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ISSUE 33

# Habari!

SAVING WILD LIVES TODAY · SECURING HABITATS FOR THE FUTURE





## Welcome

During what has been an incredibly difficult year, the kindness, compassion and commitment of our donors, adopters and volunteers has been a ray of light. Through your support, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has been able to maintain (and even bolster) all its field operations, delivering hope and healing for wild animals. It's our privilege to share with you many of the SWT's recent achievements in Kenya, as well as news from closer to home and details on how your donations are being put to use to protect wildlife.

Rob Brandford

Executive Director



## Highlights 2020



**500,000+ Trees planted**



**57 Bushfires extinguished in Tsavo**



**134 Incidents of human-wildlife conflict attended**



**113,036 KM flown on aerial patrol**



**1 million+ pints of milk mixed**



**97 Milk-dependent orphans in our care**



**6,499 Snares seized**



**526 Wild animals attended by Vet Units**





## Meet ‘milk bottle inspector’ Olorien

Olorien is a young female elephant who was rescued from the Masai Mara at the tender age of 13 months, after herdsmen reported a lone calf that was trying to follow their cattle. We wonder if Olorien was desperately seeking company, as days passed and elephant herds came and went, but still she was left behind despite her plaintive cries. Having been without her mother’s milk for days and growing weaker by the second, a rescue was coordinated and took place in tandem with a veterinary treatment of an injured bull in whose distant company Olorien had sought solace. Two Nursery Keepers, armed with a stretcher, milk and IV drips, were flown from Nairobi to the Masai Mara where they met the SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Team who had rescued the calf, with the help of rangers from Narok County, Elephant Aware and Olarro Conservancy.

Olorien was brought back to the Nairobi Nursery where a warm stable awaited her. It was obvious to all that she was in a poor way; sunken cheeks, hollow temples and very nervous. However, the Keepers have successfully retrieved calves from states

of emaciation and, in between gulps of milk and water, she tucked into the buffet of greens the Keepers laid out for her with relish and lapped up attention from the older orphans. With every day that passes, Olorien looks a little healthier and has forged a close friendship with her stockade neighbours Larro and Ziwadi. An independent and self-sufficient character, Olorien’s name means “place of the olive trees” and was taken from her place of rescue so that she will always have a piece of her past wherever she goes.

### How you can help:

Olorien is a suspected victim of human-wildlife conflict but, with your help, we’re making it right. She is pampered from sunup to sundown and she’ll remain in our care for several years to come until she’s ready to return to the protected wild. An adoption can help provide for her care and her future — learn more at:

[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/orphans](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/orphans)



## Brave Bondeni isn't lacking for love

Bondeni was rescued as a new-born calf from a village bordering the Chyulu Hills in 2019. How an elephant so young came to be wandering alone remains a mystery but, given his sorry state, he must have travelled far as his tiny feet were covered in lacerations from trudging across the nearby lava fields. With the community vigilantly protecting him, the SWT helicopter flew to meet him and he was carefully tucked into the back of the aircraft with a Keeper by his side for a short flight to the SWT Kaluku Field Headquarters, which is a location tailored for neonates. Here, he initially struggled to walk with his very sore feet, so Keepers paid special attention to his wounds, cleaning them and administering topical antibiotics.

Bondeni has embraced his human rescuers without hesitation and quickly settled into life at the SWT. He spent

his early infancy playing on the river's beaches and napping under the shade of acacia trees. More recently, it became clear that he would benefit enormously from the mentorship of older elephants and, in September 2020, Bondeni joined the Nairobi Nursery. For older females like Maisha, it has been love at first sight and she along with others have provided non-stop affection to Bondeni, caressing him with their trunks and shadowing his every move.

Bondeni is a very playful bull who is constantly on the move and loves to charge any moving target. Like all baby elephants, he still needs plenty of sleep and, at night, he retires to his stable where he bunks up with a Keeper who provides tailored care throughout the night. Needless to say, everyone is absolutely enchanted by this sprightly young chap — and we guarantee you will be, too!





## Kindani: A beautiful name for a charming orphan

Kindani has survived floods, pneumonia and being orphaned - all with a quiet determination that makes her so unique. Her incredible story of survival began in 2018 when the SWT was called to rescue a one-week-old baby elephant from Meru National Park. Helicoptered from the scene to the SWT's Kaluku Field HQ, in the days that followed, Keepers battled to raise such a vulnerable baby in the face of floods which left her and our staff stranded on higher ground. Necessity is the mother of invention, however, and she spent the night in our late Founder Dame Daphne's bedroom and, later, an aircraft hangar, as the stables were rebuilt.

