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ISSUE 34

# Habari!

SAVING WILD LIVES TODAY · SECURING HABITATS FOR THE FUTURE





## Welcome

Earlier this year, the International Union for Conservation of Nature confirmed that elephants are now 'Endangered'. But we won't let extinction happen on our watch and while poaching remains a continued threat to elephants across Africa, in Kenya at least, the future is brighter. Elephant poaching fell by 90% in the six years prior to 2020, while the country's elephant population has risen to more than 34,000. You are playing your role in this: the kindness and commitment of supporters has enabled the Sheldrick Trust to maintain and grow its field operations, as you'll read in this edition.

**Rob Brandford**  
Executive Director

## How is the SWT helping Kenya's endangered elephants?

A multi-faceted approach to conservation is at the heart of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's projects.



Orphaned milk-dependent infants are rescued, hand-raised and reintegrated back into the protected wild.



Pilots scour elephant habitats, reporting signs of illegal activities and locations of injured elephants.



Five SWT/KWS Mobile Vet Units plus Sky Vets treat injured elephants across the country.



16 SWT/KWS De-Snaring Teams confiscate snares and assist KWS to arrest poachers.



Work with local partners to conserve elephant corridors and pathways to stop habitat fragmentation.



Reforestation programs in elephant ecosystems provide forage, shade and habitat.



267km of electric and beehive fencelines prevent crop-raiding and human-wildlife conflict.



Fund and operate teams to maintain roads for security patrols.



Extra water provisions during the dry season in the Tsavo Conservation Area.



Education initiatives to foster a new generation of conservationists.





## Lemeki is saved from floods

It was a small miracle that Lemeki lived to tell the tale of her river odyssey. She was pulled from the raging flood waters of the Mara River by brave Mara Elephant Project scouts in March 2018. Hauled to safety before she could be swept further downstream, this lone 1-week-old elephant faced an uncertain future, as her prolonged time in the water left her dangerously vulnerable to pneumonia.

With Nairobi itself under torrents of rain, and her fragile health and little life on the line, the SWT helicopter flew Lemeki - named after her area of rescue - directly to the Kaluku Field Headquarters. Here, where nourishment, healing hands and, most importantly, warmth beckoned, giving Lemeki the very best shot of survival.

As the first orphan to be hand-raised at Kaluku, in time, a neonate Nursery was built around Lemeki's needs. The intensive and experienced care she is receiving has done just the trick for this little girl who has grown from a fragile newborn into a boisterous and noisy little calf. She is brimming with personality and is truly one-of-a-kind, whose outsized personality enchants everyone and everything in her path, even a recently hatched flock of vulturine guineafowl, of whom she is now the designated leader.



Adoptions help save the animals you love, including orphaned elephants like Lemeki. She is currently growing up at our Kaluku Field HQ and needs 24/7 care so that when she's grown up she can roam wild and free, as she was born to do.

Find out how you can adopt her at:  
[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/adopt](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/adopt)



## Rama's remarkable progress

All alone, bow-legged and growing weaker by the day, Rama's prospects were looking bleak prior to his rescue. This three-year-old bull had been found on El Karama Ranch in Laikipia, far too young to be without his family. His back legs were severely bowed, impairing his mobility and, as the weeks went by, rangers watched as the young bull grew ever more forlorn and lonely, largely ignored by passing elephants and becoming increasingly vulnerable to predators.

In February 2020, once it was abundantly clear that he was indeed an orphan, the Kenya Wildlife Service gave the green light for a rescue. Since Rama was too big to be transported to the Nursery by air, the Sheldrick Trust set the wheels in motion for a ground operation, sending its elephant-moving truck north to collect this precious cargo and bring Rama safely back to Nairobi.



Rama's early days at the Nursery were touch and go: He was in fragile health, riddled with worms and he collapsed frequently. IV drips were critical to his improvement, as were regular milk feeds which brought him back to life. Now, after many weeks of intensive care, he has turned a corner for the better and has begun to make new friends – a positive sign that he is on the mend. His favourite pastime has also become evident; Rama is at his happiest sliding into the mud bath and plastering his body with mud.

