







All life has just one home, the earth, and we as the dominant species must take care of it.

Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick DBE

FST 197



# Foreword by Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick DBE

I could not have foreseen the impact The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust would have when I founded the organisation in 1977. In that year my husband David passed away, and during that time of grieving, I and many of David's friends decided it would be a fitting tribute to this great man and naturalist, who tamed the unforgiving landscape of Tsavo East National Park as its founding warden, to establish an organisation to secure his legacy, and build upon his pioneering conservation principles.

So it was, that 40 years ago, The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust was established. In the early days, our focus was on the protection of rhinos, followed by the hand raising of orphaned elephants and rhinos, work that has remained at the core of the Trust ever since, and given its nature, will remain so for decades to come. For the hand-rearing of an orphan elephant is a lifetime's commitment, not only mine, but theirs, for an elephant, in an ideal environment, has a lifespan similar to our own and it is our responsibility to ensure that all of the orphans we raise have the best opportunity to live a full and free life. This requires protection of their environment, and protection of them and their wild friends, a population of some 13,000 in the Tsavo Ecosystem. We have successfully rescued hundreds of orphaned elephants, of which more than half have been rehabilitated back into the wild, and have been able to share in the joy of babies born to our orphans now living wild, each a vital new member to Tsavo's elephant population and the Africa-wide population of 400,000 elephants.

We operate an airwing of aircraft, patrolling daily to deter illegal activities and when needed, providing a swift and immediate response to incidents of poaching and human-wildlife conflict. Operations are carried out alongside our many fully mobile De-Snaring Teams and a Canine Unit operated in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Another aspect of the Trust is protecting wild habitats, arguably the greatest overarching challenge facing the future of all wildlife, as human populations across the globe continue to burgeon.

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Daphne Sheldrick granted permission by 'KWS' to live in Nairobi National Park to continue her conservation work





We support local communities to protect habitats, educate them as to the importance of habitat security for their future and not only that of the wildlife, and engage them to become stewards of their own environment. We are creating new conservation areas, building eco-lodges to drive the tourism industry on which the National Parks depend, with the proceeds invested back into Tsavo, we've laid hundreds of kilometres of electric fencing to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and we place boreholes to diversify stressed eco-systems within the National Parks. We operate five Mobile Veterinary Units in collaboration with the KWS, based in strategic wildlife habitats, and supported by our Sky Vets Initiative, we respond to reports of injured and sick elephants and other wild species throughout Kenya.

As I look back on the past decades, I am both proud and humbled by what the Trust has been able to achieve, not only for elephants, but for all manner of wild species of flora and fauna. This has only been possible with the financial, and I should stress emotional, support of a caring global public, for even with the greatest will in the world and an exceptional team of individuals working at a field level, lasting, impactful change in the conservation of habitats and their wild inhabitants requires significant financial investment and the strength to drive through new initiatives and projects, and for that, the Trust's supporters have been instrumental.

Written in 2017

Dame Daphne Sheldrick passed away on 12th April 2018. Her remarkable legacy lives on through the conservation work of the "Sheldrick Wildlife Trust", renamed in memory of both David and Daphne.

Daphne Sheldrick awarded MBE by Her Majesty Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom

1989

Wild living orphan elephant, Mary, gives birth – first known baby born to wild living orphan





# We embrace all measures that complement the conservation, preservation and protection of Kenya's wildlife and habitats.

## **Our Projects**

Maintaining a lean approach to management and back office staff, the SWT can react swiftly and effectively to new challenges facing wildlife, while simultaneously establishing long term field projects that meet current and future threats and protect critical habitats for wild species.