Having made her initial recovery at our Kaluku Field HQ, where she had the run-around of the place, in September 2020 Kindani journeyed to the Nairobi Nursery alongside Bondeni and another orphan named Kinyei. In her new location, she can now learn from the older orphans at the Nursery - although the Keepers have already remarked that she's one of the cleverest and most astute infants to come into their care! Being only two years old, however, Kindani is still at the beginning of a journey that will eventually see her re-joining the wild. For now, she remains completely reliant on her Keepers for milk, care and protection.



Babies like Kindani need milk, and plenty of it. Donations received directly to the SWT in the UK have helped fund 12,683kg of specialist formula milk in 2020 so infant milk-dependent elephants can continue to thrive.





## Naboishu: A small bull with a larger-than-life personality

Naboishu arrived in the care of the SWT Nairobi Nursery in March 2020. His name means ‘unity’ which is especially apt considering how rescuers came together to give him a second chance. His late mother, known as ‘Namunyak’, was well-known to researchers monitoring her movements in the Masai Mara. Very sadly, she passed away because of an abscess, leaving her 18-month-old calf behind. Too young to survive without her milk, the KWS County and Mara Conservancy rangers rescued the baby and the SWT flew him to the Nursery in a chartered aircraft.

As soon as the sedatives from the rescue wore off, it was clear this baby was full of spunk and fight – a great sign that he was healthy. Aided by patience and the helpful comforting rumbles from his neighbours at night, he settled into the Nursery and his early days were spent charging around

with bags of energy, immediately playing clambering games. He is in the best hands possible and the other orphans have been very accommodating of his larger-than-life personality, although he has to be occasionally reminded to be gentle with the youngsters, lest the matriarchs reprimand him. He has a huge appetite for milk and has been given the nickname of “Makelele” which is the Swahili word for being noisy, owing to the fact he runs in for milk feeds yelling loudly.





# CATCHING UP WITH RECENT GRADUATES

Big days beckoned in 2020 as eight biggies from the Nairobi Nursery took the next stage in their reintegration journeys, graduating to one of our three Reintegration Units. Now, they will begin to explore a new environment that's home to protected wild populations as they begin to gradually discover their independence. Several months on from their momentous moves, we check in to find out how they're getting on at their new homes.



## The three Tuskateers: Sattao, Musiara and Dololo

Having once been the big boys of the Nursery, where they spent most of their early lives, Dololo, Musiara and Sattao are now the cosseted babies of the Ithumba herd. In the months following their move in May 2020, they have adjusted to their new home marvellously and taken their new wild surroundings in their stride. As well as stealing the hearts of many foster parents in the UK, their Keepers report they have also become firm favourites with the older wild-living orphans who have stayed around the stockades to welcome them to the area. Everyone is especially obsessed with Dololo who has accumulated quite the entourage of eager bodyguards in the form of wild-living orphans Sities and Suguta who escort him everywhere.

For Sattao, the sight of adult elephants must have been a completely foreign one, considering his young age at rescue. Just like Dololo, Sattao was rescued from the Tsavo ecosystem, so his graduation was a homecoming of sorts for this little bull. He has been in equal parts awe-struck and yet totally unafraid in the company of the big bulls that have regularly visited Ithumba, and who will serve as his role models and mentors as he grows. Head Keeper Benjamin reports that Musiara has started to take on the role of leading the herd from place to place, a sign he's feeling comfortable with his new surroundings and family. We couldn't be more thrilled to see them settled in and, as Angela Sheldrick remarks, "It's clear they are in the right place. Tsavo is a place for giants, brimming with vast human-free spaces, room to roam and incredible mentors to teach them all they need to know."



## Tagwa and Tamiyoi find their feet at Voi

Nursery matriarchs and big girls Tagwa and Tamiyoi graduated to the Voi Reintegration Unit in June 2020 and their arrival was blessed with some of the greenest and lushest foliage the team has seen in Tsavo in a long while. The abundance of foliage has been a boon for food-loving Tamiyoi who, true to form, made the most of the grass and creepers that proliferated around Voi before the dry season kicked in. Her graduate pal Tagwa has, by contrast, taken a little longer to feel at home but the SWT Keepers report that she's enjoyed a dedicated welcome from Sagala who continues to escort the duo around. More recently, Tagwa has started to get stuck into all the activities and especially enjoys playing on the mounds of loose soil provided for the orphans to play on and which they use to cover their skin with an added protective layer.



## Keeping up with Kiko

The Nursery lost its tallest and gangliest herd member when orphaned giraffe Kiko graduated to his new home in Sirikoi, Northern Kenya, in March 2020. Nine months on since his graduation, Kiko has already made some friends, forming an eclectic little band of hooved creatures. Among them are Sirikoi's horses, as well as another orphan giraffe called Nditu who has been hand-raised at Sirikoi and, most excitingly, a wild giraffe who stops by most days to see Kiko. Most of Kiko's days are spent as they would be if he was living in the wild – browsing on fever trees – but with his Keeper Simon by his side. These trees are plentiful in Sirikoi, which is based in Lewa Conservancy and offers a protected environment in which Kiko can eventually gain his independence.





