ever "long" at higher altitudes and always short over Tsavo) failed almost completely but for one two-inch storm that fell over the entire Park, with no follow-up. When May turned into June, we knew that we were facing yet another drought in Tsavo, since the next rains were not expected until November and the poaching of elephants for ivory was already a serious threat which would undoubtedly escalate, since the lack of rainfall affected the food source of humans.



Wild bulls visit Ithumba stockades



Taru Carr-Hartley with Nasalot



Yetu swimming



Ithumba orphans



The bowser delivers precious water to Ithumba orphans



Mulika with Mwende



Ithumba orphans



Benjamin with Ithumba orphans



Some of milk-dependant Ithumba orphans taking their mid-day feed



*Mulika and Mwende
Return for Help*

In May Mulika and her baby were amongst all the ex-orphans who came with some wild friends to join the Juniors at their mudbath and it was then that the Keepers noticed that little “Mwende” looked dull and had lost body condition and also that Mulika’s breasts appeared to have shrivelled. Concluding that her milk might be failing they reported the matter to us in Nairobi and it was organized that supplements be flown to Ithumba in an attempt to stimulate Mulika’s lactation. The next day she brought her ailing baby back to the stockades and went in to feast on the dairy cubes and Lucerne supplements, which had been flown in the previous day. Taking her cue from the mother, even little Mwende began hoovering up the cubes. It was touching that Yatta, her baby and the entire ex-orphan herd turned up that afternoon and were particularly attentive to Mulika and the baby, taking the two off with them when they departed. However, Mulika and Mwende were back in the evening, going straight into the stockade to enjoy the supplements, which became a daily routine. Little Mwende soon recovered her strength and in the process became accustomed to the Keepers, enjoying chasing the wheelbarrow as it was propelled around the yard and playing touch and run with Benjamin for whom she developed a special fondness.

An Elephant Move

When the specially designed elephant-moving truck carrying Makireti, Ishanga and Kasigau drew into the Ithumba compound soon after 10am on the 17th August, sixty seven highly charged elephants were counted milling around the stockade compound. There were wild elephants drinking at the stockade water trough, others awaiting their turn, all the ex-orphans plus their wild attachments, all of them having mysteriously anticipated this event as they habitually do, plus all the junior keeper-dependent orphans who had returned especially so that the new arrivals could be absorbed into their group. It was an Elephant Welcome that overwhelmed poor Makireti the moment she stepped out. She ran around bellowing fearfully, trailed closely by Wendi, Lualeni, Kinna and a host of other ex-orphan females bent only on comforting her, but whose attentions she and the other two newcomers found daunting, as did the Nairobi Keepers, who made themselves scarce. Ishanga and Kasigau had been orphaned older than Makireti, and obviously remembered their previous wild life more clearly, because they soon settled, and were even sufficiently confident to push in amongst wild bulls drinking at the stockade trough. Once things had calmed down, Lualeni and Rapsu joined the Keepers in escorting the new arrivals out to browse nearby with the Junior group and remained with them until it was time for them to return to the stockades for the night. There the three newcomers faced several more hurdles – initially to familiarize themselves with the live hot wires protecting the night stockades and secondly to become accustomed to the heat of Tsavo, having come from cooler climates.



Makireti and Ishanga

By month end Makireti knew the ropes so well that she often led the way to the noon milk and mudbath venue and all three were very relaxed amongst the wild elephant herds that shared their days. According to the Keepers, they even seemed to prefer the company of the ex-orphans and the wild herds above that of their keeper-dependent peers and it was only the milk that anchored them to the keeper-dependent group. On the 29th of August they left the mudbath in amongst a wild herd, amongst whom was big bull Mshale and his satellite askaris. The keepers did their best to try and induce them to return, but they refused, and ended up spending the entire night out – their first initiation in this respect. The three were found the following morning in amongst the wild herd, which had been joined by Lualeni, Rapsu and a few of the other ex-orphans, and they couldn’t be happier in their new home and newfound family.

The poaching of ex-orphan “Selengai” in October left us totally bereft. She died an agonizing death from a poisoned spear wound deep into her back, obviously launched from one of the infamous poaching platform traps. She had been last seen at the Ithumba stockades along with the other ex-orphan unit on the 2nd October. Her body was found not far from the stockades on the 4th, already in a state of decay, rotting from within from the effects of the poison, which is sometimes dipped into sulphuric acid to render it more potent. She was obviously attempting to return to her erstwhile human family for help. The keepers believe that Selengai was accompanied by ex-orphans Sidai, Rapsu and Meibai when she died, since these three orphans turned up at the mudbath the day her body was found, emerging from that direction, and were visibly distressed. It is probable that they were trying to assist her to return for help, but it was not to be. Sidai was her best friend and the bulls are usually detailed for escort duty whenever needed.



Selengai’s Sad Story

Selengai was an integral part of Yatta’s ex-orphan herd, one of the nannies for Yatta’s baby “Yetu” and also Mulika’s little “Mwende”. She was a caring, gentle and loving 9 year old, rescued as an infant orphan from Laikipia at the tender age of just 1 week and having passed through early infancy in the Nairobi Nursery, was transferred to the Ithumba Rehabilitation Station where she grew up and eventually lived as a wild elephant within Yatta’s ex-orphan unit.

The Trust does not take the loss of this precious orphaned elephant lightly. We will do our utmost to provide more effective security over the northern area of Tsavo, to undertake more aerial surveillance by making a second Supercub available to the authorities, and increasing the capacity of our anti-poaching teams, striving for the permission to arm them so that they do not have to rely on the presence of a KWS Ranger before they can patrol, as is the case at the moment. We will do whatever it takes to keep our other orphans and their wild friends safe.

The Orphaned Rhinos

Still resident at the Nursery in January 2012 was blind Maxwell, a Nairobi Park black rhino bull, born in December 2006 with no retina or optic nerve in both eyes, having been rescued at the age of 3 months old when he was abandoned by his rhino mother in the Park Forest not far from the Trust Headquarters. Max is now 6 years old and a magnificent specimen despite his blindness, which, sadly cannot be rectified. Bull black rhinos have to fight for territory and rank, and for that they need their eyes to be able to size up an opponent; hence Max can never be set free for he would be killed instantly by others. Having missed Orphan Shida enormously after he was moved to the Tsavo West Rhino Sanctuary in 2011 (and was subsequently killed by a resident bull), by January 2012 Max was again contented and happy, displaying enormous joy whenever Solio, a female Black Rhino from Solio Ranch born in April 2010, and orphaned at the age of 6 months, returned to her night stockade. They relish shared sparring matches through the separating poles of their adjoining Stockades and just the fact that each knows the other is there, is sufficient to bring both immense happiness.

Heavy downpours of rain in March turned Max’s Stockade into one huge mudbath (except for his sleeping shelter in which clean hay forms a dry bed). Just one small stump left in the middle of his Enclosure acted as his special scratching post, and dry earth brought in regularly provided a drier dustbath rather than the interminable mud of the rainy season. Max made the most of the mud, rolling it to plaster his body in a thick coating, hooking it up and throwing it around using his sizeable horn. In May we enlarged Maxwell’s enclosure to give him more space. As soon as the new extension was opened, he carefully smelt the old boundary limit before hesitantly venturing into the new

area. Thereafter he inspected every inch of it carefully to engrave the new dimensions in his mind, before racing around with amazing confidence and appreciation.

At the beginning of 2012 Solio was just two years old and still being accompanied during daylight hours by two Keepers as she did the rounds of the dung-piles and urinals of the resident Nairobi Park wild rhinos, contributing her own dung to them and kicking it onto her back feet to leave her specific scent trail to advertise her presence. Urine sprayed up against the nearest bush urinal would advertise other of her gender and hormone levels so that she becomes known and accepted as rightfully belonging within the community. The reintroduction of a newcomer rhino to a resident wild rhino community is a complicated and lengthy process that can take up to 3 years before the newcomer can live safely as a member of the resident wild rhino community.

Solio is a mischievous character who enjoys leading her Keepers on a dance, rushing off at speed as soon as she emerges from her stockade each morning and then hiding in a thicket to gloat over the fact that her Keepers are so inept at locating her. It must be puzzling to an animal whose life is governed so efficiently by scent and chemistry, that humans are so deprived in that respect. Giving her human attendants the slip is a favourite trick of hers and is indicative of the fact that she is now comfortable going solo to search for the middens of wild rhinos further afield in order to leave her mark. In the later afternoons she is happy to bring herself back home to her comfortable stockade and a handout of Lucerne, often trailed by two exhausted Keepers whom she has deliberately “lost” all day.

Despite having been alerted by the KWS authorities that a baby orphaned white rhino calf, who had been mauled by hyaenas, would be coming to us from Meru National Park, its arrival at the Nursery shortly after dark on Saturday the 15th of April still brought a nasty surprise. No more than a week old, the tiny calf had a shattered back leg and a suspicious looking hole in the chest, which pointed to a bullet wound, revealing that of course its white rhino mother had obviously been poached. All we could do that night was to splinter the broken leg, give the baby a feed, keep it warm and hurriedly make arrangements for two competent vet/surgeons to give up their Sunday in order to operate on the leg the next morning. Sadly, however, the baby rhino died as it was being carried onto the operating table the following day. Its wounds had become seriously infected during its horrific ordeal; septicaemia obviously the cause of death.

September saw Solio's first apparent confrontation with a wild rhino, the Keepers being at hand to witness the incident. Her opponent was a large cow rhino with a yearling calf at foot who met up with Solio on the rocks near the mudbath venue at 6.30am in the morning. Solio stood her ground, ready for battle, snorting with her head down but focusing on the baby, who was more her size, but whom the mother was anxious to protect. Solio and the mother clashed horns several times, Solio at a distinct disadvantage being much younger with a much shorter horn. However, the yelling of the Keepers to break up the fight deterred the wild cow and her calf, who ran off down the hill hotly pursued by Solio who viewed herself as the victor. Expecting the worst, we anxiously awaited her return, fearing being confronted with another patch-up job, but mercifully she came back unscathed and obviously very pleased with herself.



Solio playing



Solio with Maxwell in the background

The Death of Pushmi (aka Hoshim)

On the 4th June 2012 - Daphne's 78th birthday – a sad phone message relayed the tragic news that Pushmi had died - the sad victim of spear wounds, which had penetrated his body causing peritonitis. What was left of his horn, most of which had been removed by KWS for his own safety, was still intact - at least the thug who killed him was denied that prize. Pushmi was 38 years old and as such one of the oldest living rhinos on the African Continent, and he was killed for the myth held by Far Eastern communities that rhino horn is a magical substance. Pushmi was born near a main tourist circuit in Tsavo East National Park way back on 9th October 1973, and was abandoned immediately after birth when his rhino mother was disturbed by a passing tourist van. Instantly the mother fled, leaving a wet bundle lying on the ground. Unsure that the mother would return to reclaim her calf and fearful that hyaenas and vultures would seal his demise, the tourists insisted that he be retrieved and delivered to Tsavo East Headquarters where Warden David Sheldrick and his wife, Daphne, were already known for rearing orphaned wildlife, including rhinos. The new-born rhino baby was called “Pushmi” because shoving and pushing was his favourite pastime as an infant, in between galloping around and executing little pig jumps.

During this time David and Daphne were fearful for the survival of their rhino orphans including a female called Stroppie, who was yet another hand-raised rhino in Tsavo, so David arranged to move both Stroppie and Pushmi to Solio Ranch near Nanyuki in Northern Kenya, where the owner, a millionaire by the name of Court Parfet, had fenced off 25 square miles of his cattle ranch as a birthday gift for his French conservation-minded wife, Claudie. Parfet had stocked it with indigenous wild animals, amongst which were about half a dozen Black Rhinos, one of which was another earlier ex-orphan named “Reudi” – the one who had taught us the complexities of rhino reintegration. Stroppie and Pushmi occupied a 50 acre fenced paddock abutting the main Sanctuary, and it was hoped that proximity would enable them to eventually become integrated into the main rhino community next door. However, this was not to be, as three attempts ended in Pushmi being almost annihilated by the dominant male, which, ironically happened to be ex-Tsavo orphan “Reudi”. Mrs Parfet said “No More” and both rhinos were returned to their original enclosure. By then Pushmi was a magnificent bull sporting a 3ft tapered horn on the end of his nose while Reudi went on to father most of the rhinos that have repopulated areas from whence they had been annihilated by poaching for their lucrative horns.

So, Pushmi and Stroppie lived out their lives in Solio within their private enclosure, one established at one end of the paddock, and the other at the



Hoshim a year before he died

other end. They became iconic symbols whom Mr Parfet enjoyed sharing with important guests. One would have been forgiven for not knowing that these two had been brought up together for whenever they met up, they huffed, puffed, snorted and indulged in a charging ritual as though combatants. Whenever Stroppie came into season they mated, but sadly no baby resulted, since rhino males must be dominant in order to be fertile, and Pushmi remained subservient to his dominant neighbours whom he had not been able to conquer.