While it remains to be seen whether his bow legs will impact his later life, we are mindful that the Umani Springs Reintegration Unit will offer him a gentle environment to establish his independence when grown.





## Kinyei beats the odds to thrive

Kinyei arrived in the care of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in July 2018 from a conservancy in the Maasai Mara that bears her name. This lone tiny calf was lucky to be alive and somehow avoided being eaten by a nearby pride of lions. It would seem that she sought safety in a group of three adult bull elephants, but these excellent bodyguards could not provide the nourishment and care she needed to survive.

A combined effort from OI Kinyei Conservancy Rangers, Porini Cheetah Camp staff, Mara Elephant Project and the Kenya Wildlife Service resulted in the rescue of Kinyei and she spent her first months at the SWT's Kaluku Neonate Unit, a specialist centre for the most fragile orphans who can benefit from extra care and a warmer climate. Three months in, however, she developed a bad stomach and lost condition. Emergency treatment, coupled with day and night care from experienced Keepers, saw her through this precarious ill-health and, by September 2020, she was strong enough to graduate to the Nairobi Nursery.

### How your donations help orphans like Kinyei



Kinyei and all the milk-dependent orphans need nourishing milk to survive. Donations received directly to the SWT in the UK have already helped fund 8,640kg (over 8 tons!) of specialist formula milk this year, as well as the provision of 50 new feeding bottles, so that these orphans can get the nutrients they need to thrive.



In 2020, the SWT in the UK also provided the funding for blood testing equipment at the Nairobi Nursery to quickly diagnose illness among newly rescued orphans.

A shy but friendly character, Kinyei is currently stabled near to Maxwell's quarters, but she appears to be a little unsure of the blind black rhino and keeps her distance. Instead, she prefers to fraternise with her close friends and original BFF's Bondeni and Kindani. Kinyei's greatest passion, however, is browsing and she is all business when it comes to foraging. She loves her Keepers and, now surrounded by so much love and support, she is thriving.





♂  
**Zurura**

A bantam baby rescued from a ruby mine in 2005, Zurura was named after the Swahili word for 'Wanderer'. This 15-year-old big friendly giant went wild from the Ithumba Unit.



♀  
**Ukame**

Named in ode to the drought that left her orphaned, Ukame survived tremendous ill health. In 2021, she joined Yatta's wild-living herd as a nanny to Cheka and Lapa.

## Our wild family

The journey from rescue to wild for an orphaned elephant can span a decade, involving years of day and night care from dedicated Keepers. Of course, in an ideal world, these elephants would be growing up with their mothers, but the Sheldrick Trust offers the next best thing. To date, 174 rescued orphan elephants have been successfully raised and returned to conservation areas, roaming free as they were born to, but still protected by the SWT ground and air teams. Here we introduce some of these individuals, many of whom have been sighted at the Trust's Reintegration Units recently.



♀  
**Mweya**

An orphan from Uganda, Mweya's transition to the wild from the Voi Unit has been so successful that she became a mother in 2019.



♀  
**Yatta**

Now an established matriarch, Yatta was rescued in 1999 as a suspected orphan of poaching. She is a confident character and mother of two, living wild in the Tsavo Conservation Area.



♂  
**Challa**

Challa was found malnourished among a herd of livestock in 2005. He is now a 16-year-old free roaming bull who mentors the younger orphans.





## ♀ Chyulu's story

Chyulu's story began in 2006 when SWT rangers on a routine anti-poaching patrol came across a tiny five-month-old elephant calf trapped in a drying waterhole. The rangers rolled up their trousers and waded in to pull her to safety, and an operation was put into motion to bring the suspected poaching orphan to the safety of the Nursery. Named after her place of rescue, the comforting presence of a human-elephant family, together with a combination of essential ingredients including milk, rehydration salts and an antibiotic injection, proved to be a recipe of success for Chyulu who thrived at the Nursery.

