

APRIL 2024

ISSUE 39

Habari!

SAVING WILD LIVES TODAY · SECURING HABITATS FOR THE FUTURE





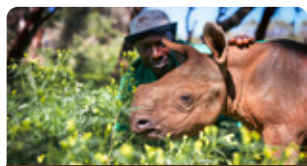
Page 4
NEWS



Page 6-9
NEW RESCUES



Page 12
ROYAL VISIT



Page 18 - 20
REINTEGRATING RHINOS



Page 22 - 24
WILD-BORN CALVES



Page 30 - 31
SHOP TO SUPPORT

WELCOME

2024 marks 20 years since the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (SWT) launched as a charity in the UK. Over two decades, our small office team has championed elephants, campaigned against poaching, and worked tirelessly to raise funds and awareness for wildlife in Kenya – and we’ve had the privilege of getting to know our supporters along the way. One constant throughout this time has been Habari magazine, a showcase of stories of transformation, resilience, and the SWT’s dedicated efforts to safeguard Kenya’s wild creatures.

At the heart of our mission lies the Orphans’ Project. Many of the elephant personalities that have graced the pages of this magazine over the years – such as Sidai and Loijuk who we featured in only our second edition - were grief-stricken infants facing the biggest challenges of their short lives when we introduced them to you. Two decades on, both have blossomed into loving mothers, wandering wild and free with calves by their side. They symbolise a thriving wild elephant family, one that continues to grow, and we are thrilled to introduce you to the newest members of this special wild-born herd on page 22.

Each orphan’s journey reminds us that it takes a village to nurture rescued elephants and rhinos from infancy to wild reintegration - a collective effort in which you play an integral role! With every pound you donate, 90p goes to charitable activities that protect and preserve wild animals and the places they call home. As you delve into the pages ahead, you’ll encounter tales that are as inspiring as they are heartwarming. But don’t take my word for it. Please explore them yourself at your leisure, knowing that your support has helped to make them possible.

Rob Brandford
Executive Director

We’ve moved office

We have bade farewell to our office in Leatherhead, Surrey, in favour of a new space in West Sussex. Please note our new address:

1 Oak Place, Rosier Business Park, Coneyhurst Road,
Billingshurst, RH14 9DE

If you’ve sent anything to us recently by post, mail will be forwarded to the new address. You can still reach us on the same telephone number as before:

01372 378 321.

NEWS

Picture this: elephants revel in waterholes filled to the brim, surrounded by a lush landscape swathed in green. Thanks to El Niño rains, the Tsavo ecosystem is brimming with life. No better time then, for several orphaned elephants to embark on the next stage of their reintegration journey. **Get acquainted with these recent graduates on page 21.**



News



New Equipment for Tsavo Hospital

Healthy communities and successful conservation go hand-in-hand. Building upon an already established Community Outreach program, the SWT donated a full suite of critical medical equipment to Mito-Andei Sub-County Hospital in December 2023. Hospital beds, a portable X-ray machine and baby incubators were among the much-needed equipment that was donated to offer a lifeline to patients in this remote and rural area on the fringes of Tsavo.

Collaborative Rescue Saves Trio of Elephants

In November 2023, three elephants were freed from a muddy dam – the latest in a long line of life-saving interventions between the SWT and local partners and organisations. The pachyderms had ventured into the water overnight, likely for a drink. Unable to climb out of the steep-sided space, they found themselves well and truly stuck. By morning, the trio were almost completely submerged, with only their trunks poking above the water surface. Pooling resources, the Laikipia Government and the SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit created an outlet to drain the dam, enabling the trapped elephants to walk free.



Promoting a Greener Legacy

Thanks to your donations, the SWT UK has funded six Anti-Poaching Teams, including two new units. Their patrols serve to mitigate wildlife crime, which includes illegal charcoal burning. **From saplings to forest giants, unearth how donations are also helping protect and provide critical forest cover, forage and shade for Kenya's wildlife on pages 27 - 29.**



Read the latest news on our website:
sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/news

SUPPORT SWT



Their Future. Your legacy

Having fostered orphan elephants for so many years, I consider them to be a part of my family – and families look after each other. That's why, when writing my Will, I decided to leave a gift to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, so that I can continue to provide for the elephants I love and help protect the places they will call home, even long after I'm gone. Heather, Berkshire

It is our shared responsibility to protect and preserve nature for the benefit of all life. Remembering SWT in your Will is one of the most powerful and meaningful things you can do to support us in securing a future for elephants and all wildlife in Kenya, continuing the work of generations.


Your gift will live through all the tiny orphans we're currently raising; the miracle babies born from our wild-living orphans (59 and counting, at the time of print!); our country-wide veterinary project and, of course, through the protection and preservation of their habitats.

To find out more about how you can remember SWT through a legacy gift, please contact Louise at louise@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org or call 01372378321

You can also download our brochure by scanning this QR code:



ORPHANS' PROJECT



The Orphans' Project sits at the heart of the SWT's conservation activities, and exists to offer hope to orphaned calves who have lost their families. Decades of experience underpins the SWT's approach to providing the physical and emotional support these babies need to overcome trauma, and to find safety, security and a sense of belonging. All made possible thanks to the generosity of supporters.

