

# The David Sheldrick

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# WILDLIFE TRUST



Newsletter 2013

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Mishak, Angela and Daphne

# Overview of 2013

By Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick

How rapidly this year has brought us to another close and time to thank all of the Trust's Supporters worldwide most sincerely and with deep gratitude, for empowering us to be able to make a significant difference throughout the course of 2013. If someone had told me when the Trust was first formed following the death of my husband in 1977, that we would be where we are today, I would never have believed them. The Trust has grown enormously. We are deeply mindful that we owe this success to those who have supported us from the start, and continue to do so, amongst whom have been some very special donors who have been overwhelmingly generous.

We are honored to have been chosen as the recipient of hard earned contributions entrusted to us to use wisely in order to make an impact where most needed at the field level of conservation, where the rubber meets the road.

We are deeply grateful to our US Friends and our UK Charity for the crucial part they have played in this year's achievements. The Trustees of our U.S. Friends are greatly thanked for the voluntary time they devote to handling our U.S. donations through our 501(c) (3) status, whilst huge thanks go to Rob Brandford and his efficient



Yaya Toure

team at our UK office who work tirelessly and with such passion. We are enormously grateful for the dedication of our elephant Keepers and all our Kenya staff both in Nairobi and in the field, whose hard work has made the Trust what it is today.

My younger daughter Angela and her husband Robert run the day to day operations of the Trust and have done so for the past thirteen years, relieving me of a huge load. They do so proficiently and have given the Trust wings to fly in more ways than one, taking the Trust to greater heights than what we, of the generation who are not that technologically-savvy, could ever have achieved. Similar to her famous father in terms of perfection and vision, and with the support of her husband, Robert, Angela has done the Trust and the family proud, not forgetting, of course, the early input of Jill, my elder daughter, who, along with



Yaya Toure

her French husband selflessly laid the early foundations on which the Trust was built. They did the grind, the first elephant orphan sleeping in Jill's bedroom when we didn't even have a stable, while she and I tramped the streets with a begging bowl to raise the funding that created Kenya's first electrically fenced rhino Sanctuary, Ngulia in Tsavo, and later helped towards electrically fencing Nakuru National Park as another secure sanctuary for fast disappearing rhinos.

This year a second Super Cub aircraft has been added to our Aerial Surveillance support over Tsavo and its environs, whilst thanks to the impassioned drive, momentum and personal financial support of our Patron Kristin Davis a helicopter is also in the pipeline for 2014, both also courtesy of the U.S. Friends organization. In 2014 a fourth Mobile Veterinary Unit headed by another seconded KWS Veterinarian will be

operational in addition to the existing three, which between them have saved the lives of over 900 wounded wild elephants. Working in conjunction with the KWS Veterinary Department, Angela's new Sky Vets vision, generously funded by one individual with a desire to save elephants, has added a valuable dimension to our Mobile Veterinary initiatives and has already made a meaningful contribution by saving dozens of injured elephants and other species in places too remote to be accessed by road. Again thanks to a most valued donor we now own state of the art Blood Diagnostic equipment, and a mobile X-ray unit plus a microscope donated by another, all revolutionizing our ability to detect ailments in our orphaned elephants early on and deal with them appropriately.

We are inordinately proud of our Saving Habitats program, never more important than it is today, with wild places fast being lost forever. The Kibwezi Forest project and the self-catering Lodge built within the forest, which generates funding towards the protection of the forest and its denizens, is a wonderful public-private partnership template. With a concession made with the Kenya Forest Service we have been able to secure Kenya's oldest remaining groundwater forest bringing the illegal logging, charcoal burning and poaching under control and providing a safe haven for the wild inhabitants of both the forest and the Chyulu Hills National Park. Now electrically fenced on three sides of the forest, with ongoing maintenance funded by the Trust, the neighboring human community's subsistence farming has been protected from intrusion of wildlife. Recently sanctioned by KWS, a third orphaned elephant Rehabilitation Unit is



Yao Ming with Kamok



DSWT Patron Kristin Davis



Kenya's First Lady Margaret Kenyatta



Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick



Gerri with Angela Sheldrick

planned in 2014 in the Kibwezi Forest to cater for our compromised orphans whom poaching has left with infirmities, making it difficult for them to survive in the harsh conditions of Tsavo.

Kibwezi's success has led to the Trust recently being granted custody over the important Witu Forest north of Lamu; home to the last few remaining elephants from what was once a thriving population of 26,000, second in number only to that of Tsavo. Sadly those that remain have turned secretive and nocturnal as a survival tactic, but images of them are captured on our camera traps, so we know they are there. The Witu project will be an extension of our Amu Ranch Project, and part of our Saving Habitats initiative, the brain child of Robert Carr-Hartley, which has been embraced so positively by the local people of Lamu who manage Amu Ranch through the Lamu Conservation Trust. Other neighboring Group Ranches are now also becoming involved under the Lamu Conservation Trust, with the DSWT soliciting support for their conservation efforts. This year I visited Project Amu for the first time and was spellbound not just

by what this forgotten corner had to offer in terms of wildlife, but by the sincerity of the welcome we received. On a morning game drive we saw huge herds of Coastal Topi, hundreds of Reticulated Giraffe and thousands of Buffalo – numbers that mirror the past and in spectacular surroundings - open glades with ponds and pools adorned with water lilies, palm forests and thickets that are an extension of the Central African Tropical rain forests, an abundance of bird life and all within easy reach of the pristine beaches of Lamu island. The area offers a beach and bush experience unmatched anywhere in the world.

Kenya's peaceful elections of March 4<sup>th</sup> were celebrated countrywide with much enthusiasm and hope, ushering in the new Jubilee Government under President Uhuru Kenyatta, the son of Kenya's Founding Father, with William Ruto as his Deputy. This year marks the fiftieth year of Kenya's independence and everyone hoped for happier times ahead, despite both the President and his Deputy being indicted for alleged Crimes against Humanity by the International



Robert Carr-Hartley with Napasha

Criminal Court of The Hague. This factor has overshadowed many more pressing issues during this Jubilee year and has been instrumental in turning Kenya more towards China and the East. China and other Far Eastern States are the main consumers of illegal ivory and rhino horn, fuelling the growing demand that has led to the current escalation in the poaching of both elephants and rhinos, which threatens them with annihilation unless checked.

I am one of the few remaining people who have been involved in the system ever since the establishment of Kenya's National Parks way back in 1948, so I do have an unmatched overview of how things have unfolded over the years. Said Confucius, **"if you would to determine the future, study the past"** so for those of us who remember the past, it has been disturbing to hear once again of the alleged involvement of wildlife personnel in corruption and poaching, tempted by the huge rewards now offered by smuggling cartels for illegal ivory and rhino horn. Therefore along with the satisfaction of accomplishment working alongside the many good people within KWS, there has been underlying anxiety and grief throughout the year, having to witness suffering on such an alarming scale. That this should be so simply due to the myth in the case of rhino horn and a trinket and status symbol in the case of ivory, makes it even more scandalous.

Two centuries ago, Darwin wrote that **"Man and the Higher Animals share the same senses, intuitions and sensations, similar passions, affections and emotions, and even the more complex ones such as jealousy, suspicion, emulation, gratitude and magnanimity; they even practice deceit and are revengeful"**. Our work with the orphaned elephants has endorsed this and brought it to the attention of ordinary people throughout the world through the power of the internet and today's social networks. The monthly Keepers' Diaries which record the adventures, fortunes and misfortunes of our elephant orphans on a daily basis have dismantled the age old anthropomorphic block and challenged the long held assumption of human uniqueness. In highlighting this, our orphans have done their species an enormous favour, which hopefully will filter through to people who currently regard animals as objects to be utilized by humankind! Said the 18th Century poet Alexander Pope **"The proper study of mankind is man, but when one regards the elephants, one wonders!"** We, who have worked so closely with them over so many years, no longer wonder, but know! But, as Darwin also said, they can be revengeful when treated cruelly, and this we also know through human-wildlife conflict cases. Pope Francis spoke up for the Natural World by saying **"...let us be protectors of Creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in Nature, Protectors of one another and of the environment. Let us not allow omens of destruction and death accompany the advance of this world!"** We pray that his words will be heeded in the coming year.

The Trust has hosted many celebrities this year, among whom has been Kenya's First Lady, Margaret Kenyatta, the wife of the President, who first came to visit the orphaned elephants with the new Cabinet Secretary Professor Judi Wakhungu, and fostered orphan "Tundani". This yearling baby elephant hails from the area where the 11 elephants were gunned down at the beginning of 2013 by armed poachers, an incident that brought the poaching pandemic to the attention of the international press and highlighted the threat posed to elephants. The First Lady visited for a third time in December, on this occasion with the First Lady of Sri Lanka. We have also had visits from a number of Chinese Celebrities, Yao Ming, the famous basketball player, and leading film star Li Bing Bing, who promised to help bring awareness to their people back home through their celebrity status. Our Patron Kristin Davis continues to work tirelessly for the Trust and elephants and rhinos generally. We have had famous athletes visit us, but none more so than professional footballer Yaya Toure whose voice behind the elephant crisis will be most important throughout Africa. Princes Charles and William held a conference on the illegal Wildlife Trade in the State Apartments at St. James's Palace in May, which I attended, whilst the British Prime Minister, David Cameron has invited China's Leaders and African Heads of Government to Lancaster House in London for a further meeting in February 2014 on the issue. (The illegal wildlife trade is estimated to generate 19 billion US dollars a year).

The International March for Elephants, organized by Lucy Read and Rob Brandford of our UK office as part of the Trust's **iworry** campaign, was extremely well supported. Held on October 4<sup>th</sup> 42 cities throughout the world marched for the elephants, sounding a warning that the future survival of these iconic animals was in serious jeopardy. Following the Westgate Mall bombing of September 21<sup>st</sup> however, the Kenya march was cancelled and replaced instead with a quiet vigil at the Orphans' noon mudbath in deference to those who lost loved ones in this brutal attack. Seeing the tragic and vulnerable tiny victims of the poaching pandemic, the vigil touched many hearts when the images went viral.

When the Westgate Mall attack took place I was on the way to the Jackson Hole Film Festival accompanied by my elder daughter Jill, Angela's husband Robert and Rob Brandford. Besides being the recipient of the Jackson Hole Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award, we also attended a fundraising luncheon in support of the elephants. The Westgate Mall incident was preceded by a freak bolt of lightning that struck our compound, snuffing out all the Trust's electrical equipment, (computers, pumps, surveillance cameras etc.) terrifying the orphans and their Keepers and left us with the dilemma about whether we should not do an about-turn in Chicago and come back home instead to help Angela cope. But, since many people had gone to great lengths to attend the function in support of the Trust, we could not let them down. It was a great privilege to be in such a stunning setting in the Jackson Hole Valley, with wild Elk, Moose and a Black Bear spotted as we drove to the Film Festival venue. However, I was glad to be able to get back just in time to stagger out and be present at the Orphans' Vigil and to be at hand to offer Angela much needed moral support, as on top of all the drama while we were away, four new elephant orphans had come into our care.

The new Constitution, promulgated last year after a countrywide referendum, is now law and embraces devolution, dividing the country into 47 different new counties, each headed by County Governors and Senators who report back to the central authority. How this new system will manage to evolve into the hoped for success to which all aspire remains something of a puzzle in a country where additional taxes are likely to be imposed upon an already stretched and impoverished population. At the end of 2013 on the 24<sup>th</sup> December the new Wildlife Conservation and Management Bill was also officially signed into law by President Kenyatta, so time will tell how this all unfolds.

2013 has certainly been a momentous year and an anxious one in more ways than one, but for the Trust and our achievements, rewarding notwithstanding.

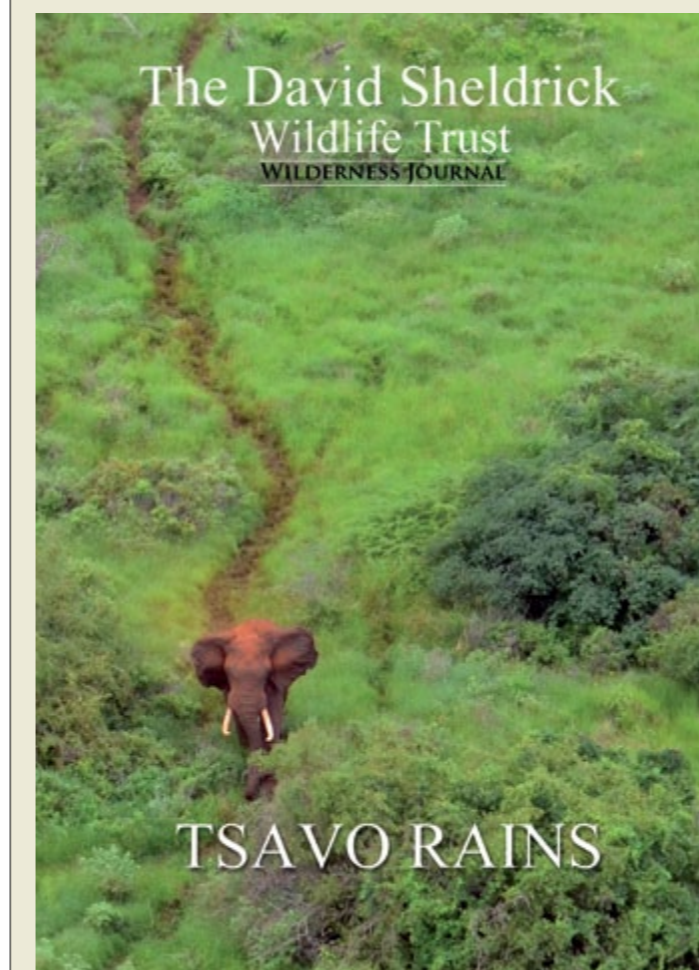


Galana river - Tsavo East National Park



### Give a Gift

If you have already fostered an orphaned elephant and you are looking for another way to directly support the DSWT then our 'Make a Wish' gift-giving website is a wonderful option. Whatever the occasion choose to give a gift and know that small wishes can make a big difference for wildlife and communities in Kenya. Whether for yourself or a loved one, your charitable gift will make a tangible difference, from providing milk for our orphaned baby elephants to giving a canteen feast to the elephant keepers, as well as a variety of carefully selected gifts supporting each of our projects, which are all available for selection on our website at [giftshop.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org](http://giftshop.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org)



### The DSWT Wilderness Journal

Our magazine-style website, the DSWT Wilderness Journal, has become a popular portal for our supporters worldwide, revealing stories and experiences from the Trust's areas of operation throughout Kenya. Following the themes of Nature, Culture and History this online journal, which is updated monthly, showcases 'behind the scenes' photography and accounts of wildlife, habitats, tribal cultures and environmental spectacles. You can follow these stories at [www.dswtwildernessjournal.com](http://www.dswtwildernessjournal.com)



Rearing Orphaned Elephants —  
*No Easy Task*

Rearing orphaned elephants is extremely challenging, difficult and emotionally draining. Elephants are intuitive and can read one's heart with amazing powers of perception. Hence, with them, one reaps what one sows. If handled only with patient loving care, they reward a thousand-fold. However, attempts to subjugate using fear as a tool, will end in tragedy, for elephants never forget, bear grudges, and will ultimately find the courage to settle the score, often years later. It is also imperative that an orphan grows up emotionally stable for it to be able to be accepted back into a wild elephant community when grown. It is my belief that "training" them cruelly to perform unnatural acts for financial gain should be outlawed in Kenya, as such candidates in circuses and zoos throughout the world usually end up psychotic and violent. Riding elephants in Southern Africa have ended up killing either tourists or their handlers (as many as 25 in just one year) and Kenya should never be guilty of allowing such practices to smear its proud reputation insofar as elephants are concerned.

Essentially fragile animals, elephants are extremely problematical to rear, particularly in early infancy. Artificial milk formulae, whilst only just tolerated by infant elephants, is not Mother's Milk and far from ideal. Hence one has to cope with all sorts of health issues in an animal whose very survival is dependent upon access to milk for at least the first three years of life and cannot live without it, despite being able to browse from the age of 4 months. In fact, those that manage to survive without access to milk if orphaned before 5 years of age are few and far between, particularly if they happen to live in arid environments, which is where most elephants exist nowadays. Whereas the remaining elephant family will love and protect an orphan to the best of their ability, there will be very few lactating cows with the capacity to suckle two, and a mother elephant will not compromise the health and survival of her own child in order to take on an orphan. Added to this, calves are intolerant of sharing the milk bar, so an orphan, weakened through milk deprivation having lost its own mother, will be vigorously repelled by a lactating cow's own calf.

It took 28 years of trial and error to achieve at least some success in raising infant orphaned elephants, and it is those elephants who have taught us humans so much about themselves as they journey through infancy and childhood until sufficiently confident to sever human dependency and take their rightful place back amongst a wild elephant community. This can take up to 10 years, dependent upon how well an orphan can remember its previous wild life, if at all. Those orphaned as newborns will have no such recollection, and tend to remain dependent longer, while those orphaned older will make the transition sooner, once they are no longer milk dependent, usually when over 5 years of age. (In terms of age elephants duplicate their human counterpart).

## *What the Orphans have taught us about themselves*

Many factors threaten the survival of elephants as a species today aside from rampant poaching. When speaking of elephants, one has to think Africa-wide, since these highly sophisticated and intelligent beings cross international boundaries in their long range wanderings to source food and make contact with family members and friends living far afield. 100 miles in a day is just a little stroll for an elephant.

During their formative years the orphans form lasting bonds of friendship with others that share Nursery-time with them who become part of a new extended elephant "family" and because "Elephants Never forget", (which happens to be true) it is counterproductive to sever such strong emotional attachments. Depression can cost an elephant its life, as indeed it can in a human. The family is as important to elephants as it is to us humans. They grieve the loss of loved ones deeply, returning to the body of a fallen comrade to spend quiet time in thought. Yet survival is also an important aspect of their lives, so they have the fortitude to turn the page on tragedy and focus on the living. Our orphans continually exhibit touching loyalty and compassion to others less fortunate, whom they regard as family. An example of this was one named "Mweiga" who had a chronic heart defect and hence was not up to making the transition to a normal wild life. Instead she remained Keeper-dependent long after all her peers had taken that step. Yet Mweiga was never devoid of elephant company, for every day one or two of her orphan peers now living wild peeled off from the main ex-orphan unit to "baby-sit" Mweiga, and when she dropped dead on the way back up the hill to the stockades, having just enjoyed a happy mudbath, her "elephant-sitter" that day let out a grief-stricken cry of anguish, and fled, undoubtedly back to rejoin the main ex-orphan herd somewhere out in the bush. Later, the main ex-orphan matriarch, Emily, returned alone to satisfy herself that Mweiga had, indeed, gone. Having searched the stockade compound thoroughly, she left and thereafter none of the ex-orphans returned to the stockades for many months.

Many people wonder why we only rehabilitate our orphaned elephants within the Tsavo Conservation Area, rather than to the areas from whence they originated and the reason is that Tsavo is the only Protected Area in Kenya set aside exclusively for wildlife that can fulfill elephant requirements in terms of space, and today accommodates Kenya's single largest population of elephants. Furthermore being semi-desert country served only by two permanent rivers, there is no better form of land use for the area than under wildlife, which is why it was set aside as a National Park in the first place way back in 1949. An expanding human population making new demands on land now infiltrating areas long utilized by elephants, is blocking ancient migratory corridors and bringing the elephants further into conflict with human activities. Invariably it is the elephants who are always the losers, labeled as "problem animals" and shot. These ancient trails, along with other survival tactics are imprinted in the instinctive genetic memory with which all elephants are born and which is honed by exposure to the natural environment. Furthermore, like us humans, elephants are slow growing and long lived, endowed with an equal life expectancy dependent on variables such as stress and diet.

Over 70 ex-orphans are now living wild and always have wild elephant friends in their midst. Amazingly, one of their number frequently turns up to select a Keeper-dependent youngster whom they feel is up to experiencing a wild night or day's outing. Silent communication conveys that message to the selected individual who unusually remains in the stockade yard to be escorted off into the bush to link up with the main ex-orphan group. Like us humans, elephants have limited night vision and are by nature essentially fearful and should a new initiate become nervous during an outing, he or she is then escorted back to the stockades by one or two of the ex-orphans, and handed back into human care.



Kamok with keeper Peter Mbulu

A subtle change takes place once the orphans have graduated from early infancy in the Nairobi Nursery to the Tsavo Rehabilitation Units. Whereas in the Nursery they are totally dependent on their family of Keepers, following them as they would their elephant herd, at the Rehabilitation facilities the elephants themselves gradually begin to decide where they would like to go each day to browse, or meet up with the ex-orphans somewhere out in the bush, using silent low frequency infrasound means of communication beyond human hearing range. The Keepers then merely trail them; being there for them if needed and if not, simply keeping distance should their charges meet up with either the ex-orphans accompanied by wild friends, or mingle with wild elephant groups on the way.

Many wild elephants have "been told" by the ex-orphans that their Keepers are not like the dreaded human enemy of poachers who harm and harass, but are also part of their elephant/human family and as such can be trusted. At the Ithumba Stockades and bush mudbath venue one can be within just 10 paces of dozens of wild elephants, including iconic huge tuskers - a truly humbling experience. Nursery reared ex-orphans bring their wild-born babies back to share with the Keepers based at the Rehabilitation Units, even allowing them to handle the newborn calf as it shelters beneath its mother's belly, and even when wild elephants are in attendance.

In a perfect world elephants would have few enemies, so Nature has made them essentially fragile. Many newborn orphans perish during the process of teething when they suffer from fevers and diarrhea and simply waste away, seemingly suddenly unable to assimilate the milk for reasons we have yet to fully fathom. Elephants have 6 sets of molars during their long life, one set of four in use at any one time with a larger molar moving in from the back of the jawbone to replace the one in front and cater for the animal's mounting appetite as it grows. The last set is in place when the elephant is 28 or 30 years old – a massive grinder that will last the elephant the rest of its lifetime.

