

MAY 2022

ISSUE 36

# Habari!

SAVING WILD LIVES TODAY · SECURING HABITATS FOR THE FUTURE



# Conservation Highlights: What We Have Achieved With Your Generosity

## Creating a Future for Endangered Species

**102**

orphaned elephants are currently in the care of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (SWT), having been given a second chance at life

**174**

orphaned elephants now live wild, and are provided with a protective presence through the SWT's wider field initiatives

**49**

babies – a whole new generation – born to orphaned elephants that have been successfully reintroduced into the wild

## Protecting Key Habitats Across Kenya

**2M+**

acres protected by SWT and local partners, including important ecosystems pivotal to Kenya's biodiversity

**177K**

snare traps seized by SWT rangers, preventing the death of thousands of wild animals at the hands of the bushmeat trade

**11**

National Parks benefitting from a SWT presence, ensuring that animals living in conservation areas are protected effectively

## Your donations are directly funding...

**6**

De-Snaring Teams who patrol conservation areas to deter illegal activity and monitor habitats

**3**

Mobile Vet Units who reduce and alleviate animal suffering in key ecosystems across the country

**2**

boreholes providing water to wildlife and their protectors, as well as the rehabilitation of existing boreholes and equipment at a four locations across Tsavo







## Mayan, a Miracle Baby

Mayan's story begins at the bottom of a septic tank at Manyani prison in 2018. His little body was completely submerged in sewage, with only his trunk poking above like a desperate snorkel. Sadly, his family had been forced to abandon him, so the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) organised a rescue and a combined effort by SWT field teams brought him to safety. First at the SWT's nearby Voi Unit where he could be cleaned up, and then onto the Kaluku Neonate Unit where he could have the best chance of survival.

Even then, the saga to save him wasn't over. Being only around two weeks old at rescue, Mayan still had to go through the dreaded teething phase. For months, he teetered on the edge, growing skeletal and needing IV drips to revive him from collapse. But aided by his fierce will to live, and careful attention from the SWT Keepers, he eventually turned a corner. His Keepers describe him as an eternally cheerful optimist with honey-hued eyes, who is happiest frolicking around with his new-found adoptive siblings.



### Making a difference

Donations to the SWT UK make a big difference to fragile, orphaned baby elephants like Mayan:



Fund milk bottles and bottle teats so that infant elephants can be hand-fed nourishing formula milk



Fund specialist milk formula so that neonate orphans like Mayan can receive the nutrients they need to thrive



Fund 52,000kg of range cubes, an ideal high protein supplement for the orphans in dry conditions

## Field News in Brief



### Amid Dry Season, a Flood of Orphans is Rescued Across Kenya

A deadly and desperate dry season across Southern Kenya left many calves vulnerable to abandonment when their mother's milk supply ran low, leaving calves weakened and close to death. This, combined with rising human-wildlife conflict in the Laikipia plateau, has led to an influx of rescued orphaned elephants with 31 calves being cared for at the Nursery at the time of writing.

#### You Can Help

Support the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust by making a donation to help care for newly rescued orphans at:

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



### Mobilising Against Wildlife Crime

Sniffing out illegal activities and tracking down perpetrators is all in a day's work for the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's tracker dogs. Just like their two-footed ranger counterparts, they are vital to protecting Tsavo's wildlife - including the orphaned elephants that have gone wild. In February 2022, that included helping to recover a cache of snares and multiple poison arrows belonging to a poacher. The weapons were seized and taken out of action so that they couldn't harm wildlife.



## Seeing Double: Dual Elephant Treatment

An extraordinary operation to help two maimed elephants in a single afternoon took place in February 2022. The intervention goes to show how your donations are making a difference in Kenya, enabling conservationists to step in and help wild animals after human activities cause them harm.

Involving the SWT Airwing, Wildlife Works and the SWT-funded Tsavo Vet Unit, which is operated with KWS, the jumbo-sized operation began when herders reported an injured bull in the Taita ranches bordering Tsavo West National Park. The elephant was suffering from an infected puncture wound to his right foot but, in the search for the patient, Wildlife Works pilots also discovered a younger limping bull with the exact same injury!