Meet some of the new arrivals, and discover many more personalities and unique rescue stories at:
sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/adopt



Second Chances for Pardamat

Independent, cheerful and a little bit obstinate: that is Pardamat in a nutshell. He is one of the youngest orphans at the Nairobi Nursery, but don't go telling him that, as he prefers to eschew his 'blanket brigade' peers for the older elephants!

Tragically, Pardamat's mother was speared and killed in July 2023. By the time rescuers arrived, her young calf had fled. For three long and lonely weeks, he sought out company and shelter wherever he could find it, fending for himself in the Pardamat Conservation Area.

Eventually, reports of a young calf determinedly trying to enter a Maasai boma reached rangers, and an operation was greenlit by KWS to bring him to the SWT. When Keepers landed at the nearby airstrip to rescue him, they were greeted by a most remarkable sight: the little elephant was tucked in the back of a vehicle, his heart-shaped ears spread wide and his trunk extended in greeting.



Much like his rescue story, Pardamat is a very unique and special elephant. As Nairobi Nursery Head Keeper Edwin remarks, "Pardamat is a buddy to all" and his cheerful, outgoing nature has endeared him to Mokogodo, Taroha and Talek, with whom he has forged a close friendship. The older females are smitten too – Ahmed, in particular, was hooked by his charms and became instrumental in helping Pardamat transition into Nursery life in the days and weeks following his rescue.

Watch Pardamat's
rescue and recovery by
scanning this QR code:



Orphans



Chamboi: the Epitome of Courage and Charisma

One endearing quirk of Chamboi is his love of rituals. A creature of habit, he wakes up full of energy and likes to start the day racing into the bush with his Keepers, before embarking on a leisurely mud bath, midday sleep and afternoon frolic.

His story began with an urgent call: a tiny, endangered black rhino calf had been sighted alone, his mother nowhere to be found. It was a miracle that predators hadn't already snatched the newborn, and time was running out. Already the young calf was showing signs of hypoglycemia, and, without milk, protection and urgent intervention, it was clear he would not survive.

It was amid these harrowing circumstances that Chamboi arrived in the care of the SWT in September 2023, flown directly from the scene of his rescue to the Kaluku Neonate Nursery in the back of a SWT helicopter. Immediately, Chamboi was entrusted into the care of experienced rhino Keepers, utilising their many tips, tricks and years of expertise to make the calf feel at home. A soft mattress for daily cat naps, non-stop motherly attention and freshly-made bottles of milk ensured that, within a few weeks, this once-frail infant blossomed into a real character, huffing, puffing, and charging around with exuberance.

However, not everything was smooth sailing. Because he was orphaned at such a young age, Chamboi never had his mother's colostrum and, for a long time, he suffered a multitude of stomach issues. Until his molars fully come through, enabling him to browse for food, he is kept satiated with specialist formula milk. According to his Keepers, he loves his bottle so much, he closes his eyes in bliss as he savours every last drop.



Miracle Calf Sholumai Survives Drought

When it comes to animal rescue, one should never give up hope - as Sholumai's saga goes to show. This female calf was found in a collapsed state in April 2023 amid the drought-ravaged Laikipia landscape. As the KWS Vet who rushed to her aid put it: "There's a very slim chance - she's still breathing lightly with a pulse." Nonetheless, it was the glimmer of promise the SWT needed.

To give the starved baby the best chance possible, field teams kicked into gear. A plane was hastily organised to reach Sholumai, and at the scene, the SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Vet Unit got creative, stringing up a tarp to protect Sholumai from the baking sun. Her sunken cheeks were a clear giveaway that she had been without her mother's milk for some time, and no one was sure if Sholumai would survive the night, let alone the journey down to Nairobi. Against the beat of a rapidly ticking clock, she was ferried by land and air to the SWT's Nairobi Nursery.

Astonishingly, after five hours of waiting on tenterhooks, a miracle occurred: Sholumai gave a flicker of the eyelid, followed by a twitch of the trunk. Though her recovery was touch-and-go in the early days, this stoic orphan has undergone a remarkable journey back to the land of the living, aided by copious fresh cut browse and many bottles of specialist formula milk.

Today, brave Sholumai is the embodiment of resilience. As her Keepers tell it, this plucky girl has a predilection for joining in games of bush bashing, chasing after warthogs, and diving into the mud bath.

Babies like Pardamat, Chamboi and Sholumai need milk, and plenty of



it. To date, donations received from the UK have helped fund tens of thousands of litres of specialist formula milk that they need to survive.

A close-up photograph of three young elephants in a herd. They are standing close together, with their heads and trunks visible. The elephants have reddish-brown, wrinkled skin. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and foliage.

ADOPT AN ORPHAN

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING TO ELEPHANTS

This is especially true for the orphans in the care of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Despite the trauma they suffered before their rescues, they still have the most enormous hearts, and are fiercely protective of those they love.

Nothing can erase their past, but we can offer them a family and the wild future they deserve. One full of love and protection. There is always space for one more in our foster family – could it be you?

Just as connection is paramount to the orphans, it is to us too. We foster a sense of connection between you and your adopted orphan, by taking you on an adventure into the lives of the individuals in our care with monthly updates, including photos and videos.