Stroppie, three years older than Pushmi, lived to the ripe old rhino age of 40, dying in 2010 peacefully in her sleep. She had enjoyed a sheltered and happy life at Solio in her huge paddock with Pushmi as company, permeated by the scent of many others next door. By then the rhino neighbours in the main Sanctuary had multiplied to over 70 Blacks and even more Whites from original stock imported from South Africa. White Rhinos are not indigenous in Kenya within living memory, although fossil remains have been found here, whilst occurring in neighbouring Uganda, Congo and the Sudan. Pushmi lived on in Solio until that fateful day when he was speared to death on Daphne Sheldrick's 78th birthday in 2012. Rest in Peace dear ‘Hoshy’.



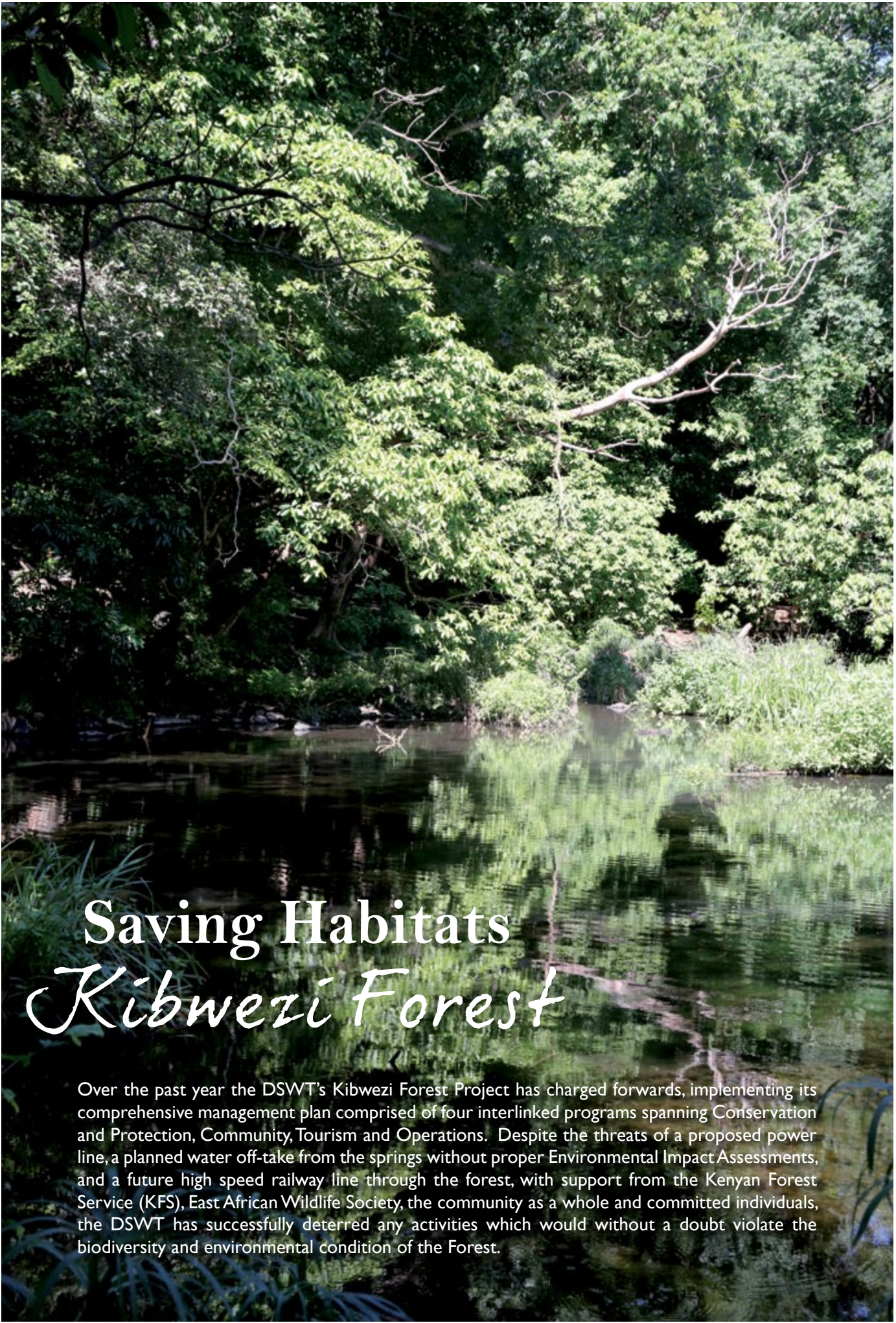
The Other Orphans

It has not only been elephant and rhino orphans who have dominated our lives this year. There have been others who have been equally as special, and who have brought us endless pleasure and satisfaction, namely “Rax – aka Oomphy” the orphaned Hyrax, who was reared from early infancy when he was found wet and bedraggled lying on the ground with his twin sister (who sadly died) with no sign of a mother who must have come to grief during the night. He has, and is, an enchanting character, now living as a wild hyrax in the roof above Angela Sheldrick’s back door, but who still returns on a daily basis for cuddles and his “maziwa” (milk), which he once suckled through a bicycle valve attached to a dropper.

Then there is Geri, an infant Thomson’s gazelle found as a tiny new-born fawn. Geri narrowly escaped being “lunch” for both a bushmeat poacher and a notorious rogue dog baboon who came through the sitting room window of Angela’s house during the public visiting hour when the yard was filled with people, and snatched the tiny fawn as she lay on the carpet. Her screams brought Angela running who bravely confronted the baboon intruder. He dropped little Geri, but threatened Angela in an aggressive and terrifying standoff, baring his teeth and bent on attack, which could have left Angela severely injured. However, she managed to stand her ground until the baboon lost his nerve and shot out of the opposite window. Geri was left with deep bite marks across her back, yet she was lucky to have escaped with her life. She recovered after careful nursing and the intervention of the vet to clean the poisonous baboon bites on her back. Geri

has since grown up as an enchanting and endearing antelope of two worlds, devoted to her favourite people within the family. During the day she is free to come and go as she pleases, spending time with her many animal “friends” which include the resident warthogs who frequent the compound, the resident bushbuck, the visiting giraffe who come to the salt lick on the rocks opposite the mudbath area and the resident impala herd with whom she spends a lot of time.

More recently two baby Dik-Diks called “Pilipili” and “Hoho” have joined the menagerie, both of whom escaped making a baboon’s meal, followed by a spritely baby genet cat, which has since been named “Rafa Meow”, whose family sadly all fell victim to a cobra. The Voi Elephant Keepers have hand-reared several orphans single-handedly in their time, amongst whom are 3 orphaned lesser kudus, an ostrich (who sadly was killed by a snake), several zebra foals, an eland calf and numerous buffaloes. The female lesser kudu called “Aruba” treated the Voi Keepers to a meeting with her new wild-born calf this year, bringing it back to show them. The Ithumba Keepers hand-reared an orphan Duiker, who now lives wild at the Ithumba Camp, strolling around confidently amongst the many wild resident dik-diks who have become habituated to visitors staying at the camp. The Community working at Amu Ranch near Lamu have hand-reared an eland and bushbuck orphan successfully.



Saving Habitats
Kibwezi Forest

Over the past year the DSWT’s Kibwezi Forest Project has charged forwards, implementing its comprehensive management plan comprised of four interlinked programs spanning Conservation and Protection, Community, Tourism and Operations. Despite the threats of a proposed power line, a planned water off-take from the springs without proper Environmental Impact Assessments, and a future high speed railway line through the forest, with support from the Kenyan Forest Service (KFS), East African Wildlife Society, the community as a whole and committed individuals, the DSWT has successfully deterred any activities which would without a doubt violate the biodiversity and environmental condition of the Forest.



Kibwezi Forest

The Forest's dedicated full-time anti-poaching patrol unit has been in action throughout the year preventing illegal activities, which were once all too common throughout the forest in past years. This unit patrols the entire reserve eradicating charcoal burning, the snaring of bush meat as well as illegal logging. The permanent presence of this team has not only rebalanced the ecosystem but has stimulated the forests regeneration whilst encouraging wildlife to return to the area which now offers a secure habitat for many threatened and vulnerable species.

The local communities bordering the Kibwezi Forest continue to be allowed sustainable and controlled access to its valuable natural resources under the supervision of the KFS, the DSWT team and rangers. The communities have the right to utilize the forest for fire wood collection and holistic cattle grazing, and can access the area through one of six manned gates where permits are inspected and all activities are monitored, whilst data such as the amount and variety of timber which is taken and the number of cattle allowed entrance is collected. Before this management system was implemented the forest's natural resources were illegally exploited at sometimes commercial levels, which led to the environments ultimate decline, yet these procedures have now ensured that there is no illegal access into the forest, whilst strict monitoring has contributed to a much higher revenue collection for the KFS.

The Umani springs, which provide water for thousands of people within the Kibwezi and Makindu Districts, has been heavily protected over the past months, as the huge demand on the springs water supply and wetland areas has created increased pressure on its already dwindling supply. The battle for the springs to be utilized sustainably for the future of the area is one of the projects greatest challenges as too many water off-takes have already led to the shrinkage of the spring and the degradation of the surrounding wetlands. The ultimate fear is that such exploitation may very well kill the only ground water forest of its kind in Kenya, which has already been evidenced by the drying out of four major water pools within the wetland. The DSWT in conjunction with the WRMA (Water Resources Management Authority)

office is monitoring the spring's flow measurements regularly in order to help make appropriate and effective management decisions.

The forest is home to the largest herd of elephants within the Kibwezi-Chyulu National Park ecosystem, whilst also accommodating an important ranging area for rhinos. The forest's anti-poaching patrols have been intensified within high activity areas in the hope that these endangered species will continue to find their way into Kibwezi Forest, which now offers a secure environment where we are happy to report there have been zero cases of elephant poaching.

In order to effectively realize the densities and movement patterns of wildlife species within the forest a monitoring database and wildlife inventory has been designed and operated by the field teams. Camera traps are another addition to the monitoring program, which photo-capture the wildlife as they come to drink at designated watering holes set on major animal paths around the spring, which has provided vital information on the number of animals inhabiting and transiting the Forest.

The regeneration of the Forest is another incredibly important initiative of the conservation and protection program, especially within areas which were once heavily degraded during the long period when the forest was defenceless against unsustainable extraction. A tree nursery has since been established within the Umani camp compound, which has already planted hundreds of indigenous tree saplings within the most degraded areas, yet the forest is still strong and will in time, with continued protection, naturally revive itself within some areas which is already being demonstrated as regrowth trends reveal some amazing results. Of course within such a densely forested environment, proper fire management procedures are of upmost importance and have been implemented through the constant maintenance of fire breaks and the regular maintenance of roads to ensure tall grass is kept manageable. Another objective of the Kibwezi Forest project was also to eradicate invasive species from within the forest and environs. *Prosopis juliflora* has since been identified as a threat to the biodiversity of the forest and the field teams have successfully managed to remove it from the environment and along the highway.

One of the biggest problems facing the local communities bordering the forest was human-wildlife conflict. The threat of elephants entering cultivated areas and populated settlements was a huge concern, as was the raiding of crops by bush pigs and other wild species, which were all identified as not only a threat to human life but also perpetuating poverty. A vital 5km addition to

the Kibwezi Forest fence line, which now spans 42kms, was extended over sensitive habitat along the western boundary of the Chyulu Hills National Park from Kithasyo through to thick lava flow, which is a natural barrier as it is so difficult to penetrate. This significant donation to KWS has dramatically reduced human-wildlife conflict. The DSWT continues to empower the communities through education, including desk donations, school trips and sponsorships for underprivileged students around the Kibwezi Forest.