# Enkesha and Luggard couldn't be in better hands at Umani

You might remember that before their respective shocking rescues, Enkesha's trunk was nearly severed by a snare, while lion-hearted Luggard was shot in the legs and, to this day, still walks with a limp. Considering all they have been through, their graduation marked a pivotal point – one where their Keepers judged them ready to take on more independence, a crucial step to one day living in the wild.

There is no doubt that Luggard and Enkesha are in the best hands possible at the Umani Springs Reintegration Unit, a place where vulnerable survivors of horrific injuries can learn the ways of the wild in a more forgiving environment, where water and browse is abundant throughout the year. Judging by the warm reception they received, which led to joyous

rumbles echoing throughout the forest as the Umani orphans jostled around the newcomers, the SWT couldn't have chosen a better home for them either!

Luggard, in particular, has been completely and literally enveloped in love by this herd and older females Sonje and Lima Lima are particularly besotted with him. However, it is Murera that has formed the deepest bond with Luggard and is his constant companion. So comfortable are the duo that Luggard will even rest his head on her shoulder to sleep! Enkesha, who has a fiercely independent streak, has likewise found her footing here and the Keepers remark that she already knows the best browsing spots around. She's made good friends with Zongoloni and Shukuru who have taken Enkesha under their proverbial wings. It's safe to say that, in Umani Springs, Enkesha and Luggard have found their place of belonging.





## Lapa makes 37

There are few things more precious than new life and, in August 2020, the SWT was overjoyed to report that Lenana gave birth to her first calf. Visting the Ithumba Reintegration Unit as dusk settled on the evening of the 24th, Lenana proudly introduced her new-born baby boy to the Keepers that raised her, accompanied by an entourage of nannies and herd members. It would seem that Lenana wasted no time after the birth to share her hours-old calf with her human family and the dependent orphans and the landscape was alive with celebration and fanfare. Since the SWT staff met him just as the moon was rising in the sky, fittingly, Lenana's little calf has been named Lapa, which means "moon" in Samburu.

Just as humans have individual personalities, elephants are no different and the SWT Keepers have been privileged to watch this tiny bull grow in size and character over the past few

months as Lenana and her family choose to remain in the vicinity of the Ithumba Unit. They report that Lapa is full of sprite and boisterous energy. Whether it's diving headfirst into the water trough, or headbutting some of the dependent orphans, looking after Lapa is not for the faint-hearted and his nannies have their work cut out keeping a watchful eye on him.

Lapa is the 37th known calf to be born to an orphaned elephant rescued, raised, and reintegrated back into the wild by the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. His birth is a symbol of hope for the future of elephants in an often hostile human-led world and a sign of the healthy balance that can be achieved between nature and mankind.



## Lenana's story

Lenana was found as an exhausted infant standing beside her dead mother in 2006. At the time, she was just 15 months old and, robbed of the chance to grow up in the wild with her own mother, it was felt she had the best possible chance of survival in the care of the SWT. Named after one of the three peaks of Mount Kenya, in whose shadow she was found, Lenana was hand-raised by the Keepers and eventually transitioned back to the wild in Tsavo.

She often returns to the Ithumba Reintegration Unit to meet the dependent orphans after months-long jaunts in the protected National Park and has always been well known for her remarkably nurturing nature, becoming the chosen nanny for her older friends' wild-born babies, which allowed her to fine-tune her own maternal skills. Now, she is putting this into practice and the Keepers report that she's a wonderful first-time mother, ably supported by her herd-mates, which is fortuitous since they certainly have their hands full with Lapa!

Your donations are directly helping elephants like Lapa and Lenana

Through your support, the UK charity



Covers the operational costs of four De-Snaring Teams which patrol to deter poaching and other illegal activities.



Provides funding for blood testing equipment at the Nairobi Nursery to quickly diagnose illness among newly rescued orphans.



Covers maintenance costs for SWT aircraft, including new parts, so aircraft can continue to provide surveillance and monitor elephant herds and the Tsavo ecosystem.



Covers the cost of milk – the UK charity funded 14,093 tins of specialist formula milk to feed orphaned elephants this year.

## 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](mailto:louise@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org) or call **01372 378 321**.





An iconic old bull needed urgent help in the Masai Mara, suffering from an infected wound to his tail. Sky Vets came to his aid.