#### These include:

- Rescue and reintegration of orphaned elephants, rhinos and other wildlife
- Provision of veterinary assistance to animals in need
- Anti-Poaching and Canine Units
- Aerial Surveillance
- Habitat protection and preservation
- Community engagement and awareness
- Water for wildlife

### Our work in numbers:

With regular operations in almost half of Kenya's official National Parks, and emergency rescues and veterinary interventions across the entire country, the SWT can claim the following achievements in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

Orphan elephants successfully raised	260+
Elephant orphans now living wild	160+
Known calves of elephant orphans living wild	35
Anti-Poaching Team arrests	4,880+
Snares and traps removed	159,000+
Critical fencelines erected	218 kms
Kenyan children introduced to wildlife	500,000+
Water boreholes drilled and serviced	25



1996

First Anti-Poaching Team launched in collaboration with the KWS



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### Orphans' Project

Our Orphans' Project exists to offer hope for the future of Kenya's threatened elephant and rhino populations as they struggle against the threat of poaching for their ivory and horn, and the loss of habitat due to human population pressures and conflict, deforestation and drought. Without intervention, milk dependent calves that have seen their mothers killed by poachers, been orphaned during incidents of human-wildlife conflict, abandoned during drought and caught in snares would face no chance of survival.

Working closely with the KWS, the Trust rescues milk-dependent orphaned elephants from across the country, hand-rearing them back to a life in the wild when grown, within a fully protected area. Frequently infants arrive psychologically scarred or with physical injuries inflicted by humans or wild predators prior to rescue. The depth of care offered at the SWT is unparalleled, particularly in our knowledge base, built on decades of experience. Physical wellbeing is promoted through expert veterinary care and specialist formula milk, whilst crucial psychological support is offered through the 24/7 presence of dedicated elephant carers who replicate an elephant's lost family and provide the love, reassurance and physical contact an infant requires to thrive.

Our Orphans' Project was the first initiative in the world to successfully reintegrate orphaned, hand-reared elephants back to a life in the wild and it is our aim to reintegrate any milk-dependent orphan that arrives in our care back into the wild when they are fully grown. At around three years old, the orphans are relocated to one of the SWT's three Reintegration Units in the Tsavo Conservation Area, either at Voi, Ithumba or Umani Springs, the latter built in 2014 offering vulnerable orphans a gentler environment in which to live a wild life. Each Unit is fully protected and secure, and it is from here that orphans begin meeting wild elephants until they ultimately decide to fully reintegrate into wild herds and live a fully independent life from their human carers. To date, more than 250 rescued orphan elephants and 17 black/white rhinos have been successfully hand raised, the majority of which are already living back in the wild.

As well as offering orphaned elephants a second chance at life, the Orphans' Project is leading to a whole new generation of elephants as wild living orphans mate with wild bulls. Incredibly, many ex-orphans have chosen to bring their babies to meet their former human carers, and to date, the Trust knows of 35 wild born babies, mothered by elephant orphans now living wild.

Angela Sheldrick, daughter of David and Daphne, takes over from Daphne in heading the SWT



SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit launched



Over forty years on from the Trust's humble beginnings, the SWT's Orphans' Project has become world famous through documentaries, film features and social media and is financially supported through a digital Adoption Program where friends from across the world can adopt an orphaned elephant or rhino and follow their progress through monthly updates. Thousands of visitors also come to the Nairobi Nursery at our daily visiting hour every year to learn about elephants and the threats facing the species.

As well as providing a future for Kenya's orphaned elephant and rhinos, the project provides employment and an opportunity for Kenyan nationals to get involved in the conservation of wildlife. The SWT also shares its knowledge of elephant husbandry with other reputable organisations across the world to help other elephants orphaned or in similar situations.

#### **Quick Facts**

- Over 260+ infant elephants and 17 black/white rhinos have been hand raised
- Over 160+ orphan elephants living back in the wild, protected by SWT and KWS operated Anti-Poaching and Aerial Surveillance Teams
- · 36 babies have been born to orphan elephants and rhinos now living back in the wild
- Elephant orphans are reintegrated into the Tsavo Conservation Area, home to Kenya's largest elephant population and free of community dwellings
- Other orphans rescued and hand raised by the SWT include giraffes, buffalos, antelopes, zebras, and even ostriches

2004

Ithumba Reintegration Unit is opened in the northern area of Tsavo East National Park

(-14B)



## Mobile Veterinary Units and Sky Vet

Today the Trust operates five fully equipped Mobile Veterinary Units and a rapid response Sky Vet initiative, headed by KWS vets, to attend to injured and sick wild animals, carry out translocations to better protect animals, and alleviate suffering.

