

APRIL 2020

ISSUE 32

Habari!

SAVING WILD LIVES TODAY · SECURING HABITATS FOR THE FUTURE





Welcome

The rains have to come to Kenya and its wildlife – and our field teams – couldn't be happier. As well as reducing demand on our Water for Wildlife Projects, it's created the perfect conditions for our tree planting campaigns, boosting habitats for all manner of wild animals. Our UK charity supports these efforts through fundraising, awareness campaigns, education and communication and by directly funding conservation projects. You might have spoken to one of us about your adoption or donation – if so, we'd like to thank you once again for your continued support which is creating a brighter future for all wildlife and habitats.

Rob Brandford
Executive Director

Highlights 2019



651
sick or injured
animals attended



5,026
snare seized
& removed



34,640 KMs
patrolled on foot



270 KWS
arrests with
our teams



65,692
trees planted



213,445 KWS
flown on aerial patrol



More than
1.6 million
pints of milk mixed



261
orphans successfully
raised



1,962
school children
attended a field trip



8
orphaned elephants
successfully rescued





His ordeal behind him, Roho is flourishing

A diminutive bull rescued from Tsavo West National Park, Roho endured a tragic start to life. In October 2019, he was seen standing forlornly next to his dead mother, found by SWT field teams who were on a separate search for suspected poachers. It's not known how his mother died but the duo were found up an impossibly steep lava hill – challenging and unusual terrain for an elephant, suggesting she may have been desperate to escape from nearby poachers. The rescue took place under the beating sun, so while the team waited for the SWT helicopter to fly Roho directly to the Nursery, SWT Keepers poured water behind his baby ears and over his back to keep him cool.

Roho means “spirit” in Swahili — an apt name for this brave little boy and he's settled in wonderfully at the Nursery. Baby elephants need and crave attention at all

times and, as one of the youngest herd members, Roho is not lost for love. Kiasa in particular has latched onto this little boy, shadowing him and attending to his every need while Maisha has been happy to lend him her ear to suckle on for comfort!

At only around a year old, Roho remains fragile and, during colder wet mornings (of which there have been quite a few this rainy season), he stays in his warm, dry stable to ensure he remains in tip-top health. Yet while he is little in stature, Roho is large in personality! He has a rambunctious character and is unafraid of diving head-first into mud baths or sticking up for himself. On a recent walk back to the Nursery, he was brave enough to scare away a big baboon blocking the herd's path before taking the lead of the rest of the babies back to the Nursery stockades.



Naleku is a New Year's gift

Barely two days into the New Year, the Nursery orphan herd welcomed a new member – a baby girl the SWT has named Naleku. Naleku comes from the Masai Mara and she became an orphan at the tender age of just six months, after her mother passed away following a rapid decline. Though she found solace with a nearby adult and its calf, she was denied access to the mother's milk and so, at the request of the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Trust rescued her before starvation set in or she fell prey to nearby predators.

After a seamless rescue with support from the Mara Elephant Project and the SWT/ KWS Mara Vet Unit, Naleku was flown to Nairobi where she arrived at the Nursery, carried on a stretcher, under the cover of darkness, to a warm awaiting stable. She was terribly hungry and it didn't take her long to latch onto a bottle of milk, although she remained wary of her strange new home and human Keepers. Following a very restless first night, she was desperate for elephant company and so she was quickly introduced to the rest of the orphan herd which she found immensely comforting.



Being the youngest orphan of the Nursery herd, Naleku is constantly showered in attention by adoring mini-mums and big girls Tagwa, Tamiyoi, Maisha and Enkesha, which puts fellow baby Roho's nose out of joint! She's still sussing out her human family (and the surrounds of Nairobi National Park) but she loves her milk which helps her overcome any trepidation come feeding time.

Robbed of the chance to grow up with her own mum and family, Naleku is very deserving of our support. Wouldn't you agree?



Voi herd takes Pika Pika into their hearts

We don't think there's a prettier name than Pika Pika and it suits this gorgeous growing girl perfectly. She was found walking across Taita Ranch in the Tsavo Ecosystem in September 2019 alone, save for five adult bulls who appeared to be flanking her.

Though her bodyguards offered much needed protection, she sorely needed milk, something they could not provide. At the request of KWS, the Trust brought her to the safety of the SWT's Voi Reintegration Unit, not far from where she was rescued and where she wouldn't lack for milk or company.

Named after an imposing rock face that dominates the area where she was rescued, it wasn't long before Pika Pika was ensconced in the comforting presence of elephants once more and responded instantly. Within days, she was right in the thick of things, browsing in the bush and splashing at the mud bath, sandwiched in between the many loving members of her new family including aspirational matriarch Mbegu.



Remember elephants forever

The care and protection of orphaned elephants and their wild kin is a lifelong commitment. A gift to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in your will is a lasting gift from the heart and a wonderful promise to help us protect Africa's wildlife and to preserve habitats for the future of all wild species.