## SAVING WILD LIVES

For the past 17 years, the SWT has been alleviating animal suffering on an unprecedented scale across Kenya through its Veterinary Initiative. Working in diverse habitats and responding to all manner of wildlife emergencies – from injuries inflicted through human-wildlife conflict and wounds caused by snares, spears, arrow and gunshot – patients are varied and include injured and distressed elephants, rhinos, giraffes, zebras, lions and countless other species.

Locating injured animals for treatment in vast wilderness areas is the first challenge but, thankfully, the SWT is often aided by concerned tour guides, tourists, lodge staff, communities, rangers and other conservation organisations, as well as the SWT's own pilots and field teams, who report injured wildlife sightings across the country. Many of these sightings are reported to the Trust's Kaluku Field HQ, where a 24-hour Operations Room coordinates a rapid response.



**2,809 elephant cases attended to date**



**4,289 other wild animal cases attended to date**

Animals can be sighted across Kenya. Following the establishment of its first Mobile Veterinary Unit in 2003, the SWT now operates five Units in critical ecosystems including: Greater Tsavo Conservation Area and Chyulu Hills; Masai Mara and neighbouring areas; Meru National Park, Bisanadi National Reserve and Kora National Reserve; Amboseli National Park and the Southern Conservation Area; and Mount Kenya, the Aberdares and Southern Laikipia Region. Each Unit is headed by a KWS Vet and is fully mobile, serving as a 'vet on wheels' and outfitted with a custom-built Landcruiser. During 2020, the UK charity has funded the servicing of the Meru and Mount Kenya vehicles, ensuring they can



quickly and safely traverse across rugged and remote landscapes, from seasonal riverbeds to mountainous terrain. Where a local Vet Unit is unable to intervene, the Sky Vets initiative, operated in partnership with KWS, utilises the SWT's fleet of aircraft and flies a KWS Vet and their key equipment straight to the scene.

Often, rangers might remain in the area to keep an eye on the injured animal until the Vet arrives, supplying exact coordinates of the scene. First things first upon arrival, the Vet will monitor the animal from a distance to establish the type of injury and whether physical intervention is needed. In most cases, the animal will need to be darted with an anaesthetic which is tailored to the individual animal, dependent on the species and its size. In open areas, the Vet will approach in the vehicle and use the custom dart hatch to land the dart. In forested or dense bush areas, a helicopter is needed to hover the vet safely in position to deliver the anaesthetic.

Rescue ropes and straps are often overlooked pieces of equipment but can be vital to securing long-limbed animals like giraffes. Tied to the vehicle, they can also be used to roll elephants over should they fall asleep on their injured side – a very frequent occurrence! While the Vet assesses the patient, staff cover the patient's eye to reduce stimuli and prevent sun damage. For elephants, they also prop open the trunk so the airway remains unobstructed. More often than not, injuries are caused by human activities, including spears, snares and arrows, and wounds are infected or septic. Equipped with jerry cans of water, the Team can flush and thoroughly clean a wound, very often removing an embedded arrow, spear head or maggots. Then, with the injury completely disinfected, drugs including



Sky Vets flew a KWS Vet to the scene of a bull elephant who appeared to seek help at the SWT Umani Springs Eco Lodge. Straps were needed to guide the elephant to the floor during the treatment.



Arrowed in the neck in a likely case of bushmeat poaching, this zebra was treated by Sky Vets and has gone on to make a full recovery.



This young male needed treatment from the SWT/ KWS Mt Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit after he became embroiled in an altercation with another lion and suffered a debilitating wound to his foot.

pain-killers, antibiotics and anti-inflammatories can be administered. In spear, arrow and snare wounds, the Vet will also pack the injury with green clay, a natural, mineral substance which can prevent infection and aid healing. With one last check-up, the patient can be revived and, should the patient need it, the team will use ropes and their custom vehicle to help them back to their feet.



## SAVING HABITATS

### Restoring Lamu's ancient mangroves to their former glory

Mangroves are ancient, vital ecosystems which serve as habitat for marine organisms and nesting grounds for birds. With your help, the SWT is embarking on a special partnership to roll back these over-exploited and endangered ecosystems in Lamu County, where ancient mangrove forests line the coast. Over the years, these have become severely degraded as a result of over-exploitation, including for wood and fuel, threatening wildlife and communities that rely on them for habitats and protection against extreme weather.

Teaming up with Eden Reforestation Project, the initiative kicked off with the planting of 6,236 propagules (special mangrove seeds which have already started to germinate on the tree) in July 2020. Many more mangroves will be planted over the coming months by eager volunteers and newly recruited staff members from the local community, not only creating new habitats for important fish, crustaceans and birdlife, but also employment opportunities too.