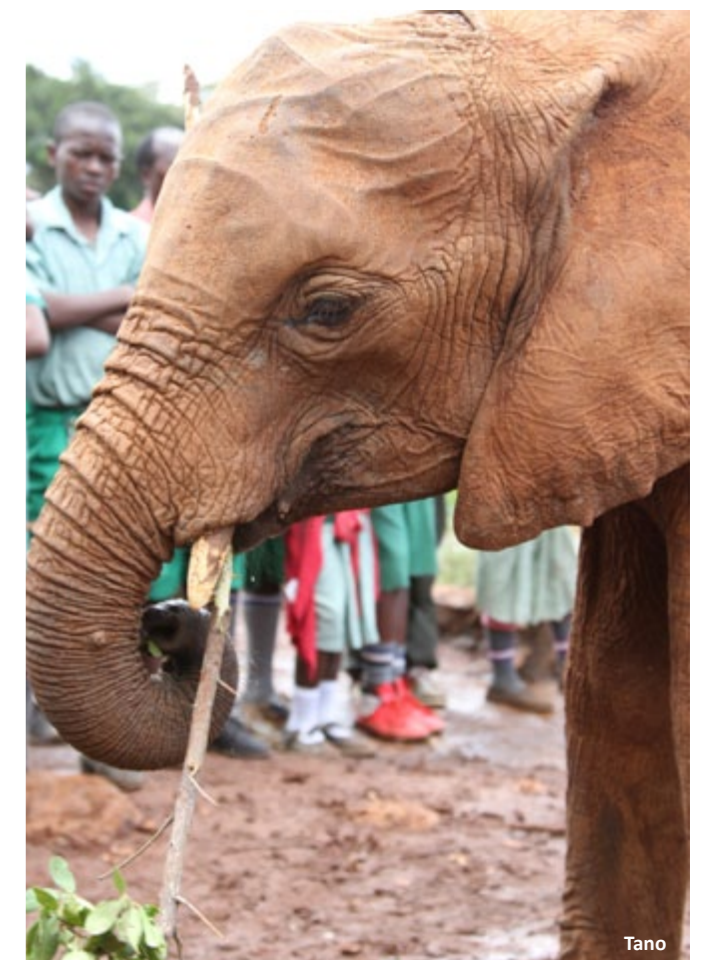
Most elephants orphaned under the age of 3 years, and therefore still milk-dependent, come into the Nursery severely emaciated through milk deprivation and collapse soon after arrival, revived only through an infusion of IV drips. Some who were never expected to live, do so, while others who appear in reasonable condition upon arrival, do not. The trauma of losing their Elephant Mother, the terror of being abandoned when unable to keep up and then finding themselves all alone in a hostile environment, followed by capture, tips many over the edge. At this stage a great deal is dependent upon the genetic resilience of the individual and its will to live. There are those that come in without a will to live, while others come in visibly grateful to have company and access again to milk, having taken their cue from the established group.

The input of the established orphans is key, who are fed within view of a newcomer so that the Elephant/Keeper attachment can be visually imparted. All, especially the females, are welcoming of newcomers, excitedly rushing to greet and comfort them the moment they become aware of a new arrival, rushing to the newcomer's Stockade every morning to rumble and lay a trunk tenderly over them in a gesture of love. Then, when a newcomer is sufficiently settled to be allowed out to browse in the Park forest along with the others for the first time, he or she is always sandwiched between 'Elephant Carers' who keep a close watch over him or her throughout the day, moving rapidly to round up and bring back those who are still fearful of humans and try to escape. Older newcomers mourn grievously for their lost elephant family, choosing to spend quiet time apart from others whom the passage of time has healed psychologically. Established members understand this need, once the newcomer is more settled. Those who have been witness to extreme cruelty and violence at the hands

of humans take longer to calm and accept milk and the presence of their human Keepers.

Of enormous sadness was having to return orphan "Tano" to the Nursery on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Born in 2009 and orphaned when very young, Tano had been transferred from the Nairobi Nursery to the Ithumba Rehabilitation Centre along with Mutara and Shukuru on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. However, she never thrived at Ithumba, systematically losing body condition, with signs of mounting weakness, which left her unable to keep pace with the others. A retired Onderstepoort Veterinarian volunteered his services to the Trust in order to try and establish the cause. During the ensuing month extensive tests were undertaken on this orphan, which ruled out tick-borne parasites and viral infections, cancer and autoimmune problems, leaving the Vet and ourselves baffled as Tano literally faded away and died on the 11<sup>th</sup> May. The autopsy revealed a chronic bone marrow defect that rendered her unable to replenish both red and white blood cells and in need of a bone marrow transplant, which was not possible under field conditions.

During 2013 the number of orphaned elephants being cared for at the Nairobi Nursery at one time reached a record of 44 and the challenges faced with effectively and efficiently caring for each and every one of them required an upgrade of the Nursery's infrastructure, including constructing new stockades and significantly upgrading the milk-mixing bay. Whilst caring for the resident nursery orphans, 13 Ex-nursery orphans were transferred from the Nursery and upgraded to our two Rehabilitation Units in Tsavo East National Park during the year - Kanjoro, Kilabasi, Mutara and Shukuru to Ithumba in January followed by Sities Turkwel and Kainuk in April, and in November finally Bongo, Narok and Laragai. Also, in November Kihari, Naipoki and Ishaq-B were transferred to the Voi Rehabilitation Unit.



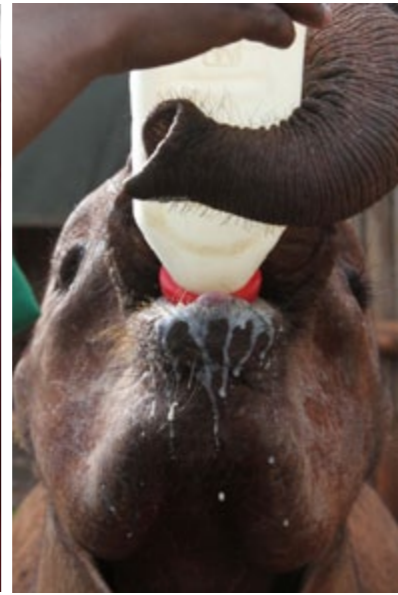
Tano

## The Nursery Unit

*2013 Nursery arrivals and their rescue stories*



*Lima Lima* Female Approximately 1 year on arrival Date of arrival 20th of February



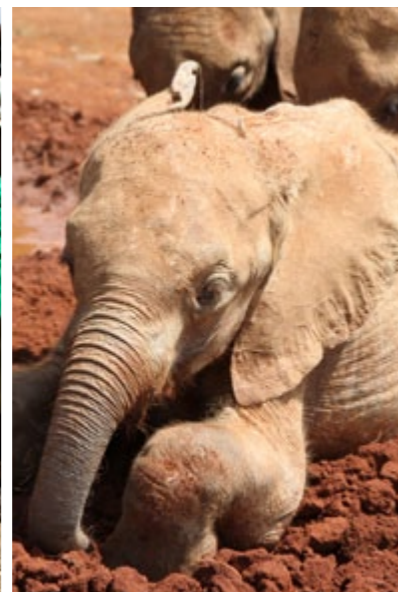
On the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013 she appeared in the grounds of Loisaba Lodge and having been restrained by Lodge staff was transported to Loisaba airfield to await the arrival of the rescue plane to airlift her back to the Nairobi Nursery. The calf was very thin and passing runny pink stools upon arrival, from having apparently been browsing on invasive Prickly Pear, which can prove poisonous. However, she took milk from a hand-held bottle and thankfully survived. She is a suspected poaching victim.

*Laragai* Female Approximately 1 year on arrival Date of arrival 2nd of March

She was first seen alone by the staff of Borana Lodge on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March in the Simangua Valley where she was captured and driven in the back of the lodge vehicle to the Borana airfield to await the arrival of the plane. Although emaciated through milk deprivation and also riddled with stomach parasites, upon arrival at the Nursery she took milk from a bucket during the night and the next day accepted it from a bottle.



*Jasiri* Male Approximately 15 months on arrival Date of arrival 27th of March



*Jasiri*, born in December 2011 to "Jemima" of the Amboseli Researchers' JB Study group, was the first albino calf born in Amboseli during the Researchers' 40 years of scientific monitoring, his mother having been poached in December 2012. Being still milk-dependent he had long been presumed dead so when he turned up 3 months later, much enfeebled due to milk deprivation, but nevertheless still alive, it was quite a surprise. Having been flown to the Nairobi Nursery on the 27th March, *Jasiri* took some milk during his first night but collapsed the next day and again several times during the next two days, on each occasion revived by lifesaving intravenous intervention.

*Tundani* Male Approximately 1 year on arrival Date of arrival 8th of April

He was rescued from the Tiva watercourse in northern Tsavo East having been spotted from the air by the Trust's aerial surveillance Super Cub, this calf had a dramatic rescue during a heavy thunderstorm and from an area inaccessible by road. Once he had been captured by our Ithumba Team, the calf was then driven to the Ithumba Stockades to await the arrival of the plane, which was already on its way from Nairobi. What was so unusual about this orphan was that he was totally relaxed and at home with his human rescuers right from the start, even suckling their fingers and snuggling up to them with no fear but rather enormous relief to have found himself in friendly company. This, for a wild caught calf of his age is unique and something we had never before experienced, the only possible explanation being that he was already familiar with the Ithumba Stockades prior to being orphaned.



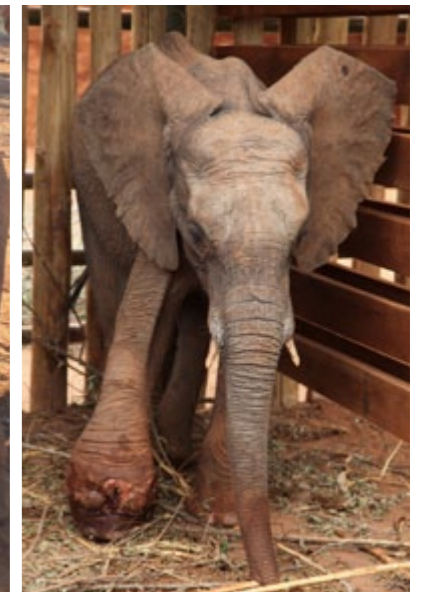
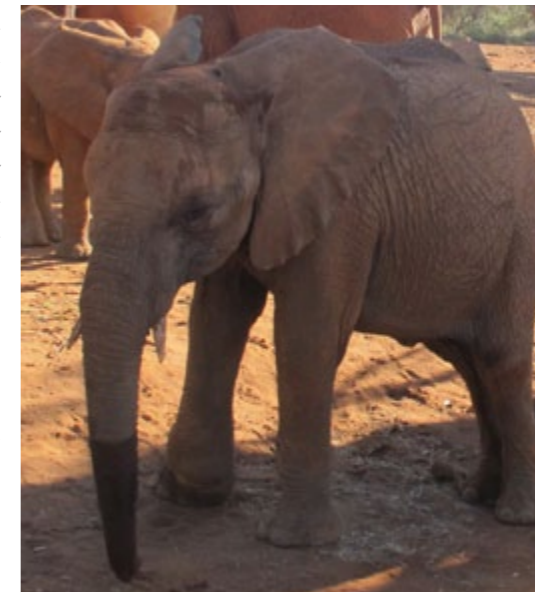
*Arruba* Female Approximately 8 months on arrival Date of arrival 29th of May



This young calf was found alone trapped within the Aruba vegetation fence near the Aruba Dam in Tsavo East National Park, the fate of her elephant mother and family unknown. It was fortunate that she had some reserves because upon arrival at the Nursery on the 29th May, she proved very difficult to calm. For five days she refused all milk, only taking water from a bucket, and it was not until 7th June that she was deemed sufficiently settled to be allowed out to join the others.

*Mbirikani* Female Approximately 3 to 4 years on arrival Date of arrival 30th of June

She was rescued from a group ranch in the Chyulu Hills as she had been rendered immobile by a thick cable snare, which over time had cut right through the flesh of her right foreleg to the bone, which entailed a major operation since the skin had healed over the cable. She was taken to the Voi Stockades where her seriously wounded right leg needed a great deal of attention over the coming months. Mercifully, by year end *Mbirikani* was sufficiently mobile to be able to leave her stockade and browse nearby and be a part of Voi's dependent orphan group.



**Garzi** Male Approximately 18 months on arrival Date of arrival 11th of July



He was severely emaciated upon arrival at the Nursery, rescued from the Gazi area north of the Athi River in Tsavo East National Park on the 11th July by our Tiva Anti-Poaching Team. He was transported across the Athi river in the back of a Land Cruiser and taken to the Trust's Kaluku field headquarters and airfield to await the rescue plane from Nairobi. He is a suspected poaching victim from an area that has long been a notorious poaching hotspot.

**Vuria** Male Approximately 18 months on arrival Date of arrival 31st of July

He came from Lualenyi Ranch near the Taita Hills on the 31st July, also a victim of poaching, his name taken from the highest point of the nearby Taita Hills. He struggled back from the brink of collapse many times before growing strong enough to pull through his trauma.



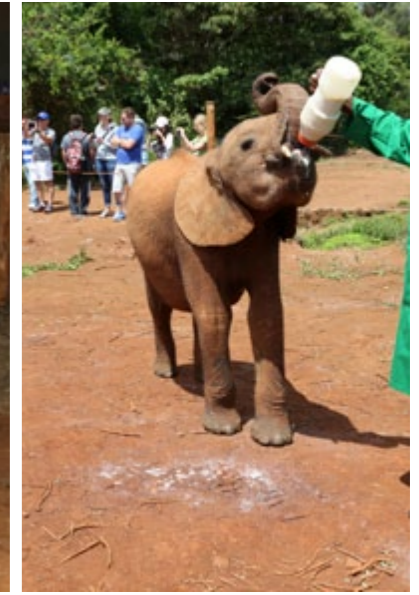
**Mudanda** Female Approximately 1 year on arrival Date of arrival 3rd of August



She is a poaching victim and was spotted from the air desperately digging for water in the dry Mbololo riverbed on the 3rd August, not far from Mudanda Rock. The decision was made to complete her milk dependency at the Voi Stockades, rather than transfer her to the Nairobi Nursery, accommodation space there being in short supply at the time.

**Nelion** Male Approximately 2 years on arrival Date of arrival 2nd of August

He was first spotted alone within the Mt. Kenya National Park during the evening of the 2nd August, too late to attempt a rescue that day. Thereafter he remained elusive until the afternoon of the 7th, when he was captured and driven to the Nanyuki airfield to await the rescue plane from Nairobi. This rescue was late in the day, which meant that the calf was not with us until after 8 pm that night. This malnourished and dehydrated elephant, covered in long black hairs typical of highland elephant herds, had obviously been without his mother for some time, but he took milk the next morning encouraged by the rest of the orphan family.



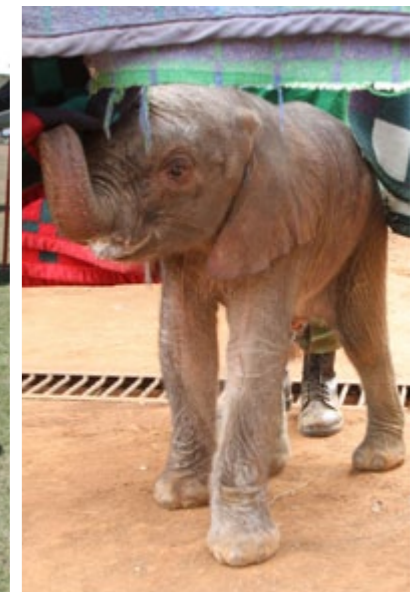
**Mashariki** Female Approximately 1 year on arrival Date of arrival 21st of August



She was sited alone by a tour driver near the Sobo area of Tsavo East National Park. At the time she was already so weak that she was staggering and in a state of near collapse. Having been alerted as to the location of the orphan, the Voi Elephant Keepers immediately mounted a rescue by road and after a long search spotted the orphan who being so weak, was easily captured. She was driven to the Aruba airfield from whence she was airlifted to the Nairobi Nursery, arriving at 8.30 pm. The newcomer was named "Mashariki" (the Swahili word for "East"). She was severely emaciated, as are many that come in of her age, and after collapsing several times and being revived on life support, we just managed to pull her from the jaws of death. She had a swelling on her underbelly, which the vet felt was simply as a result of severe malnourishment and which has since gradually disappeared.

**Kamok** Female Hours old on arrival Date of arrival 8th of September

She was rescued on Sunday the 8th September having apparently walked into Kiparo Boma on Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia. The calf was very unstable on her legs and in search of food and comfort. The mystery was that no elephants remained in the area. The Keepers immediately gave the hungry baby a bottle of milk and then prepared her for the journey home to the Nairobi Nursery, ensuring that she was placed on a drip for the duration of the flight to boost her strength further. On arrival at the Nursery it was clear that her limbs were compromised, with her joints not as strong as they should be. We think this is the reason her mother and herd had abandoned her as she simply would not have been able to keep up with the herd. Her nobby joints have thankfully grown stronger over time and she is now able to walk long distances following her Keepers.



**Suswa** Female Approximately 18 months on arrival Date of arrival 10th of September



She was rescued by Masai tribesmen and KWS personnel not far from the extinct volcano of Suswa. Her mother is believed to have been another poaching victim, but this was not confirmed. Although skeletal upon arrival, having been without milk for some time, she managed to survive with the help of intravenous life support.

**Bongo** Male Approximately 3 ½ year months on arrival Date of arrival 18th of September

His presence on community lands at the foothills of Mt. Kenya had been reported a month earlier but he was not captured until the 18th September when he was spotted again. He was sedated and driven in a KWS vehicle to Nairobi, arriving after dark and placed in one of the Nursery's taming stockades. The size and aggression of this elephant, and the fact that his left tusk was long (the right one having been broken) was a deterrent for the Nursery elephant Keepers to actually risk getting into the stockade with him in order to try and tame him down. With time, however, he became more accustomed to human presence and accepted milk through the bars of his gate from a hand-held bottle. A month later he was able to join others of his age at Ithumba.



**Zongoloni** Female Approximately 18 months on arrival Date of arrival 22nd of September



She was rescued from the Taita Sisal Estate abutting Tsavo. Her mother had been incapacitated by bullet wounds and images of the calf standing forlornly by her wounded mother's side, resting her trunk lovingly against her in a gesture of empathy, and having to resort to drinking the mother's urine to keep herself alive, were heartbreaking. Having been alerted of this situation, the KWS and our Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit euthanized the mother to end her suffering, and her calf was rescued and flown to the Nursery.

**Lentili** Female Approximately 18 months on arrival Date of arrival 7th of October

Rescued from the Ol Lentille Conservancy on the edge of the Laikipia plateau in Northern Kenya, she was first sighted by Conservancy scouts on the 5th October, who were posted on 24 hour follow-and-observe duty. Although the orphan was approached by a group of wild elephants the next day, they rejected her, so it was decided to rescue her on the 7th, since she was already enfeebled through lack of milk. She was given an injectable tranquilizer to take the edge off stress, and then driven back to the rescue plane, before being flown safely to Nairobi.



**Rorogoi** Female Approximately 14 months on arrival Date of arrival 10th of October



Rorogoi was named after the place in which she was found in Kwale County near the Coast, her presence reported to us on the 9th October by KWS when our Faru Anti-Poaching Team was sent to capture her. They only managed to locate her the next day. Luck played a large part in the survival of this 14 month old calf, for she had existed for over a month in lonely isolation surrounded by communities traditionally hostile to elephants. That she remained safe was thanks only to the owner of the farm on which she found refuge, and also to the Kinango KWS Station to whom her presence was first relayed. Upon arrival at the Nursery she was extremely fearful of humans, but she very soon took milk and it was not long before she was deemed calm enough to be allowed to join the other Nursery elephants.

**Oltaiyoni** Female Approximately 6 months on arrival Date of arrival 23rd of October

This young calf was estimated to be 6 months old. She is a suspected poaching victim from the Ziwani area of Tsavo West National Park. She was rescued by our team then driven to overnight at the Voi Stockades before being airlifted to the Nursery in Nairobi National Park. She takes her name from a small tributary that feeds into the Ziwani Swamp, and she was unusually calm upon arrival, able to be out and about with the Nursery herd the very next day.



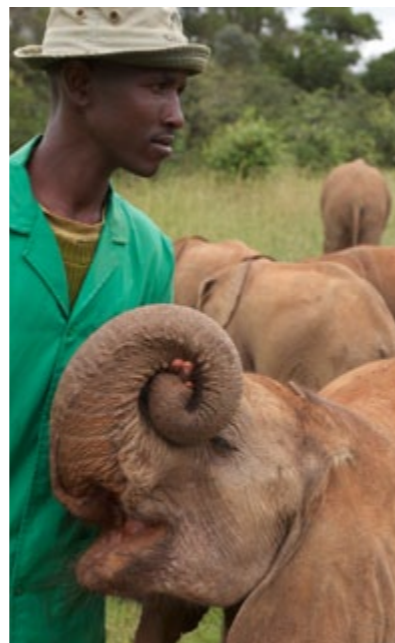
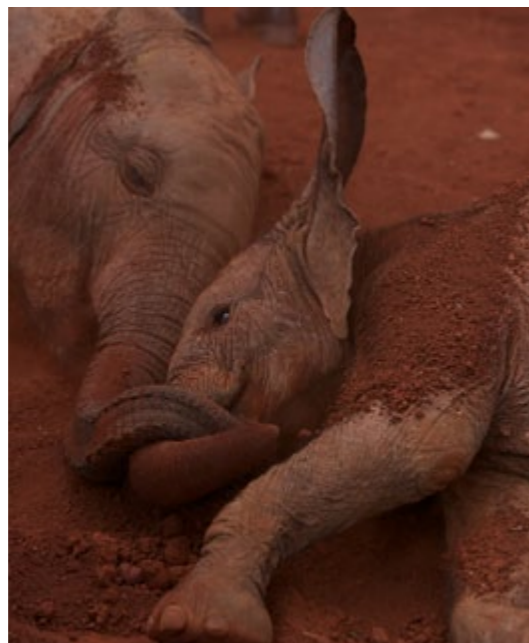
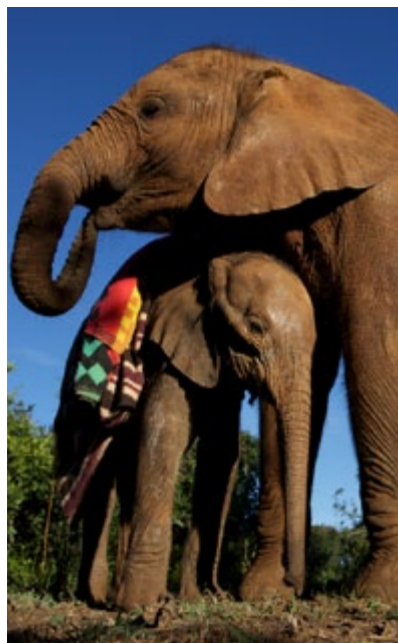
*Ashaka* Female Approximately 1½ months on arrival Date of arrival 7th of November



*This 1½ month old baby, was bogged in the mud of a water hole close to the Manyani Ranger Training Academy Tsavo West National Park. She was teething on arrival with 1 molar through the gum. The prognosis for survival of water and mud victims is often gloomy, since pneumonia is a major killer of elephant calves who are unable to cough up ingested water, lacking a diaphragm and with lungs attached to the rib cage. So far she is doing well.*

*Olodare* Male Approximately 1 ½ months on arrival Date of arrival 8th of November

*A baby rescued by KWS approximately 1½ months old and in the midst of teething, he was flown to the Nursery on the 8th November having fallen down a well in Masai community abutting Amboseli National Park.*



Nursery orphans

# 2013 Nursery Deaths

Sadly the following rescued elephant orphans died soon after arrival, coming in too far gone for us to be able to retrieve. Such innocent tragic victims included:-

F Ngobor, M Mwananchi, M Danisa, F Ziwani, 2 males who remained unnamed plus M Olkishi, M Karibu, M Kieni, M Saruni, M Saseni, and M Bahati.