Meet our herd and adopt at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/adopt



Outreach

Students Journey into Tsavo's Wilderness

SWT School Field Trips offer a unique opportunity to introduce students to their wildlife heritage, helping to foster future conservationists. For many of the pupils, who are aged between 6 – 16 years old, these trips mark their first encounter with National Parks. By offering the opportunity to experience nature first-hand, the SWT aims to ignite a passion for conservation and inspire students to become active protectors of the wild.

Following an early pickup at school, and with 'Wildlife Guardian' spotter guides in hand, the journey begins at the entry gate to Tsavo West National Park, where students enjoy a tour of the KWS Education Centre. Then, it's time to venture into the vast wilderness. The first stop? Sheitani lava flow, a striking expanse of folded black lava that covers 50 square kilometres. Students explore Sheitani on foot, then delve into discussions on conservation, tackling subjects like poaching, habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and potential solutions.

Next, the group visits Mzima Springs. Led by Sammy and Dixon who head up the trips, pupils follow a nature trail leading to an underwater viewing tank. The final stop is Chaimu Crater, an inky black lava hill that towers over the landscape. This spot always captivates the students, who fondly recall 'climbing the mountain' long after. Then it's time to climb back aboard the bus and head home, all set against the excited chatter of pupils discussing the wildlife they saw.



Impact in Numbers: 2023



88 School Field Trips



2,561 students immersed in the beauty of Tsavo West National Park



44 schools participated in School Field Trips

Are You a Teacher?

We are looking to expand our educational outreach in the UK and are looking for support to create educational assets relevant to schoolchildren. If you are interested in participating, please contact Anna at: anna@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org



Royal Encounter: King and Queen's Nairobi Visit

It's not every day that one can say they met royalty. Yet, in November 2023, the SWT was honoured to welcome King Charles III and Queen Camilla to the Nairobi Nursery, during a royal state visit to Kenya.

Both the King and Queen are highly dedicated environmentalists. During their visit, Angela Sheldrick, Robert Carr-Hartley and Head Keeper Edwin Lusichi, alongside other staff members, were able to discuss issues that impact elephants and rhinos, namely coexistence with communities and the management of wild spaces.

Their Majesties also learned more about the SWT's conservation work to protect Kenya's wildlife, and had the opportunity



to meet the orphaned elephants and rhinos that are being cared for at the Nursery. Mzinga was particularly curious, as was Raha, providing some lovely photo opportunities for the global media pack that had gathered together for this very special occasion!

As Angela Sheldrick put it, "It was a privilege to shine a spotlight on Kenya's conservation heroes - people who go far beyond the call of duty, day and night, to save Kenya's orphaned elephants and secure a future for all wildlife."

WILD VISITORS



Barsilinga's Urgent Return Home for Care

In February 2024, wild-living orphaned elephant Barsilinga returned to the SWT's Ithumba Reintegration Unit after a month's absence. Joy quickly turned to concern when Head Keeper Benjamin realised something was wrong: Barsilinga had a small but deep wound to his shoulder. His visit was clearly more than a social call – it was a call for help! With evening falling, plans were set in motion to mobilise an urgent veterinary response the next morning, which took place at the Ithumba Unit, where Barsilinga was all but waiting for treatment. Incredibly, it unfolded amid a sea of orphaned elephants, who stood vigil as the team performed an emergency operation to treat his spear wound.

The SWT has a long and storied history of helping Barsilinga, which began when he was orphaned by poachers at the tender age of two weeks. Ever since, SWT Keepers have tended to Barsilinga's physical and emotional needs, raising him and providing a unique surrogate family – one he has never forgotten, even after returning to the wild. We are certain that Barsilinga traversed across the vast Tsavo landscape because he remembered the care the SWT has provided him. As the saying goes, an elephant never forgets, and Barsilinga's story of elephant intuition is living testimony. **Scan the QR code to watch the amazing treatment in full.**

Unexpected Encounter with Kilaguni

A chance encounter with wild-living Kilaguni unfolded in January 2024, taking place 80km away from the Reintegration Unit from which he was rewilded. The meeting occurred when SWT pilot Taru Carr-Hartley touched down on a road to link up with rangers in Tsavo East National Park. Just as Taru was preparing to take off again, an elephant emerged from the bush, and Taru quickly realised... the bull was no stranger to him! It was Kilaguni, an orphaned elephant raised through the SWT's Orphans' Project. Taru, who is Daphne Sheldrick's grandson, recognised him immediately: he grew up alongside Kilaguni, who is easily identifiable by his missing tail and ragged ears.





SEARCH AND RESCUE

Every day, the SWT's Air Wing responds to all manner of emergencies across the Tsavo Conservation Area. Utilising a variety of aircraft, they provide valuable aerial perspectives across vast landscapes and rapid-response transport to field teams. Combine this capability with expert ground forces, and you have a recipe for conservation success!