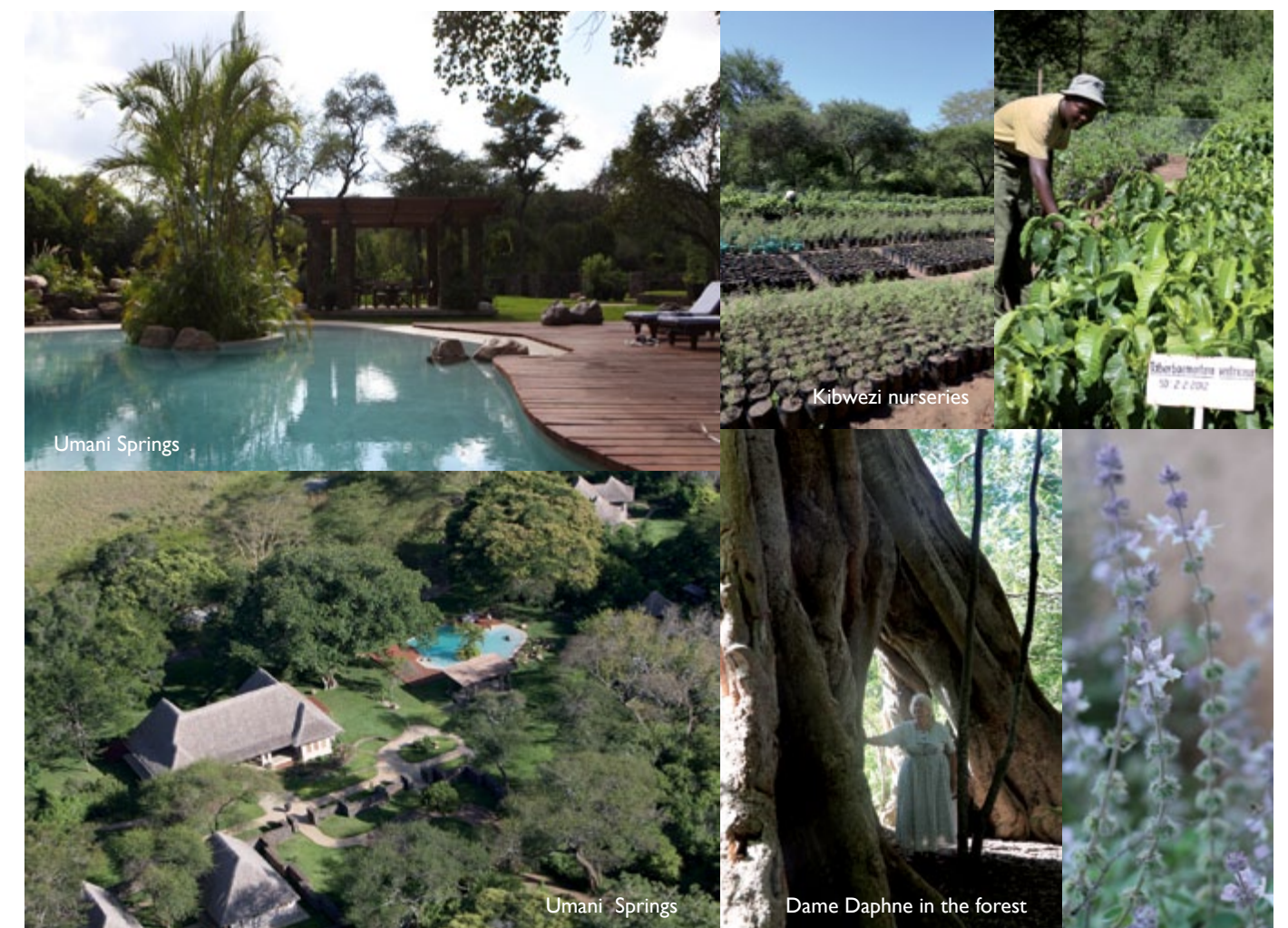
The 'Umani Springs' lodge is becoming a very successful addition to the Forest attracting many visitors every month, which not only creates awareness surrounding the importance of this unique forest ecosystem, but supports the KFS and the Chyulu Hills National Park, whilst effectively providing the funds needed to sustainably operate within and manage the environment. Additional tourism activities include the creation of trails and bush walks, a sundowner and stargazing platform on Umani Hill overlooking the entire forest and beyond to the Chyulu Hills, as well as a bush breakfast facility and a camp site.

A road network of some 70kms has been constructed within the Forest which is continually improved and

maintained by a team of six staff. These vital arteries are not only attractive tourism circuits but more importantly they are patrol roads providing rapid access to key areas of the Forest. A remarkable new access road into the eastern side of the Chyulu Hills has recently been completed having been hand-carved out of 20km of thick lava flow through an especially inaccessible area of the Forest providing valuable employment for the local communities for over six months, which now opens up the forest into the west side of the Chyulu Hills National Park via Kenzili Hill.

There is consistent collaboration and communication between the DSWT, all of the rangers and the Kenya Forest Service in actualizing all of the Kibwezi Forest's set objectives, whilst consultation is always maintained and working relationships are strengthened.

With support from the American Embassy the Kibwezi Forest's DSWT Regional Field Manager, James Mbuthia, has been invited to go to the US on a three-week 'Wild-life Conservation, Anti-Trafficking and Anti-Poaching' seminar. This international assembly will explore the advantages and challenges of protecting and conserving wildlife with a concentrated focus on efforts, which will strengthen global cooperation against wildlife trafficking and anti-poaching.

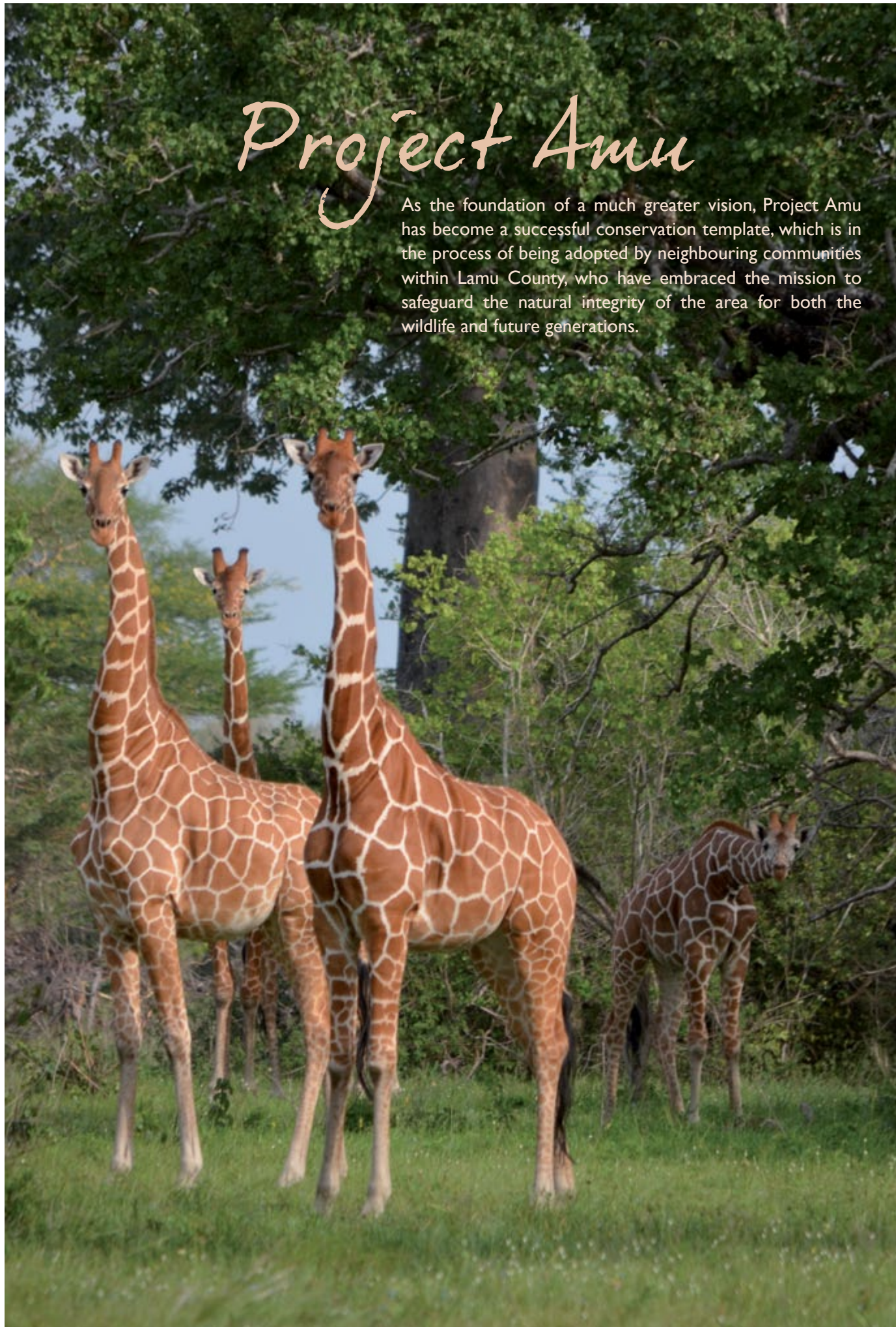




Chyulu Hills National Park

Project Amu

As the foundation of a much greater vision, Project Amu has become a successful conservation template, which is in the process of being adopted by neighbouring communities within Lamu County, who have embraced the mission to safeguard the natural integrity of the area for both the wildlife and future generations.



Amu Ranch, an amazing wilderness spanning 63,000 acres of coastal forest and savannah woodland, sits within a hugely important landscape encompassing tracts of vulnerable land, which create vital migratory corridors and wildlife habitats for an abundance of wild species. The local Community Cooperative, in which Amu Ranch's future lies, was once unable to defend their land from illegal incursion and destructive activities on their own, and therefore created a partnership under the umbrella of the community-led Lamu Conservation Trust (LCT) in collaboration with the DSWT, working together to actively protect the land, diversity and culture of this incredible landscape.

The DSWT and Amu's dedicated field teams have overcome some dramatic challenges throughout the past year whilst forging ahead with the ranch's infrastructure and community outreach initiatives. Poaching and bushmeat snaring in conjunction with illegal squatting and livestock incursion has proved to be an incredibly serious threat to the wildlife and environment of Amu. The illegal invasion of huge herds of cattle from distant lands numbering in their thousands has placed devastating stress on the already overstretched natural resources of the area, whilst the 'slash and burn' methods of self-subsistent agriculture, exploitative logging and illegal hunting has been destroying the habitat and decimating wildlife numbers.

An anti-poaching unit of over twenty rangers and armed Kenya Police Reservists on Amu have been patrolling tirelessly to combat these damaging activities, removing wire snares and uncovering traps, apprehending offenders, deterring livestock intrusion and preventing the abuse of natural resources. With support from an additional field team, over 200kms of roads and security access tracks are maintained, which allows vital movement throughout the ranch and its neighbouring habitats, whilst the aerial surveillance plane, which patrols the skies over Amu and the surrounding areas, allows the ground teams to focus efforts on targeted areas, identifying key zones needing increased security, whilst achieving a rapid response time on urgent reports.

These strategic operations are a permanent presence throughout Amu and have had a significant impact on the condition of the environment this year showing remarkable results, such as forest and grassland regeneration as well as increased wildlife populations with impressive numbers of threatened species. The environmental diversity of the Lamu eco-region is quite spectacular showcasing magnificent herds of 150 reticulated giraffe, massive herds of buffalo numbering 1,000 head, along with huge herds of coastal topi, zebra

and eland. There is an increasing population of lion with evidence of a large genetic pool, with some lions displaying large, muscular bodies and short, almost non-existent manes, very similar to the lions characteristically found in the Tsavo area. Others are significantly smaller, and some are even said to have blue eyes.



Amu ranch



Amu Ranch's Carmine Bee-Eaters



Amu Ranch

A number of discreet camera traps have also been deployed throughout Amu this year revealing a host of shy and rarely seen species, including the critically endangered Aders' Duiker, which is relatively prevalent within Amu, a healthy leopard population and most excitingly, herds of elephant, which were decimated within the area in years gone by when the Lamu area was once one of the largest elephant habitats in Kenya.

The Project Amu field teams have also had the extra task of caring for wild orphans. The hand-rearing of orphaned creatures is no easy feat yet the team at the Amu HQ, 'Farouks Camp', have successfully raised a female bushbuck this year, which has fed on goats milk from an early age, and is now spending the nights in the wild and the days sleeping safely under the rangers' beds.

Yet despite all the protection measures put in place, Amu Ranch endured a vicious drought during 2012. Such droughts have occurred many a time in years past, but each year it always seems as if it only worsens. By the first week of October Amu Ranch was deathly parched with little water left in the waterholes and lakes. Vast numbers of buffalo were struggling to survive in the harsh conditions, whilst Amu's hippo populations could do nothing to escape the hot sun having to lay in the mud absorbing the remaining moisture for their sensitive skins. Fortunately the heavens opened in mid- October turning the baked parched land to paradise, just when it seemed many wild animals would die.

Within Project Amu's short history, having been established in February 2011, many exciting developments have taken place with a concentrated effort being placed on opening up Amu Ranch for tourism in 2013. Guest visiting buildings and facilities have been constructed, whilst a scenic tourism road circuit has been opened-up for game drives. Plans for the future include creating an over-night experience within Amu, which will enable guests to enjoy the late evening and early morning paradise that Amu offers so close to the Indian Ocean.

Executing all of these objectives has allowed Project Amu to employ a significant number of local community members, including over 40 full-time staff members and many additional casual labourers, which has benefitted the surrounding communities and tribes substantially, creating much needed awareness about the importance of the project and the protection of their natural heritage.

The DSWT has invested a great deal of time, resources and funds into the newly formed, community-led Lamu Conservation Trust, in which Project Amu sits, which has been instigated and developed solely by the DSWT. On top of donating technical, administrative, logistical

and field support the DSWT is also in the process of launching a new website for the LCT and is proud to be a part of this incredibly important community conservation organisation. *The LCT website will go live in early 2013.*

www.lamuconservationtrust.org



22/01/2012 09
Cutting roads after the rains



Project Amu's headquarters



Amu rangers



Amu's shy elephants caught on camera trap

Dr. Poghon treating an injured bull elephant



Mobile Veterinary Units

This year has proved to be one of the most challenging years so far for our Mobile Veterinary Units within the vast Tsavo Conservation Area and the Mara Triangle, as our KWS seconded vets have fought to treat the casualties of drought, human-wildlife conflict, and the victims of the escalating illegal ivory and bushmeat trades. Saving the wounded, rescuing the abandoned and protecting the vulnerable, these rapid-response units, working in collaboration with the Kenyan Wildlife Service, have literally saved hundreds of lives.