To find out more about how you can remember elephants forever through a legacy gift, please contact Louise James at:

louise@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org or call **01372 378 321**.

SWT Elephant Action

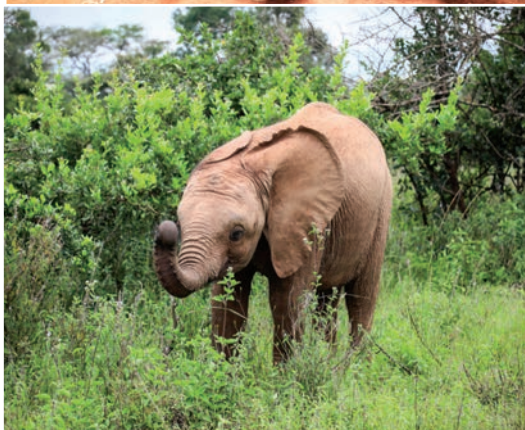
- The SWT doesn't just rescue orphaned elephants. They monitor and protect elephant populations on foot, by vehicle and from the air.
- They treat injured elephants in the field through Mobile Vet Units.
- They help humans and elephants co-exist by mitigating human-wildlife conflict.



Larro is a little elephant with a lot of attitude

As family-orientated animals that are vulnerable to predators as infants, baby elephants need the comfort and presence of their herds to survive. Poor Larro, however, was found unaccompanied on the plains of the Masai Mara in January 2019 with reports from the community indicating that she had been alone for a number of days. With blankets, rope, tarpaulin and a first aid kit containing all-important rehydration fluids, the rescue team flew down to collect the baby who was growing thinner and more dehydrated by the day. It didn't take long to approach and subdue her and, within no time, she was on a plane bound for Nairobi with two Keepers in attendance, tending to her immediate needs.

Upon arrival at the Nursery, Larro was placed in a freshly prepared stable next to Enkesha, who was the most welcoming and gracious of neighbours. Keepers immediately administered veterinary care in order to give Larro the best possible chance of survival, but she was so weak it took many hands to lift her to her feet for milk feeds throughout the night. Though the initial few days were precarious, as soon as she gained in strength, she joined the rest of the orphan herd in the forest and she hasn't looked back since! So much so, she managed to get herself stuck in the mud bath on only her second day out in



the bush with the other orphans, quickly exhausting herself from playing, causing the Keepers to remove their boots and socks, roll up their trousers and wade in to retrieve her!

Larro especially loves chief Nursery mischief-maker Kiassa who has taken her under her wing, imparting lots of cheeky pearls of wisdom on how to raid the milk wheelbarrow when they think no one is watching. We are certain she'll be quite the character when she grows up, already keeping the Keepers on their toes!



Kiko moves to a new home

Reticulated giraffe Kiko has spent the past four years in the care of the Trust's Nairobi Nursery in Kenya after he was orphaned at just a week old in a suspected poaching incident. Found alone in Central Kenya by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in September 2015, this milk-dependent infant was in need of help and the KWS knew just who to call. A team of specialist Keepers from the SWT flew to collect Kiko (named after his place of rescue) and brought him to the Nursery, swaddled in a canvas blanket.

Giraffes can reach 5.5 metres in height and, in his early days at the Nursery, despite being just one week old, Keepers needed a special ladder to get Kiko's milk bottle at the appropriate angle so that it felt natural for him to feed. Four years on from his rescue, you can imagine just how big he is now and the need the SWT faced to provide a home that was more suitable for this headstrong giraffe and his towering figure.

Plans to translocate Kiko to a new home, however, were put on hold following a lion attack in January 2019 and incessant rains that rendered roads impassable. Following a year of planning and lots of practice, Kiko finally made the 270km journey to his new home in Sirikoi, Northern Kenya in March 2020.

Moving a giraffe by road – in the back of a specially built vehicle – is no small feat but thankfully the operation went to plan with close-coordination between the Sheldrick Trust, Kenya Wildlife Service Capture