Others lost were:-

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| M Bosha – Fed cow’s milk prior to arrival which is lethal for elephants.                     | M Shimba – Died from complications as a result of being mauled by a lion.                 |
| F Tano – Died from a hidden bone marrow defect.  | M Kiramon – Lacked the will to try and live and slowly got weaker with a refusal to feed. |
| F Ajabu – Died from a very low platelet count during teething.                               | F Tarhi – Died from pneumonia and bloat.  |
| F Duruma – Euthanized due to a smashed back leg and foreleg.                                 | F Bissemballa – Died from the effects of arrow poison.                                    |
| M Matopeh – A mud victim who later died from lung complications.                             | F Mbololo – Her death is a mystery. She was doing well, but suddenly collapsed and died.  |
| M Un-named – Euthanized as his back legs were shattered by gunfire.                          | M Kwale – Died from a severely damaged intestine  |
| M Empash – A newborn who died from pneumonia exacerbated by teething.                        |   |
| M Shujaa – A newborn who died from teething complications.                                   |   |
| M Mshindi – A newborn and a mud victim who died from lung complications having ingested mud. |   |



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Ithumba Unit  
*Wild Friends, Ex-orphans and Juniors*

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**Ex-orphans** are those who have already become independent of human care and are now living wild. **Juniors (or Youngsters)** are Ex-Nursery elephants who are still Keeper-dependent at the Rehabilitation facilities, but who are in the process of growing up and going wild at a time of their choice.

Some 31 of the Trust's Nursery-reared ex-orphans in Ithumba have now permanently accomplished the transition from human care to a normal wild elephant life, while others are in the throes of doing so. Now living wild, the ex-orphans return regularly during dry seasons to drink from the stockade water trough and to keep in touch with the juniors who are yet to make the transition. The timing of this is at the personal discretion of every orphan only when they feel sufficiently confident to do so, dependent largely upon at what age the elephant was orphaned, and how well they can recollect a previous wild elephant life, if at all. Those orphaned in early infancy will have no such recollection, and tend to remain with the surrogate human family longer, but all of the Trust's orphans, even those who come in newborn enveloped in foetal material, end up leading perfectly normal wild elephant lives again in the fullness of time, born genetically programmed with information important to survival.

Also now fully absorbed into the ex-orphan unit are wild recruits they have come across, who have attached themselves to passing wild herds for protection. Not all wild matriarchs are happy to take on orphans that might hold them up, but having been orphans themselves, the ex-orphans are more understanding and happy to do so. Two such wild candidates of Yatta's ex-orphan unit have been accepted as permanent fixtures and named by the Keepers – "Mgeni" (the visitor) and "Kijana" (young boy), both now of an age when they are beginning to travel separately as satellites of the Big Boys - dominant bulls who are deeply revered by adolescent males as role models. Mgeni and Kijana behave no differently around the Keepers than the human-reared orphans themselves, and although the Ithumba Keepers know them well, visitors would be excused for not knowing who is who as a result.

Among the wild elephant "friends" introduced to the stockade compound and mudbath venue by the ex-orphans are several iconic wild bulls who appear at both places so regularly that they too have been named by the Keepers. There is the very first one to reveal himself in daylight, (dominant among the Bull community of the area), named "Rafiki" (the friend). He came solo many years back, trailing the Keepers and the juniors, joining them at their noon mudbath, lying down so that the juniors could climb on him and even sleeping within the yard using a large flat rock just outside the juniors' night stockade as a pillow. This year "Rafiki" and his large wild male entourage of admirers, or "askaris" have been regular visitors.

The Bull known simply as "The Dad" is another regular, who fathered the wild-born calves of both Yatta and Mulika. Then there is a magnificent Bull carrying trophy tusks that almost touch the ground named "Mshale" (meaning arrow), whose life our Mobile Veterinary Unit has saved on three occasions when he had to be immobilized to have arrowheads removed from his body. "Half Trunk" is another, who has lost half his trunk to a poacher's wire snare, and "Pembe Moja" (One Tusk), yet another.

In the early years following the establishment of the Ithumba Stockades, only bulls visited the orphans under cover of darkness, rumbling to them in their night stockades, but evaporating again as soon as dawn lit the skies. It was only after "Rafiki" proved that it was a safe haven that other bulls took their cue from him, and



Ithumba Stockades



Ithumba Stockades



Ithumba orphans



Dependant Ithumba orphans with their keepers



Wendi with her boyfriends



Benjamin with the orphans



Dependant Ithumba orphans with their keepers



Benjamin - Ithumba head keeper

it is only within the last five years that the cow herds have begun to appear regularly. The bulls are the scouts of Elephant Society who travel huge distances to seek out new pastures and safe places in which to bring the cow herds. It was, however, a very special occasion when in October a wild cow felt sufficiently confident to come alone to the stockades for a drink, bringing her newborn baby, so new that it could only have been hours old. This same cow and her newborn then appeared again as part of the ex-orphaned herd, the newborn calf being overseen by some of our Ex Orphan females. She then, is the latest wild recruit into Yatta's Ex-Orphan unit and a very special one at that!

We were concerned about 11 year old Napasha's absence for many months. It was a great relief when he turned up in May, accompanied by 7 wild bull friends, obviously having taken another important step – that of becoming independent of the female ex-orphaned unit. He returned the next day without his 7 friends, but with 11 year old ex-orphan "Tomboi", who has also taken that important step.

Escorted by ex-orphan bulls Rapsu and Kora, Naserian returned to the Ithumba Stockades with a poisoned arrow wound on her back, so she was immobilized by our Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit and KWS Vet Dr. Jeremiah Poghon, the arrowhead removed, and the wound cleaned and dressed, enabling her to make a full recovery. What was enlightening was that for several days thereafter she returned daily, entirely of her own accord, in order to have her wound cleaned and dressed, despite this being a painful process. She understood that it needed to be done in order for her to be healed.

Mulika, who has her firstborn calf, Mwende, had to have a poisoned arrow removed from a suppurating wound in her lower belly, which would have proved fatal had it pierced the stomach rather than bounce off a rib. Ex-orphan bull "Challa" then turned up with an arrow sticking out of his face, which, fortunately, was not poisoned, and which the Keepers managed to just pull out. Then ex-orphan Galana returned wounded by a poisoned arrow, as did Pembe Moja. Prior to this, the ex-orphans had been absent for 3 full days at the height of the dry season, and when they returned, all were visibly agitated, very thirsty and looking hollow. The Keepers noticed that Mulika had developed a large swelling beneath the incision made earlier to remove the arrowhead from her belly earlier, so this needed more veterinary intervention.

Yet again, Dr. Poghon of the Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit was summoned to extract the arrows from both Galana and Pembe Moja at the Stockade compound, as well as to treat Mulika again when she came with the ex-orphans to join the juniors at the bush mudbath. Gallons of pus and a large slab of necrotic flesh were removed from Mulika's under belly, after which the resulting void was thoroughly washed with saline and packed with healing Green Clay paste, leaving an opening at the bottom for drainage. Having then been given a long acting anti-biotic injection, she was revived, instantly surrounded by all her relieved peers who sandwiched her safely between them as they ushered her away. Worryingly in July during the height of the dry season, our ex-orphans appeared to be deliberately targeted by a poaching gang operating in the area. All anti-poaching efforts in the area were increased until the gang and their ring-leader were captured and jailed – albeit for not long enough!

The Keepers were witness to the mating of both Yatta and Mulika by the bull known as "The Dad" in 2010, which resulted in their newborn calves. Both young females were apparently comfortable with their mate during the process and in February this year 14 year

old ex-orphan “Kinna” was also mated, again with no resistance. Not so was 11 year old “Wendi” who was an extremely reluctant “lover”, and who ended up being pursued relentlessly by many would-be suitors. One early morning when with the Keepers and their junior charges, she was so tired after a hectic night that she actually lay down to take a nap beside one of our vehicles. Early the next morning she was spotted dashing past the stockades with a wild bull in hot pursuit and later showed up at the juniors’ mudbath with the same bull in tow, where she did her utmost to “lose” him in what the Keepers describe as a game of “hide and seek”! That evening Rafiki came to the stockades in search of her as did three other wild bulls, but Wendi made certain she was surrounded by all the big ex-orphan females - Yatta, Mulika, Lualeni, Nasalot, Sunyei, Galana, Sidai, Naserian, Chyulu, and Ithumbah as well as bulls Rapsu, Taita, Tomboi, Buchuma, Challa, Orok, Kenze, Zurura, and Meibai, who, along with the Keepers, shielded her. However, the next day Rafiki caught up with her when she and Rapsu were amongst the junior herd out in the bush and the moment Wendi spotted him she took to her heels with him after her and two other wild bulls after them following the scent trail! Brave 3 year old Kanjoro tried to see off a wild bull who was eyeing Wendi at the stockade compound, but was warned off, embarking instead on a spirited bush-bashing display in order not to lose too much face. Assuming that one of the wild suitors had been successful, Wendi might now be pregnant and the father of her expected calf could be one of many – perhaps even Rafiki, the orphans’ first wild friend! We will simply have to wait another year and a half to find out whether Wendi, who came in as a newborn, becomes a wild mother herself in May 2015.

Ex-orphan Lualeni (now 10 years old) has taught us a great deal about the sophisticated communication of elephants – how they keep in touch when separated. She, more than any of the other ex-orphans, has long been a go-between, regularly peeling off from Yatta’s main unit, sometimes alone, and at other times with others, to meet up and spend time with the junior Keeper-dependent group. The young bull called Ololoo (ex Masai Mara) has long been her chosen favourite. Sometimes she is at the stockade compound waiting for them to emerge first thing in the morning or else turns up to join them out in the bush wherever they happen to be browsing at the time. She then escorts them to their bush mudbath, shepherding Ololoo to his midday milk bottles and standing quietly beside him while he downs the contents before leading him to the mudbath for a cooling wallow. Later she leads the juniors back to browse for the rest of the afternoon, before escorting them back to their stockades in the evening, where she is often joined by other members of the ex-orphan herd who have come to collect her in a Splinter Group, once the youngsters are settled in their night stockades.

Ololoo and Kandecha were taken by her for a day’s wild outing in April, but they were returned by her to the stockades that evening. Ololoo was treated to another “wild” outing a few days later, but again returned in the late evening. As the dry season again tightened its grip after April/May showers, she regularly spent time with the juniors, still focused on Ololoo, but then became particularly active in her go-between role, taking chosen juniors off for a day’s wild outing, to get them accustomed to living “wild” but returning them if need be in the evening. Juniors “Meibai” (6 years old) and “Ithumbah” (only 4 years old) upgraded themselves to the senior ex-orphaned herd in June, severing their human ties earlier than usual. “Ithumbah”, rescued from the mud of the Ithumba dam when she was 18 months old, and who was obviously familiar with the layout of the terrain, joined the ex-orphan herd earlier still. But it came as a surprise to find Ithumbah quite relaxed in amongst a group of big wild bulls who came to drink at the stockades, enjoying their



Dawn at Ithumba



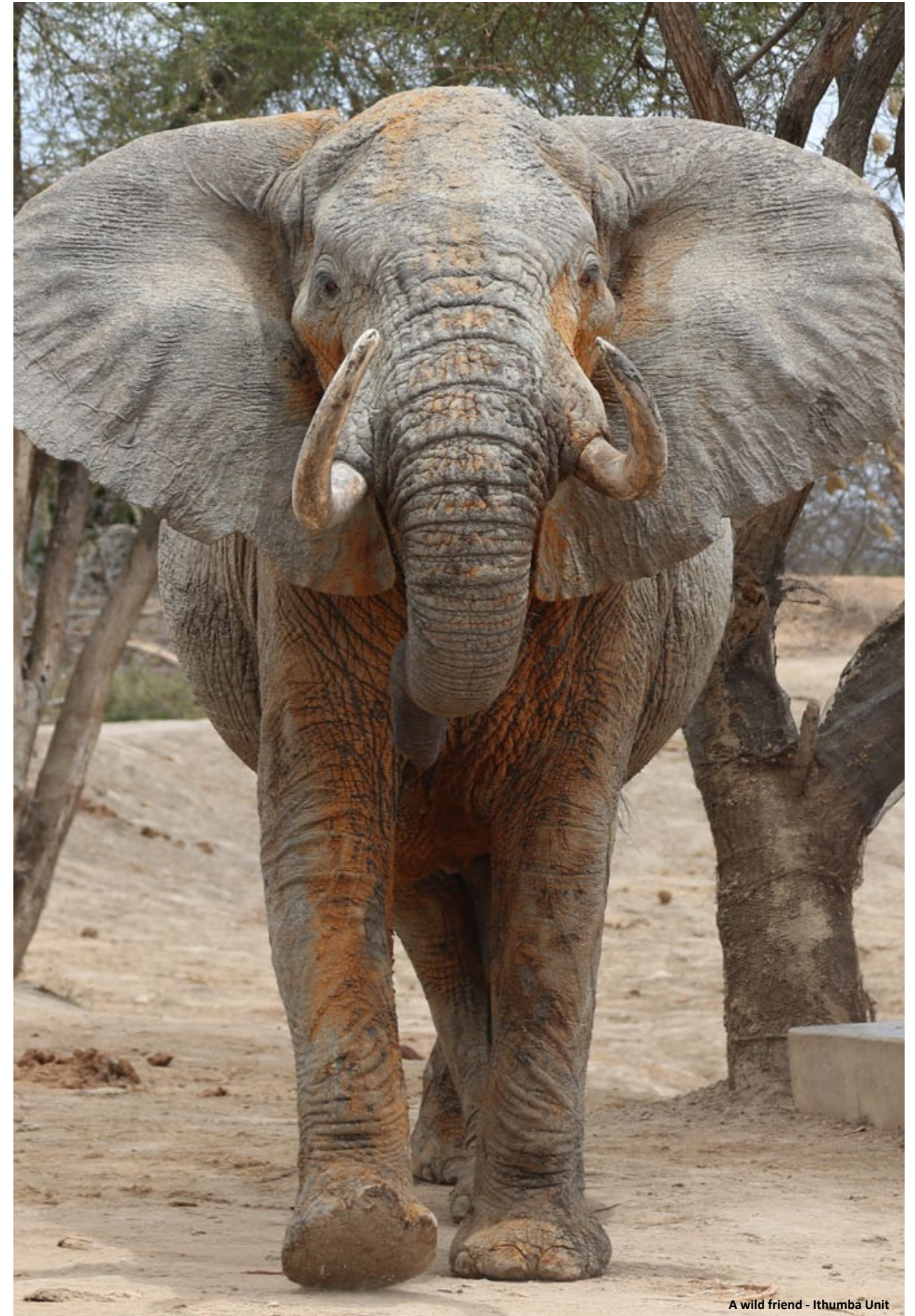
Ithumba orphans



Ithumba orphans



Ithumba mudbath



A wild friend - Ithumba Unit



protection and company, having been absent for some time from the main ex-orphan herd whom she had previously joined.

When the Elephant Mover Truck drew up against the Ithumba unloading bay on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, bringing Laragai, Narok and Bongo from the Nursery to Ithumba, as usual the ex-orphans anticipated the arrival of newcomers and were browsing nearby. Nasalot then ushered the ex-orphans back to the compound instantly singling out Bongo for special attention in amongst the excited Keeper-dependent orphans who also came to greet the newcomers. Narok and Laragai were uneasy about being the focus of so much attention from strangers, but not so was Bongo who seemed quite at home. Once the initial introductions were over, and the newcomers had taken milk and water, the Keepers ushered the entire herd out to browse close by. The Nairobi orphans clearly already felt the heat and resorted to drawing on stomach water from their bellies to cool themselves.

For the next two days, Lualeni turned up alone to join the juniors at the Stockade compound and lead them out to browse before slipping away, leaving Laragai and Narok very unsettled, who lost their nerve and took to their heels, pursued by Sities, Turkwel, Kainuk, Mutara and Kilabasi. The Keepers were bent on rounding them up again but a shower of rain obliterated the tracks so they were forced to return to the stockades empty handed just before dark. For the next two days aerial surveillance was mobilized from the Trust's Kaluku Field Headquarters in order to try and locate the missing orphans, but despite 14 hours of flying over the area, they were not sighted. Very fortunately, however, showers of rain made water available otherwise the missing orphans would have been in dire straits, since they were clearly lost. Everyone hoped that they might have managed to meet up with Lualeni and the ex-orphans, but when the Keepers happened upon the ex-orphan herd during their search, the missing were not amongst them, and that left us all extremely anxious. Then on the 21<sup>st</sup> November just as heavy thunderstorms were breaking all around the aircraft, the pilot spotted a little huddle of baby elephants near the Northern boundary fence-line, some 17 kilometers from the stockades, and having relayed coordinates, the Keepers hurried to that area, calling the orphans by name as they came close. Soon an answering rumble lifted their spirits and out of the bushes the drenched young elephants came rushing to embrace their Keepers, immensely relieved and happy to have been found at last by their human loved ones. By then the rain was torrential, so the Keepers had a hard time floundering through heavy black cotton mud to lead the orphans back to the stockades, losing the soles of their shoes in the process! Chastened by such a terrifying experience the missing elephants were thereafter extremely needy of their Keepers, clinging to them and not wanting them out of sight. Further heavy rain fell over the next three days when Narok and Laragai still stuck to the Keepers who sheltered under trees, while Bongo was having the time of his life, rolling in every puddle he could find and sampling much more nutritious browse than he had found on Mt. Kenya – a happier elephant could not be found.

The Ithumba Rehabilitation Unit and its elephant occupants are now world renowned, Ithumba being a favourite destination for those hoping for an elephant experience of a lifetime. There are now very few days throughout the year that the Ithumba Camp is not fully booked by people who travel there especially to see the orphans and return spellbound by the experience, often finding themselves surrounded by as many as 50 wild elephants.



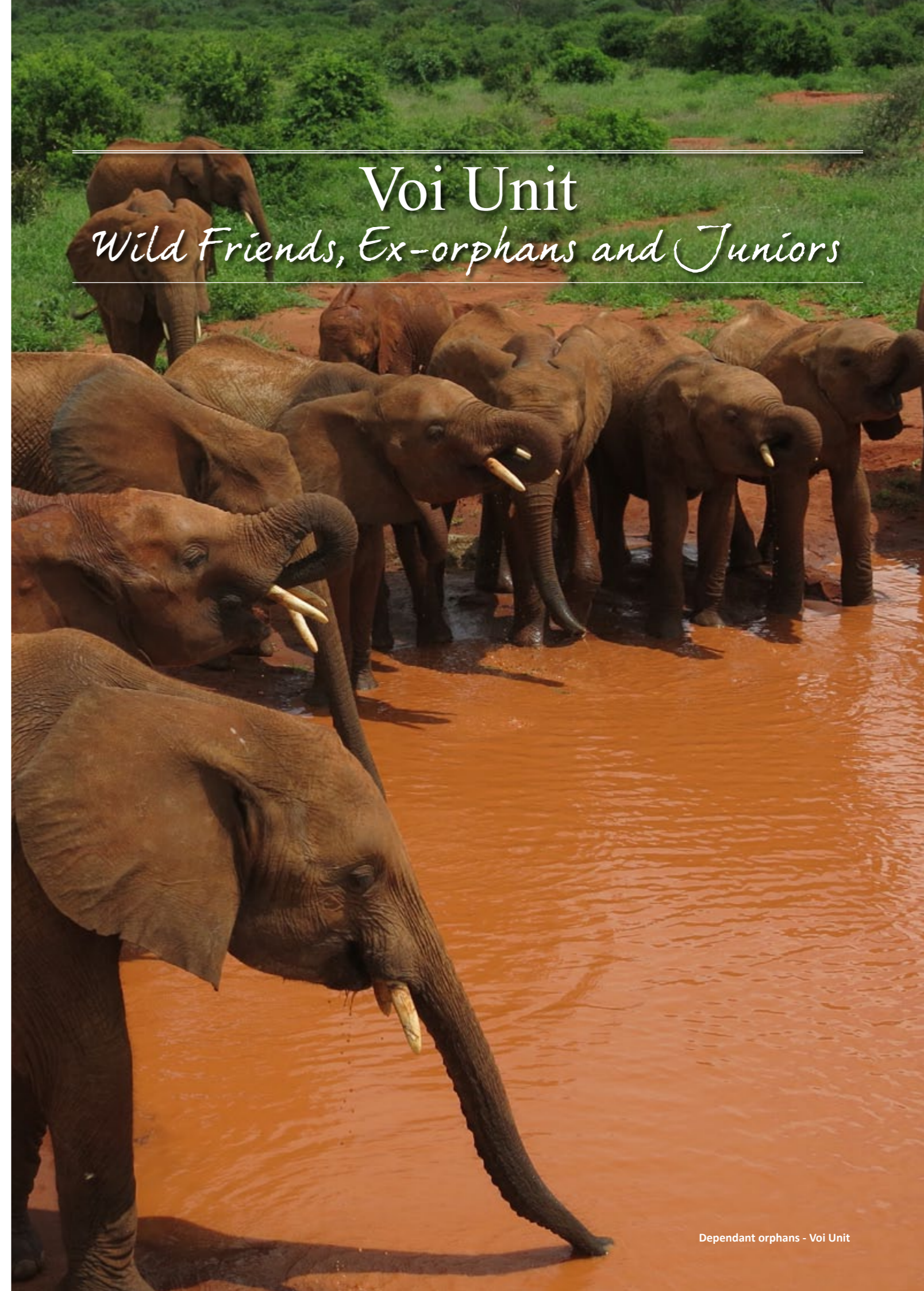
Mulika with her wound and wild born calf Mwende



Mulika with wild born calf Mwende



Treatment of Mulika August 2013



# Voi Unit

## Wild Friends, Ex-orphans and Juniors



Voi Stockades



Ex-orphan Lissa with her four wild born calves



Laikipia with Joseph Sauni - Voi head keeper



Voi orphans playing

There were 16 Keeper-dependent juniors based at the Voi Rehabilitation Unit at the beginning of 2013 under the leadership of Lesanju, ably backed up by her best friend Lempaute as well as Wasessa and Sinya. Then living wild having made the transition from Keeper dependency were some 40 plus Nursery reared ex-orphans under the leadership of "Emily" and "Edie" both of whom are now mothers – Emily's baby named "Eve" (born 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008) and Edie's calf named "Ella" (born in May 2009). Both Nursery-reared mothers were happy to bring back and share their wild-born babies with their human family of Keepers, in the same way as did Yatta and Mulika at Ithumba.