#### Benefits of mangroves

- Deep root systems prevent soil erosion along fragile coastline.
- Serve as a habitat for marine organisms, while canopies provide nesting grounds for birds.
- Provide protection against extreme weather, creating a buffer between land and sea.
- Store of carbon to mitigate global warming.

**Did you know?** For the past nine years, the SWT has worked in Lamu County, partnering with community NGO, the Lamu Conservation Trust, and the Kenya Forest Service to protect over 100,000 acres of pristine wilderness on Amu and Witu Ranch along Kenya's Northern Coast line.







## The Tsavo East Triangle fire in numbers

**Where:** Tsavo East Triangle,  
Tsavo East National Park

**When:** September 2020

**Size:** 10,712 acres (the equivalent  
of 6,071 football fields)



x4 fixed wing aircraft



x2 helicopters

x2 bambi bucket



54 team members  
battling flames

49 hours flown by pilots  
monitoring the fire



6,311km covered



Millions of litres of  
water dropped

## A record firefighting season in Tsavo

Fires are a natural phenomenon in the Tsavo Conservation Area but, during 2020's dry season, the area was turned into a tinderbox as record rains earlier in the year led to dense and plentiful vegetation, which in turn became kindling in the dry season. Suspected arsonists or community activities began most of the fires which, coupled with blustery winds, sent huge swathes of wilderness up in flames. All told, between May and September 2020, the SWT responded to more than 35 bushfires in the Tsavo ecosystem, putting to the test the Trust's recent investment in firefighting training and equipment. Thanks to combined efforts, which included urgent help from local ranches, KWS community groups and other NGOs, the fires have been contained but millions of acres of habitat were lost.

## What does it take to battle a fire? SWT Pilot Neville Sheldrick explains

Fixed wing aircraft enable us to get ahead of the flames, identify areas for back burning and communicate the fire's movements to ground teams so they can fight specific points. Pilots also monitor for any flare ups, either along backburns or sections of fire that look to be successfully put out. To help reduce cycle time between water drops, aircraft also direct the helicopters to the best place to do a water drop.

On the ground, teams fight with beaters (a long stick with rubber mat on the end) and backpack sprayers. We also use water bowsers to fight fires directly and to control any flare ups when doing back burn. Back burns are set along roads ahead of a fire, thus creating a large firebreak that the oncoming fire is hopefully unable to jump.



## Rescued from the embers

While larger animals can outrun bushfires, smaller creatures aren't as fortunate. As a result, following devastating bushfires in Tsavo, an eclectic little group of orphans has come into the care of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust these past months and are being raised at the Kaluku Field HQ.



### Rukinga

An orphaned oryx, Rukinga was plucked from the flames that engulfed Rukinga Ranch. We suspect he was born only hours or days before the fire and was possibly left behind by his mother in the chaos. At the time of his rescue, he was all gangly legs and his umbilical cord was still visible. Despite all that has befallen him, he is a spritely chap with a spring in his step. He joins another oryx named Oka, an older female that has grown up at Kaluku.

### Fun fact:

Elands are antelope with beautiful twisted horns. They have an incredible ability to jump 8-10 feet straight up in the air from a standing position to escape predators!



### Susu

Baby eland Lemasusu has been nicknamed Susu for short by her Keepers. She was rescued from a fire in the Chyulu Hills and sports a distinctive black stripe running down her back and pale stripes on her sides.

Your donations are directly helping to prevent more animals being orphaned by the flames



- Through your support, the UK charity purchased a road grader to better ensure roads are accessible to rangers for patrols and for backburning during fires.
- Donations covered the cost of a new bambi bucket and repair kit so multiple aircraft can undertake water drops.





## The striped members of our herd

Some special, striped orphans have come into the care of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in recent months and are currently being hand-raised at the SWT Voi Reintegration Unit. But hand-rearing orphaned wildlife is no simple task and, sometimes, Keepers have to get creative. Why? Because zebra foals imprint on their mothers at birth, recognising their unique bar-code coat, call and smell so they can follow them, which can make raising zebras as a team a little tricky.

One solution lies in a specially-made striped coat that Keepers wear so their striped charges can imprint as they would in the wild, without being overly attached to any one person. It's just one example of the extra mile the SWT can go, through your donations, to make sure these animals, that have already suffered so much, can pull through. Over the years, this tried and tested method has resulted

in a number of rescued zebras being successfully raised and reintegrated – and it is now being employed to help Nzuki and Diria!

Diria is the older of the two foals, and was orphaned after his mother was killed by a pride of lions, surviving only because he ran into a herd of goats for shelter. A few months later, Nzuki was rescued as an orphan by the Kenya Wildlife Service from an area near Rombo known as Nzukini. In recognition of his place of rescue, we named him Nzuki, which means 'bee' in Kikamba. Just like the buzzing insects, Nzuki sports some bright stripes of his own!