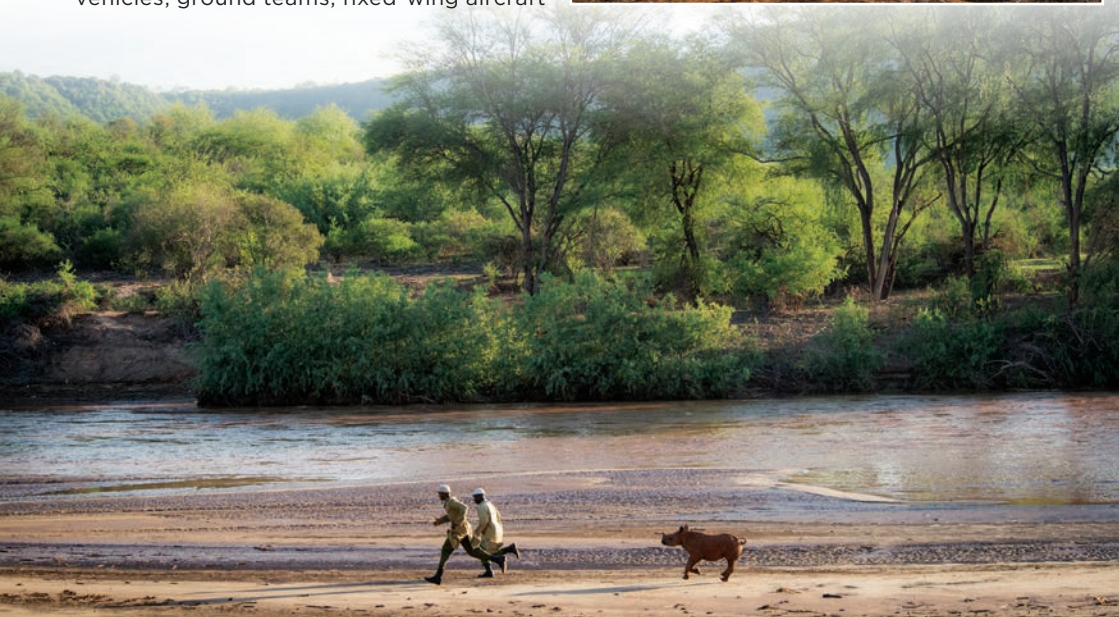
Unit and the SWT/KWS Mt Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit.

Sirikoi is the perfect stepping stone for Kiko on his reintegration journey. It abuts Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with open plains and herds of reticulated giraffes and is even home to another hand-raised giraffe; a female called Nditu. We are pleased to say that, aside from a slight adjustment period for both, these two are getting on well and Kiko is settling into his new home marvellously with support from his SWT Keeper, Simon. While it's early days yet, we hope in time, he will gradually gain his independence and roam as he should in this very special wilderness area.

Apollo, our newest rhino rescue

Rhinos have plenty to worry about – poaching and habitat loss to name just two – but with your help, the SWT is giving Apollo a carefree childhood. He is an orphaned black rhino who came into the SWT's care from Tsavo West National Park in September 2019 in sad circumstances, after his mother 'Amoy' passed away from anthrax, which occurs naturally in the wild and can affect animals through grazing. Rangers knew his mother because all rhinos in the Intensive Protection Zone in Tsavo are monitored and identifiable by ear notching.

Considering just 745 black rhinos remain in Kenya, Amoy's loss was devastating and made the survival of her little boy all the more critical. Since time was of the essence, it was all hands on deck to mount a rescue before predators got there first or he fled out of sight into the dense bush. In a nail-biting and herculean operation attended to by KWS, SWT and Tsavo Trust, and involving numerous vehicles, ground teams, fixed-wing aircraft





and helicopters, this feisty little calf was eventually secured as daylight began to fade – but not after giving the teams the run-around for several miles.

Flown directly by the SWT’s helicopter to the Trust’s Field Headquarters in Kaluku, which is nearby to where he was rescued, Apollo was transported to a stable where he was given a mild tranquiliser to manage his stress levels and a bottle of rehydration fluids which he hungrily gulped down; evidently much needed after his run about. This little calf was understandably frightened at first by his new home but the Keepers were soon able to win him over with the help of a broom (used to provide a comforting tummy rub) and it wasn’t long before he was right at home.

Apollo has been a delight to look after and has grown quickly. Black rhinos are solitary by nature but Apollo doesn’t lack for company, accompanied by a team of three of the SWT’s most experienced rhino Keepers, who have raised many black rhinos over the years. He enjoys regular milk feeds which are brought out to him in the bush and, between feeds, his diet is complemented by the abundant greenery

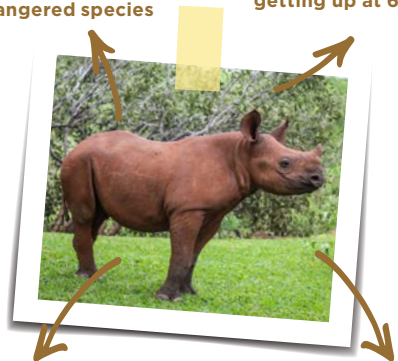
in Tsavo following unusually good rains.

His playground is the protected area surrounding the SWT’s Field HQ and his days are spent in the bush and wandering along the banks of the Athi River which is ideal for long gallops or rolling around in the cool soft sand. Then, after a long day spent exploring and meeting Tsavo’s wild residents, he sleeps in a specially built stockade (made thanks to donations from supporters) where he uses his little horn to hoist a mattress over his head for comfort, before settling down on a soft bed of hay for the night underneath his mattress ‘tent’.

You might be wondering why Apollo is being cared for at the Trust’s Kaluku HQ and not the Nairobi Nursery? Rhinos are creatures of habit and in being raised not very far from where he was born, he should find his surroundings familiar which will be of great comfort to him. When he is a little older, the Trust plans to reintegrate him to a protected area nearby, maintaining a sense of continuity for him.