By year end the Trust's ex-orphans had 14 wild-born babies between them that we know of, but maybe more. This year Lissa has been seen just once by the Keepers, when she turned up to drink at the Voi Stockades towards the end of the year with her four calves.

Year end 2012 rains extended into January 2013, when the area utilized by the Voi dependent orphans remained green, attracting many wild herds, as well as Emily's Ex-Orphan herd, who were anxious to interact with Lesanju's Keeper-dependent unit. However, Lesanju has always been reluctant to share her adopted family, fearing losing them to either the ex-orphan Unit or wild matriarchs. Whenever the ex-orphans appear she tries, often unsuccessfully, to steer her attachments in the opposite direction, doing the same when they encounter wild elephants on their daily browsing outings in the bush. Ex-orphans Thoma, Mweya, Seraa and especially Icholta became the main go-betweens turning up unexpectedly either alone, or in splinter groups, and spending time with the juniors whether Lesanju liked it or not! But as the year progressed Lesanju became more sociable and began fraternizing more frequently with friendly wild herds, whilst remaining suspicious of the motives of the ex-orphans when they focused on the juniors.

A lot of the Southern part of Tsavo East is now predominantly grassland, the elephants having recycled the original Commiphora scrubland to usher in a grassland cycle - all part of the natural scheme of things to keep the balance between browsing species and the grazers. While food is plentiful during the wet seasons, elephants favour lush grasses, annual legumes and herbs rather than the browse, but when these shrivel and dry out at the onset of another dry season, most of the wild herds, including our Ex-Orphans, move further afield in search of browse and bark, the bark essential for the trace elements they need for their big frames. Since the area at their disposal is restricted (within walking distance of their human family), the orphans then take to browsing around the slopes of nearby Mazinga hill, moving higher up with the passing of time to source bits and pieces growing in amongst the boulders.

This year intermittent rain showers persisted until April, when a dramatic event on 6<sup>th</sup> April, ultimately cost orphan "Shimba" his life. Having been frightened by loud claps of thunder and bolts of lightning during a downpour one afternoon, the orphans fled in amongst a wild herd with whom they were fraternizing, and since it was already late, the Keepers were left with no option other than to return without them, leaving the stockade doors ajar hoping the orphans would return during the night. However, by dawn there was still no sign of them, so at first light the Keepers set off in search, only to come across Shimba, wounded and in a bad way following an encounter with a lion. Lion fur and blood around the scene indicated that he had obviously given a good count of himself but nevertheless his condition was serious, one ear and the side of his face having been chewed to pieces, with deep gashes on his back and hindquarters. Two Keepers peeled off to walk him slowly and painfully back to the stockades while the rest of the Keepers continued their search for the other missing orphans, very shaken fearing that the same might have happened to them as well.

Hours later they came across nine of the missing - Lesanju, Wasessa, Sinya, Lempaute and Kivuko along with bulls Mzima, Tassia, Taveta, and Rombo, all of whom were exceedingly nervous. Still missing were the younger ones, Kenia, Ndi, Dabassa and Emsaya (Wasessa's favourite calf and a relative newcomer). At that point the Trust's Super Cub aircraft arrived from the Trust's Kaluku Field Headquarters on the Athi/Tsavo boundary to assist in the search and with one Keeper on board, circled the area, identifying from the air three more lone elephant calves who turned out to be Kenia, Ndi and Dabassa. Later news came that the aircraft had spotted Emsaya trailing a small herd of wild elephants amongst whom were several calves of her age. The Mobile Veterinary Unit vehicle was called in and guided by the plane to the location of Emsaya's wild herd, an attempt was made to isolate her, but the wild matriarch was having none of it, repeatedly charging the vehicle. Several Keepers then attempted to sneak closer on foot, calling Emsaya by name, and waving a bottle of milk, but although she obviously heard and saw them, responding to her name, she was determined to remain with her wild friends, who may, perhaps, have even been part of her original wild elephant family, since she was rescued not far from that area of the Park. Over the next few days the Keepers tried to keep contact with Emsaya and the wild herd, but when she obviously had no wish to return, they had to accept that at the age of four, Emsaya had decided to return to a wild life.

Shimba's wounds needed a great deal of attention, including several immobilizations to clean and dress them thoroughly. Although they appeared to be healing well, in the process one ear-hole closed completely and he systematically lost condition, becoming ever weaker, despite our best efforts to build him up. In the meantime he befriended little Panda, who kept him company on a daily basis,

browsing alongside him close to home. He also enjoyed attention from the other junior orphans, as well as Emily's ex-orphans, who came from time to time to see how he was getting on, fully empathizing with his misfortune, laying trunks gently across his back and rumbling reassurance and encouragement. When he eventually died on the 20<sup>th</sup> October, it was an enormous heartbreak for us all, because Shimba was a dearly loved and favourite member of the junior herd, a gentle boy with not a malicious bone in his body and on the cusp of going wild to become part of the Ex-Orphan herd. Throughout this time, Shimba, received regular veterinary attention, and all the help at our disposal, but sadly, despite all of this, we were unable to save him.

During May some of the wild male elephants around Mazinga Hill were obviously in breeding musth condition, two of whom were hounding ex-orphans Sweet Sally, Mweya and even Edie who still had little "Ella" at foot. Sweet Sally's wild suitor chased her to the stockade compound, and kept a close eye on her from a safe distance while she tried to quench her thirst and get some respite. However ex-orphan Laikipia saw his opportunity and tried to mount her round the back of the stockades, but the wild suitor was there in a flash to send him packing. Lesanju also found herself cornered one afternoon as she was distracted by a small wild baby, turning to find herself face to face with another wild bull. She fled in disarray back to the Keepers who were sitting under a tree surrounded by the other big orphan girls who were also seeking refuge. Meanwhile the junior boys made sure they kept well away from all the action.

By June things had become more relaxed as the country dried up and the ex-orphans and wild herds moved off, but for an unexpected visit from ex-orphan Tsavo (now 13 years old), who came alone



Wild elephants drink at Voi Stockades



A swollen Shimba from lion wounds



Panda singled out for special attention by Lesanju



Voi dependant orphans



and who had not been seen for a very long time. Meanwhile the Keepers found themselves fully occupied dealing with the severely injured front foot of new arrival Mbirikani, who was immobile in the stockades. The ultimate healing of Mbirikani's foot was miraculous, especially as the Vet was doubtful of recovery, since the bone had been left exposed as a result of the cable snare.

The arrival at the stockades in early August of an orphaned baby Black Rhino from the Sobo area of Tsavo, who, like Shimba, had been mauled by lions, caused quite a stir amongst the elephant orphans. Tragically, this little bull who had been photographed with his mother earlier by the Trust's pilot, broke a leg which left him exceedingly vulnerable and unable to follow his mother whenever she had to leave him to go to water. Unhappily, his injuries proved fatal, and he later died - an incredibly sad loss.

By August the natural red waterhole below the KWS Headquarters had dried completely, so the noon mudbath had to move to the artificial wallow, (known as the middle mudwallow) where water had to be delivered every day by the tractor to fill both the orphans' drinking drums as well as the wallow. Wild elephants remaining in the area soon learnt this daily ritual and as soon as they heard the tractor, they homed in to polish off the clean drinking water in the bins. Lesanju decided to take steps to rectify this situation, turning up ahead of the tractor and hanging around the wallow so that the proximity of the Keepers proved a deterrent to the wild elephants. That way the orphans got their fill of clean water and the wild herds had to make do with the leftovers.

Light showers in October brought on a new green flush of vegetation around Mazinga Hill as well as an influx of wild elephants again. One day a friendly Bull in his twenties, turned up alone to drink at the stockade water trough on two consecutive days and seemed unusually unperturbed by the Keepers, which left us convinced he must be one of the earlier orphans such as Edo, Dika, Taru or Olmeg, all of whom would now be in their mid-twenties and who were before the time of the current Keepers.

A highlight of November for the Keepers was being able to extract an elephant calf from the mud of the leaking Mombasa pipeline, despite the presence of the mother elephant who hampered the rescue operation by repeatedly charging the vehicle to which the bogged calf had to be attached by a rope. However eventually the rescue was accomplished and the calf was able to walk away with its relieved elephant mother, muddy but none the worse for the experience.

The arrival in November of three ex-nursery orphans, Kihari, Naipoki and Ishaq-B generated enormous excitement amongst the Voi Juniors. As though anticipating the arrival of newcomers, Emily's ex-orphan unit turned up unexpectedly, (despite having been absent since June), in the same way as the Ithumba ex-orphans are able to anticipate new arrivals. Ex-orphan Burra came ahead of the others during the night, trumpeting his presence to alert the Keepers and since he, too, had been absent for about a year, his return was celebrated. When Emily and her entourage turned up later, she noticed that the Nairobi orphans were obviously feeling the heat of Tsavo, so she shepherded them to the stockade wallow to cool off and stood by watching them as they did so, obviously aware of their discomfort. With Emily was her calf, Eve, Edie and her wild-born calf, Ella, 5 ex-orphan bulls and 6 ex-orphan females including Ndara, who had spent a long time convalescing in the stockades having returned with an infected poisoned arrow wound in a foot joint. It was wonderful to see her now fully healed.

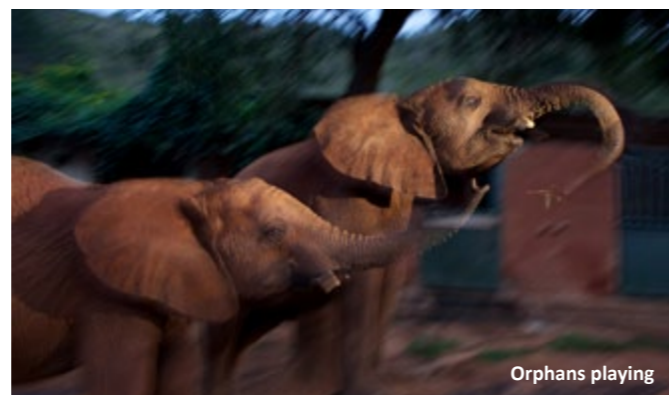
Who should turn up a little later but Siria who came with a wild friend and had not been back for a very long time - the last junior to upgrade himself to a wild life. Immediately, he went in search of his best friend, Mzima, who was browsing near the fence-line, and when the two were reunited, a joyous and rowdy elephant greeting followed. Siria later chose to remain with Mzima and the Junior unit for the day, even tempted to accompany them back into the stockades that evening, until he had a change of heart and decided to sleep in the compound. The next morning he rejoined Emily's Unit again who were up Mazinga Hill.



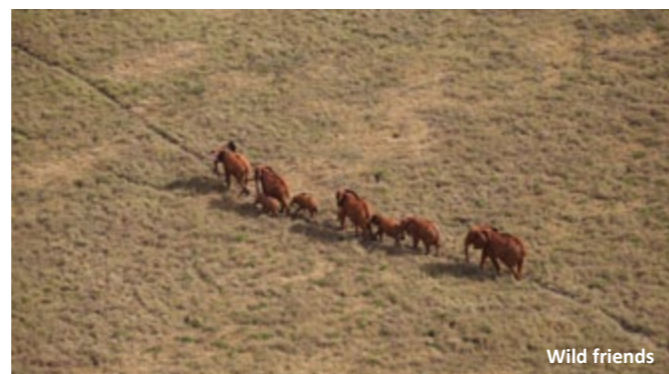
Emily greets Joseph Sauni



Voi ex-orphans



Orphans playing



Wild friends

# The Rhinos

## And other Orphans



Rescued rhino calf called Sala

“Maxwell” came to us blind, just months old, in 2006 when his mother gave up on him in the nearby Nairobi Park Forest. Maxwell’s daily routine never changes since being blind in both eyes (with no retina and no optic nerve in either), he could never survive living wild. Bull rhinos have to fight for territory and rank in order to earn the prize of becoming a Black Rhino Breeding Bull, something to which every male aspires. In order to reach that pinnacle, a Bull Rhino needs eyes to be able to size up an opponent bent on the same quest. And so, never having known sight, Max is happy and contented in his dark world, highlights being the visits of Solio, whom he adores in a Black Rhino’s somewhat unusual way.

Max knows every inch of his spacious stockade and can take it at a gallop, never colliding with any object within. He enjoys his soft bed of hay under shelter and diligently marks every inch of his “territory” turning every pole white with his urine, even marking Solio one day by spraying urine directly into her face, which she did not appreciate. He knows when Solio is coming home long before she comes within human view, since rhinos, like elephants, are also endowed with mysterious perception. Through the behaviour of Max, we humans can anticipate the return of Solio. He becomes wildly excited and with tail erect, prepares himself for a thrilling and enjoyable sparring match, engaging her through the poles of his enclosure the moment she turns up.

In April the securing screw bolt to Max’s gate somehow came loose during a heavy night rainstorm and he found himself in unfamiliar territory, possibly having walked out following the scent trail of Solio, which he lost due to rain. Daylight found him confused and crashing around in Angela’s front yard near the Orphans’ mudbath. However calling his name and armed with bananas and a bottle of milk, the Keepers managed to lead him safely back home. Once inside his stockade, up went the tail, followed by a close scent inspection of the surroundings to confirm that he was, indeed, back on familiar territory, after which he relaxed, comfortable once more with his surroundings. Although Max can never live a life of freedom, nevertheless he plays an important PR role for his highly endangered species, entertaining the hundreds of visitors that come to see the orphaned elephants every day, most of whom would never otherwise have the opportunity of seeing a Black Rhino.

**Solio** was just 6 months old when her mother was poached on Solio Ranch in 2010. By the beginning of the year she was fully integrated into the resident rhino community of Nairobi National Park, having been escorted around the dung piles and urinals of the wild rhino community for the past 3 years by the Keepers – the only means of introducing a stranger into a resident Black Rhino community where territories are established and fiercely defended against “intruders” who do not belong.

Solio was a free agent during most of 2013, having made it quite clear to her human attendants that they were no longer needed, and that now she had been accepted, their presence was more of a hindrance than a help. She took to escaping from them, hiding in a thicket as they tried to call and follow her spoor. One can imagine how she must have despised human ability in this respect, since a Black Rhino’s life revolves around scent, memory and hearing, the eyes being needed only occasionally in combat. She also demonstrated quite clearly that she wanted the door to her stockade left open at night, so that she could come and go at will. Having taken to spending nights and days away from base before returning, the gate to her stockade is left ajar and only closed if she happens to arrive when visitors are around. Once the visitors have left, she bangs on the gate with her horn to alert the Keepers that she needs it opened up again. The DSWT will open its doors to any orphaned animal providing that

having given it a safe and healthy upbringing, it can ultimately be returned to a normal wild life when grown. During the course of the year the Trust has taken on the responsibility of several orphaned wild animals including genet cats, lesser kudu, bushbuck, eland, gerenuk and several hyraxes.

“Geri” our amazing orphaned Thomson’s gazelle, who as a fawn escaped making a meal for a bush-meat poacher and later narrowly escaped being a meal for the Nairobi Park lions until Angela risked her own life rescuing her from them, is now two years old and fully healed after the mauling she sustained from her attackers. Geri wanders freely during the hours of daylight, fraternizing with wild impalas, and the giraffe, the resident warthogs and enjoying the daily human visitors, before returning to sleep in the safety of the office at night with a reward of dark chocolate, which she loves!

Several orphaned baby Hyraxes have been reared at the Nursery, fed soya milk initially by syringe, the first being “Oomphy” who grew up and occasionally still comes into the house for a treat of banana; the next was “Rax”, now grown with a wild-born baby of her own, which she allows the family to handle and whom she brings into the house to also enjoy whatever is on offer and then there is “Alfie”, rescued as an orphan at a nearby school and a rascal! Now almost grown, he dominates the entire household, perches on the human family’s “loo” to relieve himself and demands full time attention!

“Pembe” is an old resident female warthog, whom we patched up after she was also attacked by a lion and who is now so tame that one can handle her as well as her annual litter of 4 tiny piglets, usually born in November, who are overseen by a daughter taken from an earlier generation who is groomed to become the “Nannie”.

In Tsavo our Keepers are given orphans by KWS to hand-rear and have been tutored about the necessary husbandry and milk formula for each species. The Voi Elephant Keepers have successfully hand-reared several lesser kudus who are now living wild; one a female named “Aruba” who brings her wild-born young back to share with those who saved and reared her. Another is named “Shia” who also has a new baby, born in November. Several male kudu orphans are now also living wild and are seen from time to time either out in the bush or when they re-visit the Stockades. There is also the zebra foal named “Lualeni” who browses alongside the elephants, and in October a baby eland bull was brought to the Keepers named “Jengo” and who, so far, is doing well.

At our Kaluku Field Headquarters on the Athi River boundary to Tsavo, the staff are currently hand-rearing an orphaned gerenuk named “Nuk” as well as an infant bushbuck known as “Nyika”, and a young Kudu. In the past they have also reared several dik-dik orphans, one of whom was named “Mbee” who still lives around the compound with her wild-born offspring while the Staff based at The Trust House have reared bush duikers and habituated the banded mongooses whenever they happen to call during the rounds of their sizeable territory, who are known as “The Tamies”. At Amu Ranch in Lamu District the staff have raised orphaned bushbuck and now have an orphaned oribi.



Solio



Maxwell



Taru with Rax's wild born baby



The Tamies



Wild rhino with her calf which later was rescued due to fatal lion wounds



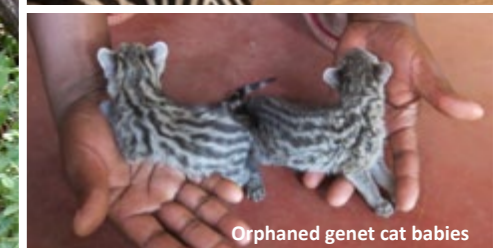
Gerenuk orphan - Nuk



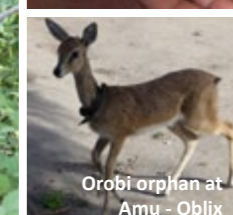
Bushbuck orphan - Nyika



Mohamed with zebra - Lualeni



Orphaned genet cat babies



Orobi orphan at Amu - Oblix

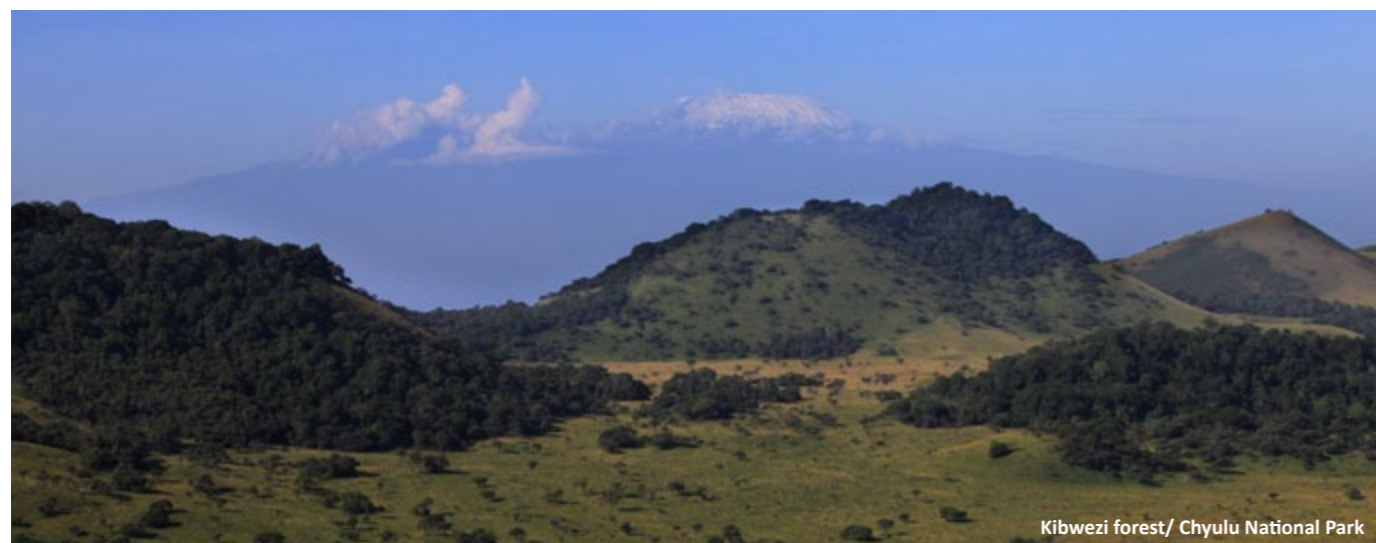
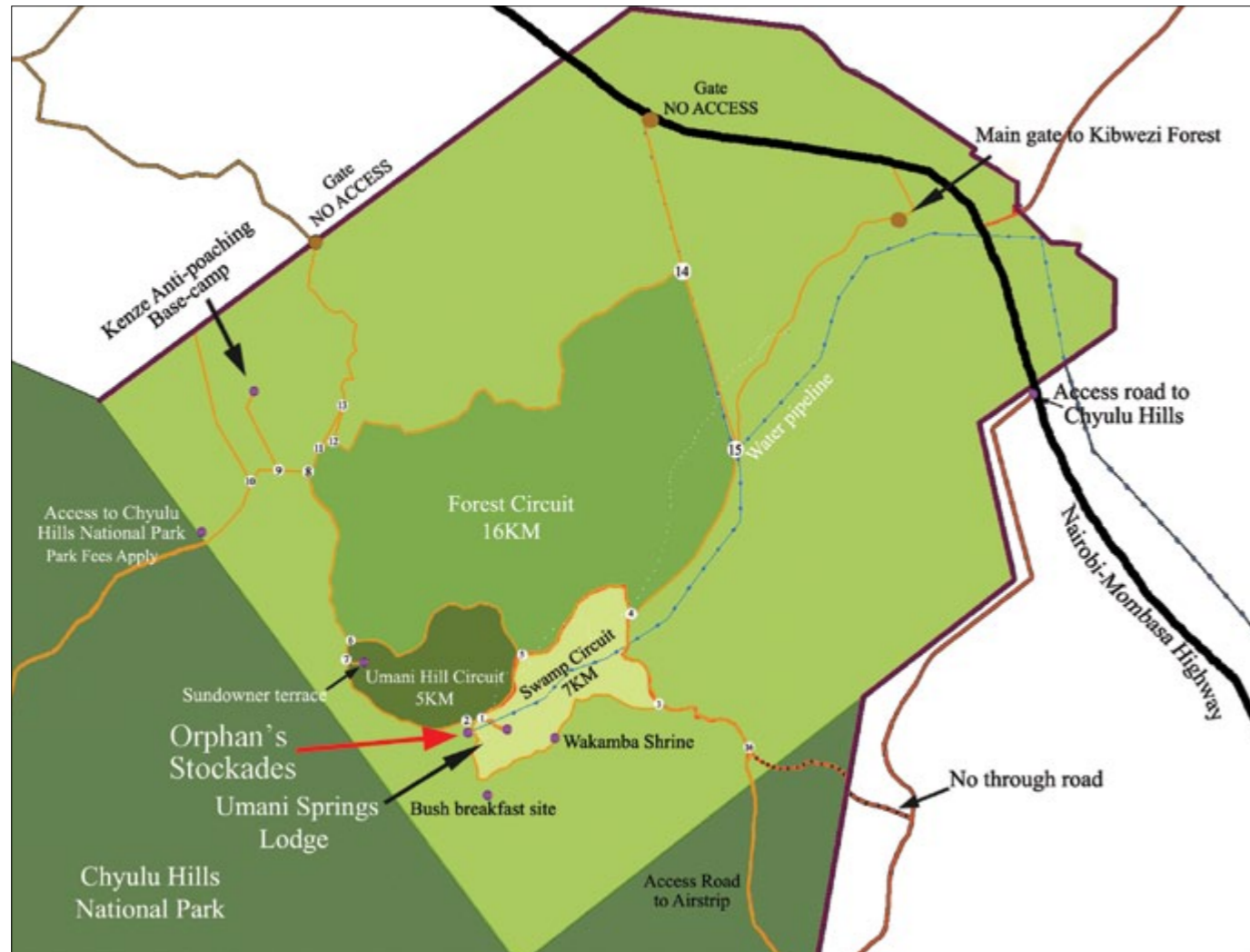


Feeding genet baby

## Kibwezi Forest/Chyulu Hills National Park Elephant Rehabilitation Unit

With an ever-increasing herd of infant orphaned elephants being cared for at our Nursery Rehabilitation Unit in Nairobi, providing a safe future for all of them is of utmost concern. Several of the orphans have been left physically compromised by poaching and because they would be challenged coping with a wild life in Tsavo, we are thankful to have been able to formalize an agreement with both the Kenya Forest Service and the Kenya Wildlife Service to build a third Elephant Rehabilitation Unit in the Kibwezi Forest. The forest will provide a safe haven and a favourable environment for these elephants, with plenty of food and water available at all times. Importantly the orphans will still enjoy access to wild elephants, since the forest is electrically secured on three sides but left open to the Chyulu National Park on the fourth. Stockades to accommodate a maximum of ten orphaned Elephants will be erected in an environmentally friendly manner.