To prepare Chyulu for a life in the wild, the Trust moved her to the Ithumba Reintegration Unit in 2010. Here she honed her natural instincts and formed a herd with her fellow orphans, gradually gaining independence from her Keepers. In time, Chyulu became an official member of Tsavo's wild elephant population and took on the role of nanny when calves were born to friends within her herd. In late 2020, her own turn at motherhood came when Chyulu gave birth to a little boy named Cheka, which means 'laugh' in Swahili. We couldn't be prouder to see this naturally nurturing elephant start her own family; a reminder of the impact saving just one elephant can have on future generations!



### 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**.



## Snaring and it's terrible toll on wildlife

Snaring is a crude form of hunting wild animals, usually for the illegal bushmeat trade. Nooses, made of metal wire, nylon, rope, heavy-duty cables or even vegetable fibres are laid along animal pathways or near watering holes, at a specific height to ensnare a wild animal's leg or neck. When trapped, animals struggle to free themselves and the noose tightens, leaving victims to slowly succumb to death from starvation, dehydration, or their injuries. The hunting of wild animals for bushmeat is illegal in Kenya, as is the transportation, possession and purchase of bushmeat (meat of wild animals).

### The impact on wildlife

Snares are indiscriminate, posing a threat to any wild animal, from tiny dik-diks to towering giraffes, elands and elephants, African wild dogs and even lions. As bushmeat markets continue to thrive, the illegal practice of snaring has become commercialised, with poachers laying hundreds of snares in a given area. The impact can be catastrophic for local populations of wildlife and poses a real threat to the survival of predators as their natural prey is depleted. Oftentimes, where rangers find a spate of snaring, there is also evidence of other wildlife crimes impacting the wider ecosystem, such as logging and charcoal burning.

### Making a difference



SWT-funded teams, in partnership with KWS, operate in three ecosystems across Kenya.



9,067 snares confiscated in 2020.  
A 79% increase since 2019.



1,590kg of bushmeat confiscated in 2020. An 80% increase since 2019.



Dik-dik and giraffe are among the most commonly killed animals for bushmeat.

### New teams aim to stop poachers

Throughout 2020-2021, the Sheldrick Trust has increased its Anti-Poaching capacity; launching two new teams, with a third coming online imminently. These teams will bolster the Trust's presence in the Greater Tsavo Conservation Area to ensure wildlife remains safe from poachers.





## On the front line of conservation

As guardians of Kenya's wildlife, rangers are the first and last line of defense for our natural world. Patrolling on foot and by vehicle, the SWT/KWS De-Snaring Teams work vigilantly to make life as difficult as possible for bushmeat poachers. Rangers are trained in law enforcement and snare detection, and comb wildlife habitats daily, confiscating and seizing any traps they find. Routine patrols are focused on areas that are popular with poachers, including animal pathways, watering holes and conservation boundaries, with rangers also deployed in response to community intelligence or observations from the SWT Airwing. The teams also lay ambushes for bushmeat poachers, accompanied by armed KWS rangers who make any arrests.

Since wire snares are frequently made from fencelines, the Trust ensures its own fencelines are constantly monitored by maintenance teams. These teams patrol SWT-erected fencelines to deter poachers, but also to identify if the fence has been cut so that any damage can be quickly repaired, thereby securing boundaries and preventing incidents of human-wildlife conflict.

**Your donations are directly saving animals from snaring**

**Through your support, the UK charity has:**



Covered the operational costs of four De-Snaring Teams who patrol to deter and arrest bushmeat poachers and confiscate snares.



Equipped SWT rangers with torches, drinking vessels, as well as new uniforms and sturdy boots.



Funded and customised vehicles for two new De-Snaring Teams, and covered the servicing costs of field vehicles to ensure they remain operational.



Funded replacement tyres for veterinary vehicles enabling Vet Units to mount a rapid response to snaring victims.



Provided cameras, laptops and projectors to KWS Manyani Training Academy for use to train rangers.