A black rhino, an endangered species

An early riser, getting up at 6am



Loves the rain and rolling about in mud which keeps him cool and protects his delicate skin from biting insects

Enjoys tummy rubs, sniffing around waterholes and marking his territory

Welcoming a quartet of new babies into the world

Good things often come in small packages and such was the case when we were introduced to, not one, not two but four new elephant calves between October and November 2019, born to orphans the SWT has rescued, raised and reintegrated. These calves show the difference rescuing and hand-raising just one orphan through the Trust's Orphans' Project can have for the whole species.



Eco

Mother: Edie **Sex:** Male

Birthday: around July 2019

Has two sisters Ella (born 2009) and Eden (2015). A big character who loves to frolic about. **Location:** protected wild area around Voi Reintegration Unit



Mwitu

Mother: Mweya **Sex:** female

Birthday: around August 2019

Her name means 'wild' in Swahili. A sweet girl who is starting to learn how to use her trunk

Location: protected wild area around Voi Reintegration Unit



Sita

Mother: Sidai **Sex:** female

Birthday: Around August 2019

Her name means 'six' in Swahili. Sita is Sidai's first calf.

Location: wild area around Ithumba Reintegration Unit



Wema

Sex: female

Mother: Wendi

Birthday: around 13 November 2019

Her name means 'goodness' in Swahili. Has an older sister, Wiva born in 2015. Her main nanny is Naserian. **Location:** wild area around Ithumba Reintegration Unit

NEWS JUST IN

Just as we went to print, Mulika revealed her newest baby, a bouncing boy called Mkuu, born in late February 2020! Catch up with the full stories, and meet each of the calves born to orphans (that we know of) at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/orphans/calves

Meet the SWT Team

Justus
Kitinger

Carer and one of Apollo's Keepers

When did you become a part of the SWT team?

I joined the SWT back in 1996, 23 years ago, and have been working with orphaned rhinos and elephants since my arrival.

Raising rhinos must come with its fair share of challenges. Can you share some of those?

They pack a punch because they are incredibly solid, just pure muscle. A baby rhino can do a lot of damage to your shins and legs! During my early days raising Scud, I was put in a pair of cricket pads to deflect the blows to my shins. Very soon I grew to love her, and she me. With the time I spent with her and since, I have learnt so much about them — and how they communicate verbally as well, so I can call rhinos from just about anywhere!

What makes raising a rhino so different to raising an elephant?

Rhinos need small feeds, they sleep a lot, they are all about scent, senses and hearing and they are content to be alone with their Keeper. Elephants take a long time to feed, do not sleep a lot during the day, and they are action-oriented and very social, so need constant input. Of course, that is a simplistic version, because both are very complex to raise in reality. The difficult challenge with rhinos is more in the rehabilitation stage while with elephants, they are very difficult to raise when they are very young.



Do you have a family of your own?

I do have a family of my own, I have my two-footed family and my four-legged family. My family have heard all the stories and have grown up understanding the importance of my job, too. I have five children, two girls and three boys. I share all the newsletters and the beautiful photographs with them and I think they have a great love of conservation because of what their father does, and I know they are proud of the work I do.

Can you describe the work of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in one word?

I can, but I will use two words instead: educational and inspirational. I have learnt so much, my family has learnt so much, my friends and acquaintances have learnt so much through the conservation efforts of SWT, but so too has a much bigger audience, locally and globally. It is through these special stories that people learn to focus more on a species and their plight, and these inspirational tales of orphans who come into our care to heal and recover help inspire people to be a part of that, and to be inspired to help.

Bronze elephants march into London

If you've been to London's Marble Arch lately, you might have noticed some unusual tourists roaming around; a herd of bronze elephant sculptures! Conceived, created and funded by internationally acclaimed artists Gillie and Marc, the installation aims to bring the plight of elephants right into the heart of London. It features 21 life-size bronze elephants – the largest sculpture of its kind in the world – including a mother and 20 orphaned elephants, with each orphan symbolising a real elephant currently in the care of the SWT.

As the charity partner of the installation, we were thrilled to be at the unveiling which took place on 4th December 2019 and was attended by the artists, former MP Zac Goldsmith, writer Stanley Johnson and actor Peter Egan as well as many members of the press and our supporters. Since then, thousands of tourists have visited the sculptures, walking through and around the installation, learning about the unique rescue stories of each featured orphan.

Importantly, 'The Orphans' is a sculpture that represents more than orphaned calves. It's a yearlong celebration of hope and strength for the generation who will grow up into the healthy and supported elephants of tomorrow thanks to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

Want to visit?

Available until December 2020
Marble Arch Lawn, London
Free to visit



Learn which orphans are symbolised in the sculpture at:
sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/elephants-of-tomorrow

New in store!