### Kibwezi Forest Map



## Special Thanks

*Along with the loyal support of the global public who have so generously fostered many of our orphaned elephant calves and in so doing helped towards the funds needed for their care and rehabilitation, we are hugely indebted to many other special individuals and organizations who have given time, resources and financial support towards our Orphans' Project, too many to name individually but none the less deeply valued. Notable amongst these are those who have donated crochet and hand-knitted blankets for the infant elephants, as well as quilts for auction. Many have donated hand-made jewelry and trinkets for sale at our Shop Table during the one open visiting hour a day.*

*We are deeply grateful to the following Trusts and Foundations for their loyal and unwavering support; the Samuel J. & Ethel Lefrak Charitable Trust, Eric S Margolis Foundation, Maue Kay Foundation, Rettet Die Elefanten Afrikas for their steadfast support of the Orphans' Project and for maintenance support of the Ithumba fence-line, Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA), Forsvara Elefanterna, Verein der Elefantenfreunde, Vrienden van die Olifant, Pengo Life Project for advice on veterinary issues, support and the helpful supply of much needed medication, Terra et Fauna, Kerrigan Savage Waves Charitable Trust, Care For The Wild, The Mackintosh Foundation, Tusk & Horn Wildlife Trust and Vier Pfoeten for support of the orphans and for the waterbrowser they purchased that continues to be the lifeline for the Ithumba orphans during the dry seasons. The Orphans' Project simply would not be possible without this invaluable and loyal support spanning many years, so a heartfelt thank you to you all.*

*As always we give massive thanks to our Patron, Kristin Davis, for her love of elephants and her steadfast support, and we are deeply grateful to our valued Trust donor Geri Bauer for her ongoing support and supply of Lucerne for the elephants at all the Units. Sincere thanks go to Jon Araghi and Kathy Kamei for their generous donation of a new Milk Mixing Bay at the Nursery and two new Water Browsers for Ithumba and Voi. We are at a loss as to how to adequately thank Mr. Jorge Perez Companc for funding the new Elephant Rehabilitation Unit in the Kibwezi Forest and are immensely grateful for his steadfast and generous financial support of DSWT. We are deeply grateful to Ruth Peck for her generous help for the orphans, to Julia Newmann and Cody Westheimer for their wonderful musical compositions for our short films, and to Natasha Weld-Dixon who so kindly donates hay from her plot throughout the year. We thank Gary Hodges for his design for foster packs and for raising funds for the Trust through many auctions.*

*Most sincere thanks go to Finlays for funding the duty payments on our vital milk shipments, to British Airways for complimentary flights, and freighting free of cost vast powdered milk shipments. We thank them further for promoting our work by airing an on-board film about the orphans in our care. We owe huge gratitude to East African Canvas for support of mattress covers and raincoats for the elephants, to GNLD for their generous donations of Vitamins and Cleaning products throughout the year, to Ultimate Security for discounted security services, to Roger McNamee and Moonalice for generous support both financially and through social media, to Wisla Narrow Fabrics Ltd who donated specialist strapping and fabrics to be used in elephant rescues. Many thanks go to FLOAT, for donations from the sale of their exclusive T-shirts, to FOX International Channels for fostering elephants for the birthdays of their employees' children; to Chantecaille for donations from royalties on their elephant palette makeup, with additional thanks to Kathy Kamei Designs and to Cheryl Kovarkis for donations of their beautiful jewelry to raise money for the orphans and also to Love Brand and Co.*

## Mobile Veterinary Units

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust was proud to partner once again with the Kenya Wildlife Service in establishing the third Mobile Veterinary Unit launched in February 2013, this time for the Northern and Eastern Conservation Areas. We now jointly operate three exceedingly successful full-time Mobile Veterinary Units headed by KWS Field Veterinary Officers.

The new Unit, fully funded by DSWT, based within Meru National Park at the KWS H.Q. is providing veterinary assistance to the entire Eastern Conservation Area as well as parts of the Northern Conservation Area, whilst also helping the Lewa Mobile Veterinary Unit by attending to some of the emergencies they are unable to cover within the Laikipia/Samburu ecosystems. Since its inception the new Unit has greatly reduced animal suffering through its timely response to alerts. The KWS Vet who heads the new Unit is currently Dr. Bernard Rono who has a customized vehicle driven by a DSWT driver plus 2 KWS Capture Rangers to assist him.

KWS Veterinarian Dr. Campaign Limo joined the DSWT Mara Veterinary Unit team during April 2013, taking over from Dr. Dominic Mijele, who is now based at the main KWS Veterinary H.Q. in Nairobi, but is regularly called upon to attend to Sky Vet cases. The Mara Unit dealt with 56 cases this year, over 20 of which were predominantly spear wounds, (worryingly prevalent in his area of operation), followed by poison arrow attacks on elephants, giraffe and buffaloes. The unit rescued 6 baby cheetahs and several orphaned elephants during the year as well as treating 18 elephants for injuries related to poaching, carrying out 14 post-mortems on mainly poaching victims and taking part in a KWS initiative to fit GSM satellite collars on elephants for surveillance purposes. During the year disease monitoring was another of his mandatory KWS assignments.

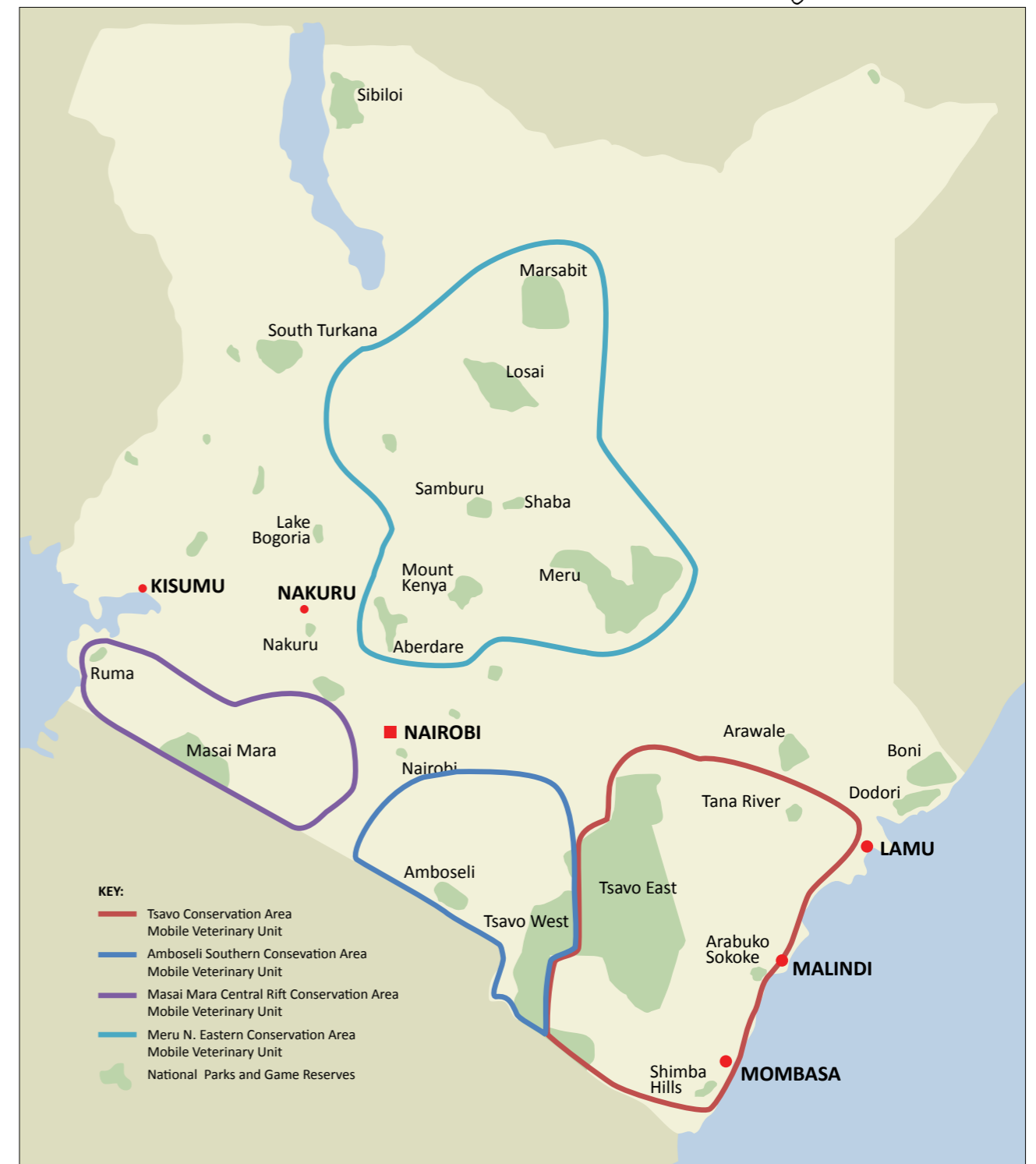


Dr. Poghon treats a wounded elephant

The Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit has experienced a year like no other, with endless reports of injured wild elephants and orphaned elephant rescues. Over the past twelve months Dr. Poghon who is attached to the unit, has treated over 90 elephant cases. The Unit was pushed to its limits during the months of July and August when almost 40 wounded elephants were in need of help during 8 frenetic weeks which involved traveling extensively throughout the vast Tsavo Conservation Area (TCA) and which was an indication of the true extent of the elephant poaching in Tsavo. Numerous elephant cases were poisoned arrow and snare wounds, inflicted through the traditional poaching methods of local tribesmen. 17 wild animal rescues were carried out, 11 of baby elephants left orphaned by the poaching devastating Tsavo's elephant herds. Aside from elephants, the Voi Unit also attended to over 20 other wildlife cases throughout the year including injured lions, leopards, giraffes and zebras, as well as carrying out disease surveillance projects to investigate African Swine fever, involving samples taken from some 14 warthogs, Endotheliotrophic herpes virus in which a total of 21 animals of different species were sampled, and following up on fish die-offs in the Galana River with water and dead fish taken for laboratory testing.

The Trust is pleased to announce the establishment of a fourth Mobile Veterinary Unit soon to be introduced. This unit will operate within the Southern Conservation Area, covering the Chyulu Hills, Amboseli National Park, southern Tsavo West and extending as far as Magadi and Lake Natron.

*Areas of Operations for the DSWT funded Mobile Veterinary Units*



## The Sky Vet Initiative

Our veterinary commitment to wildlife has been greatly enhanced by the launching of the new Sky Vet Project in April 2013, as a solution to the number of injured wildlife cases left untreated due to mounting demands on the current Mobile Units or which occur in areas inaccessible by road. This initiative facilitates emergency deployment of available Veterinary Officers from the KWS main Veterinary pool in Nairobi transported either by chartered aircraft or a Helicopter to remote corners of Kenya. Since its inception, the Sky Vet has been called out to attend to over 30 wounded elephants as well as rhino and lion cases that would otherwise have gone untreated.



Sky vet in action



Treating a poisoned arrow wound



Sky vet in action, treating a wounded elephant



Removal of spear from a young lion



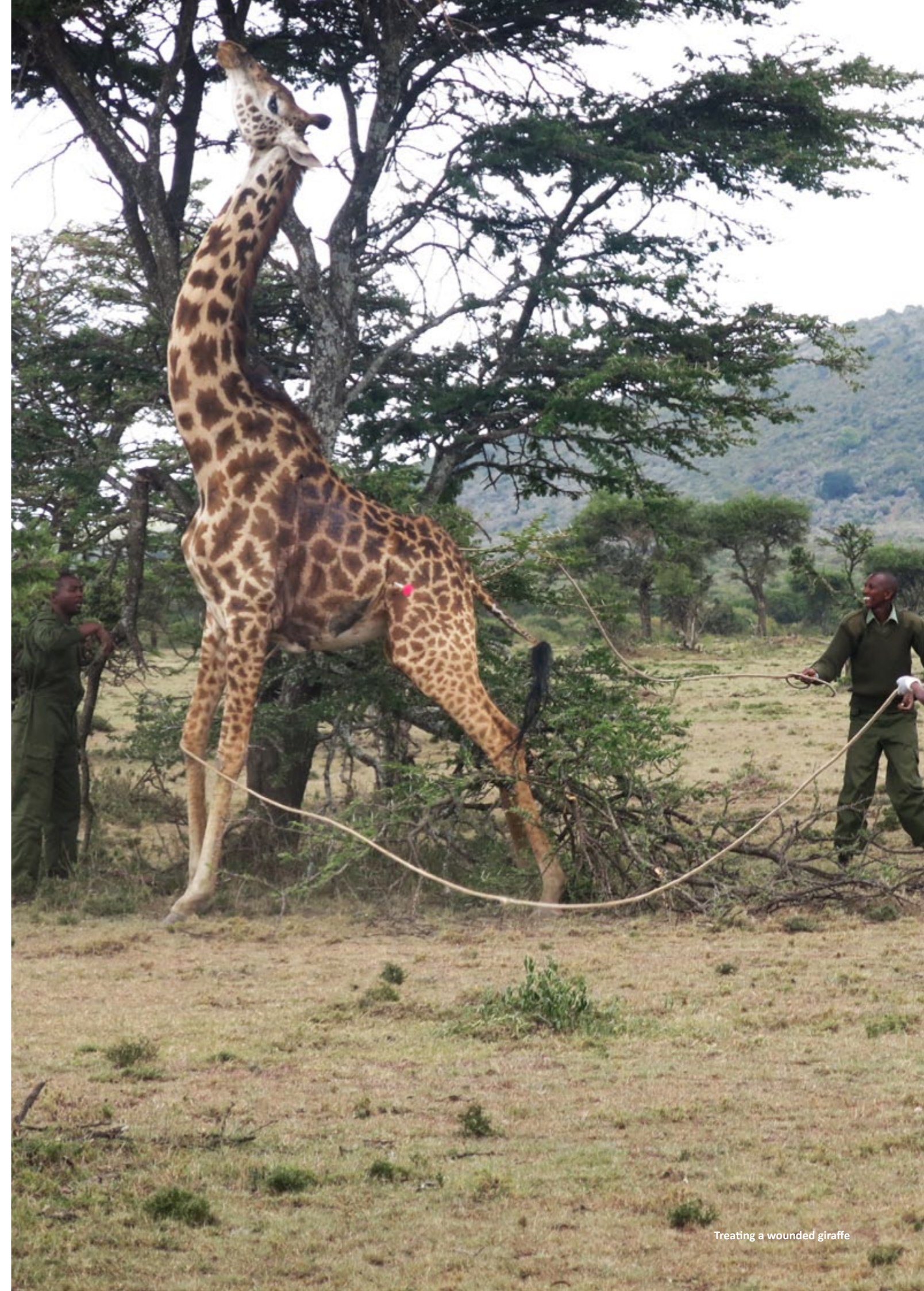
Removal of cable snares from an elephant

## New Veterinary Equipment

Utilizing modern veterinary knowledge alongside holistic alternative healing techniques, the Trust strives to improve and develop its veterinary care in order to save as many wild orphans as possible. Thanks to extremely generous donations, we now have 2 new Abaxis VetScan blood testing machines, a powerful and portable new X-ray machine, and 2 Microscopes, one of which is also portable. This equipment has hugely enhanced our husbandry of ailing orphans, enabling crucial rapid treatment in fragile species such as elephants, where time is of the essence since they can be fine one day, and dead the next. The equipment is also useful to monitor recovery. Our VetScan1 machine exposes internal organ function, including that of the liver, kidneys and heart while VetScan 5 delivers comprehensive CBC testing and analysis of white and red blood cell counts that reveal bacterial, viral or parasitic infections. The X-ray unit has an adaptable stand which can be easily adjusted to all angles and has been invaluable in diagnosing the extent of internal bone and tissue damage whilst reducing the need to immobilize the animal.



Portable x-ray machine



Treating a wounded giraffe

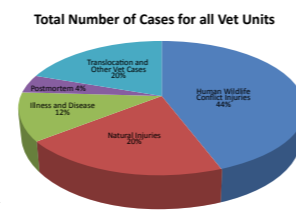
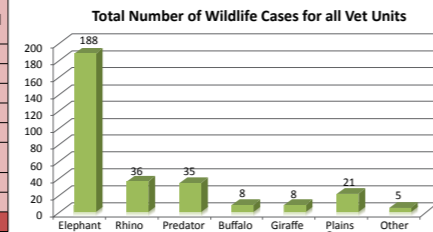


## A new Landcruiser donated to the KWS Veterinary Department

The Trust has been able to raise the necessary funds to donate a much needed new LandCruiser for the KWS Nairobi Veterinary Pool at the KWS Headquarters. This all-terrain vehicle will empower them to better cover the greater Nairobi ecosystem by providing new wheels for Nairobi-based Veterinary Officers who are often called upon for disease surveillance or for the translocation of wild animals, and often have to travel long distances throughout the Southern Conservation areas.

Number of cases treated between all DSWT funded Veterinary Units in 2013

Species	Human related injuries	other injuries	Rescue	Illness	Post Mortem	Collared	Relocation	Other	Total
Elephant	95	29	3	19	4	6	14	18	188
Rhino	11	3	0	5	1	0	14	2	36
Predator	3	18	4	4	3	1	2	0	35
Buffalo	3	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	8
Giraffe	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Plains Game	5	6	7	2	0	0	1	0	21
Primates	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>301</b>



Meru team in Shaba National Reserve



Treatment of an injured giraffe



Removal of a cable snare from an elephant calf's neck.



Rhino autopsy



Leopard cubs retrieved from a dead mother



Treatment of an elephant bull



Treatment of a leopard

## Special Thanks

Our veterinary initiatives are a great financial responsibility and we are hugely indebted to the following individuals, companies and organizations who have helped us meet this commitment. Heartfelt thanks are due to the Jacqueline Lefrak Foundation, and massive gratitude and appreciation also to Lori Price who funds the Sky Vet program; to Boskevic Air Charters, Yellow Wings, Air Kenya and Safarilink who allow discounted charters and fee airfares in support of our Sky Vet operations. Very special and heartfelt thanks is due to Jorge Perez Companc for generously funding the Meru Mobile Veterinary Unit as well as our Blood Diagnostic equipment and Xray unit and to Cheryl and Bob Kovarkis for the Microscopes. We are deeply indebted to Rex Dobie and the Minara Foundation for her steadfast support of the Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit and to Vier Pfoten for theirs which has covered the cost of the Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit for the 10th year in a row a magnificent contribution!



Lone elephant - Amboseli

# Anti-Poaching Tsavo Conservation Area

There are few places left in the world more unique than Kenya's giant Tsavo National Park, with which the Sheldrick name has always been linked. Hence the Tsavo National Park and its greater ecosystem (TCA) is the core focus of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, established in memory of its Founder Warden who literally carved the Park out from virgin bush when it was first created in 1949 and saved it, and its elephants, on more than one occasion. To this day his memory and his legacy burn bright in the hearts of all who work for the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, especially those based in the field in Tsavo, who work on the frontline to curb the poaching menace which again threatens Tsavo's iconic elephants.

Our eight Anti-Poaching Units work in conjunction with KWS Rangers patrolling daily on foot in an effort to keep Tsavo's wild denizens safe, deterring, apprehending and prosecuting those who commit crimes against wildlife and the natural environment. Over the past months our units have experienced some great successes through capturing several notorious poachers, aside from revealing and monitoring key hotspots where illegal activities are occurring. They have also dealt with illegal logging and the burning of charcoal in the Park and have been key to directing the Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit to the location of injured elephants spotted during patrols, and assisting with the search and rescue of orphaned elephant calves. Over the past twelve months our Anti-Poaching units, supported by armed KWS rangers, have apprehended 391 poachers as well as many lesser wildlife offenders, destroyed many shooting blinds, platforms and poaching pits, and collected and confiscated over 3,800 snares fashioned from both wire and cable as well as gin traps and other lethal contraptions.