Covered the operational costs of the Mount Kenya Vet Unit and funded new digital radio equipment so Vet Units receive immediate notifications of injured animals.

# Meet a SWT Ranger: Godwin Mutunga

Anti-Poaching Team Leader, Kenze Team  
Working for the SWT since 2011

**How did you become interested in a career in conservation?** Since I was young, I have had a passion for wildlife. After finishing my education, I wanted to be a ranger - a soldier for wildlife. When I began working in the Kibwezi Forest as gatekeeper, there was an issue of people taking firewood. This was before the Umani Springs Reintegration Unit existed, and the Kibwezi Forest was a very different place. I saw the problems first-hand.

**What impact have regular anti-poaching patrols had on the Kibwezi Forest?** The Kibwezi Forest has changed on a great level. When we began working here... Trees were being cut down and it was unusual to sight any wildlife, especially elephants, because the forest was so congested with people. We have managed to reduce poaching to a very low point, because we are patrolling every part of the forest. We have informers from the community, so the moment a person tries to enter the park, we are alerted.

**Fighting bushfires kept you very busy last year. Tell us about that.** We have been very busy fighting fires in the Chyulus over the past several years, but especially last year. This is another tactic used by poachers.



They know that when they light a fire, it will divert everyone to that spot, giving them a chance to enter the park somewhere else.

**What is your favourite aspect of your job?** My favourite part of the job is rescuing the animals. Just last week, we managed to free a hartebeest from a snare. We got to it in time, and off it went.

**We, along with Godwin, would like to thank supporters in the UK who have directly helped to fund anti-poaching activities, ranger equipment and ranger feasts, ensuring rangers like Godwin can continue to safely patrol each day.**

**Read more staff profiles** by signing up to Field Notes, a monthly email update from the SWT with insights from Angela Sheldrick.

Sign up to receive it directly to your inbox at:  
[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/  
email-subscriptions](mailto:sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/email-subscriptions)







## Vets to the rescue

Time is of the essence when it comes to treating snared animals: Snares can cause immense suffering while shock, starvation, muscle or joint damage and infection can prove fatal.

Luckily the SWT-funded Mobile Vet Units are equipped with custom-built, rapid response vehicles to quickly traverse the toughest terrain and reach trapped and injured animals. They are also supported by the Trust's Aerial Surveillance Unit which utilises helicopters or bush planes to fly vets directly to the scene without delay, so that snared animals stand a chance of survival.



**186 snared elephants attended to date**



**106 snared giraffes attended to date**

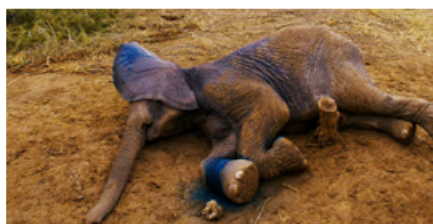


**301 other snared animals attended to date**

## Helping a snared calf

A wandering elephant calf can easily become the innocent victim of a snare. Between January and April, the Trust mobilised to treat not one, but two infants for snare wounds. This included a young calf in an inaccessible spot by the Tana River, in Ndera Community Conservancy, who had become tethered to a rope snare attached to a stake.

Unable to free itself, Conservancy scouts reported its plight and, soon, the wheels were in motion for an emergency operation to free the calf and spare it from a tragic end. With time of the essence, the Sky Vets initiative flew a KWS Vet to the scene, dodging thunderstorms in order to reach the patient. A few hours later, the calf was successfully freed and reunited with its nearby family.





**Did you know?** When Kenya's National Parks were established back in the 1940s, the black rhino was chosen as their symbol.

## A lasting legacy: Safeguarding Kenya's rhinos

Black rhinos have always featured heavily in the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's story, even forming a part of the charity's original logo! This long and rich history of saving and protecting critically endangered black rhinos goes back to the SWT's early beginnings and continues to this day with your support.