SWT Field Teams Never Give Up

SWT rangers tracked this snared giraffe for days, across 20 kilometres before it disappeared into the endless Kulalu Ranch wilderness. Knowing time was of the essence, the SWT's Air Wing took up the mantle and began sweeps of the ranch. Finally, a fixed-wing pilot got sight of the patient, enabling a carefully choreographed, timely executed operation to unfold – one in which the Air Wing continued to play a pivotal part at every step. First, a helicopter transported the SWT/KWS Tsavo Vet Unit to the scene and then provided a platform to dart the giraffe from the air, so that treatment could commence. **Scan the QR code to watch the life-saving treatment proceed.**



Anti-Poaching Success Sparked by Aerial Sighting

Enroute to a treatment of an arrowed elephant, a Sheldrick Trust pilot identified this poacher's hideout. The bed of twigs and branches were likely used as a base from which to target animals visiting a nearby mud wallow. With their elephant patient waiting, the pilot recorded GPS coordinates and the Ops Room deployed the nearest SWT/KWS Anti-Poaching Team for follow-up. Rangers promptly attended the scene and destroyed the hide, locating a further 50 snares in the surrounding area!



Elephant SOS: Air and Ground Forces Unite to Treat Arrowed Elephant

Spanning seven days in January 2024, a dramatic air and land operation unfolded in Northern Tsavo to save an elephant struck with a poisoned arrow. Incredibly, it all began with a routine foot patrol and a sighting so small, it could easily have been missed by an untrained eye.

For the SWT's eagle-eyed rangers, however, a single drop of pus along a well-trafficked elephant trail sent alarm bells ringing: the presence of pus is a tell-tale sign of a poison arrow injury and a reminder of the continued need to remain vigilant against poaching.

Next came the challenge of finding the elephant amid the jungle-like vegetation. Armed with GPS coordinates, the SWT's fixed-wing pilot went on a targeted aerial patrol to try to find the patient amid the impenetrable bush. Amazingly, he found the injured bull, five kilometres away from the original sighting.

But there was a complication. Treatment wasn't possible that day, and the elephant then disappeared into the thick bush.

Knowing infected injuries can quickly turn into life-threatening sepsis, SWT teams refused to give up. Days of relentless searching followed, until they managed to re-locate him. From there, it was all systems go as the SWT Air Wing ferried the SWT/KWS Veterinary Team to the scene to administer expert treatment at the site.

In a coordinated operation, a KWS Vet skilfully darted the elephant from the helicopter, while the team on the ground moved in rapidly. The wound was thoroughly cleaned and long-acting antibiotics and anti-inflammatories administered to facilitate a speedy healing. Then the anaesthetic was reversed and the bull rose to his feet and disappeared into the dense bush on the horizon, looking much happier, and with a brighter future ahead of him.

**Scan the QR code
to watch the high-
stakes vet rescue:**




News



Graduate Rangers Ready to Protect Wildlife

Safeguarding the future of Kenya's wildlife and wild spaces requires investment in the people that protect it. We are thrilled to announce that 10 talented ranger recruits were recently put through their paces and graduated from the KWS Law Enforcement Academy in November 2023. After undertaking dedicated training over 90 days to tackle poaching, snaring, human-wildlife conflict, and more, these newly-graduated rangers are now putting their enhanced knowledge into practice in the field across the Tsavo Conservation Area to patrol, and undertake fieldwork and on-the-spot interventions.



The SWT operates 27 Anti-Poaching Teams across Kenya, in partnership with KWS. Rangers are drawn from communities across Kenya and act as a first and last line of defence for wildlife. We spoke to Jacob Kamuti to find out a little more about where he grew up, and his role as a ranger.

Did you grow up around wildlife?

I am from Makueni County in South East Kenya. We would see monkeys, dik-diks, and small wildlife, but seeing animals like elephants or buffalo was rare. I had a passion for wildlife from the very beginning.

What is the most unexpected part of your job?

I didn't know that such a big part of the job would be looking out for injured wild animals. We are always looking out for animals who need help during patrols. If we see an elephant who is limping, for instance, we track it and report it.

What is a typical patrol like?

If we come across illegal activity - for example, wire snares - we clear the area, removing these traps, confiscating and destroying them, then we consider next steps depending on the situation. We cover a very large area, so we plan it out and patrol pieces at a time, so our area of operation is well-covered throughout the weeks and months.

2023 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS:

Year in Numbers

CREATING A FUTURE FOR ALL WILDLIFE

95 currently dependent
orphaned elephants

11 orphaned elephants
successfully rescued

5 wild-born calves
welcomed

655 veterinary cases
attended

PRESERVING HABITATS ACROSS KENYA

6 bushfires tackled by
Field Teams

69,197 kilometres patrolled
by rangers on foot

15,967 snares recovered by
rangers on patrol

335,016 kilometres flown in
aerial operations



2023 Annual Newsletter - Coming Soon!

Every year, the SWT in Kenya publishes an annual newsletter, showcasing how donations have helped countless wild animals. This year's edition continues this tradition, boasting beautiful photography worthy of a coffee-table book. It shares stories from the field and offers a glimpse into the teams' endeavours. Available to read online at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org in April 2024.

REINTEGRATING RHINOS

Tipping the scales at 60kg at birth, by the time black rhinos are fully grown, they can weigh as much as a small car. Built like a tank, with some very unique character traits, hand-raising an orphaned baby black rhino back to a life in the wild is no small undertaking. So how does the SWT go about rearing and reintegrating these prehistoric pachyderms?