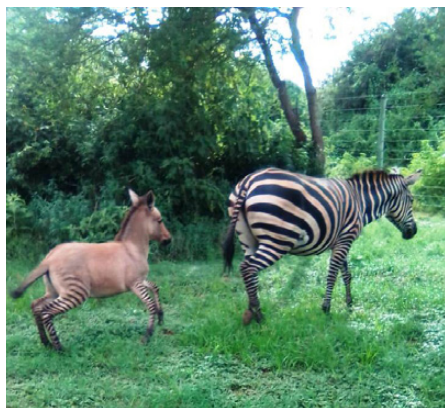
At Voi, Keepers are giving Diria and Nzuki the specialist 24/7 care they need to have the very best chance of survival. As they grow, they are beginning to interact more with their wild world and the duo spends much of the day out and about in the company of our wider orphan family which includes the elephant orphans and two orphaned buffalo, as well as the Keepers in green who watch over this unusual family as they march across the plains!

## Field news in brief



### It's a zonkey!

A zebra in the Chyulu Hills National Park has given birth to a rare baby Zonkey. The mother is a female zebra who was relocated by the SWT/KWS Tsavo Vet Unit after she made herself at home among community members' cattle. It would seem that just before she moved to the protected area, she had been acquainted with an amorous donkey! Mum and baby are thriving, protected by the SWT/KWS Kenze De-Snaring Team which is directly funded by your donations, and their story has captivated the media the world over.



### Relocating seven mischievous bulls

When the antics of seven bulls in the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary threatened the water supply (and thus, survival) for the rhinos and other creatures within the sanctuary, the SWT/KWS Tsavo Vet Unit and Air Wing was called upon to safely relocate the offenders into the protected Tsavo West National Park. The joint operation with KWS was a success, with the SWT relocation truck and KWS truck playing a pivotal role in transporting the elephants, both of these vehicles having been funded by the SWT in the UK!

### Supporting field teams during Covid-19

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the SWT in the UK has covered key operational costs to help ensure the field teams can continue to work at full capacity, so that wildlife remains protected during this challenging time. Key funding has included: food rations and supplies for Keepers, De-Snaring Teams and field personnel, vehicle spares to ensure patrols can continue in rugged environments and also Covid-19 testing kits.



## New Water trough

Part funded by the SWT UK charity, a brand new trough, fed by a borehole and operated by a submersible solar powered pump, is now in action in Tsavo East National Park. Using a clever design, four separate water points have been developed from one borehole with an outer drinking area for smaller animals, a rock structure to allow weary and thirsty birds a safe perch from which to drink and a managed run off into water pans and a wetland area. Not only that, but a special bowser-filling station has also been created for the SWT's water bowsters to fill up and deliver water to dried up natural water pans.



## Rest in peace Nelion

In August 2020, we bade a gut-wrenching farewell to Nelion. He had been injured in a lion attack (young males are natural prey for lions) and, despite veterinary care, he succumbed to his injuries. Nelion was a nine-year-old orphaned elephant we hand raised from infancy after he was found alone in the Mount Kenya region. At the time of his passing, he had reintegrated back into the wild.



# Meet the SWT Team: George Mutui

SWT Field HQ Control Room Operator

Working for the SWT since 2016

## How did you come to be passionate about wildlife?

I have grown up within Kenya's protected areas. My father worked for 35 years at KWS until he retired. Over the years, he worked in Meru National Park, Aberdare National Park... I had the benefit of growing up in all these special places.

## Tell us what you studied to lead you to where you are today.

Initially, I studied information technology [but] it did not satisfy my love of Kenya's National Parks. I became a ranger and went to the paramilitary school. I was then given a scholarship to study ecology in Brazil. I loved the experience, but Africa was calling. After working on the ivory census in 2015, I was offered the role of Control Room Operator for the SWT.

## How would you describe your role at the SWT?

All our field teams report into the control room daily, with all action meticulously accounted for in the incident books. It is a 24-hour operation, because animals and those that mean to do them harm do not operate within a nine-to-five timeframe. In this regard, it is challenging.

## How many people are you providing communication support for?

We have thirteen Anti-Poaching Teams, a Canine Unit, five Veterinary Units, three orphan rehabilitation units, and KWS call into the ops room with



their daily requests for support as well. My job is to help coordinate the teams. Safe to say, many hundreds of people are reliant on effective communicational support and coordination when needs arise. Each day throws up a completely new set of circumstances, which keeps life in the operations room very busy and exciting.

## What do you love most about your job?

Being in the bush! Here at our Kaluku Field Headquarters, in the heart of the Tsavo Conservation Area, we are immersed in nature in all her glory.