### Rescuing orphaned rhinos

To date, the Trust has successfully rescued 17 orphaned rhinos following a blueprint of success that was first established by the SWT's late Founder, Dame Daphne Sheldrick, and her husband David Sheldrick. Together, they pioneered the milk formula and husbandry needed to hand-raise orphaned black and white rhinos, which has since been replicated in sanctuaries across the world. Many of the orphaned rhinos hand-raised by the Trust were free-released in Tsavo in the 1990s, although blind black rhino Maxwell remains in the care of the Nairobi Nursery as his congenital condition means he

can never be re-wilded. Confirming the intergenerational impact of the Orphans' Project, in 2020 the Trust's rhino family got a bit bigger when wild-living orphan Solio gave birth to a little boy named Sultan.

### Protecting rhino habitat

Even in the SWT's earliest days, the Trust sought to create safe havens for rhinos, helping to establish Kenya's first fenced rhino sanctuary in Lake Nakuru National Park and later, in Tsavo West National Park. This tradition continued in 2018 when the SWT funded the extension and upgrade of the Meru Rhino Sanctuary, an important stronghold for Kenya's rhino population situated within Meru National Park.

At the request of KWS, and thanks to global donations, the SWT nearly doubled the size of the Sanctuary in Meru to 83.5km<sup>2</sup>, providing more space for the growing resident rhino population that lives within the sanctuary's protected



boundaries. As part of the upgrade, two security bases, which house KWS rangers, and a new perimeter electric fenceline were also built. Signifying a commitment to this sanctuary, the SWT continues to fund fence maintenance teams and operates a De-Snaring Team in the area.

## **Poaching has driven the black rhino to the brink of extinction. Around 5,000 black rhinos remain in the wild, 800 of them in Kenya.**

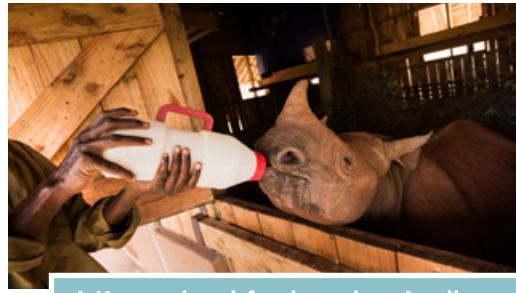
### **Supporting rhino monitoring**

To keep track of Kenya's remaining rhinos, almost all animals are marked with unique ear notches to help rangers identify them in the wild. Over the years, the Sheldrick Trust has played a pivotal role in rhino ear notching operations, most recently during January 2021 in the Tsavo East Intensive Patrol Zone. With the help of the SWT's fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter, as well as the SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, six rhinos were located, anaesthetised, notched and fitted with radio transmitters. One unrecorded newborn calf was also sighted by the Airwing, bringing the area's population to 19.

The SWT in the UK has recently funded four Land Cruisers to KWS for security patrols and rhino monitoring, ensuring greater country-wide protection for these critically endangered animals.

### **Treating rhinos**

Over the years, the SWT-funded Vet Units have attended to 459 black rhinos, providing emergency and timely treatment to ensure Kenya's rhino population is fighting-fit.



**A Keeper hand-feeds orphan Apollo.**



**New security bases at Meru Sanctuary.**



**Keepers hand-raise Solio.**



**Vets notch a rhino for monitoring.**



## Meet the Herd

As lockdown restrictions gradually ease and as the sun begins to herald in the summer months, our Herd of Hope is ready and waiting in the open air at Spitalfields Market in London. Having been positioned to raise awareness of the threats facing elephants, they also seek to inspire the public to play a part in protecting this

## Featured orphans

Featuring 21 bronze elephants, each of the smaller sculptures in the Herd of Hope exhibit represents an orphan in the Trust's real-life elephant herd. Each individual has faced life-threatening difficulties, from poaching to human-wildlife conflict and natural disaster. In honour of their individual stories, the installation gives you a chance to meet these orphans.