Our online shop is an elephant-lover's delight with a vast array of SWT branded items. Here are some of the newest products to hit our shelves:



£2

Show your support, whatever you are wearing, with our classic **pin badge!**



£14

Tip your hat to elephants in our SWT **baseball cap**, the perfect (and stylish) way to stay out of the sun.



£18

A **luxury notebook** for all those important things, so that you can be like an elephant and never forget.

£1.50



Our logo **car sticker** can be placed on any window to spread the word!



£9

Nothing beats a fresh cuppa in our **travel mug!**

Launching our very first children's book, **Garzi the Orphan!**

"Meet Garzi the elephant, just one year old, with his long grey trunk, and big ears that fold!"

Bring to life the story of Garzi, a real-life orphaned elephant rescued by the SWT after his mother was killed by poachers, in our rhyming children's paperback book. Featuring beautiful illustrations, it tells the story of Garzi the orphan and highlights how humans are helping to protect the species. Perfect for children aged three to seven years old.



£5.99

Visit our online shop at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/shop



Read all about it! News in brief

Backing Kenya's rhino protectors

Camping equipment, including tents, chairs, mattresses and custom-built solar energy units were donated to KWS rangers protecting endangered black rhinos and threatened white rhinos in the Meru Rhino Sanctuary in January 2020.



Saviours for sick animals

671 animals attended to by the SWT/ KWS Mobile Vets in 2019. Your donations ensure these teams remain fully equipped at all times, ready to respond to any injured or sick wild animal.



New digs!

Apollo has been upgraded to a new bedroom after he rapidly outgrew his original stockade. With a bunk bed for a Keeper above and plenty of room for all his night-time browse, his spacious boudoir has been a hit.



A soft landing

Few things are more delicate than a dinky dik-dik, Feisty included! He was found orphaned in the Maasai Mara. The SWT was asked to step in and help Feisty, as he's been affectionately named, and he's now in the care of the SWT's Kaluku Field HQ.



Mourning an elephant icon

In February 2020, Kenya lost a Giant when we said goodbye to Tusker Tim, who died of natural causes. An elephant bull of 51 years old, he called the Amboseli ecosystem home with his preferred haunt the Kimana Sanctuary – which is directly supported by the SWT.



Doubling our protection of the Mau Forest

The Mau Forest is an ecosystem that inspires legend: Thick and impenetrable, it forms the largest canopy forest ecosystem in the country and is the single most important water catchment in Western Kenya. That makes its survival vital not just for the wild animals that live here but the wider world.

Up until recently, it was sadly also a symbol of the wholesale destruction that Kenya's forests face. Less than 10% of Kenya remains forested and the Mau Forest was under threat from pressures including land encroachment for settlements and forest degradation, all of which had taken a serious toll on the area and its wild inhabitants. Thanks to donations from global supporters, however, the SWT was in a position to stop this and, in 2018, the Trust teamed up with local partner, the Mara Elephant Project, to establish the Mau Anti-Poaching team.

The SWT's considerable anti-poaching experience has taught us that boots on the ground can make an immediate and long-lasting difference in previously unprotected areas and, in the Mau Forest, the results have been impressive. In the second half of 2019, the team recovered 767 pieces of cedar, arrested 24 suspects for illegal logging or charcoaling, destroyed 102 sacks of illegally produced charcoal and removed 79 snares!

Building on their success, in December 2019 the SWT launched a new ranger force, doubling the anti-poaching protection of the forest and its 650 elephants. Made up of members of the local community, each of the nine rangers selected went through a rigorous six-week training course (which they passed with flying colours) and they've already begun their patrols, ensuring that this critical wilderness remains just that — wild.

► What does the team do?



Patrols daily on foot



Mitigates human-wildlife conflict



Confiscates snares set for bushmeat poaching



Stops illegal logging, grazing and fires



Makes arrests



Trees are what make our planet a home

Jacques Cousteau once said “people protect what they love” and we share that belief which is why the Trust is working with communities to engender a passion for their natural environment. Sadly there’s a pressing need to take immediate action too - every year, deforestation wipes out an area of forest roughly the size of the United Kingdom.

To reverse the impact of destructive human activities, the SWT has continued to step up its tree planting program in Kenya. Since conditions must be

favourable for these saplings to thrive, tree plantings are timed around the rainy season and, in November 2019, conditions were perfect!

In addition to SWT field members, the local community came together along with the Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service, to help with this ambitious initiative, planting 2,000 trees during this session alone. All in all, during 2019, the SWT Kibwezi Forest team, other team members and volunteers planted a grand total of 65,962 trees.



Second Chances - and a Wild Future

by *Angela Sheldrick*

Sometimes, things come together in a truly unexpected way, as if by divine intervention. When Umani Springs and the Kibwezi Forest fell into the safe hands of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, it very much felt like that. We were faced with a spectacular responsibility and opportunity: To protect and transform this natural paradise and, by extension, create a fitting sanctuary for the orphaned elephants we rescue who are permanently damaged by the cruel hand of fate. This beautiful area and its unique orphan herd are a great example of how, when given a second chance, the natural world can recover, heal, and flourish against great odds.