While no one bargained on the straightforward-sounding operation evolving into a twin set of treatments, the experienced SWT field teams immediately set to work to successfully treat both animals: the Vet's custom 4x4 vehicle is supplied with drugs and equipment for multiple interventions, and the SWT Air Wing offers the ability to dart animals quickly, in any terrain.

It's believed both animals were likely maimed by a spring-loaded spike trap, which are set to catch all manner of creatures. Their fates could have been sealed but for the keen observations of Wildlife Works and the can-do attitude of the SWT Air Wing and Tsavo Mobile Vet Unit, whose efforts have ensured they can stride ahead into a bright future.



## A Week in The Field With SWT

No two days on the front lines of conservation are the same, as a typical week in the life of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust goes to show. Suffice to say, we are making a big impact every day in the field through your donations...

*Sunday, 20 March 2022:*

A snared female giraffe in Garissa is successfully treated by the Meru Unit. Across the country in Tsavo, the SWT/KWS De-Snaring Teams destroy three poachers' harbours and two cattle bomas, and document logging for woodcarving. Recording this illegal activity enables teams to identify poaching and logging hotspots so follow up patrols can be organised in the area.



*Monday, 21 March 2022:*

Another day, another successful snared giraffe treatment! This time by the Mara Mobile Veterinary unit at Lemek, in Mara North Conservancy. Taking to the skies, the SWT helicopter assists in medivacking an injured KWS ranger for emergency care, while fixed wing pilots spot two packs of wild dogs, identify cattle incursions into the National Park and relay the coordinates of a fire within the Chyulu Hills National Park in case ground teams need to intervene to save critical habitats.



*Tuesday, 22 March 2022:*

Hippos and large herds of elephants are spotted by SWT pilots along the Voi River. Nine bird traps and 25 snares are seized by SWT/KWS De-Snaring Teams during their daily patrols, saving countless lives. Throughout, the teams remain in constant daily contact with staff at the SWT Field Headquarters who coordinate their movements and ensure the teams' safety.





### Wednesday, 23 March 2022:

Following suspected bicycle tracks, the SWT/KWS Mobile North and Tiva De-Snaring Teams arrest two poachers with 9.5kgs of dik-dik and porcupine meat, three poisoned arrows, three medium snares, two bicycles, lamping equipment and food supplies. They are apprehended and moved to the local police station for trial. Other teams record and destroy an old shooting platform and search for an injured female lion.



### Thursday, 24 March 2022:

In Nairobi, the day starts early for Keepers who lead the orphaned elephants out into the bush at 6am after a milk feed. Over in Tsavo, Ithumba and Mobile North teams destroy two poachers' harbours and lift five small snares. Further arrests are made following patrols by the Chyulu team who identify woodcarving and bushmeat poaching suspects with snares, axes, handsaws and supplies. Aerial patrols spot illegal fishing and illegal cattle grazing, relaying coordinates for ground teams to intervene.



### Friday, 25 March 2022:

A busy day for the Air Wing! Nine rhino sightings in a single day across the intensive Protection Zone in Tsavo, a stronghold for the species. These patrols help monitor the population and their health. Helicopter patrols with SWT/KWS De-Snaring Teams also catch two poachers in the act of killing a crocodile for its skin, leading to arrests.



### Saturday, 26 March 2022:

49 snares are seized across conservation areas by De-Snaring Teams on patrol. A joint ambush by the Dakadima and Kulalu SWT/KWS De-Snaring Teams nets four motorbikes, six sirens, six torches, three pangas and 67 medium snares, as well as bows and poison arrows. Across the country, the Air Wing assists in the rescue of a lone elephant calf at Lake Jipe.