Created by internationally acclaimed artists Gillie and Marc, the sculptures aim to raise funds and awareness for this next generation of elephants who will become the elephants of tomorrow, growing up loved and supported thanks to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and our supporters.



**Maisha** was found collapsed during a prolonged drought. It is likely she became separated from her herd after she became too weak to keep up with the search for food and water.



**Mukkoka** owes his rescue - and almost certainly his life - to a routine aerial patrol which identified his lone footsteps. A multi-team operation to save him commenced, bringing him to the Nursery for intensive care.

**Kiombo's** sunken cheeks were a clear sign to rescuers that he was starving. He settled into the Nursery seamlessly, as if understanding he had found a new family.







## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT

Visit: [sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/herd-of-hope](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/herd-of-hope) to plan your trip and make the most of our free activities:



Watch our virtual video tour to get a sense of what to expect!



Take your smartphone along with you to take part in our quiz, which guides you around the sculpture



Find a scannable QR code at the base of each sculpture, so you can learn all about the orphan that is represented.



We've shared a full list of the orphans found in the exhibit so you don't miss any.



## Field news in brief

### An update on Kiko ▲

One year on from his graduation to Sirikoi Lodge, orphaned giraffe Kiko has found his footing and is starting to fraternise with wild giraffes in the area, another positive step forward for this orphan of two worlds. His daily companions also include Sirikoi's herd of horses and Nditu, an orphan giraffe who has been hand-raised, just like Kiko.

### Apollo is growing up ▼

Orphaned black rhino Apollo has grown up fast since his rescue in September 2019. As he's gotten bigger, the Trust has adapted the care it provides too: Apollo now takes water instead of a nightly bottle of milk and, most recently, he moved into an open stockade where he rests safely from dusk 'til dawn. This new stable is surrounded by an electric fence to protect him from lions at night, and offers the burly bull more space, with a roof overhead to shield him from the elements.

### Did you know?

The SWT in the UK has recently funded the rehabilitation of the Voi borehole and the drilling of another borehole at a specially chosen site at Kiasa, in the Tsavo Conservation Area. This will ensure wildlife has access to drinking water even during the dry season, mitigating the need for animals to leave the safety of the Park in search of water and sustenance, which can result in human-wildlife conflict.







## 2020 Annual Newsletter ▼

Featuring a foreword by Angela Sheldrick, this visually resplendent newsletter features 124 pages of stunning imagery and updates, covering all the SWT's field projects, including some lesser-known conservation initiatives. It makes for a wonderful in-depth read, showing how your support is making a real difference in the field to protect our cherished natural world.

## Treating One Ton ▲

One Ton is a tusker who has presided over the Chyulu's for more than 50 years. An urgent operation unfolded in March to help him when he incurred a life-threatening fight-related injury, necessitating immediate and ultimately successful in-the-field treatment from the Sky Vets initiative.



## Fit for flight ▼

The Trust's Airwing is vital to its ability to patrol vast areas, with each aircraft specially chosen for its capability to monitor wildlife populations, transport a team of rangers, mount a rapid response to anti-poaching and veterinary operations, or attend orphan rescues. To maintain the fleet, the Trust has its Airwing mechanics but, every 12 years, helicopters require a complete overhaul and replacement of parts to legally fly. The SWT in the UK recently covered the costs of this overhaul for the helicopter, ensuring this vital aircraft in the aerial arsenal can safely continue to fly, patrol and save wildlife for years to come. The UK charity also covered the costs of a new plane hangar, and emergency parts for aircraft, in the past year.



## News from the UK

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Trunks up to all our supporters who have supported the SWT through fundraisers in recent months, helping us raise critical funds and awareness for wildlife in Kenya. At a time when so much in our own lives has been uncertain, we are deeply grateful that you have shown a continued commitment to our natural world.

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## Hold your own Facebook fundraiser

If you would like to raise funds for the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, why not consider a Facebook fundraiser? These can be for a specific event or in honour of your birthday. They offer an easy and accessible way to raise funds with your friends and family without having to leave your home. Plus, we receive 100% of the donations made!