Vet Unit treating injured white rhino



Yet it is not only within the wild habitats of Tsavo and the Maasai Mara where Kenya's wildlife is in desperate need of help. Poaching, snaring and the effects of human-wildlife conflict is also taking its toll on the wild species of the northern territories, which is why the DSWT is establishing a third permanent and full-time mobile veterinary unit focused on providing veterinary support within the Meru ecosystem and the larger eastern and northern conservation areas. This new unit, which will commence operations in January 2013 based at the KWS headquarters in Meru National Park, will be directed by Dr Bernard Rono, a KWS seconded vet with many years of experience in the field. It is hoped that this third unit will lend support to the already overburdened veterinary units in place whilst offering a greater reach into additional ecosystems which currently have no veterinary coverage.

The Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit headed competently by Dr Jeremiah Poghorn Kaitopok has over the last twelve months treated nearly one hundred wild animals, including over sixty-five injured elephants, many of which were victims of poaching, as well as a number of lions injured through human-wildlife conflict, and an array of other species. The unit has also participated in concentrated Disease Surveillance research projects, including the sampling of thirty buffalos in collaborative surveillance for Foot and Mouth disease with the Kenya Wildlife Service's veterinarian laboratory. An eland translocation also took place supported by the Tsavo Veterinary Unit during 2012, releasing a number of the species into the Shimba Hills National Reserve having been rescued from the Nguuni/Bamburi area in Mombasa.

Dr Dominic Mijeje, assisted by DSWT's Felix Micheni, heads our second veterinary unit within the Maasai Mara Triangle. During the last twelve months the Mara unit has accomplished lifesaving results with a treatment success rate of over 83%, ensuring as many animal cases as possible receive rapid response treatment and the very best of veterinary care and expertise. In addition to emergency cases, the unit has also assisted in the translocation of 46 elephants from the Siyapei area of Narok to the Masai Mara NR in an effort to reduce incidents of human-elephant conflict, coordinated a Tsetse fly baseline survey in collaboration with PATTEC-Kenya, investigated Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) in wildebeests where blood samples from 51 wildebeests were collected for analysis, as well as taking on-going measures against the spread of Foot and Mouth and Bovine Tuberculosis Disease.

New Veterinary Equipment

Over the past three decades the Nairobi Nursery has rescued hundreds of orphaned elephant calves. When a calf is not improving in condition and is showing

any weakness, ill health or lack of appetite, immediate attention must be given to assess what the symptoms mean and what steps need to be taken. In most cases any symptoms must be quickly followed up with a blood test and immediate treatment. In past years a significant amount of blood had to be taken from a calf and delivered to various laboratories in Kenya for analysis, which have proved unreliable and more often than not, inconclusive. Yet with modern veterinary knowledge and processes, alongside holistic healing techniques, the Trust is striving to improve and develop its veterinary care to ensure the chances of survival for each and every orphan are as high as possible.

With an extremely generous donation in October 2012, the DSWT has now strengthened its veterinary care beyond measure. This donation has equipped the Trust with two new blood testing machines providing extensive blood diagnostics, as well as a powerful and portable new x-ray machine alongside a range of diagnostic tools and tests. These portable units were very kindly purchased for us in the USA by a Vet born and trained in South Africa but now living in the USA, with plenty of experience in the National Parks of Southern Africa. He then travelled to Kenya and committed to training our teams, so this equipment is now available around the clock at the Nairobi Nursery and the Trust's remote field bases, producing results within minutes, allowing for rapid treatment, and has already been instrumental in saving orphaned elephant's lives.

Summary of total cases treated by both DSWT Veterinary Units

Species	Snared	Rescues	Others	Totals
Elephant	71	49	309	429
Giraffe	40	-	12	52
Buffalo	15	4	12	31
Lion	8	12	54	74
Impala	14	-	5	19
White/Black Rhino	1	-	18	19
Zebra	51	4	35	90
Leopard	1	-	6	7
Grant Gazelle	-	-	4	4
Cheetah	-	5	10	15
Baboon	-	-	1	1
Waterbuck	20	2	4	26
Spotted Hyena	-	-	4	4
Wild Dog	-	-	1	1
Caracal	-	-	1	1
Hippo	-	1	4	5
Crocodile	-	-	1	1
Vervet Monkey	-	-	1	1
Colobus Monkey	-	-	1	1
African Wild Dog	2	-	1	3
Jackal	-	-	1	1
Common Duiker	2	-	1	3
Hartebeest	-	-	2	2
Wildebeest	-	-	2	2
Roan Antelope	-	-	1	1
Vultures	-	-	5	5
Topi	-	-	1	1
Eland	2	-	8	10
Oryx	-	-	2	2
Stripped hyena	-	3	-	3
Ostrich	1	-	1	2
Totals	228	80	508	816



Notes from the Field

Having graduated as a veterinary officer over ten years ago, today I am challenged more than ever, professionally and personally, in providing the best veterinary support possible to the vast areas of Tsavo National Park and its bordering environments. Tsavo always creates complex scenarios, which need carefully planned strategies, whether you are facing wildlife cases related to drought, human-wildlife conflict, livestock intrusion or of course poaching and bushmeat snaring. It is an unpredictable and extreme environment presenting daily challenges.

During 2012 this mission has proved to be ever more demanding with the increased threat to Kenya's wildlife, particularly its elephants and rhinos. In the past most cases have been commonly a cause of arrow wounds and snares, but now we were seeing more bullet wound cases. When treating wildlife we treat every case as unique, whatever the circumstances. Some lives we can save and some we lose, whether we do everything right or not. My skills are constantly tested whilst my experiences grow, enhanced with support and shared experiences from other veterinary officers in the field within Kenya and internationally.

We have been on the frontline this last year, witnessing the dangerous rise in poaching, especially targeted at the bigger bull elephants, which are more valuable to the ivory trade. One of my most testing cases this year was of a large bull elephant, with sizable tusks, within Ithumba, in the northern area of Tsavo East. We were called in by road from Voi, which is a long drive through tough terrain, and were immediately deployed on foot with our veterinary equipment through thick bush in pursuit of the elephant. After tracking the elephant, with the support of the Trust's plane flown by the DSWT's experienced bush pilot Nick Trent, we finally managed to get close enough to dart it. He was clearly in severe pain and highly traumatised. Already exhausted by the pursuit we weren't prepared for the elephant to rear up and come charging directly for us. Immediately the veterinary team and all the rangers ran in opposite directions, whilst frantic shots were fired into the air; I only just managed to escape the frantic bull unscathed, before he finally gave into the tranquiliser. We treated the elephant swiftly and successfully, having discovered four serious arrow wounds, and tracked his progress during the following weeks. It is successful cases like this which give me and my team so much pride in what we do, being able to save a life, especially in such dangerous circumstances.

2013 will be a daunting year for the wildlife and elephant populations of Tsavo, but with generous funding from Vier Pfoten, the DSWT Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit will strive to save as many wild lives as possible in close collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service.

By Dr Jeremiah Poghorn



Mshale's Story

By July wild elephants were coming to drink at the Ithumba stockade trough throughout the day and the night in mounting numbers, one of whom was a large Bull with magnificent tusks, subsequently named "Mshale" (the Swahili word for Arrow), who was always escorted by two male "Askaris" or guardians. The upper leg of the big tusker was seen to be seeping pus from a swelling that was obviously caused by a poisoned arrow. The Trust's Tsavo Veterinary Unit was summonsed urgently to come and try and save the life of this magnificent elephant before he died from the effects of the Akokanthera poison, which sometimes is old and not quite as lethal as when fresh. The Keepers were sure that "Mshale" would be returning for water in a day or two and when he did, Dr. Poghorn, (the KWS Vet seconded to the DSWT Mobile Unit) was waiting at the stockades to immobilize him. Once he was down, the arrow head was dug out of the swelling and after the wound had been thoroughly cleared of sepsis and stuffed with antibiotic ointment and healing Green Clay, Mshale was given a long acting penicillin injection and was revived, hopefully to recover, which, mercifully happened.

Since then Mshale has been a regular visitor to the stockade compound always accompanied by other big bulls. He has also befriended our ex-orphans, as Kamboyo, Kenze, Orok and Meibai all turned up having attached themselves to Mshale's entourage of

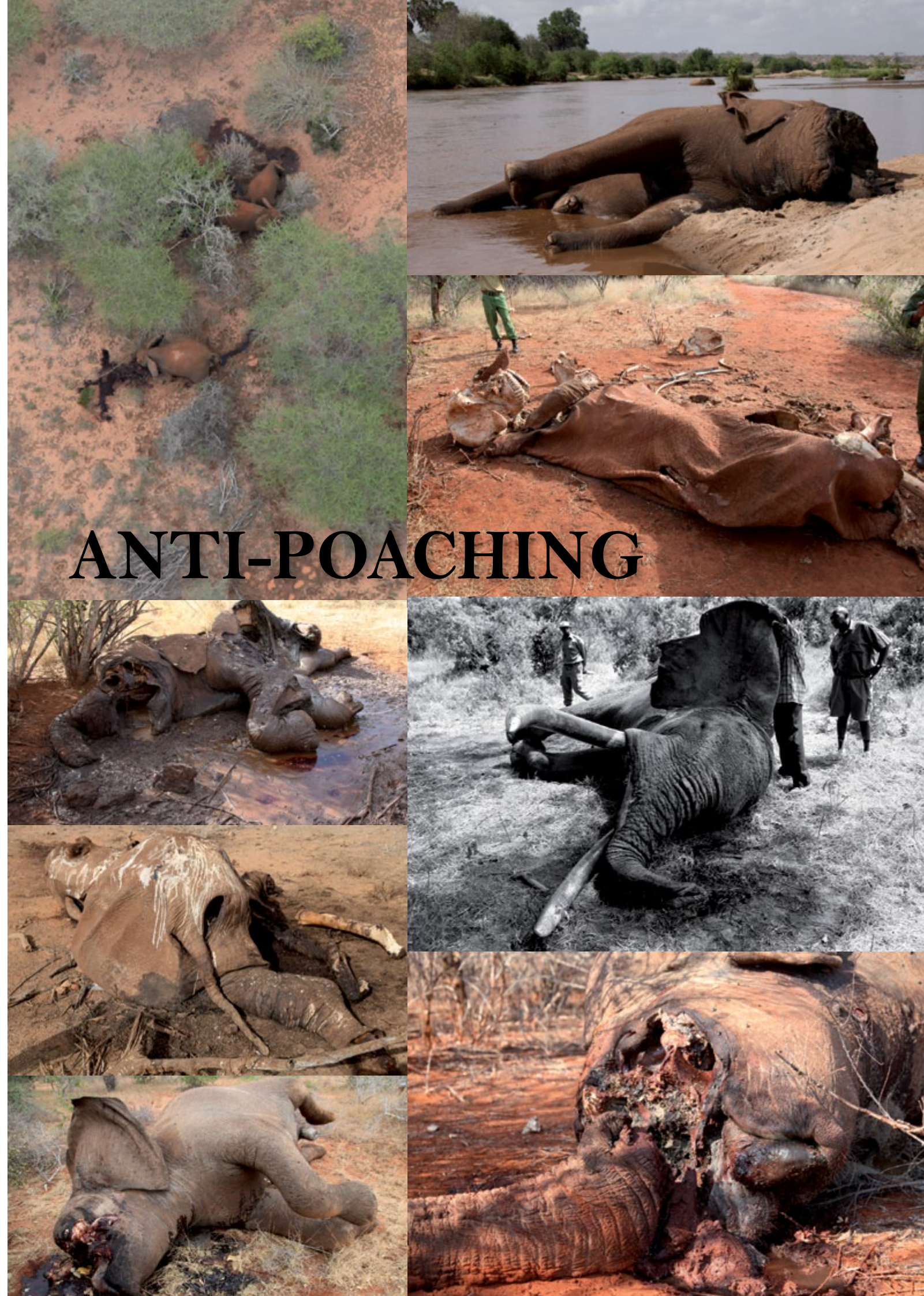
4 wild big bulls, while two of his most recent "Askari Attachments" have been none other than ex-orphans Rapsu and Kamboyo. Hero-Worship is very normal for young male elephants who like to emulate role model elders, especially magnificent monuments such as Mshale. Certainly, our young ex-orphan adolescents have a very impressive mentor in Mshale who like over 65 other wild elephants this year owes his life to the timely intervention of the DSWT Mobile Veterinary Units.