The Importance of a Surrogate Mother

With their thick hides and formidable horns, rhinos look invincible. So it might be surprising to learn that their calves are actually extremely fragile. Newborns remain wobbly-footed for days, are extremely vulnerable to predators, and require milk until around 18 months of age. Unlike elephants, where the herd provides unlimited childcare, rhino parenting is a solo endeavour. Testament to the labour of love and energy it takes for rhino mothers to raise their calves, these single mums only care for one offspring at a time, until a calf is ready to strike out on their own at around three years of age.

Against this backdrop of unwavering maternal protection and dedication, the SWT steps into the breach, where necessary, to raise and reintegrate orphaned milk-dependent rhinos. A team of experienced rhino Keepers take on the role of 'surrogate mother', and firstly focus on forging a bond of trust. The quickest way to a rhino's heart is through their belly – so Keepers encourage orphans to drink from a bottle of specially-prepared formula milk, reinforcing that bond with regular comforting belly rubs.

Keepers become a rhino calf's whole world, just as their mother would be in the wild, providing an important triumvirate of protection, nourishment and comfort.

Impact in Numbers



960 estimated Black rhino live wild in Kenya



17 orphan rhinos successfully raised by the SWT



2 wild-born calves born to rescued rhinos



Since calves are extremely vulnerable to predators, a Keeper offers physical protection during the day while, at night, the infant sleeps in a secure stable. Depending on the age of the calf, bottle feeds can be as frequent as every three hours so, round the clock, Keepers are on hand to supply that ever important specialist milk formula – containing all the nutrients needed for the calf to grow and thrive.

Cosy blankets carefully tied around a calf's tummy give added warmth and protection during the cooler mornings and nights. Keepers even communicate with calves, emitting soft 'grunts' to reassure young orphans, providing comfort just like their mothers would have done.

“Black rhinos are not nearly as challenging to raise if you understand their many idiosyncrasies, but they are a very territorial species and thus extremely complicated to reintegrate.” Angela Sheldrick

Let's Talk Dung!

While elephants are a social species by nature, making their reintroduction to the wild a relatively straightforward process, it is an entirely different proposition for black rhinos who are immensely territorial. Meeting the neighbours is a gradual process and it all starts with dung! A rhino's poor eyesight means they rely heavily on smell as the most important sense in rhino society. Fascinatingly, to rhinos, dung and urine signify an individual's identity, marking their presence in the area.

Accompanied by their Keepers, calves enjoy daily walks to investigate scent trails and contribute to dung piles (known as middens) and urinals belonging to the wild rhino community. These serve as a directory of who's who, allowing the infant to keep up with their neighbours and prepare the calf for life in the wild.

Such explorations also enable calves the opportunity to eat the dung of other animals. Coprophagia, as this habit is called, may seem like a disgusting, or even pointless exercise, however, the calf will be ingesting valuable micro-organisms in the dung which will establish their own much-needed community of stomach bacteria, vital for a healthy and efficient digestive system.

But that's not all that is special about rhino dung! Middens act as community noticeboards and, through regular deposits, the orphan's signature dung makes them known to wild rhinos in the area, aiding their eventual reintegration.



Rhinos



Your donations helped to fund the building of Rhino Base, Apollo's reintroduction site.

Creatures of Habit and Routine

Rhinos don't stay little for long! Before they have a chance to outgrow their enclosed stable completely, they are relocated to a more spacious stockade for sleeping, allowing them to choose between snoozing undercover, or outside under a blanket of stars. Keepers make sure to take some of the rhino's dung and use it to establish a dung pile within the new quarters. This ensures familiarity and a seamless process when changing up the routine from stable to stockade, as rhinos are true creatures of habit and can find changes to their daily routine traumatic.

Reintegration Begins as Early as Three Years Old

In the wild, rhino calves usually separate from their mothers at around three years of age, or when their mothers give birth to their next calf. This contrasts greatly to their elephant pachyderm counterparts, where males leave the natal unit when they reach adolescence and females remain with the herd for life.

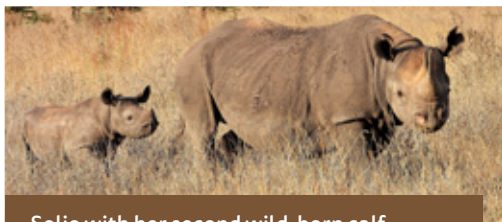
In practice, Keepers generally find that from around three years old, hand-raised rhino calves naturally begin to show an



inclination to become less dependent on their human family, expressing an iron-clad stubbornness and determination to decide the order of the day's activities (like many human toddlers!). It's at this point that Keepers reduce their hands-on role and leave a calf's stockade doors open at night to provide their growing charge with the opportunity to venture out, meet other rhinos and eventually become an established member of the wild community.

Fostering New Generations

To date, 17 orphaned rhinos have been successfully raised by the SWT, each individual representing hope for the survival of the species. One such success story is black rhino Solio, who was rescued in 2010 at the tender age of six months. Following three years of constant care and protection at the SWT Nairobi Nursery, Solio rejoined the wild where she leads an independent, happy, and healthy life. In a sign of her successful transition and acceptance by wild rhinos, she has given birth to not one, but two calves. Brilliant news for this endangered species where every rhino counts.