Find out more about fundraising for us at: [sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/get-involved/fundraise](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/get-involved/fundraise)

## Making strides in honour of elephants

Avid supporter Heather Parsons decided to go above and beyond for her birthday this year, planning a 50km walk in order to raise funds for the Trust's vital projects. Not only did she raise a fantastic sum of \$600, she also ended up walking 91km instead, all in one morning! We are so grateful for Heather's support and commitment, who is already busy planning her next fundraiser.

## In remembrance of Darren Swallow

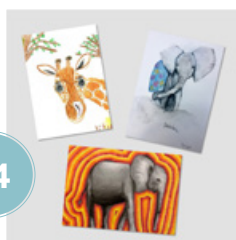
We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of dedicated supporter Darren Swallow in January of this year, following a long battle with cancer. Darren was a lover of elephants and a great supporter of the SWT's work, setting up many fundraisers and taking part in our Enormous Elephant Run with his fiancée, Jo. Darren enjoyed following the progress of his adopted elephant Kamok and had a soft spot for Maxwell the rhino too. Darren's family kindly set up a Facebook fundraiser to raise funds in his memory, in place of being able to hold a memorial service at this time due to Covid restrictions, and over £800 pounds has been raised in Darren's honour.





## SHOP TO SUPPORT

Our online shop sells a vast array of Sheldrick Trust branded items, inspired by elephants. 100% of the proceeds benefit the SWT's conservation projects to protect, preserve and conserve wildlife and habitats.



£4

**Children's Orphan  
Portrait Postcards**

£2



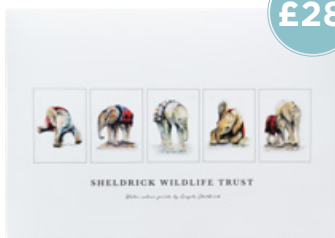
**SWT Pin Badge**

£16



**SWT Notebook**

£28



**Watercolour Prints  
by Angela Sheldrick**

£8



**Annual Newsletter**

To order today, visit: [sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/shop](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/shop)



## Pachyderm Partners



With mankind's footprint becoming increasingly evident, it is important for all of us to recognise our impact on the environment. This awareness, however, cannot be limited to individuals. 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.

As a charity, we are proud to be supported by some wonderful companies who not only support the SWT through generous donations, but who also align with our values. Meet some of these Pachyderm Partners working towards the greater good:

To learn more about our Pachyderm Partners, visit:  
[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/get-involved/other-ways-to-give-uk](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/get-involved/other-ways-to-give-uk)

### Travel Insurance giving back to nature

International travel is once more on the horizon, providing us with the opportunity to broaden our minds through experiencing different cultures and seeing the true natural beauty that this world has to offer. One of our most generous corporate partners, the **True Traveller**, has proudly supported the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust since 2017. Through donating 55p from every travel insurance policy, they have donated over £58,000 towards our lifesaving conservation work. 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.

**truetraveller**<sup>®</sup>  
travel insurance designed by travellers



## Delectable loose leaf tea dedicated to sustainability

Sustainability is at the heart of **Tea Lab**. Delectable blends created with ethically sourced natural and organic ingredients, Tea Lab's loose leaf teas are deliciously unique in every way. This bio-lab inspired British brand gives back to the environment by generously donating 10% of proceeds from their African Tea Range to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Keep an eye out for their new and ingenious recipes that offer creative and alternative ways to consume their scrumptious teas!

## Honest fashion making a bold statement

Look no further for quality, cruelty free, vegan handbags! **FERRON** was created as a statement against the devastating impact the fashion industry has on the environment, and on the animals who so often suffer in the process. In addition to raising awareness through their classically gorgeous handbags, they also donate £10 from the sale of every bag to the Sheldrick Trust. The African elephant featured on FERRON's label expresses the brand's love for these iconic animals and symbolises their support of the wildlife protection projects that exist to ensure the species' safety and ongoing existence.