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust would like to thank the Kenyan Wildlife Service and Veterinary Department for their partnership over the years and Vier Pforten for over nine years of commitment to the Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit. Thanks also goes to the Minara Foundation for the seven years of funding for the Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, and to the Companc family for support of the new Meru based Northern Mobile Veterinary Unit.



Mshale is treated close to the Ithumba stockades

ANTI-POACHING







DSWT anti-poaching team members

“Elephants never forget – a truth that has been scientifically proven through a study of their brains. Emotionally they mirror us humans entirely, but they are much better than us. Their immense power is tempered by an innate gentleness; by compassion and a deep capacity for caring. Highly intelligent, mysteriously perceptive and sophisticated, they communicate over distance with voices we will never hear and are endowed with abilities we will never fully fathom. Even though they never forget, they humble us with their forgiveness for the cruel injustices inflicted upon them by human greed for their beautiful ivory tusks.”

Dame Daphne Sheldrick

The last twelve months have accumulated into a hard and dangerous year for our eight Anti-Poaching and De-Snaring Units within the greater Tsavo Conservation Area. A heavy blow came to the teams when two KWS rangers working alongside our ranger force were shot and killed in a brutal gunfight against Somali poachers. This sad incident was then followed by the temporary suspension of all of our units from the field for many weeks as the KWS followed up the event with comprehensive investigations. This exclusion from the area left the wildernesses of the greater Tsavo ecosystem and its wildlife vulnerable against even greater attacks from poachers, bushmeat hunters, loggers and charcoal burners, whilst leaving a significant void in our daily wildlife monitoring and data collection, which is routinely compiled into a comprehensive wildlife database. But nevertheless the teams patrolling in areas within the bordering private ranches were still able to continue their important work and record as much data on the ground as possible.

During this period, the aerial unit really came into its own as it was able to continue normal patrols whilst working closely with KWS. Interesting developments from our aerial unit have highlighted the fact that there is a close correlation between elephant poaching and illegal livestock in the National Park, particularly within key zones, which are now monitored closely. We have seen consistent poaching incidences close to settlements, which keep livestock illegally in the Park, indicating that either the livestock herders are facilitating the poachers or giving out sensitive information.

This year has also seen an injection of new equipment and resources including two new Land Rovers, with two more due to be deployed early in 2013, new uniforms, patrol tents, handheld radios, computers for data collection and communication and field kits, whilst an investment has been made into medical training for each unit's team leaders and second in command, all of who progressed successfully through an Amref medical training course.

Each Anti-Poaching Unit's driver has also been through specialised 4X4 off-road training, completing an intensive course imparting a necessary skill-set needed for the tough conditions of Tsavo, especially essential when vehicles are needed in rapid-response situation in harsh and practically inaccessible locations.

Special thanks go to the following for helping support our anti-poaching initiatives throughout 2012 including the Eden Trust, Capricorn Foundation, Roger & Ann McNamee, Serengeti Foundation, Cullman Foundation, Vier Pfofen, the Abraham Foundation, the US Friends of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and IFAW, whilst we are indebted to East African Canvas for their on-going support and equipment and to Glen Edmunds for equipping our field drivers with 4x4 off-road driving skills free of charge.



Beacons of Hope

In an effort to strengthen morale and increase motivation of our Anti-Poaching teams, fourteen men were chosen to be put through the KWS Manyani Ranger Training Academy. Just days after Selengai's death, the 14 men chosen from the Trust's anti-poaching ranger force, graduated with honours from the Kenya Wildlife Service's renowned Field Training Institute, the Manyani Academy, in Tsavo West. During such an insecure and distressing time these men, who are the first Manyani graduates from the DSWT teams, are beacons of hope and role models for the rest of the Trust's anti-poaching units, who are also expected to graduate in 2013 from this vital training program to better assist the Kenya Wildlife Service in the struggle to prevent poaching.

During an intense and highly physical three month paramilitary course, the Trust's men were coached through a diverse curriculum incorporating Human Wildlife Conflict and Mitigation Measures, Ecology and Ecosystem Management, Capture, Arrest and Weaponry,

amongst a variety of field based skills including Field Survival and GPS Mapping. This program supports and prepares these men for not only protecting and preserving wildlife and the natural environment, but for any conflict against the very real threat of armed poachers and their highly developed syndicates.

On October 12th the graduates Passing Out Parade was held at the Manyani Academy against the stunning backdrop of Tsavo in the presence of Dame Daphne Sheldrick, the DSWT Field Representatives, KWS officials and the proud families of the men who excelled through this gruelling training schedule surpassing all expectations. The graduation ceremony presented the graduates during a faultless drill parade followed by the presentation of awards. The pride of the men during this heart-warming occasion was a joy to see and which was reflected in the following inspiring speeches. These men have now returned to the DSWT's anti-poaching force, patrolling and protecting the greater Tsavo Conservation Area partnering with KWS, utilising the skills and knowledge they have gathered in an effort to curb the poaching epidemic and protect Kenya's wildlife.



Manyani Academy graduates with Dame Daphne Sheldrick



The un-sung heros of the DSWT Ithumba 'Nyati' anti-poaching team



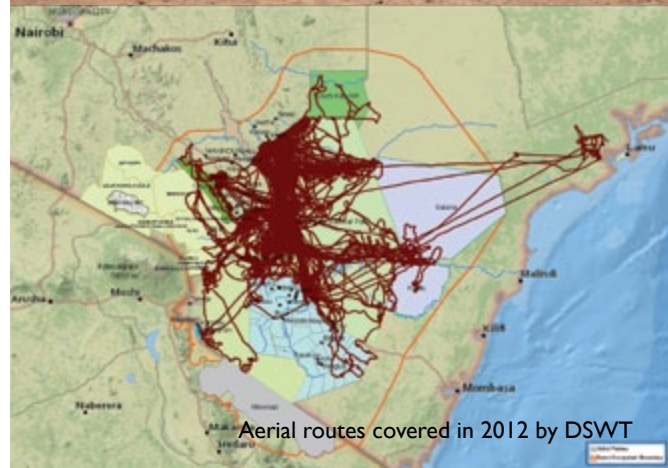
Providing aerial support for the vast Tsavo Conservation Area

Aerial Surveillance

The DSWT looks to provide comprehensive aerial support and surveillance to KWS and our own anti-poaching teams. The aerial surveillance unit has covered more patrol routes than any other year showing extensive coverage throughout Tsavo, with special emphasis over the northern area of the TCA in particular. With a dedicated Topcub, which is perfect for the low-level flying needed in order to effectively monitor the landscape, over 500 hours have been flown this year alone in support of the Kenyan Wildlife Service's field operations throughout Tsavo.

During the course of 2012 a second new Supercub low-level flying aircraft was funded by the US Friends of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust to further support of the Trust's anti-poaching initiatives in Kenya, focusing on vulnerable wildlife habitats throughout the Tsavo Conservation Area as well as over the Lamu district, where an enormous amount of aerial surveillance support is required to ensure the ground teams are as effective as possible in combating the mounting threat of poaching, bushmeat snaring and all illegal activities detrimental to wildlife and the environment.

This important second aircraft will provide additional support to the KWS together with the Trust's two other aircrafts, (A Topcub and Cessna 185) which are available to assist in any operations needing backup. On average the Trust's current Topcub is flying over 50 hours a month throughout the greater Tsavo area, whilst an additional plane is providing aerial surveillance over Lamu and especially Amu, where the DSWT's is focusing its conservation efforts.



Aerial routes covered in 2012 by DSWT



Diary of a DSWT Pilot

It's been an amazing year flying for the Trust in both the Tsavo Conservation Area and the Lamu County on Kenya's northern coastline.

I have been privileged to be involved on the front-line of the Project Amu 'Saving Habitats' initiative within the Lamu District, where the Cessna 185 is mostly used. On a daily basis I have flown over the vast untouched wilderness inland of Lamu Island, over forest that few people are aware of. I have been able to map the movement of wildlife through the

year, providing us with a better understanding of numbers and distribution, which in turn enables our ground teams to provide effective anti-poaching support. Through regular aerial monitoring of the Lamu County I have been able to confirm the existence of resident elephants in Lamu District, although they have never been seen from the air, instead, I can see fresh footprints and signs of broken trees and trampled grass. We have then been able to set camera traps and confirm one herd of 25. There have been no sightings of poached elephants, and I believe that the aeroplane's regular patrols have played a factor in keeping these elephants safe. One of the big advantages of having the C185 in Lamu is the ability to fly local officials, security officers and local leaders and decision makers over this amazing landscape. The ability to show them the value of the forest, the wildlife and the threats and destruction by increased human settlement has proven essential to bringing them on board to save this habitat. Some have never flown before, and when they see their land from the air they become committed to saving it. We have been able to map land-use, boundaries and threats which have been essential in addressing the challenges faced.

Later on in the year I have spent the majority of flying time in Tsavo, flying the Top Cub on anti-poaching patrols. The beauty of Tsavo can only be appreciated fully from the air. From corner to corner of the vast Tsavo ecosystem the Top Cub flies daily, supporting the Kenya Wildlife Service and our own anti-poaching teams on the ground. I regularly pick up a KWS ranger, or commander, and we fly low and slow, checking on known poacher's hideouts or routes, looking for anything unusual like bicycle tracks, cut trees, smoke or wounded or disturbed animals. It is rare that nothing is seen. When something is seen a call on the radio to our anti-poaching team, with GPS coordinates, deploys the team immediately. Recently they followed up a call and came across 5 poacher's sitting under a tree. They caught two, and recovered 18 poisoned arrows among other things. Quite often a wounded elephant is sighted from the air. Our Vet team is then quickly called into action and with the plane's help the elephant is darted. I have assisted in many treatments of darted elephants, guiding in the vet unit so that they can get close enough to the animal to get a dart off. I then land and join the team on the ground in treating the wounds and recording the process on film. Within 30 minutes the elephant is back up on its feet. I then take its coordinates and keep an eye on its progress over the next few weeks if possible.

Every flight is recorded on GPS and everything seen on each flight is recorded and compiled in the Trust's data base. This valuable data that we are collecting is helping KWS manage their parks; it helps us plan our anti-poaching operations and it provides vital data on wildlife movements and numbers. There is no doubt that the presence of an airplane in the skies over Tsavo and Lamu plays a major role in curbing the threat to habitats and wildlife. The challenges remain great, but the rewards and the results are continuous. The boost in KWS team moral, the saving of a speared elephant, the witnessing of the Tiva River in full flood, or the rare sights of over 500 elephants meeting in one herd far outweigh the challenges. As long as the DSWT aerial surveillance units are out there, rest assured we are hard at work looking after the precious wilderness and all the wildlife that lives within it.

By Nick Trent

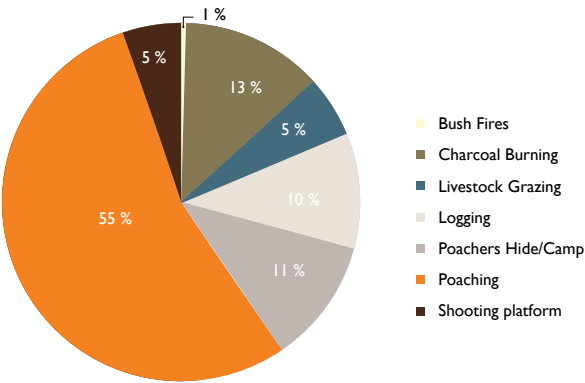


The DSWT’s aerial surveillance unit comprises of a Cessna 185, a TopCub and a SuperCub

Wildlife Monitoring

The DSWT has been running a field monitoring database since June 2009. This incredibly important database has allowed us to comprehensively monitor ground and air operations in the field in order to reveal key trends and data through analytical mapping and reporting. We added an aerial feature to the database in order to incorporate the aerial surveillance unit's patrol routes as well as recording all sightings from the air whilst encompassing a design element to link events between the ground and the air in order to avoid duplicated data records. This data gives us the ability to report to our donors whilst also allowing management to make more informed decisions and effective strategies. Developments in the design include a very clever ability to search through arrest records by name or related names, with the facility to find those who have been arrested more than once at the touch of a button. Simple queries can also be easily accessed, such as the quantity of bushmeat confiscated and where it was discovered, and who was involved in an arrest, revealing a better picture of what the scale of the problem is on the ground.

Proportions of illegal activities - January to October 2012



DSWT anti-poaching teams coverage in Tsavo Conservation Area

The Trust has been also been collecting MIKE data (Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephants) on the database, which allows vital information to be shared with other NGO's as well as Government organizations, which need the data in order to create a broad overview of the poaching situation throughout Kenya. The Trust's projects and data collection covers much of the TCA (Tsavo Conservation Area) which is listed by MIKE as one of the 45 MIKE sites in Africa (four of which are in Kenya) and contains Kenya's largest single population of elephants. This database has raised the Trust's ability to store information and provide important information to other researchers and interested parties, whilst significantly improving ground activities in the field.