Solio with her second wild-born calf Savannah.

GRADUATIONS

Manda and Rokka's Big Day

The graduation of an orphan elephant is an emotional celebration of their physical recovery, and the continuation of a promise to offer these orphans a wild life when grown. Plentiful rains over the New Year provided the perfect opportunity for Rokka and Manda to embark on this next chapter in their journey and embark on new beginnings at the Voi Reintegration Unit, safe in the knowledge they'd have access to lots of lush browse at their new home.

The exciting event took place on 21 February 2024. After a smooth loading onto the transporter truck, Rokka and Manda were greeted at the Voi Reintegration Unit by an enthusiastic welcome party, complete with rumbles and trunk hugs (as has become tradition!)

Both of these orphans came into the SWT's care with their own unique story. Rokka's rescue matches her larger than life character and involved lashings of courage. Rangers fortuitously sighted Manda - who had to be carried 100 metres to a waiting helicopter which he only just fitted in! Today, thanks to supporters and foster parents worldwide, both now have wild futures and hopeful horizons ahead of them, under the guidance of older orphans and wild elephants.



Big News for Apollo

In 2019, Apollo arrived in the SWT's care as a tiny, squeaking orphaned rhino calf. But growing up happens in the blink of an eye and, now, this impressive young bull is ready to begin a new stage of his reintegration journey.

In October 2023, following months of preparation, Apollo bade goodbye to his home at the Kaluku Neonate Unit and graduated to a new, secure and protected reintegration unit in Tsavo, from which he can gradually rejoin the wild. To help him become accustomed to his new home, Keepers brought masses of his dung over from Kaluku, so it smelled like home!

Since this milestone move, Apollo has embraced his independence and familiarised himself with his 50-acre 'wandering grounds', which is protected by a lion-proof fence. In time, he'll begin to explore the wider area and gradually form his own territory - the next step to a life in the wild!

A close-up photograph of an elephant's head and trunk, with a smaller elephant visible in the background. The elephant's skin is a rich reddish-brown color, and its trunk is thick and wrinkled. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.

WILD-BORN BABIES: Our Elephant Family Grows

Our late founder, Dame Daphne Sheldrick, was acutely aware that by saving one life, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust had the potential to impact generations of elephants. Today, the SWT is reaping the rewards of this approach, as elephant dynasties are now being born to orphans that were rescued, raised and returned to the wild. Every birth is an opportunity to celebrate the success of the Orphans' Project which is funded entirely through adoptions and donations. Acquaint yourself with newest additions of this growing elephant family.

Tembo, Tumaren's First Calf

It was just before dusk on 26 October 2023 when Tumaren made her grand reveal; approaching the stockades, she had a tiny newborn underfoot! The SWT has named her little boy Tembo, which means 'elephant' in Swahili. Motherhood is a poignant milestone for Tumaren, who was found by rescuers bravely standing guard over her paralysed mother 14 years ago. Having cruelly lost her mother at such a young age, we are delighted that Tumaren has the opportunity to raise her own baby in the wild, aided by a coterie of nannies.



Olare Embraces Motherhood

Keepers had been eagerly waiting for Olare to give birth after watching her grow progressively rotund over the months of her pregnancy. Seeing her expertly guide her newborn daughter – who has been named Ola – up to the Ithumba stockades on 28 November 2023 was a heart-warming moment for them all!

Ola's arrival brings Olare's story full circle; orphaned when her mother was tragically and fatally injured by a bullet, 10-month-old Olare was raised by the SWT, first at the Nairobi Nursery and then at the Ithumba Unit until she was ready to go wild. Despite her heart-breaking past, she always put others first, naturally assuming the role of nanny to younger orphans, and later to her friends' wild-born calves. Olare now has the opportunity to raise her own baby, supported by her fellow orphan friends. Her mini-me daughter, Ola, is round-cheeked and bright-eyed, and a perfect picture of elephant health.



Wild-Born Babies



Mulika pictured with her daughter Mwende in 2011. Today, Mwende (picture right) is a new mum herself.

A Granddaughter for Mulika

Baby Mala comes from an extraordinary lineage: her grandmother is an orphan named Mulika who was rescued by the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust 22 years ago. It remains unknown how Mulika lost her mother and herd, but poaching is strongly suspected.

Raised by dedicated Keepers through the Orphans' Project, Mulika grew from a milk-dependent nine-month-old calf to a healthy young adolescent. She went on to become one of the 'founding females' of the Ithumba Reintegration Unit and when she went wild, becoming instrumental in the reintegration of other orphans, serving as a bridge between the dependent orphan herd and wild elephants in the area.

In 2011, Mulika started her own family, giving birth to a female called Mwende which means 'the loved one' in the local Kamba language. Keepers played a pivotal role in Mwende's survival in early infancy, which

coincided with drought-like conditions, offering Mulika supplemental feeding of lucerne to maintain her milk supply. In October 2023, Mulika's dynasty grew again and she became a grandmother, when her now-grown daughter Mwende gave birth to her own daughter named Mala.