During 2013 the Trust continued to invest in paramilitary training for its scouts in order to equip them with the skills they need to operate effectively and securely within the TCA. We are now close to having enrolled all our field teams through the Kenya Wildlife Service's Manyani Academy.

During the Academy Passing-Out Parade in May, attended by the new KWS Director, Mr. William Kiprono, at which Dame Daphne Sheldrick was also present, two DSWT employees out of the 68 recruits present, won two of the three award trophies - namely Joseph Macharia of our Duma Chyulu Anti-Poaching team who won 'Best in Academics' whilst Nterito Kapina won the award for 'Best All Round Trainee', both significant accolades which left Dame Daphne very proud. We are also proud to announce that Team Leaders, Moses Simiyu Wekesa and James Lemeguar Simiti, graduated from the prestigious Manyani Leadership Course in April 2013 and are now fully active out in the field heading two of the Trust's anti-poaching teams.

Currently we are in the process of enrolling an additional 22 new recruits, some from 'Project Amu', which is part of the Trust's "Saving Habitats" initiative in Lamu District, and some to make up new anti-poaching teams to deploy where most needed. They will join the next Manyani Community Rangers' Training Course due to commence early in 2014.

## A Rapid Response Unit Vehicle For Kws

Among the Trust's extensive support of KWS, is a new customized Landcruiser with a fully equipped trailer for the deployment of a new Anti-Poaching Rapid-Response Unit of armed KWS Rangers chosen from the Service's top field recruits who will operate within the entire Tsavo Conservation Area and provide timely intervention in response to information relating to armed poaching gangs operating in the region.



Tsavo East National Park

**NOTES FROM THE FIELD - ROBERT OBREIN Regional Assistant Director, Kenya Wildlife Service, Tsavo Conservation Area**

As the Kenya Wildlife Service's Assistant Director for the Tsavo Conservation Area, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust for their unwavering support extended throughout the TCA. The KWS, in partnership with the DSWT, continues to work tirelessly in the fight to curb the ever present poaching that threatens this area. Recently the Trust has helped us in establishing and equipping a Rapid Response Team to deal with security issues and a brand new Toyota LandCruiser has been purchased by the Trust and donated to the KWS for this worthy cause. The DSWT is also partnering with the KWS in assisting us in revamping our neglected dog unit, whilst the Trust's Anti-poaching/De-Snaring Teams have saved literally hundreds and thousands of animals over the years in and outside of the Tsavo National parks.

I have worked in every security park in the whole country, but I have enjoyed Tsavo the most, despite being the toughest and having the highest poaching incidents compared to all other parks put together, the DSWT has made life much more bearable for both wildlife and to us, the KWS. Thanks also goes to the DSWT for sponsoring the operations of the TCA Mobile Veterinary Unit, and we all marvel at the genius and courage you have showed us in starting the Sky Vets Unit which has proved invaluable in assisting us in times of need and for the more remote cases that would otherwise go untreated.

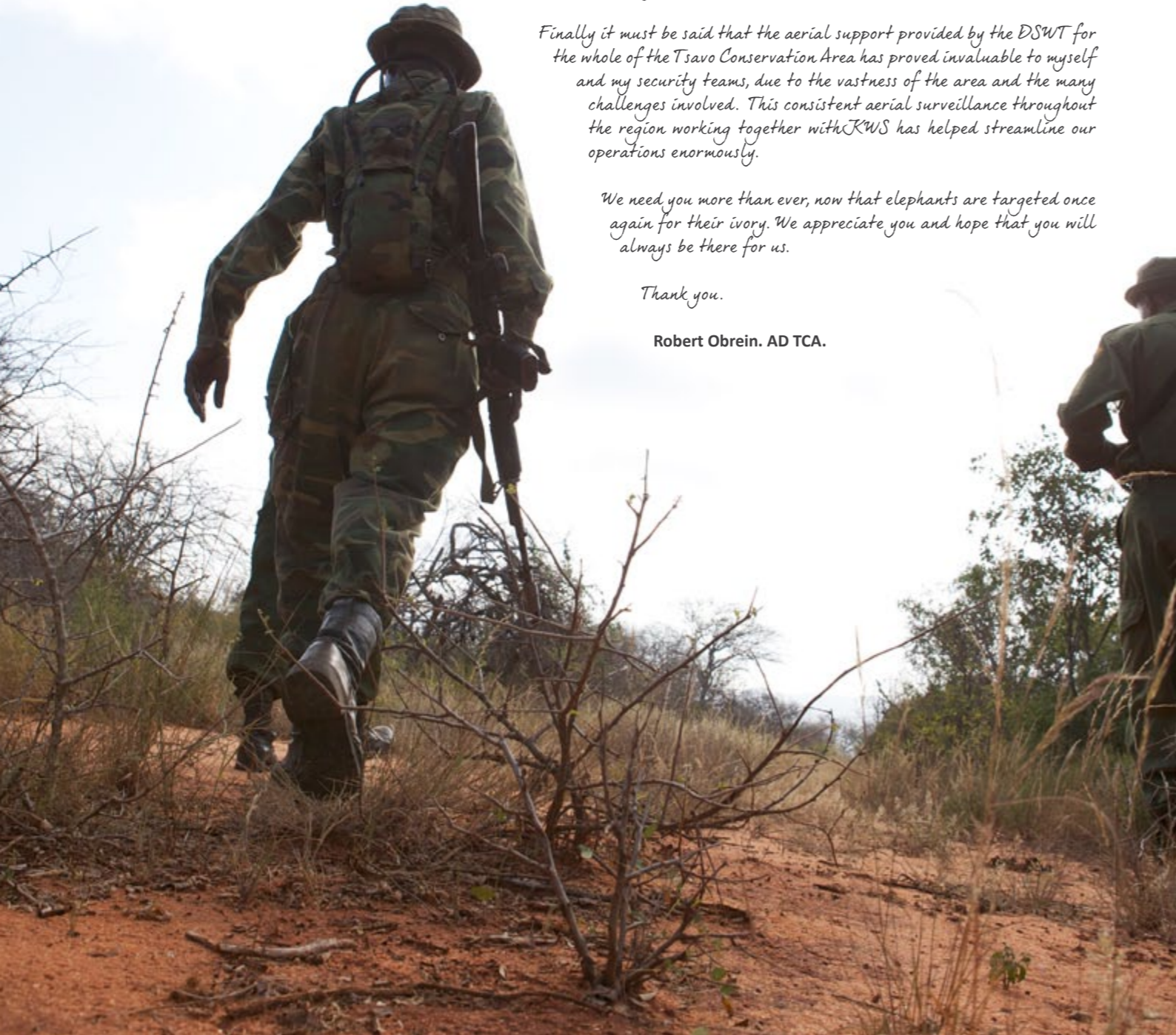
Water is always a challenge throughout this arid region, and the DSWT has partnered KWS for so many years in drilling and providing the ongoing maintenance for numerous boreholes, both with pumps and windmills and recently donated a brand new Lister engine to help solve the ongoing water challenges experienced at our Headquarters in Voi. This year the DSWT has further supported Tsavo by providing much needed support for the infrastructure for an important corner of Tsavo known as the Tsavo Triangle, an area located close to the Trust's headquarters at Kaluku, but separated from much of Tsavo by two permanent rivers, the Tsavo and Athi River.

Finally it must be said that the aerial support provided by the DSWT for the whole of the Tsavo Conservation Area has proved invaluable to myself and my security teams, due to the vastness of the area and the many challenges involved. This consistent aerial surveillance throughout the region working together with KWS has helped streamline our operations enormously.

We need you more than ever, now that elephants are targeted once again for their ivory. We appreciate you and hope that you will always be there for us.

Thank you.

Robert Obrein. AD TCA.



**NOTES FROM THE FIELD – NICK TRENT DSWT Field Operations Manager and Chief Pilot**

2013 began on a very sad note for all of us at the DSWT as 11 elephants were gunned down in northern Tsavo East on January 5th, including a calf and its mother. The butchery of so many elephants in one place, a place that should be safe and tranquil in the centre of Kenya's largest national park, was a stark reminder of how serious the war against poaching is and what we needed to prepare for in the year ahead.

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has not let up this year. We have all been kept busy each step of the way. The dedication and commitment of our field teams has been commendable. They have given their all throughout the year apprehending poachers, destroying shooting blinds and shooting platforms, liaising with communities, cooperating and working closely with Kenya Wildlife Service personnel, and assisting in both orphan rescues and veterinary work across Tsavo.

We meet the KWS in the field when circumstances call, such as a joint hot-on-the-trail search between the aircraft and the ground team for poachers, or when an elephant is darted and the aircraft, Vet and Anti-Poaching Units all come together. This year has been a year of team work and with the support and cooperation of Kenya Wildlife Service personnel at all levels we have done our work and been effective at reducing the threat to Tsavo's wildlife, its habitats and surrounding communities.

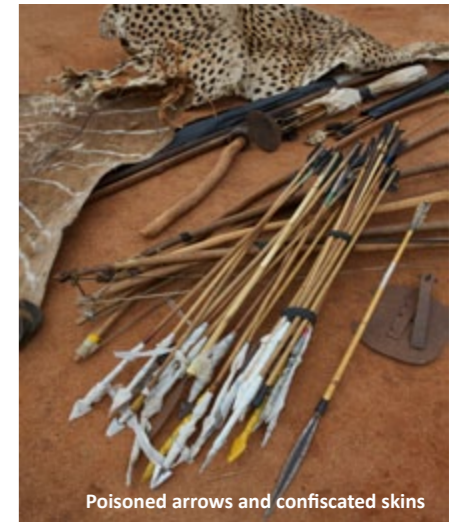
For me personally, every day I work in this vast wilderness of Tsavo I am humbled and privileged. I have flown around 500 hours over Tsavo this year alone, that's about 45,000 miles of air patrol. I never cease to be amazed at what I see, and I try to record as much of it as possible on camera to share. There are plenty of positives taking place across Tsavo - too many to mention here but some highlights include the numerous wild, free-roaming leopard I see, stalking the vast bush in the early morning or late evening; the rare sighting of a lion from the air as he either shelters from the midday heat metres from unknowing tourists, or stalks a giraffe who is oblivious to the danger; the lone honey badger busily poking his nose into everybody's business as he goes about his day in search of things to devour, attacking the plane as it circles overhead being naturally bad tempered; the rare sighting of a striped hyena cautiously trekking through the bush in search of her favourite food; a lazy civet cat curled up in a ball in the grass and completely unperturbed by the noise of the Top Cub circling overhead; the sunset on the hundreds of rock kopjes dotted across the Tsavo landscape; the rarest of sights, a small herd of Hirola grazing out in the grasslands of Tsavo East; and once or twice a year the most amazing site of all - Tsavo's elephants meeting for their annual get-together, over 500 individuals in one group that lasts for two days before they disperse again.

Tsavo is alive! Together we are making a difference thanks to the help of our field teams, our drivers and mechanics, our office staff, our keepers and our Nairobi based support team, the Kenya Wildlife Service and all our supporters around the world, Tsavo is alive!

Nick Trent – DSWT Field Operations Officer and Chief Pilot



Poached elephant with tusks removed



Poisoned arrows and confiscated skins



Confiscated snares collected by our anti-poaching teams



Burra/ Faru anti-poaching team



Poached elephants sighted from the air

# Aerial Surveillance

## And a new hangar at Orly



DSWT's recently purchased Super Cub 5Y-WRB



Aerial support for the veterinary unit



Aircraft used during the Southern Conservation Area elephant census



DSWT Field Operations Officer and Chief Pilot - Nick Trent



DSWT Top Cub



DSWT aircrafts, Top Cub and Super Cub

Aerial reconnaissance and surveillance is a vital tool in providing security over the huge expanse of country that comprises the Tsavo ecosystem which includes Tsavo East and West National Parks, the adjacent ranches, the Kibwezi Forest, Chyulu Hills and even Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania. The Trust's aircraft working in conjunction with the Kenya Wildlife Service, to provide eyes in the skies over Tsavo and its environs, help with aerial counts and capture operations, along with the search and rescue of orphaned elephant calves, helping to curb the illegal intrusion of livestock and directing the Mobile Veterinary Unit to injured animals spotted from the air whilst over-flying the Park. Based at the Trust's Kaluku Field Headquarters on the Athi/Mtito river boundary of Tsavo East, our aerial unit is an essential element in the protection of the area.

We now have four aircraft to help KWS safeguard Tsavo and its environs - a Top Cub (5Y-DTP), two Super Cubs (5Y-STP and 5Y-WRB) and a Cessna 185 (5Y-DHS) all committed to conservation field work throughout the greater Tsavo ecosystem as well as within Lamu District, where the Trust's Saving Habitats initiative, 'Project Amu', is located.

Over the past year the Aerial Surveillance Unit has flown over 500 hours covering over 40,000 aerial miles. This averages 45 hours and 3,700 miles flown every month dedicated to monitoring and responding to reports within the TCA. Thanks in no small measure to the energetic fundraising efforts of our Patron, Kristin Davis, a helicopter will soon be added to our fleet, which will be a truly invaluable asset to assist with placing men in ambush positions at poaching hotspots. The Helicopter is due to become a reality in 2014.

Both the Top Cub and the Super Cubs are ideal for slow low-level flying allowing for good visibility, and capable of being landed almost anywhere. Exact GPS locations of elephant carcasses or wild animals in need of help are relayed to the joint KWS/DSWT ground teams, who can then investigate further when otherwise such cases might be missed in thick bush. During July and August the Aerial Surveillance Unit responded to over 40 injured elephant and orphaned elephant calf sightings whilst investing many flying hours in monitoring the condition of treated animals which might need further veterinary intervention in order to fully recover.

Over the past 12 months, the larger, and faster, Cessna 185 which can carry more equipment and passengers has been doing the long hauls to provide aerial coverage over Lamu District, focusing on security threats to Amu Ranch and Witu Forest, whilst also conducting aerial surveillance for the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to reveal the extent of degradation of the forests. The aircraft also undertook a survey with personnel from NEMA, (The National Environmental Authority), carrying Senior officials and Administration Police over the area to show them where greater protection of threatened habitats is needed.

The latest Trust Super Cub provides additional security over the Northern Area of Tsavo East, especially around Ithumba mountain and the Tiva river, which are key areas utilized by our Ex Orphans, while the other Super Cub keeps an eye on the area utilized by the Voi Ex Orphans and their wild friends around Voi.

The Top Cub was needed to take part in a KWS count of the large mammals within the Amboseli ecosystem during the April 2013 wet season which involved 36 hours flying covering nearly 5,000 kms. It was gratifying that the wet season count revealed some sizeable

concentrations of eland and zebra, as well as one large herd of 100 elephants. A dry season count was also undertaken in which our aircraft participated involving over 25,000 square kms. flown in October.

The figures for the count were the following:-

April wet season count 1,930 Elephants

October dry season count 1,200 Elephants

In February 2014 the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust will be partnering once again with KWS during an extensive Tsavo Conservation Area aerial elephant count which will be very revealing. All the aviation fuel needed for this very important census has been donated by the Trust, thanks to a generous grant from our U.S. Friends.

### *New aircraft hangar at Orly*

Due to the rising costs associated with keeping aircraft at Nairobi's Wilson airfield, the Trust has managed to acquire an Aircraft Hangar at the small Orly Airfield just outside Nairobi, which will be much more cost effective. An additional benefit of the Orly hangar is that it is based in the south-western corner of Nairobi National Park closer to the Trust's Nairobi HQ, so access to and from it saves hours of being stuck in traffic. The Nairobi traffic jams are a relatively recent and extremely time consuming phenomenon ever since the Chinese began work on the road systems some two years ago!



DSWT Pilot - Neville Sheldrick

### *Special Thanks*

*All of the DSWT's anti-poaching efforts are reliant on the kind support of the global public with huge thanks going to Eric and Dana Margolis for significant donations towards anti-poaching fuel and vehicles; to the Thin Green Line for anti-poaching operational support; to Barron Walls for funding the Milihoi security camp on Amu Ranch, and to the Bodhi Tree Foundation. The following organizations have been key to supporting the Trust's eight Anti-Poaching Teams who operate within the Tsavo Conservation Area and we thank them too. They include IFAW, the Minara Foundation, the Eden Wildlife Trust, Vier Pfofen the Cullman Foundation and the Capricorn Foundation. Huge gratitude is also due to the Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning for their grant and to Bench Events who raised funds and awareness for the DSWT's anti-poaching efforts at a Tourism Conference in Nairobi. Additional thanks go to Lori Price and Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz for support towards ranger training and lastly, but by no means least, with much gratitude to our U.S. Friends for the many grants received for aviation fuel, which includes significant support from the Harriet E. Pflieger Foundation..*

# Saving Habitats

## *The Peregrine Conservation Area*



Kaluku - DSWT Field Headquarters

The Peregrine Conservation Area serves as a vital wildlife buffer running along the western side of Tsavo East National Park along the Athi and Mtito rivers. The late David Sheldrick worked tirelessly to create a buffer to this extremely sensitive boundary of the Park, and almost succeeded with the creation of what was known as the Ngai Ndethya Reserve.

However, following his death, local tribesmen moved in to occupy the land who ultimately found it too arid to provide them with a living, having charcoaled most of the hardwoods and poached out the wildlife. Many plot owners wanted to sell and move elsewhere, and it was then that the Trust acquired the land on a "willing buyer" "willing seller" basis. The trust now owns 3,000 acres. Positive, is the fact that elephants are beginning to re-populate the habitat they abandoned due to past poaching, and there has also been a marked increase in smaller species such as buffalo, kudu, impalas, waterbuck and dikdiks as well as the predators.

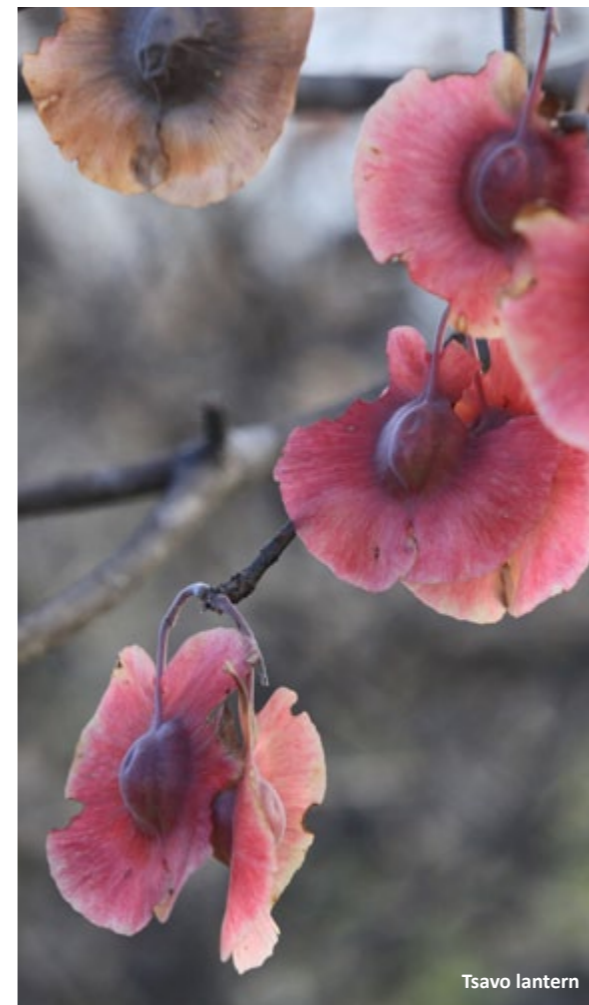
The Peregrine Conservation Area also serves as the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's Field Headquarters, known as Kaluku, providing support for all the Trust's Tsavo-based projects. Kaluku comprises of operations offices, radio room, workshops, an airstrip and aircraft hangar's, field equipment stores, and senior staff houses, staff quarters and a community vegetable garden and fruit orchard, along with an indigenous tree nursery.



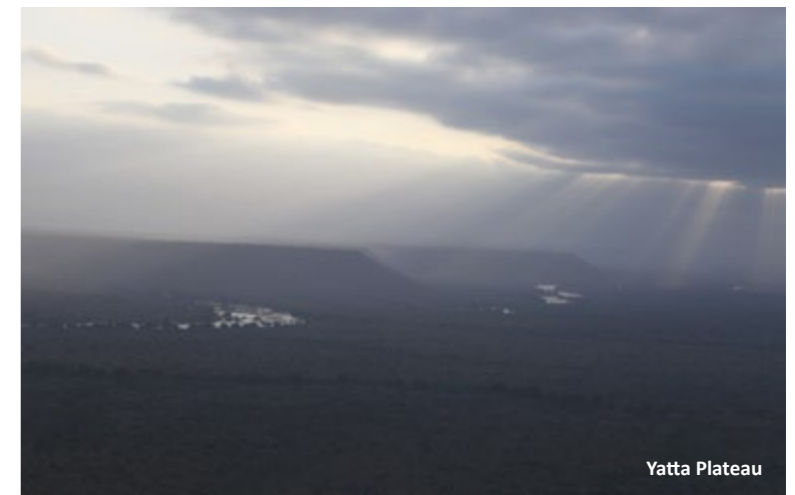
DSWT Field Supervisor "Saving Habitats" - James Mbutia



Athi River



Tsavo lantern



Yatta Plateau



Desert Rose

The Kibwezi Forest, which borders the Chyulu Hills National Park and lies within the greater Tsavo Conservation Area, provides a lifeline to thousands of people who depend upon the fresh water springs concealed within the heart of the forest. As a vital water catchment area, the protection of this fragile and ancient Groundwater Forest is paramount not only for the surrounding burgeoning human community but also because the Umani Spring is the only source of groundwater for the Chyulu Hills. The forest also harbours magnificent flora and fauna amongst which are endemic species. We have been granted a 30-year lease from the Kenya forest Service to protect this valuable entity and ensure that it is utilised sustainably by the local community to be able to remain a healthy balanced ecosystem.