**We, along with George, would like to thank supporters in the UK who have directly helped to fund water purification systems at Kaluku for staff and new handheld and office/vehicle radios for all anti-poaching teams and the SWT Ops Room, ensuring teams can remain in contact with George and our Field HQ at all times.**

**Read more staff profiles** by signing up to Field Notes, a monthly email update from the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Sign up to receive it directly to your inbox at:

[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/email-subscriptions](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/email-subscriptions)



## NEW IN STORE

Our online shop is an wildlife-lover's delight with a vast array of SWT branded items inspired by elephants. Here are some of our favourite products on the shelves...



£10

Be like an elephant and never forget your pressing engagements (or family birthdays) with our Orphans' Project Calendar.

£28



Bring Angela Sheldrick's gorgeous water colours into your home with our pack of prints.



£28

Show your support wherever you go with the SWT elephant necklace.

£5.99



Bring to life the story of Garzi in our first children's book. Perfect for bedtime!

£14



Stay stylish with safari-themed baseball caps, featuring the SWT logo.

£45



Brand new! Super soft SWT branded eco-conscious zip up hoodies.

Available to purchase at [sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/shop](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/shop)

## News from the UK

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### Fundraiser takes to the sky

In an epic attempt to raise funds for our lifesaving projects, supporter Gillian Flack took on yet another personal challenge... this time taking on Wing Walking in August 2020. Her friends and family gave generously, and she exceeded her target by a long shot, raising over £2900 for her efforts. Thank you Gillian!

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### Pedal Power

Inspired by his adoption of Apollo the rhino and having not long learned to ride a bike, 7 year old Rayaana and his friend Federico took on the challenge of cycling 9 kilometres around London in order to raise funds for the Trust. The challenge took place on a windy day in June 2020 and Rayaana and Federico raised over £700, proving that no matter your age, you can make a difference.

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### In remembrance of Patricia Newton

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Patricia Newton, a long-time supporter of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and adopter to orphan Mukkoka. Patricia loved to keep up with Mukkoka's progress, even planning a visit to see him following a diagnosis of terminal cancer. At Patricia's funeral, her friends and family generously donated in her memory, raising £250.



## Our Herd of Hope finds a new home in Spitalfields

From the plains of Kenya to the heart of London, our bronze elephant sculptures are now making their way through the iconic Spitalfields Market in London. Our herd first arrived in London in December 2019, taking up residence in Marble Arch. Now the elephants have migrated across the city to enjoy a new habitat and engage even more people.

Walk amongst our 21 life-sized bronze elephants and get to know each of the 20 smaller orphan elephants which represent real-life orphans in our care. As well as featuring the name of the elephant they symbolise, each orphan has a scannable QR code allowing you to watch their rescue videos and directly support their rehabilitation journey, so that even if you can't visit us in East Africa, you have another opportunity to join our herd.

**Free to visit.** More information at:  
[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/herd-of-hope](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/herd-of-hope)



### Inspiring conservation through art

Tommy is a proud member of a conservation club at his primary school in Wiltshire, led by Kids' Tusk Force UK. He decided to visit our Herd of Hope and 'meet' his favourite orphan elephant, Ndotto. Inspired by the herd, Tommy decided to have a go at making some sculptures of his own, creating likenesses of Ndotto and Ngilai, Kiko the giraffe and Maxwell the black rhino, all watched over by one of the SWT Nursery Keepers.

For more ideas to inspire children in their love of elephants and conservation – whether at home or in the classroom – discover the SWT's free downloads and learning resources available through our Education Program at:  
[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/education](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/education)



## An everyday pouch with an extraordinary purpose

We were thrilled this year to have the opportunity to team up with luxury accessories brand Elizabeth Scarlett for a special collaboration, with a limited edition elephant pouch added to the designer's ever-popular range.

Sumptuously soft, delicately embroidered and in a palette of colours synonymous with Tsavo, the 'Pouch for Purpose' was created in honour of the Orphans' Project. For every pouch sold, Elizabeth Scarlett supported the Sheldrick Trust by donating two bottles of milk for an orphan elephant.

The design of the pouch reflects the ultimate aim of the Orphans' Project – raising milk-dependent orphan elephants and returning them to the wild where they can begin families of their own. And this goal is one that was taken to heart by Elizabeth Scarlett fans and SWT supporters alike: released on World Elephant Day, the pouch sold out in a matter of weeks, raising an incredible £12,500 towards milk for the orphans, equating to 5,000 bottles.



If you missed out on the limited edition launch but still want to get your hands on one of these gorgeous pouches, you're in luck! The pouch design and the concept behind it proved so popular that it is being re-added to Elizabeth Scarlett's collection at [elizabethscarlett.com](https://elizabethscarlett.com) and will be available from early February 2021, in support of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.