Most magical of all, although Mwende has only ever known a wild life, she chose to present her newborn to the humans who make up her extended family, by turning up to the SWT's Ithumba stockades with her baby in tow.

Incredible stories like this are proof that saving one life can lead to future generations flourishing in the wild! Donations from global supporters help keep these growing families safe.





Charli, Ithumba's Surprise Delivery

29 November 2023 marked the day Ithumba Keepers received the best surprise gift of all – new life. In what has become a time-honoured tradition among ex-orphans, Chyulu proudly presented her new baby boy to her former caregivers, joined by her three-year-old son Cheka and nannies. Keepers had been unaware she was pregnant, making the reveal all the more thrilling. Consistent with the SWT's naming tradition, and following in the foot-steps of Chyulu's first born, her newest calf has been named Charli. He's active, curious, and perfectly plump, ideal qualities for any baby elephant.

Chyulu's own story began with an urgent call from SWT rangers; they had found a stricken calf stuck fast in mud in a drying waterhole. It's believed Chyulu's mother was killed by poachers nearby, so she was brought to the SWT for urgent care, where the Keepers (her 'family in green') remained by her side every step of the way until she went wild. To know she brought back her own growing family to meet them is something very special indeed.



Miracle Mwana: One Year Strong

For Murera's first-born calf, Mwana, every day offers new discoveries. This one-year-old calf enjoys daily 'bush lessons' in the Kibwezi Forest with her mother and special support network, which includes indispensable nannies and older orphans, Kiasa and Quanza, who remain on hand (or trunk) when things get a little challenging.

Surrounded and supported, they've ensured Mwana is growing up into a loved, protected and cherished calf. So far, she's discovered an intense dislike of thunderstorms, a passion for chasing butterflies and a natural proclivity for swimming along the way. **Scan the QR code to watch a special film commemorating Mana's first year.**



SEARCH AND RESCUE

While the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is best known for rescuing orphaned elephants, rhinos, and other animals, their primary goal is to keep wild families together. Field teams play a pivotal role in delivering on this mission, identifying wild families in trouble, supplementing water for wildlife, providing expert veterinary support to injured mothers and young alike, and even stepping in to reunite families. This ability to rapidly respond to urgent cases across all field projects is made possible through global support.



Buffalo Family Reunites

The clock was ticking for this lone buffalo calf, who was desperately vulnerable to predation, alone in Meru National Park. Fortunately, he had a guardian angel: a tour guide reported his plight to the SWT/ KWS Meru Vet Unit, kick-starting an emergency mission to help him. Step One saw the Vet Unit race across the landscape to offer the calf urgent veterinary attention and shelter. Step Two involved locating the calf's mother, no easy feat. Fortunately luck was on their side. A group was identified in which a female was showing signs of distress. Upon driving the calf to the scene, the Vet Unit successfully reunited the calf with his mother, and the pair joyfully rejoined the rest of their herd.



Mission to Move Herd to Safety

Despite multiple attempts to move an elephant family of four back into Tsavo East National Park, the herd had been marooned on community land for months. Headed by a protective and strong-willed matriarch, they needed an emergency exit – and quickly, before human-wildlife conflict broke out. Multiple ground teams from the SWT utilised two aircraft and several vehicles, including a flat-bed truck, and worked hand-in-hand to successfully sedate and transport the family during the time-sensitive and complex operation – the biggest translocation the SWT has undertaken to date.

Scan the QR code to watch the epic translocation.

A person with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a khaki uniform, is shown from the back, bending over to plant a small green sapling into a hole in the reddish-brown soil. The person's hands are visible, carefully positioning the sapling. The background is a natural, outdoor setting with dry grass and soil.

SAPLING TO SANCTUARY: Donations Grow a Greener Future

Trees are the lungs of our planet. They allow biodiversity to flourish, regulate climate patterns and provide habitats for wildlife. Preserving and conserving these living monuments could not be more critical, and forms part of the SWT's wider mission to secure a future for all wildlife through the protection of habitats. Here, we share the myriad of initiatives in which the SWT protects precious flora every day of the year with your help ...

Sapling to Sanctuary



Nurturing Future Flora

Nurturing new plant life starts at the SWT's three Tree Nurseries. Located across the country in the Kibwezi Forest, Amu Ranch and at the SWT's Kaluku Field HQ, each Nursery has the capacity to hand-raise thousands of indigenous saplings at any one time. In a labour of love, seeds are germinated by trained gardeners and carefully tended until they are ready for transplantation; ready to find their forever homes either in wilderness areas, or donated to community land. These trees, in turn, become a vital part of the ecosystem, offering shade, forage, habitat for wildlife, and a root system to help prevent soil erosion. They also protect existing forests by reducing the need for resource extraction.



Engaging Young Environmental Stewards

As part of the SWT's Community Outreach, schools receive donations of tree seedlings to be planted in their school. Many schools lack sufficient shade, so trees can provide a natural canopy to protect against the sun during lessons and playtime. Children are encouraged to tend to their trees, ensuring their successful growth. By engaging children and enhancing their perception of wildlife and their environment, we can change their status from one of passive observation to active protection and preservation.