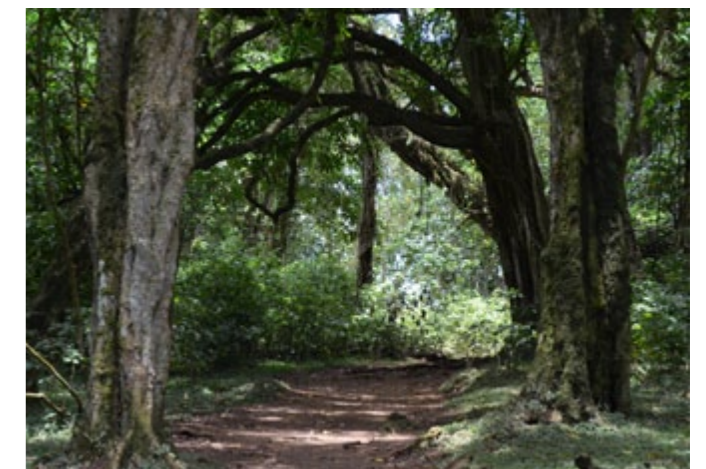
The greatest challenge has been, and is, the official, (but unofficial), over extraction of water from the Springs for human consumption which could compromise the only remaining ground water forest of its kind in Kenya. Following the installation of another large pipeline to extract more water, there is evidence of its negative impact in the recent drying of four major natural water pools since the amount of water from the spring flowing back into the forest ecosystem has been radically reduced and the spring head tampered with.

The local community's customary rights in the form of head-loads of firewood and limited livestock grazing access during periods of drought legally have to be embraced. This now forms an important part of the forest's management practices. In the past, over-extraction of forest resources has exacted a serious toll on its health. Six access gates into the forest for the community are now manned by DSWT employees ensuring that only those with permits are allowed access. Two Trust Anti-Poaching and De-Snaring teams patrol daily to ensure that the natural diversity of the forest is secure and that those who are legally permitted to be utilising the forest adhere to forest regulations. Hence, the illegal logging, charcoal burning and rampant poaching of the past is now under control and as a result the forest is recovering after the degradation of past years. The forest is electrically fenced on three sides, with the side that abuts the Chyulu National Park left open. The fenceline is stringently monitored on a daily basis to ensure that it remains intact and working and this has controlled previous human-wildlife conflict whilst allowing wildlife to follow old corridors to and from the Chyulu Hills National Park. A vital 5 km addition of the fence along with a Powerhouse was added in 2013 and the fence now spans 47 kms.

A 70 Km network of tracks has been cut within the forest to provide attractive tourism circuits for Umani Lodge guests. These same tracks also act as patrol roads to provide rapid access to key areas of the forest. A new access road into the eastern side of the Chyulu Hills was also completed during the year, hand-carved out of 20kms of thick lava through an especially inaccessible area of the forest opening up the west side of the Chyulu Hills National Park via Kenzili hill. This gave employment to many of the local people for a period of 8 full months.

New walking trails have been opened up and a beautiful Platform constructed at the top of Umani Hill to cater for the growing number of visitors staying at the lodge. The Platform offers a breath-taking vista of the surrounding forest with the picturesque volcanic Chyulu Hills beyond. A bush breakfast site within reach of the camp has also proved popular with guests.

Indigenous tree species are grown from seeds and cuttings in a Tree Nursery enabling us to rehabilitate previously degraded areas of the forest. Over the last 12 months over 11,000 seedlings of different indigenous tree species have been planted out, five species in particular selected - Acacia Mellifera, a common thorn tree in Kenya producing sweet-smelling blossoms, Acacia Tortilis, known as the umbrella thorn tree, Adansonia Digitata, the Baobab, Newtonia Hildebrandtii as well as Tabernaemontana Ventericosa, also known as the forest toad tree. Over a one month period, a team of 30 women from the local community were employed to undertake the planting of saplings in designated areas, working alongside another 26 casual men also employed by the Trust. Replanting took place at the beginning of April prior to the onset of the rains in order to give the saplings a good start. The Trust continues to educate neighbouring communities about the value of the forest and the need to protect it.



## Saving Habitats

### *The Kibwezi Forest*

**NOTES FROM THE FIELD - JAMES MBUTHIA Regional Field Supervisor**

*Nothing makes me happier than seeing the Kibwezi Forest Reserve returning to a healthy and beautiful habitat. This Forest was once a poaching hotspot for elephants whilst being one of the largest suppliers for charcoal to Nairobi city and other towns. Since the inception of the DSWT's 'Saving Habitats' initiative, the Forest is regenerating exponentially and many once barren and degraded areas have been once again covered with young trees whilst wildlife populations especially elephants, buffaloes and bushbucks are on an upward trend.*

*This year our desire to continue transforming the Forest, which just a few years ago was under threat of extinction due to illegal activities, has been our driving force and we as a team are now proud to protect the largest herd of elephants in the Chyulu Conservation Area numbering close to 70 living undisturbed in the Forest in what is now a poaching-free environment.*

*The Kibwezi electric fence is also a huge benefit to the protection of the Forest. Human wildlife conflict coupled by human injuries and fatalities has been contained since the fence was erected, whilst the neighbouring communities have been safely harvesting their crops and poverty levels have been minimized. Everybody I interact with appreciates the impact of the fence on their lives.*

*Tourism is another product of Kibwezi Forest, which is of great benefit to both the ecosystem and the communities. The Umani Springs lodge has amazing birdlife, numerous walking trails, a sun downer platform, and other areas providing a perfect place to relax. Many tourists who have visited us have bonded with this remarkable Forest and return regularly.*

*In April and May this year I was nominated by the DSWT to attend an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on Anti-poaching and Anti-trafficking efforts in the USA. The program was sponsored by the State Department through the American Embassy in Kenya. On this three-week study tour myself and twelve other participants from African Nations including Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and South Africa, visited several U.S. states attending seminars and exchanging views and experiences concerning the threat of poaching and trafficking and the methods that can be put into place in Africa in the fight against such activities. During visits to different states including Washington, Florida and Oregon as well as several national parks including Yellowstone and the Everglades, we noted the relative sparseness of mega-fauna in the U.S and the degradation of many ecosystems, such as the Everglade. This trip enabled me to meet other professionals in conservation in the USA and was a wonderful learning experience. It has indeed changed my life. I am particularly grateful to the Trust management and American Embassy for this kind gesture. I am truly honoured.*

*The success of Kibwezi Forest project could not have been possible were it not for the kind support from the US friends of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, and other donors who have kept us on the ground. I look forward to next year with great hope and anticipation that we shall accomplish even more.*

**JAMES MBUTHIA - Regional Field Supervisor**






# Saving Habitats

*Together with the Lamu Conservation Trust*




Amu Ranch

The DSWT established the community based Lamu Conservation Trust (LCT) in order to help secure and save large tracts of pristine habitat under community ownership. In recent years these lands have become increasingly threatened through unplanned cultivation and habitat destruction, poaching for bushmeat and overgrazing. Recognising the risk to naturally balanced habitats the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is committed to working in conjunction with the Lamu community through the LCT, the Kenya Forest Service and the Kenya Wildlife Service in an effort to secure, save and protect pristine wilderness areas and their biodiversity before it is lost forever - understanding the importance of this for future generations.



LAMU CONSERVATION TRUST  
"Afya muzuri, utulivu na usawa wa maumbile ya ulimwengu,  
ni afya njema yetu sisi wanaadamu" Mtume Muhammad(S.A.W.)



[www.lamuconservationtrust.org](http://www.lamuconservationtrust.org)

Amu Ranch is a rare jewel hidden near Kenya's remote northern coastline. It is home to huge herds of buffalo, reticulated giraffe, endangered coastal topi and other rare species, including Aders' Duikers (previously believed to be extinct on mainland Africa).

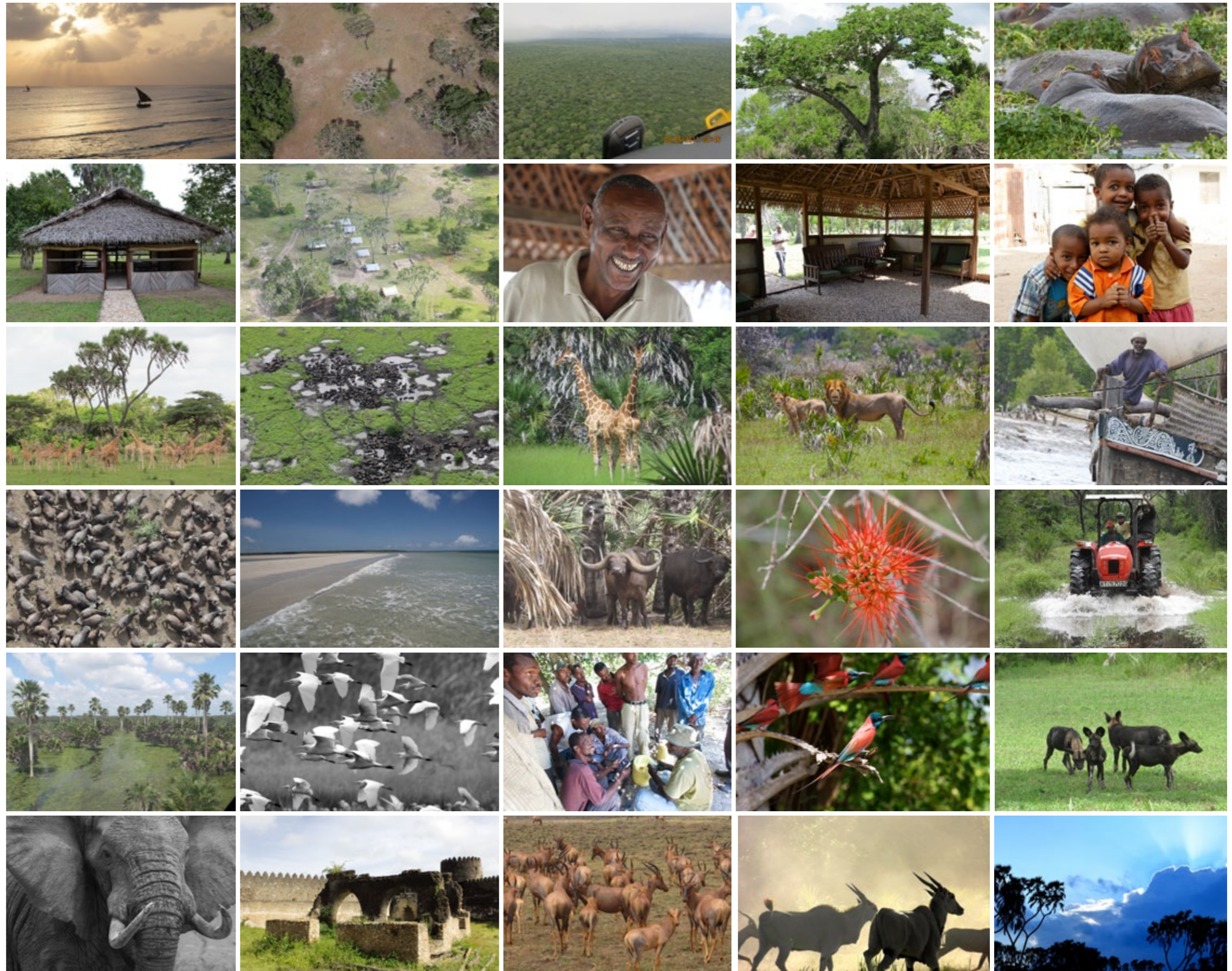
Its wealth of birdlife is an ornithologist's dream and a new endemic fish species has recently been identified there, with others probably still to be found. Many of the big predators are still there, including pale Somali lions with blueish eyes. Amu is a picture-book wilderness of open areas fringed by Doum and Raffia palms, and huge coastal trees such as Baobabs, Tamarinds, Bambakofi, and Figs, and rain-filled pools and small lakes adorned with blue and white water-lilies. Patches of forest are remnants of the once dense Central African Rainforest that encircled equatorial Africa. A committed team supports Amu's daily operations, managed and run by Omari Twalib Mzee. His commitment and passion for this unique habitat, offering beach to bush experience in just a day, has made such a tangible difference in saving Amu.

Since the establishment of the community-run Lamu Conservation Trust (LCT) and the lease of Amu Ranch, efforts are successful and ongoing to encourage further community Group Ranch participation to add land parcels under the umbrella of the LCT in support of cultural challenges falling under their three 'pillars', namely Wildlife, Marine and Culture. These strive to save terrestrial habitats, marine ecosystems and cultural heritage sites from an ecological and educational perspective whilst in the long-term attracting revenue enhancing tourism.

Again, in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service, DSWT has this past year been awarded the management tender for Witu Forest in Lamu District under a 30 year lease agreement. This stunning forest within the Lamu eco-region is a vital biodiversity reservoir forming part of an important elephant migratory corridor between the Dodori National Reserve and the Kipini Conservancy. In conjunction with LCT, we will strive to protect this as a wildlife corridor and in so doing enhance the quality of life of the local people through managed sustainable utilization and benefit sharing, perhaps even ultimately attracting specialized tourism.

The Lamu Conservation Trust enjoys a strong relationship with all the local communities, and has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to manage the security of another community-owned ranch abutting Amu called Witu Livestock Cooperative. Having witnessed the success of Amu, the community owners of Witu Livestock are determined to emulate that example to enhance their own livelihood.

According to a survey published by the Kenya Rangelands Ecological Monitoring Unit (KREMU) and unbeknownst to many, the Lamu District once held one of the densest concentrations of wildlife in Kenya with an elephant population estimated in 1972 at over 21,000, second only to Tsavo in terms of numbers. Yet, by 1977 elephant numbers declined to just 11,000, and by 1978 had fallen even further to an estimated 6,378. As traditional bow and poisoned arrow elephant hunters, the local Boni people certainly contributed towards that decline, but only on an insignificant scale compared to the rampant Somali 'shifita' poachers who took over, armed with AK-47s and 303 rifles. Today it is estimated that less than 100 elephants remain, and as a result of such brutal massacre, they've adapted their behaviour in order to survive. They have become very secretive, moving around stealthily only under cover of darkness and hidden deep within dense coastal thickets during the hours of daylight. DSWT and LCT are dedicated to providing as much protection as possible to these tragic elephant survivors.





Farouk's Camp is the original H.Q. and security base on Amu Ranch and is a hub of activity. Skilled craftsmen fashion beautiful fittings and furniture from fallen doum logs while a Tree Nursery team are kept busy nurturing indigenous tree seedlings and saplings to replant deforested areas, with the added responsibility of raising an orphaned bushbuck and an oribi. Access security tracks need continual maintenance and LCT Rangers and armed Kenya Police Reservists jointly patrol daily to combat illegal activities such as bushmeat poaching and snaring, logging and livestock grazing.

Work began during the year on the construction of a second security outpost called Milihoi. The location of this new outpost was chosen strategically in order to ensure greater security over the western boundary of the ranch, where unsustainable illegal cattle grazing as well as bushmeat snaring and logging has long been a threat. Recurrent droughts tend to plague the greater ecosystem, but a beautiful nearby fresh water lake relieves the situation, attracting a wealth of wildlife during the dry seasons. This new Security Camp will relieve the pressure on the current central Farouk HQ, and significantly increase protection over one of the Ranch's more vulnerable habitats. Milihoi Camp now also deploys daily foot and vehicle patrols who work in conjunction with KWS.

The LCT and DSWT plan to open Amu Ranch to the public. Visitor facilities have been installed offering cool places to shelter from the sun after an early morning game drive. Initially only day visitors will be hosted, enjoying a beach to bush experience and the incredible wildlife spectacle Amu Ranch has to offer. To find out more about the Lamu Conservation Trust visit [www.lamuconservationtrust.org](http://www.lamuconservationtrust.org) or 'Like' them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/lamuconservationtrust](http://www.facebook.com/lamuconservationtrust).

### The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lamu Cultural Festival

LCT participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Lamu Cultural Festival celebrations during which a myriad of festivities took place spanning a long weekend from the 21st to the 24th November 2013. This annual festival held in Lamu's Old Town is dedicated to celebrating the local traditions of this beautiful archipelago, and is timed each year to coincide with high tides that offer ideal conditions for Lamu's famous dhow boat races. The festival also presents the rare opportunity for local and international visitors alike to witness traditional dances, donkey races, and canoe and swimming competitions, whilst also showcasing the traditional arts and craft skills of the Swahili people. LCT operated a central stall along the seafront at the Lamu jetty where the team were available throughout the Festival to talk to the residents of Lamu and international visitors about their work falling under the three pillars of Wildlife, Marine and Culture, highlighting what Amu Ranch has to offer. As new sponsors of the Festival, LCT and DSWT were thrilled to have the opportunity to get fully involved in all the activities taking place during what turned out to be a vibrant and exciting weekend and an enormous success.



# Eco-Lodges

## *Umani Springs, Ithumba Camp and Ithumba Hill*

The 'Umani Springs' Eco-lodge, situated within the Kibwezi Forest is now two years old and is a very attractive property that is becoming increasingly popular, creating growing awareness of a unique forest habitat filled with butterflies, and forest life, some of which is endemic. Importantly, the occupancy generates revenue for the management and protection of the forest, but also for the Kenya Forest Service and the Chyulu Hills National Park.

Meanwhile the original Ithumba Camp, the revenue of which is donated to KWS, continues to enjoy almost full occupancy year round with some bookings even a year ahead, being the chosen destination of many orphaned elephant foster-parents, DSWT supporters and elephant enthusiasts. We are excited to announce that construction is ongoing of another new camp called Ithumba Hill situated against Ithumba mountain in amongst beautiful granite outcroppings and giant Figs, Tamarinds and Baobabs. The elevation of the new Camp provides stunning views of the vast expanse of virgin wilderness surrounding it and will exclusively accommodate up to 8 guests. We anticipate its completion by the end of 2014 and are confident that it will be even more popular than the existing rustic Camp as one of Kenya's most unique destinations.



Ithumba Hill Site



Building of Ithumba Hill Camp



Umani Springs



Umani Springs



Umani Springs



Umani Springs

## Wildlife Support

The support given to The Kenya Wildlife Service by the Trust is ongoing and has been substantial throughout 2013, from the construction of electric fencing to protect sensitive boundaries, to water resource management, donations of field vehicles and equipment, the funding of bursaries and training for KWS staff. We pride ourselves in having the ability to provide much needed contingency funding rapidly and efficiently at short notice, in order to ensure help when most needed. David Sheldrick always insisted that this was the most supportive role of N.G.O's.

During the early 1980's the Trust drilled a borehole to provide water to the Voi Stockades for the orphaned elephants and the KWS Park H.Q. Whilst initially this borehole produced a good yield, it has since faltered due to various factors, so a new one had to be drilled nearby. The Trust also raised the funds to purchase a new Lister engine and pump to facilitate the KWS supply of water from the Mzima pipeline to the Voi H.Q. since the borehole yield is not sufficient to meet the demand.

Over the years the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has constructed 63 kms of electric-fencing along the Tsavo East National Park northern boundary and ever since has supported the ongoing maintenance costs of this extensive fence-line. This entails daily surveillance and no mean monthly financial outlay. We have also upgraded and funded a 15 km. fence along the South Eastern boundary of the Nairobi National Park, which has proved effective in preventing illegal intrusion and limiting human-wildlife conflict. Additionally, the Trust upgraded 1,700 metres of the fence-line surrounding Nairobi Park, converting it to become semi-live and unshortable, similar to that provided earlier by the Trust from the Park H.Q. to the town of Ongata Rongai.

Since its inception, DSWT has invested in the academic advancement of talented students and individuals within the Kenya Wildlife Service. Progressing academically is always a difficult financial burden for Kenyans, many promising students never having an opportunity to further their education due to financial constraints. Those that do, strive to excel academically with a determination to continue to the highest academic levels possible, many of whom are researchers, field officers, veterinary students and pilots. During 2013 the Trust created an official Conservation Bursary Award Scheme, to offer the opportunity for individuals identified as key players in the future of conservation to acquire the desired skill-set in order to work with wildlife. Such bursaries awarded in the past year have included Masters and PHD grants as well as an East African Private Pilot's License (PPL).



Patrolling Ithumba fence line

## Communities and Education

Our Community Outreach Programs focus on building sustainable relationships with the local communities that border the greater Tsavo Conservation Area. These include improving their living conditions and educational standards, whilst encouraging the next generation to nurture and protect the environment and their unique wildlife heritage. Using the Trust's Field Bus, each year we offer a number of free school trips into both Tsavo East and West National Parks so that the children can see their wildlife up close, since many never have the opportunity to do so. With each excursion is an Instructor to educate them about the animals they view, and the importance of protecting Tsavo's unique biodiversity, from the smallest insect to the biggest elephant. During the year 36 schools and 900 children were hosted on these full day excursions. Schools from the Kibwezi and Mtito areas were taken to Tsavo West National Park where they visited the Tsavo West Education Centre, Shetani Lava Flow, Mzima Springs, Chaimu, Rhino Valley and Rhino Valley Game Lodge while schools from the Voi and Maktau areas were taken to Tsavo East National Park where they visited the Tsavo East Education Centre, Kanderi swamp, DSWT's Voi elephant stockades and the orphaned elephants, and Mudanda Rock. Schools in the Ithumba area were taken to the DSWT's Ithumba elephant stockade to mingle with the Keeper Dependent elephants there, and also to the KWS Dog Unit and operational HQ, whilst also enjoying game drives along the Tiva River.

We have continued with our support of desk donations to many schools throughout the TCA. Even a desk is a rare resource for some of the impoverished schools bordering Tsavo. These desks are handmade by local craftsmen and are long-lasting, with metal frames and wooden tops. During the year over two hundred desks have been donated to schools thanks to support for Outreach Projects from various organisations and generous individuals. The same applies to donations of sports equipment, a luxury not normally affordable by any of the schools with which our teams work.

In Nairobi we also welcome local schools to visit the Nairobi Nursery and meet the orphans and Keepers. This year the Trust has received in excess of 75,000 Kenyan school children who come to the orphans' midday mud-bath, which takes place between 11am -12pm at the public visiting hour. This is a wonderful highlight for the children, many of whom have never seen an elephant before let alone have a chance of being so close, whilst learning why they need to be protected at all costs.