## NEW! Prints for Conservation

Renowned wildlife photographer Federico Veronesi supports the SWT through his limited edition fine-art prints, donating 10% of the sale price from all images shot in East Africa. Visit [federicoveronesi.com](https://federicoveronesi.com) to view his stunning work, which features elephants, big cats and the very best of Africa's iconic wildlife.



### **An illustrative step inside the orphans' stables**

Our corporate partners often support the charity in more ways than one. With her whimsical range of greetings cards for all occasions, animal-loving illustrator Louise Mulgrew has been proudly supporting the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust through her business since July 2019, donating 1% of company turnover.

Last year, we also enlisted Louise's help in bringing to life our ideas for a cosy stable-themed Christmas card. The design received such a wonderful response that, for 2020, we set out



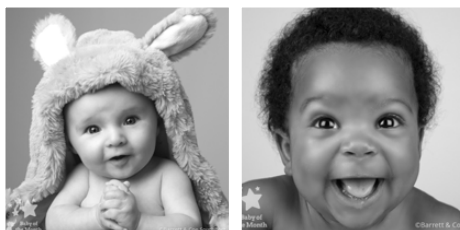
to make our Christmas cards even more special, working with Louise to create two additional stable scenes.

Our special SWT Christmas cards have already sold out, but if you want to send Season's Greetings in support of elephants, be sure to check out Louise Mulgrew's adorable and eco-conscious range of cards at [louisemulgrew.com](http://louisemulgrew.com) with all purchases giving back to the SWT, as well as supporting tree planting efforts.

### **Baby photos in support of baby elephants**

Special thanks to Baby of the Month for generating a further £5,000 for the Sheldrick Trust through entry fees into their monthly contest, linked with baby photography experiences across affiliated studios:

**[babyphotographers.co.uk](http://babyphotographers.co.uk)**



**Baby of the Month**



## Conservation is a Community Effort

by Angela Sheldrick, CEO Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

If we are to create a future for elephants and other wild animals, we must also support the people who live alongside them. Nearly half of Kenya's 45 million people live below the poverty line, and for families struggling to make ends meet, conservation efforts fall low on the list of priorities. Communities bordering national parks often view wildlife — particularly creatures as large and potentially destructive as elephants — as threats to their livelihood and very survival.

We are working to change that. Undoubtedly, the greatest conservation champions are our staff. We hire local Kenyans and, for many of our team, their work is much more than a job — it is a calling. Just look at someone like

Benjamin, our Head Keeper in Ithumba. He grew up believing that elephants were dangerous animals. A chance visit to our Nursery more than two decades ago changed that perception, and he has made it his life's work to rehabilitate orphaned elephants. Benjamin's commitment is echoed in all our staff, from Keepers to mechanics, Anti-Poaching rangers to Eco Lodge staff. Everyone knows that they are an integral part of something important, and they put their heart and soul into their work.

Many forms of community support come through tangible solutions. Human-wildlife conflict has become one of the gravest threats to conservation so, over the years, we have erected more than 300 kilometres of electric



fencelines along key habitats. Not only do these “wild borders” on the vulnerable boundaries keep elephants from marauding into communities and raiding crops, but they also inhibit trespassers and livestock from entering protected land. And now, when so many Kenyans are struggling immensely due to the pandemic, we have bolstered food donations to communities living on the boundaries of Tsavo. Meals are a lifeline for local families as they navigate this challenging period. It’s good for conservation, too: When our communities aren’t struggling, illegal activity declines.

While we are cognisant of immediate solutions, we are also always thinking about the future. Just as we are invested in the long-term welfare of Kenya’s wildlife, we are equally committed to the people who live alongside them. Working with charitable partners, we sponsor students from the environs of the Tsavo Conservation Area. We select and sponsor bright and dedicated

children who come from impoverished families, and would not otherwise be able to go to secondary school and on to university. Community leaders from the areas we support are committed to our conservation efforts, opening hearts and minds to the value of protecting the environment.

Ithumba Head Keeper Benjamin Kyalo and our Keepers regularly speak on Kenyan radio about the importance of protecting wildlife.



Free school field trips give students the chance to visit our Voi Reintegration



During 2020, the SWT provided essential food to communities living on the border of Tsavo National Parks.

# ADOPT AN ORPHAN

Adoptions help support the SWT's work to rescue and hand-raise orphaned elephants and ensure all the babies at our Nursery - and beyond - 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 by email a personalised adoption certificate, access to our latest Keepers Diaries, as well as other exclusives including videos and a monthly watercolour by Angela Sheldrick.

[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/adopt](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/adopt)

#### GET IN TOUCH

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