Combating Climate Change

Forests provide an important regulating ecosystem service, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere which helps to mitigate global warming. Deforestation can release this stored carbon, exacerbating climate change.



*In November 2023,
the SWT planted more than
145,000
seedlings.*

Patrolling Remaining Forests

Kenya's forests cover 8.83 percent of the country, a figure that's set to rise as part of a national commitment to increase the country's forest cover to 10 percent.

Forested areas including the Chyulu Hills and the Kibwezi Forest serve as the backdrop for some of the SWT's most dedicated anti-poaching efforts. Two decades ago, illegal resource extraction including logging and charcoal burning threatened the long-term future of these forests. Rangers have worked with communities to map illegal activities via GPS, identifying new and existing hotspots to be patrolled. Their sustained patrols have demonstrated the power of a permanent presence in curbing destructive activities.

Similarly, in the Mau Forest, the SWT UK directly funds two anti-poaching teams (which are operated in partnership with Mara Elephant Project). Critical to their patrols is stopping illegal logging and charcoal camps, which causes irreparable harm to habitats.



Cultivating Indigenous Species

Focusing on indigenous seedlings, the SWT nurtures a variety of tree species which are then transplanted where they are best suited.

Drought-tolerant **Acacia Mellifera**, has an extensive root system that allows its survival in dry areas. Slow growing, it's flat-topped canopy provides lots of shade, while its leaves, pods and young shoots provide browse to wild animals.

A deciduous tree native to East Africa, **Berchemia discolor** provides forage for a variety of animals, medicine, and exceptionally hard wood.

The **Neem Tree**, which in Kiswahili is called "Muarubaini", meaning the tree of the forty cures, is a tree species that can survive the extremely harsh conditions of Tsavo. It produces much-needed shade, timber and seeds, leaves and bark which can be used for medical and insecticidal purposes.

SHOP TO SUPPORT

Gardeners Give Back: Strulch's Conservation Commitment

As green-fingered supporters will know, Spring is the time for planting, pruning and prepping for the season ahead. Corporate supporter Strulch gives back to Nature's greatest gardeners - elephants - through an annual company donation, while their organic garden mulch bolsters borders, flower beds and vegetable patches, and naturally and harmlessly deters slugs and snails.

In addition, Strulch invites customers to add a donation to the SWT during the checkout process on their website - an initiative that has so far raised more than £6,000 for conservation! If you own a business and are interested in raising funds for charity, this is an excellent option that we'd be very happy to explore with you: support@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org



truetraveller
travel insurance designed by travellers

Travel Insurance Giving Back to Nature

One of our most generous corporate partners, The True Traveller, has proudly supported the SWT since 2017, donating 55p from every travel insurance policy sold. Whether exploring new cultures or experiencing the natural beauty that this world has to offer, it has long been said that travel "broadens the mind". Time to start planning your next adventure with the right insurance in place through The True Traveller, in the knowledge you will be helping Africa's wildlife in the process.

Now more than ever, it is critical for businesses and organisations to consider the planet over profit, adopting eco-friendly practices while giving back to causes to generate a greater positive impact.

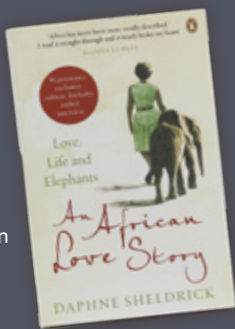
Scan the QR code to meet some of the wonderful companies who support the SWT through generous donations.



Our online shop has plenty of elephant-inspired items to delight all ages and what's even better is that every purchase makes a big contribution to the SWT's conservation projects. So by shopping, you can directly support Kenya's wildlife.

An African Love Story £10

Dive into the extraordinary life of the SWT's late Founder, Dame Daphne Sheldrick, in her best-selling story of romance, life in Kenya and elephants. Charting Daphne's life and love of wildlife, it's a heart-warming must-read and the perfect book to pack for a holiday.



Handmade Kenyan Tote Bag £18

These colour-block totes have been lovingly handmade in Kenya by a community of female artisans. Perfect as a shopper bag, or to carry your everyday essentials, each tote comes with an inner zip pocket and key chain to help keep your valuables safe. For a personal touch, every bag has a small removable tag letting you know the name of the artisan who created your bag.



Scan
to start
shopping:



Mini Soapstone Elephants £3.50

Create your own tiny trinket herd, standing at barely 2cm tall! Perfect as mascots for your desk, or to brighten up a display shelf, they come in an array of colours and motifs.

Decorated by hand, no two are the same!



Tsavo Map £13.50

Comprehensively charting Tsavo East, Tsavo West, Chyulu Hills National Park and adjacent conservancies, our fold-out map is a must-have for anyone planning a trip to the region, or seeking a lasting reminder of the adventures made during a visit. The map can also be framed, bringing the Kenyan wilderness into your home, adding style to your décor, and serving as a great conversation starter to inspire endless adventures.



GET IN TOUCH

Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, 1 Oak Place, Rosier Business Park, Coneyhurst Road, Billingshurst, RH14 9DE, United Kingdom

E: info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

T: 01372 378 321

W: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

Follow us on social media @sheldricktrust

2024 © The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, known as Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, is a registered charity in England & Wales. Charity Number: 1103836



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**