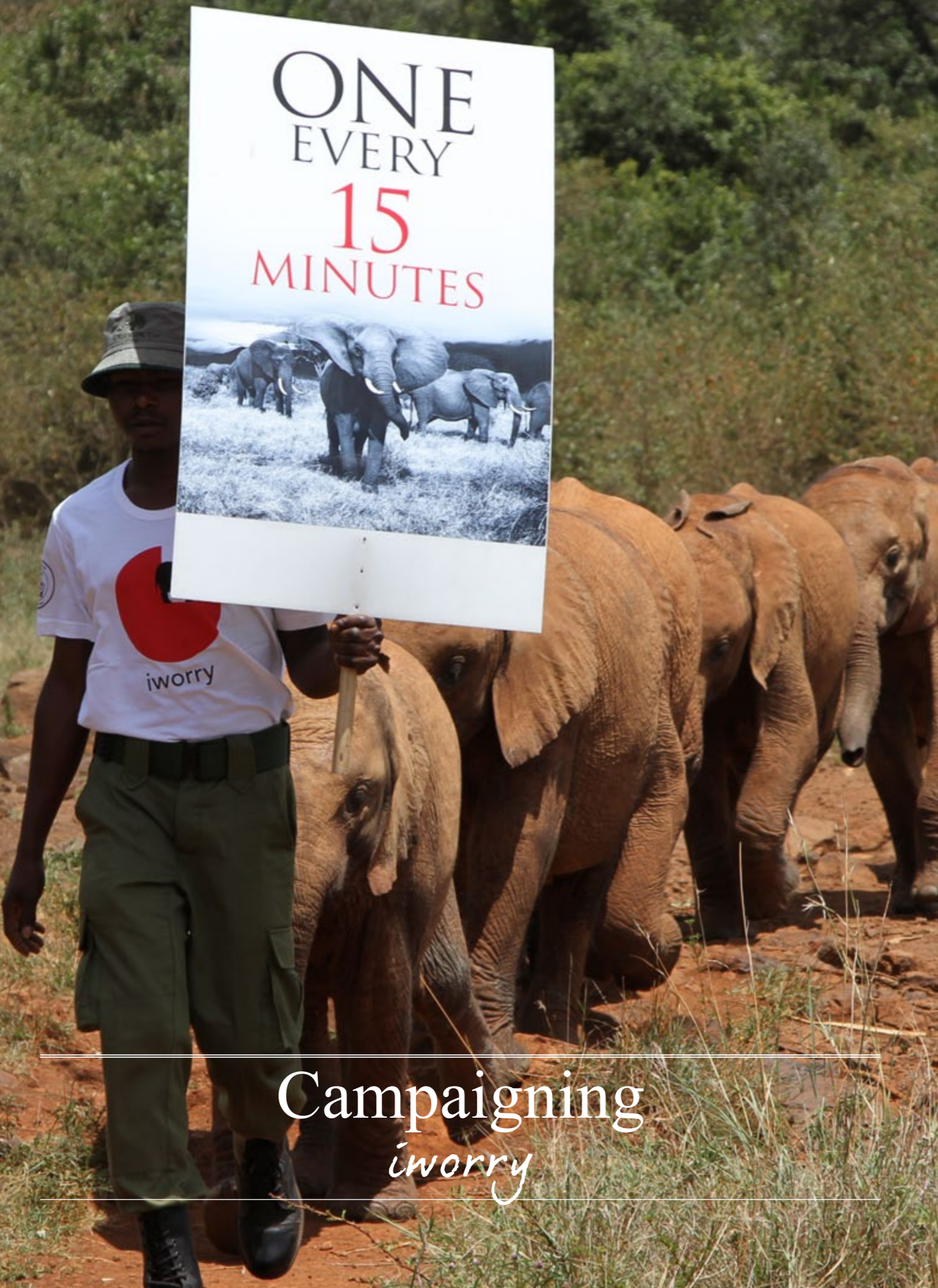
For over a decade the Trust has been donating tree saplings grown in the Trust's Tree Nursery to the local schools and communities bordering Tsavo. This encourages children and adults to plant, nurture and protect their trees, giving them a sense of ownership and pride, whilst educating them about the importance of trees in terms of the vital role they play within the environment to generate rainfall. During the rains of April/May a total of 700 Neem seedlings (*Azadirachta indica*) were donated to different community groups, dispensaries and schools and during the November/December rains a further 1.300 Neem seedling were donated. The Neem Tree, which in Kiswahili is called "Marubaini", meaning the tree of forty cures, and it can survive extremely harsh conditions. These donations are over and above the DSWT's own tree planting efforts in various areas under our control.

With the growing human population along Tsavo's boundaries, competition for water and other resources have put humans and wildlife into conflict. The majority of conflict reports received this year involve the larger herbivores (elephants and buffalo) as well as carnivores (lions, leopards, and hyenas), which stray into community lands, destroying crops and causing fatalities. The DSWT has been working closely with the Mtito-Andei Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution Self-Help group, comprised of over 100 representatives, to come up with the best ways to counter human-wildlife conflict along the Mtito River.

### Community Outreach Thanks

*For our Community Outreach programs we are indebted to the following organisations for supporting us in our efforts; with gracious thanks to the Lombard Charitable Trust, The Dulverton Foundation, Waves, Capricorn Foundation, The Body Shop Foundation and the American Embassy Kenya.*





## Campaigning *iworry*

The DSWT has become increasingly active beyond just the field where most of our conservation efforts focus, using our strong international recognition to leverage pressure on International Governments to implement domestic bans on their internal Ivory Trade and commit financial resources to tackle wildlife crime.

On Friday 4th October 2013, as part of the DSWT's *iworry* campaign, over 20,000 people, in 42 cities across the globe, took to the streets in the International March for Elephants, an event that raised global public and media awareness of the plight of elephants and provided a platform through which global citizens could urge their governments to address wildlife crime and the illegal ivory trade. We are proud to have been the organization that staged the first and single largest public demonstration of support for a wild species and have been inspired by the outcome. The International March for Elephants had the support of many international NGOs, with respected Speakers such as Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton (Save the Elephants), Dr. Patrick Omondi (KWS), Bryan Christy (Investigative Journalist), Kristin Davis (DSWT Patron), Nicky Campbell (BBC), Mary Rice (EIA), Will Travers (Born Free), Jim Nyamu (Ivory Belongs to Elephants), Dr. Paula Kahumbu (WildlifeDirect), Sean Wilmore (Thin Green Line), and others, each providing an informed insight into the extent of the illicit ivory trade, its impact on elephant populations and the essential need for international collaboration to tackle the issue. Following the March, the Trust was contacted by the Chinese Embassy, the US Embassy and UK Embassy, all expressing their eagerness to help in the struggle to save elephants.

During May 2013 Dame Daphne joined the Duke of Cambridge, politicians, conservationists, government representatives, diplomats and non-government organisations at a conference hosted by the Prince of Wales at St. James's Palace at which the plight of endangered species, and particularly that of elephants, was discussed. The extent of wildlife crime driven by organized international criminal networks and estimated to be worth up to US \$19 billion a year, was repeatedly highlighted throughout the meeting, with illegal wildlife smuggling linked to that of drugs, arms, people trafficking and money laundering. The meeting did not reveal immediate solutions, with no magic wand to be waved, but there were many powerful messages throughout the talks, the words of the Prince of Wales resonating "...the loss of wildlife would be an immeasurable stain on humankind and humanity - their destruction will diminish us all."

In June, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust was the focus of a special event in Toronto, Canada, hosted by the Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation. The event, which was attended by DSWT Patron Kristin Davis and UK Director Rob Brandford, marked the official launch of

the Foundation, which is born out of a love of animals, humanity and nature. Longtime friends and supporters of the DSWT, Eric and Dana Margolis used the event to shine a spotlight on African elephants, the illegal ivory trade and the DSWT's efforts in the preservation and conservation of these gentle giants. The event emphasised the need for governments from around the world to adopt illegal wildlife trafficking as a priority issue and to enhance law enforcement and security in the field and at ports of transit, to address a trade that is not only claiming the lives of elephants and the wildlife rangers that protect them, but funding criminal activities and terrorist organisations.

### *Special Thanks*

*We owe further sincere thanks to many kind individuals, companies and organisations whose steadfast support towards the DSWT throughout 2013 has been humbling, offering time, resources and generous financial support, which is channeled throughout the Trust's many and varied projects where it is needed the most.*

*We are so very grateful to the following individuals and foundations for their grants and donations and send much gratitude to Eleanor Phipps Price, The Samuel J. & Ethel Lefrak Charitable Trust, Reginald H. Fullerton Living Trust, Harriet E. Pfeiffer Foundation, California Community Foundation, Talbot Family Foundation, Elizabeth Steele Fund, Fredman Family Foundation, The Scoob Trust Foundation, Lillian S. White Fund, Metage Capital, and the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation.*

*Many thanks go to Mike Foster, Linda Rodgers, Miranda Curtis, Fatima Al-Sabah, Nancy Mack, Christopher and Lynette Green, Tony Mustoe and James Clark. To Wonderland Collective, Mark Bloomfield, and The Joey Company for pro bono marketing and design consultancy. FM Incentive for adopting the DSWT as their charity of the year for 2014, the Environmental Investigation Agency and Mary Rice for supporting the iworry campaign and for general support throughout the year. Thanks go to the Treasure Charitable Trust, The Scott (Eredine) Charitable Trust, and to Alex Wood for assisting with PR and the iworry campaign and to Emma Pee for design assistance. Sincere gratitude goes to Andrew Longstaff for web development and implementation, to Abhishek Desai for design assistance, to Mary Symons for PR consultancy, and Joachim Schmeisser & Kathrin Kohler for their professional photography and print production in kind. Many thanks go to Ann Smith and Lisa Sanford for their tireless support at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, to Dorothy Cheng who translated the iworry campaign site into Chinese and runs our pages on Weibo, allowing us to reach people in China, to Lorne Green who is an asset in assisting us in developing relations with government officials, and thanks to Abi Irving for continued fundraising assistance. We also must say a huge thank you to all of those who so kindly held and organised fundraising events for the DSWT during the past year with special thanks and gratitude to Dusty Helmets, Bonnie Koppelman, Helen LeBrecht, Ann Smith, Susan Culp and Lara Gale.*



## Global Awareness and Celebrities

The DSWT hosted several international celebrities during the year, which included Yao Ming, the Chinese basketball player and Yaya Toure the Manchester City and Ivory Coast pro-footballer, who both are using their celebrity status to help raise awareness about the plight of elephants during this difficult time. The well-known American rap-artist, Akon, visited the orphans, as did Chelsea Clinton who was filmed with the elephants for an American NBC Program, whilst the Trust welcomed a host of other celebrities and prominent figures including actress Li Bing Bing. The DSWT has also hosted over 20 film crews during the past twelve months including Canadian filmmakers Make Believe Productions, CBS Evening News and CBS This Morning, ABC –Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Blink Productions and WildAid in partnership with Natural History New Zealand.

### Special Thanks

*We are sincerely grateful for the support and awareness raised by famous figures, celebrities and global personalities. During 2013 we hosted many VIPs but we are hugely thankful to the following individuals for standing up for the elephants and supporting us in our work. Of course massive thanks and enormous gratitude goes to our Patron Kristin Davis, with extra thanks to Ame Van Iden for all she does in promoting the DSWT, as well as Lauren Auslander. Many thanks go to Rula Lenska for her steadfast support and help at the ivory marches and for promoting us in TV interviews. With gratitude to Nicky Campbell for speaking at our ivory march, and being a powerful voice for elephants, and to Kristin Bauer Van Straten, Maria Menounos, Megan Park, Christie Brinkley, Yaya Toure, Yao Ming, Li Bing Bing, Tanya Kim and Chris Packham for all of their support in assisting in creating awareness of the plight of the elephants.*



Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick with Yao Ming



Christie Brinkley with Angela Sheldrick



Li Bing Bing with Edwin Lusichi Head Keeper Nairobi Nursery

# Elephants and Ivory

*"Please I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be Protectors of Creation, Protectors of God's Plan inscribed in Nature, Protectors of one another and of the environment. Let us not allow owners of destruction and death to accompany the advance of the world"- Pope Francis*

Africa once had an elephant population estimated at 3 ½ million, the Africa-wide population is now probably less than 400,000 and all because of the demand for ivory in the Far East, and particularly China. The number of elephants killed in 2011 for their ivory is at least 25,000, with at least 36,000 lost in 2012 and undoubtedly more in 2013. The Executive Director of UNEP (Achim Steiner) warned the world that *'the African Elephant is facing the greatest crisis in decades'* and that unless urgent action is taken, Elephants could well become extinct in many Range States within the next two decades. The U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, also emphasized that poaching was a grave menace to sustainable peace and security in Africa, since illegal ivory reportedly funds terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda and Al-Shabaab, who were responsible for the attack on Kenya's Westgate Mall on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

It is estimated that 96 elephants were killed in Africa daily during 2012, which translates into 4 elephants an hour, or 1 elephant every 15 minutes. The last elephant was killed in Sierra Leone in 2009, Gabon has lost 80% of its elephants, the Congo basin is being literally emptied, and there has been a 90% loss of elephant numbers in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the Forest Elephant nearing extinction. As a result, more than a dozen fruit bearing tree species dependent on the elephants for propagation have suffered a catastrophic decline which will impact adversely on many other species. Senegal has less than a dozen elephants left and Mozambique is losing at least 3 a day. More than 300 elephants died in Zimbabwe recently after cyanide poisoning of waterholes, along with vultures and the predators that fed on the bodies.

Kenya once had an elephant population of some 167,000 but today the population is estimated to be around 30,000. Whereas in 1979 poachers could harvest a ton of ivory from the death of 54 elephant's nine years later they would have to kill 1,131 for the same haul, since those that are left are younger with smaller tusks. Large-scale seizures (consignments of over 800 kgs) representing the tusks of hundreds of elephants in a single shipment, have more than doubled since 2009, reaching an all-time high in 2012 and 2013 proof of the extent of the slaughter currently taking place on an unprecedented scale.

The Selous ecosystem in Tanzania (31,040 square miles) is Africa's largest protected area and holds East Africa's greatest elephant population estimated in the early 1970's to exceed 100,000. But by the end of the last great ivory poaching crisis of the 1970's and 1980's the population had fallen to about 20,000. Following the global ivory trade ban enacted in 1989, by 2007 the population recovered to an estimated 55,000, but by 2009 the Selous elephants were down to around 39,000. The latest recently announced population estimate is 13,084, indicating an unprecedented drop in numbers over the last six years. Tsavo National Park and its environs (an ecosystem of 16,000 sq. miles) is home to Kenya's single largest population of elephants, which in 1970 stood at 45,000, went down to 6,000 following the poaching pandemic of the 1970's and 1980's, before recovering following the 1989 global Ivory Ban to just below 12,000 by 2007. The Tsavo ecosystem is soon to be counted again in February 2014 when the picture could be equally as grim.

Kenya has a new Government, led by Uhuru Kenyatta and once again, the world is watching to judge its conservation record, especially as the port of Mombasa has become the primary conduit for some of the largest illegal hauls of ivory flowing to the Far East. This represents a major shift in African trade routes; the handiwork of organized professional criminal syndicates. In their inaugural addresses both President Kenyatta and his Deputy Mr William Ruto pledged to address the poaching crisis. Said Uhuru *"My fellow Kenyans, poaching and the destruction of our environment has no future in this country. The responsibility to protect our environment belongs not just to the Government, but to each and every one of us"* while Kenya's First Lady, his wife, stressed that the country's elephants were a major tourist attraction which brought \$1.34 billion annually into the country's coffers and

that losing tourism would threaten at least 300,000 jobs with millions of other direct and indirect beneficiaries also affected. *"We ask our friends especially those where ivory is in demand and where domestic ivory markets exist, to help us"*.

China is now the new Kenya Government's best friend. Chinese nationals are in the country (and throughout Africa) building roads, railways and airports. Ivory is deeply etched into the Chinese psyche and identity, regarded as a status symbol, and previously the prerogative of the elite (former Emperors believed that ivory chopsticks would change colour upon contact with poisoned food). With the country's new wealth, sadly ivory has become affordable to a greater proportion of the population, so China as the main destination drives the demand, yet on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 China did destroy 6.1 tonnes of seized ivory – a drop in the ocean arguably in terms of the amount of ivory in China, however it may well be and hopefully is, an indication that China is beginning to recognise it must do more to address the ivory issue.

Up until now, perhaps the weakest link in the fight against poaching in Kenya has been the Judiciary with Magistrates handing out ridiculously lenient sentences that have been no deterrent whatsoever to poachers and criminal syndicates, in fact the reverse, making poaching a lucrative side-line particularly for poisoned arrow poachers. A Chinese smuggler caught with 439 pieces of ivory at the Nairobi Airport in March on his way to Hong Kong was fined just K. Shs. 30,000/- and set free when the value of his illicit cargo was worth millions. In a country where corruption is rife, normally just a bribe buys a man his freedom, reports of which continue to come in.

CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) sanctioned the selling of 50 tons of stockpiled legal ivory from Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia to Japan in 1999, calling it a "one time sale". Yet in 2008 CITES allowed another "one time sale" this time allowing China along with Japan to bid for the 102 ton stockpile of Southern African ivory, colluding with Japan to purchase it at a reduced rate, and trading it at a higher price back at home. Naive thinking behind the stockpile "legal" sales was that by flooding the market with legal ivory, the price would fall and undermine the black market. Unhappily, that did not happen, in fact the opposite took place with poaching escalating beyond all previous proportions.

History links this to demand in China and the fact that illegal sources have been laundered into the legal system.

The 178 Nations who are signatories to CITES convened again this year in Bangkok, Thailand from March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> and yet again efforts were made, by mainly Burkino Faso and Kenya, to extend to a wider group of Nations a pledge not to sell their ivory stockpiles prior to when CITES is next scheduled to sit in 2016. The extent of the merciless slaughter of elephants was pointed out, as was the added threat brought about by the increasing loss of elephant habitats due to rapid human population growth and agricultural expansion. However, Parties to the Conference cited weak governance and lack of law enforcement by Range States as the main reason for the escalation of poaching, combined with the rising demand for illegal ivory in the rapidly growing economies of Asia, and particularly China, which is the world's largest destination market. The prevalence of unregulated domestic ivory markets in many African cities, coupled with the growing number of Asian Nationals residing in Africa also facilitated the illegal trade out of Africa.

Collusive corruption was a factor contributing to the demise of elephants facilitated by conflicts, lawlessness and an abundance of small arms, all of which provided optimal conditions for the illegal killing. A recent survey of internet sites in 9 European countries found that ivory items worth an estimated 1.5 million Euros (US\$ 2 million) had been sold in a two week period, trafficked primarily by Asian-run African-based criminal networks. CITES agreed that high level Source Countries (which included Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) who were at the heart of the surge in elephant poaching would have to deliver goals to combat poaching and smuggling within the next 12 months or face sanctions. The same would apply to Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines through which illegal ivory was smuggled, as well as the destination countries of China and Thailand. Compulsory forensic testing of seized ivory would be undertaken so that the criminal networks could be traced. Meanwhile the perception of ivory as valuable must be countered through public awareness campaigns in end-market countries.

Nevertheless, by July and August the poaching of elephants throughout Kenya and particularly within the Tsavo Conservation Area had reached epidemic proportions, particularly the poisoned arrow

variety perpetrated by local tribesmen, who allegedly had been paid by Somalis to set about the elephants in retribution for them and their cattle having been evicted from the Taita Ranches and the Park. The Trust's Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit headed by a KWS Vet was treating numerous arrowed elephants in order to try and save them, as the country awaited the long promised passage of the new Wildlife Bill into law which incorporates more severe deterrent punishments for poaching offences (In the Bill it says life in imprisonment and/or Kshs. 20 million). It seemed obvious that the poaching fraternity was taking advantage of the gap in the passage of this Bill to get as much as they could while they could! The New Wildlife Conservation and Management Bill came into law on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

Hopeful signs that the tide might just be turning in favour of the elephants came towards the end of the year when Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was joined by the President of Gabon in pushing for greater efforts to protect Africa's elephants at the Clinton Global Initiative function. In November, the Obama Administration crushed the U.S. stockpile of 6 tons of seized ivory just months after committing \$10 million to assist in the fight against the illegal ivory trade. With ivory trafficking now defined by the United Nations as a serious crime, an Elephant Summit held in Botswana agreed new measures with U.N. support to combat trafficking; stronger enforcement and forfeiture of illegal seizures, extradition of suspects, mutual help and a zero tolerance approach to poaching and smuggling. Six States signed the petition, but all 30 attending the Summit agreed and were committed.

At least we end 2013 on a more hopeful note, but time is not on the side of elephants. The key lies with insuring a total ban on all international and domestic ivory trade is enforced throughout China to the U.S., with all consumer countries in-between following this global lead, for only a **total** ban on **all** trade will save the elephants and give them time to recover from decades of mass slaughter for their ivory teeth. Unless this happens, elephants in the wild could be wiped out within the next 10 years.

## The Rhinos

The plight of Africa's Rhinos is equally as dire as that of its Elephants, if not even more so. (White Rhinos are not indigenous in Kenya, the current population being descendants of a handful of individuals imported from South Africa by Private Ranch Owners). In the 1960's Kenya had a Black Rhino population of 20,000, today it has less than 500. The Tsavo National Park had 8,000 free ranging Black Rhinos, today they have all but gone, just a handful remaining in Tsavo East, and a small population enclosed in the electrically fenced Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, where even there, there have been losses, so the number remaining is unclear.

Distressingly just 1kg of rhino horn is valued at USD\$65,000 making it more valuable than gold. Rhino Horn is a valuable commodity in Far Eastern Asian countries, where the ancient myth is that it contains medicinal properties, is a cure all and an aphrodisiac, despite the fact that it is exactly the same substance as a fingernail or a hair/ keratin. In fact, if the populous of those countries simply bit their fingernails, they would be ingesting an identical product.

The presence of Chinese Nationals in Kenya and all Rhino Range States has caused an unprecedented surge in Rhino Poaching; this is responsible for driving the demand a thousand fold, especially in a country where unemployment and poverty exists, and where the temptation to kill a rhino for its horn is difficult to resist, even by those paid to protect them. Yet again, corruption has taken perhaps

the greatest toll here in Kenya, with Law Enforcement Agencies easily paid off by the professional smuggling cartels, and the rewards well worth the risk.

Currently, South Africa is home to about 90% of the world's Rhino population, which includes both the Black and Southern White species. The number poached there has increased from 13 in 2007 to 1,004 in 2013. The Western Black Rhino, last seen in West Africa in 2006, has now been declared Extinct by IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). The only good news insofar as Rhinos are concerned comes from Nepal where the Great Indian Rhino has increased in number, and where poaching is under control.

At the March CITES gathering, Kenya proposed that the hunting trophy quota of rhino horns for South Africa and Swaziland be set at zero, where Rhinos are currently on Appendix II. The Secretariat recommended that this proposal be rejected since it would place higher restrictions on these two countries than on other Rhino States where the animal has the higher classification of the fully protected Appendix I listing. CITES officials apparently were of the opinion that a zero export quota of rhino trophies would negatively impact rhino conservation by discouraging Private Landowners from becoming involved yet Private Landowners in Kenya where Rhinos are on Appendix I and fully protected, have been responsible for saving the species from extinction in this country!

In December, as a result of two year negotiations, Hong Kong returned to South Africa a seizure of ivory and 33 rhino horns, which was welcomed by wildlife conservation groups as a positive step that would enable the South African authorities to determine through DNA analysis, where the animals were poached, to help with a criminal investigation and possible prosecution of those found culpable.



Tsavo National Park



Online donations can be made directly through the website  
[WWW.SHELDRIKWILDLIFETRUST.ORG](http://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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