## Thoughtful cards with a wild impact

For those that have rediscovered the age-old tradition of sending post to loved ones, why not buy beautifully illustrated cards that are a celebration of nature and wildlife? The talented **Louise Mulgrew** and her team are committed to sourcing sustainable materials, manufacturing locally and using eco-friendly, plastic-free packaging. And, as if that wasn't enough, the company pledges 1% of its annual turnover in support of the Trust's work. Fully devoted to sustainability and inspired by nature, they also produce some wonderfully creative designs.



## Building Amu's Green Line

Habitat protection and regeneration is paramount to securing a future for all species. Through the SWT's tree planting and reforestation projects, the Trust is replenishing ecosystems: Preserving pristine coastal forests, savannahs and ground water forests, while protecting the animals that call these places home.

Now, the Trust is building on its success to start an ambitious new project in Amu Ranch, a 64,000 acre area of natural beauty that has been set aside for wildlife under the management of the Lamu Conservation Trust (LCT), in partnership with the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (SWT).

### **A paradise under threat**

More than double the size of Nairobi National Park, small herds of elephants, as well as large populations of many other important species, including

reticulated giraffe, Cape buffalo, topi and eland can all be found in Amu, on Kenya's north coast. There is also a healthy population of some of the most genetically diverse lions in East Africa, with individuals exhibiting characteristics of the typically maneless Tsavo lions, as well the unique blue-eyed Somali lions.

As one of the last frontiers in Kenya, this region has not yet been densely settled by people. However, the whole area is now coming under immense pressure from illegal squatters that are coming from all over the country to clear land and establish new farms. Unfortunately, the area is ill-suited for most types of agriculture, owing to the sandy, nutrient-poor soil, which means that farmers are clearing even more land after just a few years. Age old forests have been lost and wild habitats fragmented, posing a real and immediate threat to the wider ecosystem.



## **An ambitious reforestation project**

In order to protect this habitat, the Trust is drawing a line in the sand and creating a natural barrier of trees to the south west corner of Amu, where human encroachment is most intense. This will act to prevent further loss of habitat, provide a buffer-zone for wildlife and, importantly when considering our responsibility to tackle climate change, offer a wall of trees able to capture carbon emissions.

## **Preparing for phase one**

Known as the Amu Green Line, the project will consist of two phases. In phase one, 260,000 trees will be planted along a plotted GPS line in the south west corner of the ranch. The treeline will cover a distance of 13.2 km, with a depth of 100 metres and, naturally, all of the trees will be indigenous species. The planting of the forest line in Amu will provide employment for hundreds of people, create habitat for a myriad of species of insect, bird and mammal, as well as dozens of endangered, coastal, plant species that are under increasing threat due to deforestation. The forest will also form a buffer to the Amu conservancy, and eventually provide other benefits to the neighbouring communities.

Already work has begun. The Trust has expanded the existing tree nursery at Amu to be able to hold over 200,000 seedlings and has begun collecting seeds. With funding support, additional nursery staff can be hired from local communities and the necessary equipment and materials can be sourced to allow for wider seed collection, and the tending of seedlings, so that the team is ready to plant the trees when the next rainy season begins. By partnering with Eden Reforestation Projects, the Trust can also capitalise on their economies of scale: every tree planted in Amu will cost just £0.085.

## **Plans for phase two**

The long-term vision is to expand the Green Line to a depth of 200 metres and to extend it along the settled side of several other protected areas. Where appropriate and under careful management, the forest will also include agroforestry trees for timber, fruit and firewood in order provide further benefits to those populations that currently exert the greatest pressure on the land and its natural resources.

Learn more about the Amu Green Line at: [sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/news/updates/amu-green-line](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/news/updates/amu-green-line)



# ADOPT AN ORPHAN

Adoptions help support the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's work to rescue and hand-raise orphaned elephants and ensure that all the babies at the 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. Through these digital adoptions, you, or your gift recipient, will receive a personalised adoption certificate, access to the 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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