The Mobile Veterinary Units' area of operation includes no less than 8 National Parks; supported by our Sky Vets initiative, they attend to cases throughout the country, providing previously unavailable, lifesaving treatment for wild animals.

#### Launch Of Units

- Tsavo (2003)
- Mara (2007)
- Meru (2013)
- Sky Vet (2013)
- Amboseli (2014)
- Mount Kenya (2017)

Utilising fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, injured wild animals can be reached in a timely manner and afforded the veterinary treatment they need. SWT/KWS Vet Teams attend to patients injured in human-wildlife conflict, ivory, rhino horn and bushmeat poaching, as well as those afflicted by snares, poison arrows, spears, gunshots, disease outbreak, drought/exhaustion and road traffic accidents.

#### **Quick Facts**

- More than 6,530 wild animals attended to in 17 years
- Patients have included more than 2,686 elephants, 438 lions and 580 rhinos

Ithumba Camp built and managed by SWT to support conservation

2006

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit founded







### Anti-Poaching

Ivory and rhino horn poaching, habitat destruction and bushmeat poaching are having a devastating effect on Africa's wildlife and wild spaces. Since 2000, together with the Kenya Wildlife Service, the SWT has formed thirteen mobile Anti-Poaching Teams to protect threatened wild animals and habitats in areas of natural importance. Fully equipped, teams are composed of trained Rangers, armed KWS personnel and are supported by an Operations room that tracks movements in real time, enabling rapid response to illegal activity and enhancing team safety.

As of 2008, teams are assisted by the SWT Airwing, acting as an additional deterrent to poachers and offering a rapid response capability to live incidents. Since 2016, they have been further supported by a Canine Unit, comprised of three highly trained dogs and handlers, able to detect illegal wildlife products such as ivory, rhino horn and bushmeat, guns and ammunition, whilst being able to track poachers on the run.

In 2018 the SWT partnered with the Mara Elephant Project to establish a new ranger force to patrol the Mau Forest, which is both the largest indigenous montane forest in East Africa and the largest drainage basin in Kenya, receiving some of the country's highest rainfall. In 2019 the SWT funded a second team in the Mau Forest to enhance protection of this critical ecosystem. Funded entirely by the SWT, the two teams monitor the local elephant population, numbering approximately 650 individuals, protecting them from poaching, while actively preventing illegal logging, charcoal burning, bushmeat poaching and mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict.

#### **Quick Facts**

- Twelve teams operate in the Tsavo Conservation Area, covering 60,000 km2 and home to more than 40% of Kenya's elephants
- One team operational in Meru National Park, at the specific request of KWS to enhance antipoaching operations in this protected area covering 870 km2
- Two SWT-funded teams deployed in the Mau Forest
- Coordinated daily operations involve making arrests, removing snares and traps, destroying poachers' blinds and hideouts, confiscating weapons and bushmeat
- Over 159,000 snares have been removed and over 4,882 arrests made

New bus for school field trips

-148

2008

### Aerial Surveillance

Our 'eyes-in-the-sky' protect wildlife and prevent illegal activity, with daily aerial patrols covering the vast expanse of Tsavo East and West National Parks and the surrounding ranches.

Based out of the SWT's Field Headquarters in Tsavo, the Airwing is comprised of 5 fixed-wing aircraft, including three Super Cubs which are the ideal machines for low level reconnaissance and response flying, a Cessna 185 and a Cessna 206 which both provide additional carrying capacity required for veterinary treatments and personnel deployment. Two Airbus helicopters, an H125 B3 and an H120, provide an additional rapid response capability and are frequently deployed in emergency human-wildlife conflict cases, veterinary cases, including the rescue and transport of infant orphaned elephants, tackling bushfires and medical evacuations. The Aerial Unit conducts additional patrols in the Greater Lamu region on Kenya's coast, Meru National Park and Amboseli National Park, supporting SWT Saving Habitats Initiatives and SWT/KWS Anti-Poaching Operations.