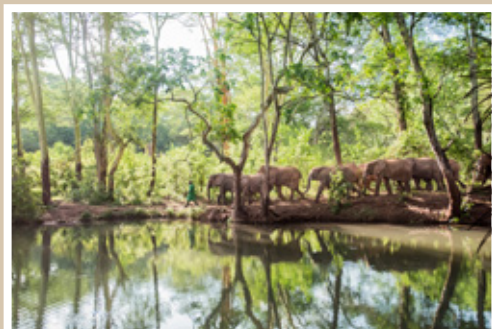
# *Protecting the Last Wild Places*

Stand in the middle of the Kibwezi Forest and you'll be surrounded by a deafening chorus. You might hear the distinctive sawing sound of a leopard sitting on a distant branch in the forest, the rumble of an elephant or hyraxes marking their territory with their shrill screams. Loudest of all are the bullfrogs, thousands croaking in unison at unearthly decibels. This cacophony goes to show that when areas are protected, life comes back...



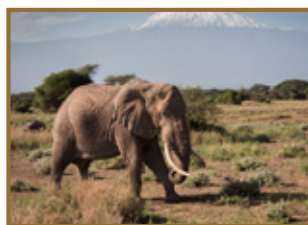


Working in areas outside of designated National Parks through a series of public-private partnerships, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is conserving biodiverse areas that urgently need protection. All to restore our planet's biodiversity, regenerate life and to make sure it doesn't disappear on our watch.



### **The Kibwezi Forest, An Environmental Comeback Story**

Home to one of Kenya's last remaining groundwater woodlands, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust stepped in to manage and protect the Kibwezi Forest in 2008 when rampant illegal poaching and logging threatened its future. In partnership with the Kenya Forest Service, the SWT has taken a comprehensive approach to conservation, establishing two Anti-Poaching Teams which are complemented by regular aerial surveillance, and erecting more than 93km of fencelines. These are patrolled by employed members of the local community, linking the Forest to the adjacent Chyulu Hills and a network of protected areas so that animals can access the wider habitat. The results are paying dividends. The forest is a living, breathing biodiverse area, elephant herds have returned in vast numbers and illegal activities are vastly reduced too!



### **Kimana Sanctuary, a Land of Giants**

Where can you find a vital corridor connecting the Amboseli and Tsavo ecosystems, not to mention some of Kenya's last Tuskers? The Kimana Sanctuary, that's where. Donations to the SWT in the UK have covered the cost of land leases for both the Kimana Corridor and Sanctuary, providing local Maasai landowners with a reliable and competitive income stream, while local partner Big Life Foundation oversees the daily management of the area.

# Galana Ranch Comes Under SWT Protection

The Galana Wildlife Conservancy might be a little-known corner of the Tsavo Conservation Area but this critical wilderness area is huge, both in terms of its size and its importance to wildlife. Sitting within the vast Galana Ranch and abutting Tsavo East National Park, it forms a vital buffer zone and habitat to iconic and endangered animal species. But, until recently, the area faced an uncertain and worrying future overrun with illegal activities including bushmeat poaching.



## New Recruits Patrol Galana

The Sheldrick Wildlife Trust began by immediately deploying at least two Anti-Poaching Teams in the area at any given time. This mined vital intelligence which found that poaching was linked to illegal charcoal camps in the area, and poachers both laid snares and practiced lamping (blinding animals with torches to kill them more easily). Bolstering manpower, 20 new recruits (the equivalent of four teams) were employed to patrol the wilderness, equipped with vehicles and mobile camping equipment.



## The Scale of the Problem

Tackling the rampant illegal poaching head on has been an urgent priority for the SWT since being invited to take on management of the area in May 2021, working in partnership with the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). The sheer scale of bushmeat poaching was frightening to consider: poachers have been arrested with hundreds of kilograms of bushmeat, sometimes hidden in hollowed out water bottles. Left unchecked, this continued illegal activity could have led to localised extinction of wildlife on the ranch.

As well as deterring poachers, the increased boots on the ground have had a direct and noticeable impact. Targeted patrols, complemented by vigilant aerial patrols, have been vital to establishing poachers' favoured routes and routines and have led to several successful ambushes and arrests. In June 2021 alone, a total of 616kg of bushmeat and nine motorbikes were confiscated, with five poachers arrested. Included among these were bushmeat poachers who had killed 187 dik-dik, and were later sentenced to 16 years for this illegal act.