All of Kenya's wild spaces hold their own magic, but the Kibwezi Forest is a true gem. Within its heart, this unique groundwater forest safeguards a network of springs that percolate out of lava banks, snaking between the reaching roots of giant fig trees, and tumbling into

crystalline ponds. It is truly the life force behind all residents in the area, from the forest's endemic species to the 12 orphaned elephants who are healing there and to the communities that live along its borders.

However, it was not always this way. The opportunity to fund, manage, and protect the Kibwezi Forest came to us in 2008, when we undertook a long-term lease from the Kenya Forest Service as part of our Saving Habitats Program. After visiting the area, Daphne's words were, "I honestly cannot see the potential" — that is how degraded and denuded the forest was back in that time.

It was easy to see her point: Kibwezi had been completely ravaged by bushmeat poaching, illegal logging, charcoal harvesting, and livestock incursions. However, we never step down from a challenge. On signing the agreement,

our first step was to secure the boundary with a substantial electric fence, which connected the Kibwezi Forest on three sides into the Chyulu Hills National Park, and then continue that fenceline for 75 further kilometers along the border of the National Park's boundary. We employed 45 members of the community to patrol daily, working with our dedicated staff to ensure that this ambitious project was maintained. We continue to support the Kenya Wildlife Service's management of the Chyulu Hills National Park with two De-Snaring Teams that operate in the area, along with aerial surveillance, fire control, donation of vehicles, and the funding and management of the fenceline.

The effects of these efforts have been nothing short of transformative; with the forest's boundary secure, the community is safe from human-wildlife conflict and the ecosystem within is shielded from the ravages of man. It is a graphic example of nature's extraordinary powers of recovery when it is protected. In the past decade, wildlife populations have blossomed, the vegetation has recovered, and rainfall has increased year over year. Daphne witnessed this extraordinary recovery, and Umani Springs soon became one of her favourite places to visit.

In 2014, we once again tapped into the magic of the Kibwezi Forest — this time to provide hope to some very special miracles, elephant orphans who came to us with the odds stacked against them. Many of these orphans, like Murera and Sonje, had suffered from horrendous poaching injuries that left them permanently compromised. We needed a special place for them to heal, flourish, and eventually, transition to a wild life. The Kibwezi Forest, with its gentle environment and high security, seemed a most fitting destination for all of that to come to fruition.



It is a challenge to begin a Reintegration Unit from scratch, without the continuity of older and wiser wild-living orphans to mentor new arrivals. When Murera and Sonje arrived as the first residents of Umani Springs, they were extremely unsettled. Thankfully, it was only for two days before the next group of orphans arrived. Quanza, Lima Lima, and Zongoloni were bonded friends, and while they all held psychological scars from the events that left them orphaned, theirs were not physical. From the moment she disembarked from the transporter truck, it became evident that Lima Lima was the glue that would hold the Umani herd together. This remarkable elephant immediately embraced her new home with a passion that was infectious. While Murera and Sonje were the older two, Lima Lima provided the enthusiasm and leadership that the rest of the group initially needed. Something about the forest had a transformative effect on her; she had been a rather colourless character at the Nursery, but suddenly her spirit soared and she exhibited a joie de vivre that the other



orphans couldn't help but also embody.

Over the years at Umani, Lima Lima has continued to amaze us. Not only is she the nexus for this orphan group, but she has also taken it upon herself to be the protector of the Keepers. This new environment was as foreign to them as it was to their charges, but Lima Lima assumed full responsibility of ensuring their safety — a duty she cheerfully takes on each and every day.

Sometimes, when they find they are lost in the forest's dense undergrowth, she steps up and guides the whole group home. She has an innate ability to spot danger, and is always the first to alert the Keepers of the presence of buffalos, wild elephants, or anything she perceives as potentially hazardous for the men. Murera and Sonje remain the matriarchs of Umani, but they were robbed of the physical capacity to lead from the front, so Lima Lima has taken on the role of their deputy. This energetic elephant, who is brimming with love for her elephant and human family, defers to her



matriarchs and ensures Umani's continued success.

It is also special to note the equalizing power of Umani Springs: While many of its orphans are physically compromised, they are always relocated with their closest confidants from the Nursery, as we would never dream of having them embark on a wild life without their best friends by their sides. As such, many of the Umani orphans are not injured at all — but in reality, none of the orphans there feel like special needs elephants any more, despite the fact that many still carry the physical scars of their past. They are all happily thriving, deeply bonded to each other and their Keepers, while also forging successful friendships with the wild elephant community.

I can think of no more certain measure of success. Through perseverance, hard work, and unwavering belief, the Kibwezi Forest has been wrestled back from the brink of destruction. Today, it is a peaceful and protected Utopia, affording a viable, wild future to the special miracles who also needed a second chance.