Water Resources

The DSWT funded the re-drilling of a new borehole at the Ithumba Headquarters in the northern area of Tsavo East during 2012 as the original borehole was compromised due to a collapsing shaft resulting in a very poor yield of water, drying up almost entirely during the height of the dry season. The new borehole, although saline like the previous one, provides the vital water required for both the KWS and DSWT staff. The Trust funds and maintains the desalination unit, which processes fresh water to ensure that water is available for human consumption. DSWT's water-bowsers assist in transporting water from the Tiva River for the orphaned and wild elephants both at the stockade and at the 'orphans waterhole' during the driest months, which helps to ensure the wild elephants are able to remain in the northern part of the Park despite the waterholes drying.

Throughout Tsavo East and West National Park the DSWT has funded the drilling of eleven boreholes and 4 windmills, and is committed to the on-going maintenance of all of its projects and resources, guaranteeing that there will be water remaining even during the most challenging months. The harsh drought of 2012 saw the whole of Tsavo East National Park lying parched under the heat of the African sun. Although this arid environment is no stranger to drought and harsh conditions, the wet seasons once relied upon to bring relief are worryingly now becoming even rarer as global warming bites.

The struggle for water is an on-going battle which the wildlife of Tsavo, and Kenya as a whole, is fighting all too often these days, but there are measures that can be taken to reduce the impact of these long and harsh dry seasons, and to relieve the challenges of water access for wildlife, which is a core objective of the DSWT. Working closely with the KWS Senior Warden of Tsavo East and the Kenya Wildlife Service workforce, the DSWT has financially supported the rehabilitation of large water holes in the southern section of the park this year, with donations of fuel and labour.



Aruba windmill and borehole

These activities were put in action in anticipation of the rains, where existing watering points were deepened and reinforced so that more water could be held for longer, which is so heavily relied upon by huge numbers of wildlife, and especially Tsavo's vulnerable elephant populations. Luckily the rains soon arrived, despite only in small amounts, but the dams the Trust had been providing funding for were in an area where substantial rain had fallen, and literally overnight these enlarged dams successfully captured significant volumes of water, much to the delight of the wild elephant herds and all wildlife who have since been bathing and hydrating themselves daily.

In close collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service, in 2013 the DSWT will be looking for long term water solutions throughout the region. With support from the DSWT, experts within the field will be engaged to assist in mapping a way forward in an effort to ease the recurrent water issues plaguing the greater Tsavo Conservation Area, recognising that the challenge of water is one of the most pressing underlying problems facing Tsavo's future, whilst also being a complex issue requiring carefully thought-out solutions.

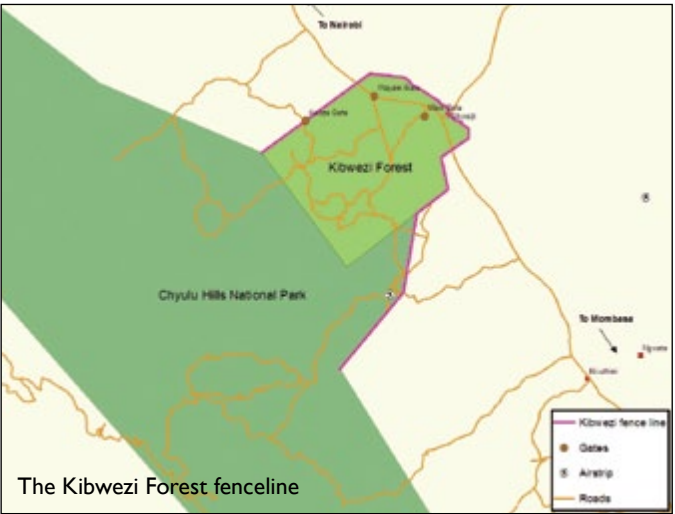
Fencelines and Infrastructure

The Kibwezi Forest project has seen significant funds invested into electrically fenced borders this year and with the most recent extension the un-shortable fence now runs for 47km, which has been implemented in order to protect the neighbouring communities and their livelihoods, whilst actively safeguarding roaming wild animals from human-wildlife conflict. Over the years the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has constructed 63km along the Tsavo East National Park northern boundary as well as a 15km fenceline along the south-eastern boundary of the Nairobi National Park.

With an ever-increasing human population these protected borders are an incredibly important solution to mounting human-wildlife conflict. These fences are a long term commitment for the DSWT, as they need constant monitoring and maintenance, which entails a significant and on-going financial commitment, as a fence is only as effective as its maintenance. Local community members are employed by the Trust in order to effectively maintain these fencelines, which not only offers much needed employment but creates both cooperation and goodwill with the communities bordering the protected areas.



Kibwezi forest electric fence



The Kibwezi Forest fenceline



Patrolling the Ithumba fenceline



Keeping Tsavo Pristine

In 1956 after many years of construction the 210km Mzima pipeline was completed, enabling a constant supply of water to the expanding city of Mombasa on Kenya's coast. The line of the pipeline, which was constructed using reinforced concrete pipes, journeys from its source at Mzima Springs in Tsavo West, before following a route of over 40kms through Tsavo East National Park. Originally built with piping transported on ships all the way from England to Mombasa, the pipeline has over the years sprung many leaks needing significant repair. Sadly the maintenance of the pipeline has caused issues with substantial cluttering of the environment from old piping and debris being left abandoned throughout the park. Since its completion over fifty years ago the pipeline in Tsavo East alone has discarded more than forty fragments of huge concrete piping weighing upwards of 500kg each.

Due to the size and difficulty of removing the piping it has just been left to litter the landscape, but the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has taken action with permission from the KWS in Tsavo East and has disposed of the debris by employing members of the surrounding local communities. With serious manpower the large concrete fragments have been loaded onto a lorry along with metal wiring and rubble left behind, which was a tough and physically demanding task which took many days, but for the casual labourers hired, it gave much needed employment.

The DSWT strives to invest resources into projects such as this on top of its on-going initiatives in order to support the future of Kenya's National Parks and in turn the wildlife which relies so heavily upon the Parks for protection against an increasingly hostile world.

Communities and Education

This year has been a time of transformation for our community projects, entailing the strengthening of project implementation and management, with an increase in ground activities, allowing the Trust to spread its support to additional schools and communities within and surrounding the Tsavo Conservation Area. Working hand in hand with local communities is an important objective of the DSWT as wildlife and natural habitats rely on the behavior and attitudes of the humans in which they share their world. Kenya's future generations must grow with an appreciation of the importance of their natural heritage including their wild animals, forests, rivers and environments.

Every day at the Nairobi Nursery at the elephant orphan's 11am-12pm public mudbath, the DSWT hosts up to 250 local school children for free, inviting them to meet the orphans and their Keepers and learn about the work of the Trust and why these innocent animals have been orphaned, whilst teaching them the importance of protecting not only Kenya's elephants but all of the country's wild animals. 55,000 Kenyan school children have experienced the orphaned elephants at the DSWT's Nairobi Nursery this year alone

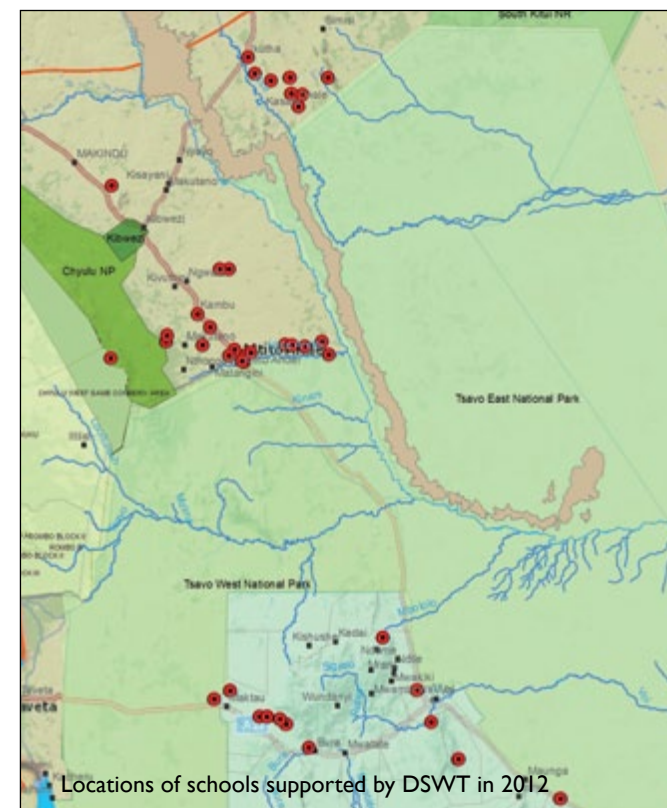
The DSWT's school initiatives also provide support at the field level to schools bordering the park boundaries within the Tsavo Conservation Area. Many of these schools have very little, many without school desks even. DSWT donates much needed school desks which we have custom built, sustainably designed and made to last, as well as huge amounts of sporting equipment, which forms a much enjoyable yet important part of their school children's curriculum, which is normally overlooked due to the high costs of such supplies and facilities.

Tree programs have also been created at many schools within the Tsavo Conservation Area, encouraging hundreds of school children to protect their forests by giving them indigenous tree saplings to plant and water every day within their school grounds. 60 school trips have been funded this year by DSWT, giving over 1800 school children the opportunity to visit one of the Tsavo National Parks on a full-days field trip guided by a DSWT team member. Made available by a bus donated by the UK Dulverton Charitable Trust, these trips are hugely enjoyed by the children and their teachers, whilst encouraging them all to take an active interest in their wildlife and environment while teaching them about the different species and their ecosystems.

We would like to thank the Capricorn Foundation, the Waves Charitable Trust and the many kind individuals



who have made our community support possible, with special thanks to the American Embassy for their funding as well as the Body Shop Foundation who have greatly supported our educational initiatives by funding the creation and printing of Field Guides for children on the bus trips as well as certificates of participation.



Elephants and Ivory

In February 2012 the Kenya Wildlife Service launched the National Elephant Conservation & Management Strategy 2012 – 2021 at the Ivory Burn Site in Nairobi National Park. Its overall goal was to maintain and expand elephant distribution and numbers in suitable areas, enhance security to elephants to reduce human/wildlife conflict, and increase the value of elephants to people and their habitat, based on peaceful and beneficial coexistence with humans now and for the future. It also aimed to protect elephant populations by minimizing poaching through effective law enforcement measures and stakeholder collaboration.

These are all noble goals, but this year huge seizures of ivory en route to China have implicated Kenya and Tanzania both as a source and also for being major conduits for the trafficking illegal ivory and rhino horn. In 1973 Kenya's elephant population was estimated at 167,000. Today Kenya would be lucky to have 30,000. Today the scale of the slaughter of both elephants and rhinos replicates that of the 1970's and 1980's and yet again a veritable 'Bush War' is being fought where human lives as well as elephants are being lost. On March 7th one of our anti-poaching teams, accompanied by the usual two KWS armed Rangers, encountered a gang of Somali poachers on the Ranches abutting Tsavo just 4km from the main Nairobi-Mombasa road. The two KWS Rangers (one a pregnant woman) were shot dead by the poachers and their guns and ammunition removed. Fortunately our un-armed rangers managed to flee and later re-group, but over 40 elephants had already been poached on the ranches within just a few weeks.

Subsequently 22 suspected poachers, including a woman, were arrested across the country along with 4 elephant tusks, hardwood, 3 vehicles, 2 motorbikes, 2 power saws, snares and weighing machines. Then 3 poachers were shot dead near Isiolo and 3 more in Northern Tsavo East near Ndiandaza where 3 guns and 140 rounds of ammunition were recovered nearby. Disappointing is the fact that the current Kenya Government can overnight enact draconian Traffic Laws entailing enormous fines and even mandatory life imprisonment for an offence causing death through dangerous driving yet seem reluctant to move on poaching offences where culprits are given ridiculously lean punishments and are free to persist with arrogant impunity. The need for draconian measures to save the country's irreplaceable wildlife heritage cannot be overstated for it is impacting seriously on the country's lucrative tourism industry, and the loss of elephants will have a domino effect on many other indigenous species. The article "Blood Ivory" published



Kenya school children visiting the Nursery Unit



in the October issue of National Geographic highlighted the demand for religious ivory trinkets in the Philippines and many other Catholic and Buddhist countries, quite aside from the demand driven by Far Eastern countries such as China, Vietnam, Thailand and Japan.

In a recent survey in Nigeria's biggest city, Lagos, nearly all ivory items found for sale were reported to be only recently made. Amongst ivory chopsticks, jewellery and human figurines, thousands of ivory pieces were discovered being sold in many retail outlets as reported by Traffic International. The items are all being produced to meet increasing Chinese demand and Lagos is appearing to be one of Africa's biggest domestic ivory markets, offering hugely discounted rates compared with the sale costs of the same items in China. One of the biggest reduced-rate items to acquire in Lagos is beaded ivory necklaces, sold for just US\$57 in Lekki market compared to a price tag of US\$586 in a Guangzhou shop. With a Chinese population in Nigeria of well over 100,000, it is vital that the Nigerian Government wakes up to this illegal market and reinforces its laws on the ivory trade.