#### **Quick Facts**

- Five fixed-wing aircraft
- Two rapid response helicopters
- Average 150 hours flight time every month, covering over 230,000 kms a year
- Instrumental in assisting KWS in reducing elephant poaching in Tsavo
- Aircraft utilised in orphan wildlife rescues, veterinary cases, fire fighting, mitigating humanwildlife conflict, and deployment of anti-poaching rangers and the Canine Unit



Milestone Moment: 100th orphan elephant is successfully rescued and raised by the SWT



Launch of iworry campaign calling for complete, global ban on ivory trade





#### Habitat Preservation

The SWT works with the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service and communities to secure Kenya's unique and critical wild habitats, ensuring wild animals continue to have spaces to call home and finding ways to create greater harmony between people and wildlife.

A major consideration in habitat preservation is the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict. As human populations expand and communities move into habitats previously home to wildlife, animals and humans are increasingly coming into conflict over space, food and water, especially on community-wildlife borders. This often illegally extends into protected areas, especially during the dry seasons. An important tool the SWT is using to prevent this, while protecting community farmlands from crop raiding elephants, is over 218kms of electric fencing.

Repeated droughts in Kenya have also taken their toll on people and wildlife. To mitigate their impact, the SWT is working with the KWS in protected conservation areas to provide water for wild animals — with the dual purpose of reducing incidents of elephants leaving protected areas in search of water, which might bring them into direct conflict with people. The SWT has constructed 25 strategically located boreholes, operated by wind or solar pumps, providing year-round water and transports, via eight bowsers, thousands of litres of water daily at the peak of the dry season.



EST. 1977

LIFE

SWT launches International March for Elephants





#### Where We Work

The **Tsavo Conservation Area** is Kenya's leading wildlife refuge, home to the country's single largest population of elephants. In addition to ongoing wildlife security programs and the Trust's elephant reintegration units at Voi, Ithumba and Umani Springs, the SWT now owns 5,000 acres of land adjoining the Tsavo East National Park, known as the Triangle, a key buffer zone between wildlife and community lands. As a result of the efforts of many - including our esteemed donors - the elephant population in the Tsavo-Mkomazi Ecosystem has increased 14.7% in the last four years, being 12,866 at the last count.

**The Kibwezi Forest** is one of Kenya's last remaining groundwater woodlands. Having secured a 25-year concession to conserve this environmentally rich site, the SWT has embarked on a partnership with the Kenya Forest Service to protect and sustain this unique area.

**Project Amu** is is an initiative of the community run Lamu Conservation Trust, supported by the SWT. One of the SWT's most ambitious initiatives this pioneering project was forged by an agreed long lease for Amu Ranch, which sits at the core of the area protected and is a true community led program. The environmental diversity of the region is incredible, with vast mangrove forests and species including elephant, lion, buffalo, giraffe, hippo and leopard.

In 2018 we partnered with Big Life Foundation to secure the **Kimana Sanctuary** a small but critical 5,700 acres of land that is a favourite stomping ground for Amboseli's famous Tuskers and an essential corridor between the Amboseli ecosystem, Chyulu Hills and Tsavo West National Park. In a win-win for wildlife and the communities, this partnership ensures the Sanctuary and Corridor remain set aside for wildlife, as opposed to agriculture. While SWT funds the lease fees for the Sanctuary and the Kimana Corridor our local partners oversee the security and daily management of both. SWT has recently entered into a 25 year agreement with **KARLO** (Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation) to protect and manage an area of 63,321 acres abutting the Chyulu National Park, ensuring that it remains safe and sercure for wildlife.