Curious to hear more insider stories from the SWT? Sign up for our newsletters including Field Notes, our international monthly newsletter written by Angela Sheldrick, at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

Giving Kenya's giants a much-needed boost

In 2019 alone, the SWT/KWS Mobile Vet Units came to the aid of 55 injured and sick giraffes across Kenya – that's more than one a week. Sadly these gentle giants are increasingly recognised as being under threat across Africa; two subspecies are listed as critically endangered by the IUCN and a further two are endangered. With development, infrastructure and agriculture making inroads into their wild homes and the species under threat from bushmeat poachers, time is of the essence to secure a future for this fascinating animal. Here's what the Trust is doing to better safeguard the species through your donations:

Treating the world's tallest land mammal

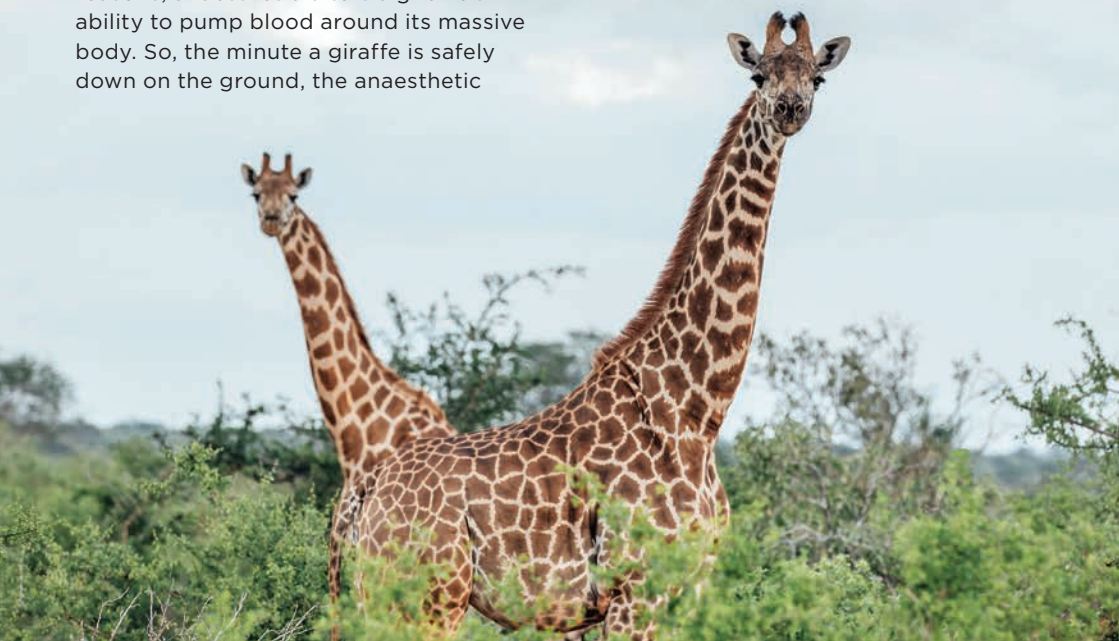
Targeted by snares, arrows and spears, treating a giraffe is a gravity-defying, dangerous task. Giraffes are one of the more difficult species to anaesthetise and it requires a whole team working nimbly and quickly, tackling several hurdles before the treatment even begins.

The team must first rope the patient's legs, to ensure that when the giraffe is darted with an anaesthetic, its limbs don't splay. Then, they guide it gently to the ground, ever-conscious of its delicately long neck, since trauma or malposition could be fatal. Giraffes can't be under anaesthetic for long since, among other reasons, anaesthesia alters a giraffe's ability to pump blood around its massive body. So, the minute a giraffe is safely down on the ground, the anaesthetic

is reversed and the giraffe is manually restrained. Treatments are therefore done to the beat of a rapidly ticking clock, with as many hands as possible used to aid the giraffe back to his feet once the operation is complete – sometimes as many as eight people.



► **SWT Mobile Vet Units operate in five key ecosystems across Kenya including: Meru, Masai Mara, Mount Kenya, Tsavo and Amboseli, coming to the aid of injured giraffes and other wildlife.**





Saving prime habitats

Giraffes live in savannas, grasslands and open forests – all of which are vulnerable to human activities. As their homes shrink, so does their access to food sources and their ability to move around freely. As part of its Saving Habitats project, the SWT is seeking to secure key habitats in biodiversity hotspots.

This includes building roads for patrols and funding the salaries of rangers on Amu Ranch, home to large herds of reticulated giraffe, to provide a better deterrence against would-be poachers, while also leasing land from communities, compensating them to ensure it remains set aside for wild animals including giraffe (as opposed to being used for agriculture) and planting thousands of indigenous tree saplings which provide habitat and forage including various species of Acacia and Afzelia quanzensis.