Although the International Ivory Trade is supposed to have been banned since 1989, 2011 and now 2012 have been the worst years ever for elephant poaching continent wide, driven by populations that regard it either as a social status symbol, a hedge against monetary problems or simply a symbolic religious icon. It is difficult to equate suffering and death as anything other than sheer evil. The CITES decision approving China to join Japan as an approved buyer of so-called Southern African legal stockpiles has proved an unmitigated disaster, which has fuelled the illegal trade rather than controlled it. As a result elephants have been dying in droves on a daily basis everywhere in Africa, including Zimbabwe, Zambia and Southern Africa as well as here in Kenya, the one country that has always fought so hard to have ivory banned completely, and who burnt its ivory stockpiles prior to the 1989 ban. Chad has now joined Kenya by doing the same in protest against the slaughter of its elephants.

Gruesome images of the mass murder of over 200 elephants in Cameroon's Bouba N'Djida National Park shocked the world leaving a terrified remnant population

of only some 450 individuals. This elephant massacre was undertaken by armed Sudanese horsemen who travelled more than 1,000km through Chad and the Central African Republic, wiping out those country's elephants as they went, even hacking tusks from the faces of the living wounded and mercilessly slaughtering their dependent babies as well. Whilst Cameroon reacted by sending in 150 army personnel, the damage had already been done and rather than count the dead, the intervention force instead focused on trying to protect the few terrified survivors. It is feared that Cameroon will soon join the number of countries north of the Zambezi who have lost their entire elephant populations.

Prior to the CITES sanctioned legal auction of ivory in 2008, China pledged to crackdown on its illegal ivory market, but undercover investigations by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and others, discovered that up to 90% of ivory sold in China came from illegal sources, Guangzhou being at the epicentre. Dealers spoke of a network of sophisticated cartels that used shifting smuggling routes via Vietnam, even hiding

ivory in metal boxes suspended below ships. They also discovered that the Chinese Government profiteered through selling the legal ivory stockpiles at an inflated price, sometimes ten times as much as the price paid in the first place. The Illegal Wildlife Trade is a multi-billion dollar industry, and one of the most lucrative illicit economies in the world, behind illegal drugs, human trafficking and arms trafficking, organized by sophisticated and ruthless criminal cartels.

Once only the privilege of the rich, today ivory is affordable to China's wealthier masses who also now regard it as a status symbol and because of this less than 400,000 elephants remain alive in Africa today, whose numbers are falling rapidly. The Forest Elephants of Central Africa are nearing total annihilation, and many former Elephant Range States have been left with none at all. What will CITES do to stop this madness when the Parties meet again in Thailand? Established in 1973 CITES now has 176 Member States, and its 40th Anniversary falls in March 2013. There was more ivory seized last year than at any other time since the 1989 Global Ban. Informed sources estimate that 35,000 elephants were killed in 2011, and even more in 2012. Elephants could be extinct by 2020. 20 years ago there were 100,000 elephants in the Democratic Republic of Congo, now it is estimated that barely 5,000 remain. Five years ago Chad had 3,800 elephants - now less than 400 remain. Sierra Leone's last elephant died in 2011. Senegal has numbers in single digits, probably by now also gone.

An average of 45,000lbs of ivory is seized annually (the equivalent of the death of 3,600 elephants) but this is just the tip of the iceberg because only about 1-5% of containers are regularly checked, and officials are easily bribed now that ivory is fetching such a huge price. Chinese-backed crime groups are leading a surge in African Elephant poaching to meet China's thirst for ivory, and terror groups are elbowing in on the lucrative trade. This was highlighted at a meeting attended by Senator John Kerry on the 24th May 2012, at which Dr Iain Douglas Hamilton spoke of "an acute crisis" and said that ivory poaching in Africa was now worse than at any other time, threatening the ultimate extinction of the African Elephant. So will CITES vote to ban all ivory and save the elephants, or will they again vote for greed and for money driven by trade, which has fuelled the current slaughter?

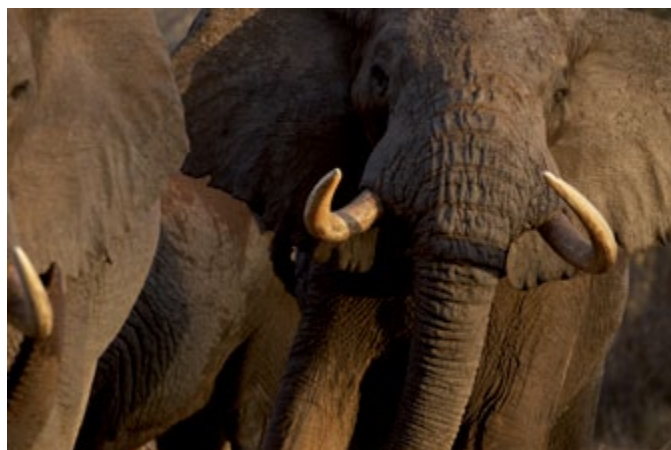
The decision made by the Central African Republic (CAR) in October to undergo an independent audit of its ivory stocks stored near the town of Bayanga is a sign that the country is serious about addressing rampant elephant poaching and related illegal wildlife crimes, as is Gabon,

who burnt its ivory stockpile last June. Further stockpiles are to be examined and all audited ivory stocks sent to a secured warehouse in the country's capital, Bangui, so that the ivory does not find its way back into the illegal market. WWF is encouraging the Government of CAR to destroy its ivory stocks once the audit is complete.

There are fears that although the demand for ivory certainly needs to be addressed it will take years to shift longstanding cultural preferences in the Far East, whilst time is running out for elephants. Law enforcement must be increased and deterrent sentences handed out, particularly severe deterrent punishment for killing an elephant.

By signing the petition on the DSWT's iWorry campaign website and saying no to the ivory trade, you will help us to show politicians and decision-makers attending the meeting of CITES in March 2013 how adamant we all are that they should vote against any movement to legalise the sales of ivory in any form.

Visit www.iworry.org to add your voice.



The Ivory Calender 2012

February

7 Elephants have been killed by poachers in Terengire National Park in Tanzania since the beginning of the year.

Two Chinese were arrested in Cape Town for illegal possession of Ivory after information was received about a foul smell emanating from a luxury flat in Cape Town. When the police investigated they found people cutting elephant tusks into small pieces, apparently to make jewellery.

20 Elephants were killed by poachers alleged to be Ethiopian in Marsabit, Kenya, in the first 2 months of the year.

Officials in Uganda seized nearly 162kg of ivory and other animal parts and products as they were being smuggled in and out of the country.

March

More than 200 elephants were killed in Cameroon in the Bouba Ndjida National Park, slaughtered for their ivory within the first 3 months of the year. Cameroon has now lost most of its 400 elephants.

Tusks and Ivory items worth millions were seized in an operation in which SA Revenue Service Officers intercepted a consignment of ivory which left the airport for its destination – a city premises. Whole tusks and several bags of cut ivory as well as ivory necklaces and bangles were painstakingly counted in a room on the premises. Also seized was a machine used to cut ivory. A Chinese National has been arrested.

A Chinese woman was remanded in prison for smuggling ivory in Nigeria (Leadership Newspapers)

A Chinese National was apprehended with more than 10kg of ivory and 6 pangolins acquired during a trip to Angola.

A Chinese national was remanded in prison for allegedly attempting to export ivory from Lagos Nigeria.

Two Chinese men were accused of illegal possession of ivory in South Africa – officials found elephant tusks and some ornamental ivory in a flat in Table View, Cape Town.

A Chinese Businessman accused of possessing and dealing in ivory was released on bail of R1 million in Cape Town – South Africa. He has been resident in S.A. for 10 years.

Top Prison Officer (Assistant Commissioner Apinos Mudzamiri) and two other men were nabbed in Binga, Zimbabwe, for being in possession of 4 elephant tusks. Three other men were arrested for poaching in Binga, Zimbabwe – having killed an elephant reportedly worth \$20,000.

Three men apprehended in Tanzania in illegal possession of trophies (8 elephant tusks) worth over 72 million TZ.

2 Elephants killed by Poachers on Lualeni Ranch within Mwatate district, Kenya, bordering Tsavo West National Park.

Three men were arrested in Venetersburg, South Africa, for possession of ivory, having been stopped in a car driven by a Zimbabwean. Two Chinese then arrived and said they owned the vehicle, offering the Police R900 bribe.

April

Kenya Revenue authority seizes a 40 ft. container loaded with elephant tusks at Mombasa, which had been there for the past 3 years!

In Thailand the authorities at Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi Airport intercepted and seized 22 contraband African elephant tusks, and 44 sawn pieces of ivory worth more than Bt3 million in a shipment from Nigeria. The confiscated ivory weighed 58.54 kg and with a market value of more than Bt3 million (nearly US\$100,000).

May

At Kariba in Zimbabwe three suspected poachers were last week arrested after they were found in possession of two elephant tusks worth over \$7 000. The Mashonaland West police spokesperson confirmed the arrest of the trio who tried to flee from the police leading to the recovery of tusks weighing 28,460kg.

1.5 tons (3 container loads) of Ivory shipped from Mombasa were seized in Sri Lanka smuggled in waste containers addressed to a buyer in Dubai. Two of the three Containers are believed to have entered Kenya through Malaba border point on the Kenya – Uganda border, but the third Container allegedly originated in Nairobi. This seizure contained the tusks of at least 180 elephants.

Police in Naivasha arrest 3 men in possession of 2 Elephant tusks weighing 42kgs.

Sri Lankan customs officials say they have seized about 1.5 tons of elephant tusks in the largest ever such seizure in the country. Udaya Liyanage, a customs official, says the tusks were being transported through the capital, Colombo, in a container that arrived from Kenya and was bound for Dubai. Customs officials found 359 ivory tusks, weighing about 1.5 tons.

Police in Naivasha are holding three men who were arrested in possession of two elephant tusks worth close to Sh1 million. The three were arrested by Kenya Wildlife Service rangers in Kinangop, Nyandarua County Police Station.

Guinea police seized over 800 pieces of ivory in the capital Conakry during a raid that led to six arrests, police said Friday.

Zimbabwean game rangers killed a poacher and seized 28 elephant tusks during a weekend raid in the north-eastern town of Binga; fourteen pairs of ivory tusks which translate into 28 ivory tusks were recovered.

June

2 Chinese Nationals arrested in Mozambique for ivory trafficking – arrested with 25 kilos of ivory – were discovered just after the 2 Chinese had landed having come from Kenya. Also arrested a week before was a Vietnamese in possession of 7 rhino horns.

More than 140 pieces of ivory have gone missing at the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) armoury in Chilanga in unclear circumstances.

At least 345 ivory tusks weighing 745 kg were seized at J.K. Airport packed in 6 wooden crates labelled car spare parts and heading for Lagos Nigeria.

July

6 tusks were recovered on the Narok – Mau Mahiu road, worth more than K. Shs. 2 million.

69 ivory pieces were illegally imported into the town of Napier, New Zealand, posted from France.

Customs Officials at Entebbe International Airport impounded 426 kg ivory destined for Malaysia concealed in metallic suitcases labelled Brian Michael.

Elephant tusks worth an estimated R10 million have been seized at a storage facility near Cape Town International Airport and two people have been arrested. The tusks weighed between 400kg and 500kg.

In Bangkok, Thai customs officials have seized half a ton of ivory at Bangkok’s international airport. The ivory was discovered hidden in crates aboard a flight from Kenya. One official estimated that the 158 pieces of ivory were from the tusks of around 50 elephants.

August

Customs officers at a Ho Chi Minh City port in Vietnam seized 2.4 tons of ivory from a container labelled as having cow leather. The shipment had arrived late June but company representatives failed to show up to collect it despite repeated reminders, and customs then decided to open it. They found 158 elephant tusks hidden in 28 wooden barrels, worth an estimated US\$5 million.

Intelligence led to an ivory bust in China of 107 pieces of illegal Ivory out of 22 shops, only one with the legal permit.

Trophies worth 212.9 million were seized in Tanzania (probably ex-Selous) and suspects were arraigned in Court (101 suspects arraigned in court). 80 Firearms and 685 rounds of ammunition seized as well as 298 shell castings.

September

62 pieces of elephant ivory weighing 255 kilograms have been seized at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) while being smuggled out of the country. The tusks were packed in two metallic boxes, some of them were cut off in pieces, were declared as ‘avocados’.

A woman was caught at Vietnam’s Hanoi airport with 19 kilograms of ivory and ivory products, Lao Dong newspaper reported. They found 677 pieces of ivory weighing 19 kilograms besides 15 bracelets, 90 pairs of chopsticks, and 10 chains made of ivory.

Police have recovered three elephant tusks weighing 8kg that were abandoned by five fleeing poachers at the Mandaza Islands along the Zambezi River. He said police also recovered about 50 kg of game meat, an axe, 5 x 5-litre empty containers, a blanket and a bed sheet.