### **Quick Facts**

- 218 kms of electric fenceline erected and patrolled to alleviate human-wildlife conflict
- 25 water boreholes drilled and maintained across Tsavo and Lamu ecosystems

Umani Springs Reintegration Unit built for vulnerable orphans needing a gentler environment

2014 SWT/KWS Amboseli Mobile Veterinary Unit launched

Rapid Response helicopter joins Airwing





### Community Outreach and Engagement

The SWT works to change attitudes towards wildlife, seeking to show stakeholders of all ages the importance and value in protecting wild species. This is achieved through engagement with local schools and community elders living alongside protected wildlife areas - from erecting beehive fences to mitigate human-elephant conflict, to the provision of Lucie lamps to provide indoor lighting in place of kerosene lamps.

The Trust hosts local language radio shows in Kenya, whereby the Elephant Keepers and area officers can talk to their communities, in their own dialect, and share the importance of protecting wildlife and conserving habitats. Managing tree nurseries at three locations, the SWT is able to re-forest areas decimated by charcoal burning and provide saplings to schools, encouraging children to take care and pride in nurturing the trees.

For the last 17 years, the SWT has supported numerous schools annually in and around Tsavo National Park, providing hard wearing desks, sports equipment and teaching aids. Beyond this, pupils can attend wildlife film shows hosted on-site by the Trust and join SWT funded field trips into the National Park so that they might witness wild animals in their natural habitat and learn about different species. All of this is intended to help elevate the interest of today's youth in their natural wildlife heritage and create conservationists of tomorrow.



2015

Tenth SWT/KWS Anti-Poaching Team founded

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In 2015, the SWT worked to identify communities that would benefit from the construction of beehive fencelines. Elephants have a natural fear of bees, and beehive fences in viable areas provide an affordable solution, with an 80% success rate in the reduction of crop incursions by elephants. With community members trained in the maintenance of the fences and the harvesting of the hives, a small income can be generated from the honey produced, heightening the sustainability of this model.

Since 2014, the SWT has supported the Community owned Mwalunganje Elephant Sanctuary (MES) in Kenya, home to 500 elephants. We cover landowner compensation pay-outs and staff salaries to ensure the sanctuary remains operational. As falling tourist numbers have reduced the compensation available to the landowners, the SWT has supported MES to prevent the Sanctuary from being converted back to farmland and is working with MES to find ways to attract more tourists.

#### **Quick Facts**

- Over 500,000 children directly introduced to wildlife through field trips, wildlife film shows and visits to the SWT Nursery
- 3.1 km of beehive fenceline erected
- Planted more than 70,000 trees in 2019 in the Kibwezi Forest, Chyulu Hills and surrounding community land with the assistance of local community members
- More than 560 wildlife field trips conducted for schools

EST. 1977

Second rapid response helicopter joins Airwing



30th (known) wild-born calf born to orphaned elephants now living wild





### **Eco Lodges**

Recognizing the importance of tourism to Kenya's wildlife, we offer the opportunity for individuals to stay at one of our five eco lodges; four of which are based in Tsavo East National Park; 'Ithumba Camp', 'Ithumba Hill', 'Galdessa Camp' and 'Galdessa Little', with our fifth 'Umani Springs' nestled within the Kibwezi Forest. The funds generated from our eco lodges directly contribute to the protection and conservation of the surrounding areas.

From each of these unique and individual properties SWT Foster Parents of the orphaned elephants are able to access our three Orphan Reintegration Units in Umani, Ithumba and Voi respectively.

#### Ithumba Hill & Ithumba Private

A luxury tented camp, guests hire the entirety of Ithumba Hill for their exclusive use, whilst four individually unique tents elevated high off the ground under thatched roofs offer breath taking views across the vast northern Tsavo landscape linked by elevated wood walkways. Ithumba Private is a seperate annex to Ithumba Hill accomodating six guests.

### Ithumba Camp

With its cool Galana stone floors and beautiful thatched roofs, Ithumba Camp consists of a comfortable mess-building, including an open plan dining and sitting room with four bedroom tents shaded under thatch with open air bathrooms boasting unobstructed views of Ithumba mountain and starry nights.

### **Umani Springs**

An oasis of elegant, tranquil calm and comfort, Umani Springs nestles within the ground-water forest of Kibwezi. This unique self catering property overlooks waterholes fed by crystal clear springs. Based in luscious surrounds the forest forms part of the beautiful Chyulu Hills ecosystem and provides a biodiversity hot spot for a number of species, including a spectacular variety of butterflies and birds, along with elephants, leopards, hyenas, buffaloes, bushbucks, serval cats, civets, mongooses and duikers.