Prime habitats for giraffes supported or managed by SWT and its local partners include:

- Kimana Sanctuary and Corridor (Amboseli)
- Mwalunganje Elephant Sanctuary
- Meru Rhino Sanctuary
- Lamu Conservation Area
- Tsavo

De-snaring and anti-poaching

The lucrative bushmeat trade poses a dire threat to many wild animals including giraffes; being such big animals, they are targeted because of their size, which yields a lot of meat, and the ease with which they can be hunted. Snaring is a common method of trapping used by poachers but the 13 SWT/KWS De-Snaring Teams are hot on the heels of would-be poachers, confiscating thousands of snares a year and assisting in the arrests of offenders.

► How many giraffes remain in Africa?

1980's	155,000 individuals in the wild
Today	111,000 individuals in the wild
95%	populations have dropped
2019	92kg of illegal bushmeat confiscated from poachers



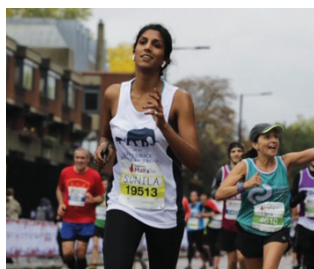
► Giraffes are predominantly browsers and mainly eat leaves and buds on trees and shrubs. The SWT has planted over 240,220 acacia saplings to date, key forage of giraffes!

Your fundraising news



A giant leap for elephants

In October 2019, dedicated supporter Vinyet decided to take on a courageous challenge to raise funds and awareness for our projects. As elephants are one of a small number of animals that cannot jump, Vinyet chose to leap in their honour by taking part in a tandem skydive, exceeding her target and raising over £500 for her efforts! Vinyet's efforts show that no matter what you choose to do, you can make a difference!



Fantastic four take on the Royal Parks Half Marathon

We'd like to say a huge thank you to our amazing team of runners who took on the Royal Parks Half Marathon in 2019. Our fantastic team of four took the 13.1 mile challenge in their stride and raised over £2,500 between them in aid of our conservation projects. A huge well done to Alice Schulz, Jonathan Hurst, Sunila de Silva and Gary Clarke who formed our Sheldrick Wildlife Trust team.

Do you want to join our team of fundraisers for the 2020 Royal Parks Half Marathon?

We have 20 charity places available, each with a minimum fundraising pledge of £350. Find out more at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/get-involved/events

Flora's bold move for wildlife

Inspired by a long awaited visit to Kenya, where she met her adopted orphan Maxwell the rhino, 12 year old Flora decided that she wanted to do some serious fundraising for the Trust in order to help protect Africa's wildlife. After gaining sponsorship from her friends and family, Flora bravely shaved her head at the end of October 2019 and was very proud to have raised over £300! We are so grateful to Flora for her efforts - her enthusiasm for raising funds has been remarkable!



Interested in fundraising for the Sheldrick Trust?

We have lots of ideas and resources to help you make a difference for elephants from wherever you live in the UK. Find out more at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/get-involved

Going Green - Spotlight on our Eco Partners

As a conservation charity, we are proud to be supported by corporate partners and small businesses who share our values on sustainability and environmental impact.



Tea Lab Company

Did you know that tea bags typically contain 20-30% plastic? That's just one of the reasons we love Tea Lab's commitment to supplying loose-leaf tea, which is organically certified and comes in fully recyclable or reusable packaging. Tea Lab **donates 10% of proceeds** to the SWT from sales of their rooibos and honeybush African tea range.

Louise Mulgrew



Louise Mulgrew

Award-winning greetings card illustrator, Louise Mulgrew, supports SWT by donating her skills and as well as **1% of company turnover**. Her business has also made a bold move this year in choosing to go 'naked', losing all cellophane wrapping on all future print runs to help eliminate single-use plastic.



Elephant Gin

Elephant Gin's perfectly scaled-down miniatures give a nod to the orphan elephants in the care of the SWT, with **15% profits donated** towards our work and an orphan named on each bottle.

Complete with a natural cork stopper, coming in plastic-free packaging and compostable shrink wrap, the beautiful glass bottles are also fully recyclable - if you're not tempted to hold onto them as a keepsake!



FERRON

Classic designs that will never go out of style, these luxury handbags are cruelty-free, sustainably made and built to last, meaning they are an investment that won't cost the earth. For each bag sold, FERRON **donates £10** in support of the Sheldrick Trust's projects.



ADOPT AN ORPHAN

Adoptions help support our work to rescue and hand-raise orphaned elephants and ensure all the babies at our Nursery receive the love, formula milk and nurturing care they desperately need.

An adoption makes the perfect gift for yourself or a loved one. You or your gift recipient will receive a personalised adoption certificate, access to our latest Keepers Diaries as well as other exclusives including videos and a monthly watercolour by Angela Sheldrick.

www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/adopt

GET IN TOUCH

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

E: info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

T: 01372 378 321

W: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

Follow us on social media @sheldricktrust