October

Tusks ex- Kenya and Tanzania (1209 pieces representing some 60 elephants) were seized in Hong Kong hidden in containers marked “Plastic Scrap and Rococco Beans), worth 3.4 US\$ or K. Shs. 289 million. Interpol have said that the tusks originated

from the Selous Game Reserve and Mikumi National Park, Tanzania

Two Kenyans (Peter Kami and wife Leonida Kabi who is Tanzanian born) and two Tanzanians were arrested in Dar es Salaam with 214 tusks (102 elephants) plus bones at Kamara Stop Over area. The tusks weighed 450.6 kg and were hidden in fertilizer bags.

Statuettes and other precious ivory objects of a religious nature were seized by CITES Agents of the Forestry Corps of Rome valued at 150,000 Euros.

November

Police hunted a Nairobi businessman believed to be an Ivory Trade Kingpin in East Africa. A swoop in Nairobi’s South C and Eastleigh Estates recovered 28 tusks after a team from the Special Crime Prevention Unit had earlier recovered 4 tusks. A further 12 tusks were recovered from a vehicle the next day as well as another 12 Tusks recovered in Makindu.

4 Poachers were shot, 2 in Meru National Park where several elephants have been poached, and 2 others gunned down on Solio Ranch where a G3 Rifle with 7 rounds of ammunition was recovered.

Two ivory traffickers were arrested with nearly 40 kg of ivory at a hotel in Libreville. One of them is of Cameroonian nationality and the other, a Senegalese.

About 84kgs of ivory has been seized from smugglers who planned to sneak it out of the country through Entebbe International Airport, Uganda Wildlife Authority (Uwa) officials said. The first haul, comprising 13 pieces of ivory (about 27 kilograms), was impounded at a restaurant in Zana, a Kampala suburb. Another 62-kg loot was found at the airport on Monday morning.

Hong Kong Customs made a second major seizure of Ivory in less than a month, discovering 569 pieces weighing 1,330 kg concealed amongst sunflower seeds.

December

Poachers killed at least 8 elephants and 4 rhinos in separate incidents in Kenya. The elephants were killed at the beginning of December at the Mbale community ranch within the Tsavo ecosystem, while the rhinos were killed at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy near Isiolo, all in the span of a week.

Malaysian officials recovered a massive Ivory haul said to have originated from Togo and heading to China – 1,500 tusks hidden in 10 wooden crates labelled as “wooden floor tiles” and estimated to weigh a staggering 20 tons.

Iringa Police have seized 78 elephant tusks. The tusks were found after a high speed chase involving people suspected to be poachers. Three suspects are in custody. The tusks weighed 211.6kg and officials of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism here valued them at KSh186, 680,344.



Some of Tsavo's big boys

Special Thanks

Most sincere and grateful thanks go to **Pfizer International**, who have continued to supply milk for our orphaned elephants free of charge, and especially **Susan Scott, Natasha Sweeney and Gill Markham** for fast tracking various consignments. We also continue to deeply appreciate the help given to us by **Finlays Horticulture Holdings in U.K.**, especially **James Bartington and John Adams** as well as **Finlays Skytrain** personnel and especially **Anthony Mwakesi**. We thank **Dicky Evans** for his generous offer of covering the custom charges on the milk.

As always massive thanks goes to **British Airways** for their support with complimentary flights and freight services, valued at in excess of £50,000, whilst featuring the DSWT in film on-board all BA flights from January 2013. Especially we thank **Mary Barry, Mary Brew and Laura Phillips** as well as **Mick Goss and his BA Cargo Team** for their part in getting the elephant milk out to us free of charge, and the **Flight and Cabin Crew** who have brought out tins of milk for the orphans. We thank **Tony Nothman** for allowing a large consignment of Daphne's Book to be flown out free in order to be sold by the Trust in support of the Elephant Orphans.

Through grants in support of the Orphans' Project we thank **Care for the Wild International, Vier Pfofen, Pengo Life Project, Rettet die Elefanten Afrikas Ev., Vrienden von de Olifant, Forsvara Elefanterna, Terre at Faune, Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA) and Claudia Somme of Verein der Elefantenfreunde** while **Phillipp and Esther Wolf** very generously provided 1,000 tins of SMA Gold Milk for the orphans. **Esther Wolf** also most kindly gave the Trust access to all her slides of the early orphans. Thanks are also due to **Daphne Barbieri** who personally organized a fundraiser in aid of the elephants of Samburu as well as our orphans. We have enjoyed prompt and

efficient service from **Agriner Limited** who delivers to our doorstep the replacer milk needed for the older elephants, as well as **Beta Healthcare** who do the same for the **Infracare Milk**. The Keepers greatly appreciated the lavish outside catered feasts provided by the management of **Beta Healthcare** especially for them.

We are at a loss as to how to adequately thank **Mr Jorge Companc** who has not only enabled us to field a much needed third Mobile Veterinary Unit to operate in Northern Kenya, but also for so generously providing the sophisticated veterinary diagnostic equipment which will revolutionize our veterinary capacity. We are most deeply appreciative of Mr Companc's unstinting generosity and his invaluable advice on environmental issues. We are deeply grateful to **Dr Clay Wilson** for sourcing the veterinary equipment and for his help over the ailing infants in the Nursery at the time of his visit. Thank you to **Abaxis Incorporated** who provided blood diagnostic equipment at a discounted rate and donating additional supplies, as did **Diagnostic Imaging Systems Inc.** Huge thanks goes to **Phoenix Aviation** for thier many years of support towards our aviation unit and a friendship which spans a lifetime. Thanks also goes to **CubCrafters** for their continual support.

We are also at a loss as to how to adequately thank another valued Trust donor, **Geri Bauer**, who purchased 20 acres of land on the Burguret River near Nanyuki and donated it to the Trust. Geri Bauer has also most generously funded consignments of Lucerne supplement for our orphans. We are also grateful to Trustee **Rex Dobie** who likewise provided a truck-load of Lucerne for the Ithumba Orphans. **Geri Bauer** also kindly sourced Pancreatin supplement for the orphans that were having milk assimilation problems. We thank Geri enormously for all she has done for the Trust and the elephants, and for her love of them. We also acknowledge the ever present support of **Nigel Goodman** who funded consignments of Lucerne and water to the Ithumba orphans during the driest months and donated 450 tins of SMA First Infant Milk.

We are most **deeply** grateful to another valued donor, **Mr John Araghi and Kathy Kamei** for their financial support not only for a new stainless steel water bowser tank for the Voi reintegration unit but also for covering the cost of our new Nairobi Nursery Milk Mixing facility. Thank you to **Kathy Kamei** for being a headline sponsor of the Harambee and donating an amazing 100% of the sale price of her silver elephant pendants to DSWT.

We are deeply grateful to **Jane Strachan** of the U.S. Embassy who has so willingly given us invaluable help throughout the year. We thank **Cheryl and Bob Kovarakis** for promoting the Trust's work and the Fostering Program at "Elephants' Rest", their Australian African Garden Gallery. We also thank all who have so kindly provided blankets for the Nursery elephant orphans. We would also like to give our thanks to **East African Canvas** for their continued support whenever called upon. **Dennis Mathews** of Matbronze has continued his donation of small elephant bronzes for fundraising purposes, while his father **Terry** most kindly and generously donated a beautiful large bronze of an Elephant and Calf to be auctioned at the Trust's Harambee Fundraising Gala Dinner on the 28th September 2012.

Solgar Vitamins & Herbs have most kindly and generously undertaken to donate a 1000 bottles of Pancreatin Supplement annually to the Trust as a lifetime commitment. Particularly we thank **Lesley Constable** for her personal input in this incredibly generous donation. **GNLD** have wonderfully donated vitamins and Calmag for all our orphans as well as LDC Liquid. Many well-wishers have offered their services free towards remote alternative healing of our ailing Nursery elephants all of which has been deeply appreciated. **Anne Wilson** generously donated healing essences, and **Nelsons** again provided sufficient Rescue Remedy to last us a very long time. **Andrew Wright** of Malindi, Kenya, kindly sent us special Bee Therapy to try on Rhino Max's filarial sores, which certainly helped. **Nanee Magre** has again given valued advice on how to deal with elephant eye

infections and our U.K. Homeopathic Doctor, **Lesley Suter**, is always at the end of an email or phone call for us.

Thanks go to **Allianz Global Investors** for their continued support, and to **National Geographic** who foster orphans as gifts for their staff's 1st born children and who was a headline sponsor of the DSWT Harambee Gala dinner. Thank you to **Chantecaille** for their cause related marketing giving a 5% donation from sales of their elephant palette makeup. **First Avenue, Gaea Pharma, Pfizer, Wilsa Narrow Fabrics, Metage Capital** all supported our Harambee fundraiser donating significantly to our work. We have appreciated support from **Animal Friends Pet Insurance** after winning their October Facebook competition, **Animals and You** for their children's magazine that chose DSWT as their charity of the year. Thanks goes to **Suno**, Fashion designer in New York, for generating a donation from a percentage of their sales of a unique line of sneakers and to the **Organic Herb Company** for their donation of the healing green clay, which is always in use. We thank **Ultimate Security** for their continued discount for the Guards that patrol our premises by night, and we also thank KWS for providing nocturnal armed Guards along with the day Guards for the public visiting hour.

A huge thank you goes to the **Capricorn Foundation** for their support of orphans project, our community outreach projects as well as funding the Mtito anti-poaching team. Thanks to the **Waves Charitable Trust** for their support of the orphans project and helping to fund our educational school field trips, to the **Body Shop Foundation** for funding a new field guide for the children on the DSWT field trips and sponsoring one of the DSWT supported schools. Many thanks also go to the **Abraham Foundation**, the **Treasure Charitable Trust** and the **American Embassy Kenya** who have all generously supported our community outreach programmes.

We congratulate **Rob Brandford** and his stalwart helpers for organizing the highly successful Gala Dinner which generated a handsome sum for the Trust's many and

varied conservation initiatives and we thank all who came from all corners of the globe just to be there in order to support the event. Particularly we thank **Rula Lenska** most sincerely for so efficiently hosting the evening, along with **Kristin Davis**, Patron of our US Friends organization who came all the way from the USA to represent them.

We would like to thank **Lionel Nutter** who works tirelessly as the Trust's Field Manager, and **Nick Trent** who so efficiently and effectively undertakes all the Trust's aerial surveillance work over Tsavo as well as Amu. Likewise we owe enormous gratitude to the **US Friends of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust** as well as to **Rob Brandford** of our U.K. Charity, to **Brian Miller**, President of the US Friends, **Nancy Hattabaugh** and the current Board members for sterling support throughout the year. Very special thanks go again to **Kristin Davis** for her tireless support of the work of the Trust.

There are some important individuals that must also be given special thanks including **Mike Foster, Andrew McDonnell, Miranda Curtis, James Samantha Wilson, Eric Margolis and Craig and Cynthia Rosen** for their generous donations and **Sarah Jones, Andrew Longstaff, Emma Pee and Abishek Desai** for their time and skill donated towards the DSWT in helping to raise awareness and funds. Thanks to **Gary Hodges** for his support and donating various limited edition prints to the DSWT for the Harambee Gala. Thank also go to **Richard Hyndman** who created and manages the DSWT Android App at no charge.

Thanks to **Abi Irving**, who has worked tirelessly to help secure a special discounted rate for the purchase of two much needed Land Rovers, and to **Julie Blackwell, Alex Wood, Tony Mustoe, Barbara Emery and Victoria Wood** for their time and efforts in volunteering for the DSWT in the UK throughout the year, whilst huge gratitude goes to **Joachim Schmeisser and Kathrin Kohler** for granting us the use of their stunning photography, donating items for the Harambee Gala and providing

us with professional image printing. We are grateful to the **G2 Gallery** for spreading awareness of the work of the DSWT and providing on-going financial support. We extend a special thank you to **John and Valoree Papsidera, Pamela Leal and family, Dianne Cheseldine, Susie Needle, and Christine Horace** for their hard work and dedication toward raising funds and spreading awareness about the work of the DSWT.

We are so grateful to **Jackie Magid and Susie Needle** for their tireless efforts to develop a program to educate students about the importance of protecting wildlife as well as thanks to **Diana Kreutzer**. Thanks to **Julia Newmann**, an accomplished composer who graciously donated her musical talents to the DSWT. To **Kim DeWitt, Debbie DePoy, Brenda Beach, Kelly Deppen and Jacqueline Hamilton** for thier help and assistance with mailing books and to **McCauley Hattabaugh** for volunteering numerous hours of assistance in the US office.

Huge thanks go to the many people around the world that actively fundraise on behalf of the DSWT, raising much needed funds for our projects and increasing awareness of our work and the threats facing wildlife. Supporters have **run marathons, organised cake sales, cycled around mountains, skydived, abseiled, given talks and taken part in a plethora of other activities** to fundraise for us and we are so touched be their efforts.

We would like to thank the **Kenya Wildlife Service** for their partnership throughout our many projects.

Finally we thank each and every one enormously. Many people all over the world have had a hand in helping us rear our orphaned elephants, too numerous to name personally, but please know that we value whatever assistance comes our way, because without it, we could not manage.



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

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

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UK

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