### Galdessa Camp & Galdessa Little

Elevated decks with safari tents under shapely thatched roofs Galdessa Camp and Galdessa Little are both nestled under groves of dhom palms on the banks of the Galana River in the heart of Tsavo East National Park. Unparalleled views up and down the river make for remarkable game viewing from the comfort of the attractive open plan mess areas. Galdessa offers luxury and comfort without losing the charm of a wild safari experience.

Lodge enquiries & reservations: info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust renamed Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and new logo launched







2018

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KALRO Kiboko Conservation Area incorporated in SWT Saving Habitat program

2019

Second SWT-funded Mau Anti-Poaching Team begins operations in Mau Forest







### A look to the future by Angela Sheldrick

I have found myself inheriting an extraordinary legacy, as both my father, David Sheldrick, and my mother, Daphne Sheldrick, were so pivotal in shaping Kenya's conservation arena. As the Founding Warden of the giant Tsavo National Park, David spent 25 years creating a protected area out of this wild wilderness. I was fortunate enough to be born and brought up in this extraordinary landscape. Over the years, our family took a number of orphaned animals under our wing, stepping in for the family they had lost and nurturing them until they were ready to fly the proverbial coop. During these early days, this was pioneering work, and my parents taught me valuable lessons that wild animals are not ours to be possessively kept — that they are only on loan, and the greatest gift we could give them was a wild life once more. To this day, this early lesson very much defines all that we do.

Losing my father at the tender age of 13 was devastating. He was someone I held in such high esteem and his influence has been indelibly etched in my life. Nothing that David did was ever mediocre; he carried out everything to his exacting standards and his pursuit of excellence rubbed off on all those who had the privilege to work with him. I watched my mother Daphne turn the page and keep his memory alive by continuing his conservation vision through the work of the Trust. Following my mother's sad passing in 2018, I now have the honor of continuing her life's work. While I have been heading the Trust for the past 18 years, working alongside my wonderful and dedicated husband, Robert Carr-Hartley, Daphne's influence is sorely missed. However, both she and David will always be treasured and remembered with great pride.

The Trust's greatest strength lies in the remarkable people who work alongside us every day. These extraordinary individuals, working as one dedicated, indefatigable team, have built the Trust into the organization that it is today — and I am extremely proud of and grateful for each one of them.

Throughout the pages of this brochure, we showcase our many projects and the significant impact we have been able to achieve, saving wild lives and securing wild places. Despite the many ongoing challenges we face, today's connected world has made it easier to share information. This, in turn, has helped us inspire and empower many throughout Kenya, and the world, to help save our country's natural heritage for future generations.

Speaking of future generations, Robert and I have been blessed with two sons: Taru, named after the Taru Desert, the name early explorers gave Tsavo; and Roan, named after the majestic endangered Roan Antelope. Both of these boys have been fortunate to grow up surrounded by orphaned animals and wild places, and they too have the passion and commitment to continue what David and Daphne began.

None of what we have accomplished and continue to achieve would be possible without our global audience who so generously support our mission. Bless you all, and thank you.

Daphne would have been humbled indeed by how far her conservation message has travelled and by just how many people she profoundly touched through her passion for the natural world.

### Angela Sheldrick

#### **KENYA**

Sheldrick Wildlife Trust P.O.Box 15555 Mbagathi, 00503 Nairobi

Telephone: +254 (0) 202 301 396

+254 (0) 733 891 996

Email: info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

UK

Sheldrick Wildlife Trust 2nd Floor 3 Bridge Street Leatherhead KT22 8BL

Telephone: +44 (0) 1372 378 321 Email: infouk@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org USA

Sheldrick Wildlife Trust USA 25283 Cabot Road Suite 101 Laguna Hills CA, 92653

Telephone: + 1 (949) 305-3785 Email: infous@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