### Infrastructure and Water Provision

Taking a 360-degree approach to conservation, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has put infrastructure improvements, including road and airstrip clearing, high on the agenda. These have enhanced security patrols in the area and will allow aircraft to remain parked in the area overnight, enabling pilots to conduct thorough and longer aerial patrols.

Water provision has also been another key focus and benefits both rangers based here and wildlife. The SWT funded the re-drilling of a borehole which had become silted over the years, and installed an extensive solar-powered system to power it, which is protected by a newly-built electric fence. Water is now pumped into a 100,000 litre storage tank, which also gravity-feeds watering pans and troughs in the area.

This helped wildlife enormously during the dry season of June – November 2021, since they no longer had to make the trek down to the seasonal river for water. Among the species that have benefitted are sandgrouse. They arrived in their thousands for water, making a spectacular sight!

### Galana Conservancy



**Size:** 60,000 acres, or around 45,000 football pitches



**Location:** Tsavo Conservation Area, Kenya



**Animals that live here:** giraffe, oryx, zebra, impala, gerenuk, elephants, cheetah, hippo

# Celebrating 45 Years of Conservation History

2022 marks the 45th anniversary of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Kenya. To celebrate, we've released a commemorative brochure (available to purchase online) and shared snapshots from the SWT's history.



Daphne and Aisha

## 1975

Aisha, a new-born orphaned elephant comes into Daphne Sheldrick's care. She was pivotal in helping the SWT learn the husbandry needed to raise infant orphaned animals.



Anti-Poaching Team in action

## 1999

The SWT's first Anti-Poaching Team is launched in the Tsavo Conservation Area in collaboration with KWS. Today, the SWT operates 22 teams!



Aerial Surveillance Unit launched

## 2008

The SWT launches its Aerial Surveillance Unit with the arrival of a Super Cub, purchased in part by the SWT UK.

The Nairobi Nursery is founded with the arrival of Olmeg, an infant orphaned elephant.

## 1987

## 2001

To support wildlife in the Tsavo ecosystem, the SWT's first Mobile Veterinary Unit is launched in partnership with KWS.

The 100th orphaned elephant is successfully rescued and raised by the SWT.

## 2010



Daphne and Olmeg



Vet Teams to the rescue



A milestone for rescues

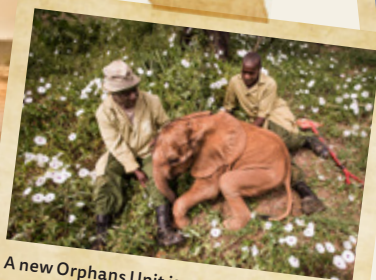




Dogs helping animals

# 2014

To support Anti-Poaching operations in Tsavo, the SWT launches its Canine Unit.



A new Orphans Unit is established

# 2018

The rescue of Lemeki leads the SWT to establish the Kaluku Neonate Nursery, tailored for very young and fragile elephants.



30th borehole drilled

# 2020

The 30th borehole is drilled through the SWT's Water for Wildlife initiative, providing a lifeline for animals in arid and drought-prone areas.

The Umani Springs Reintegration Unit becomes home to its first orphaned elephants.

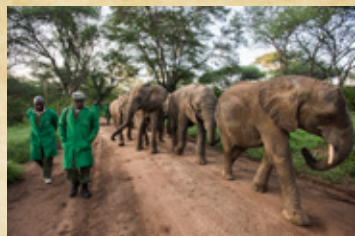
# 2014

Dame Daphne Sheldrick, the SWT's founder, passes away.

# 2018

The SWT welcomes its 45th known wild calf into its extended elephant family with the birth of Izzy to Icholta, an orphan that was rescued, raised and reintegrated back into the wild by the SWT.

# 2022



Umani Springs becomes a home for orphans



A matriarch passes



New life

# *Leaving a Lasting Legacy*

As we see it, it is our responsibility to take care of our natural environment for the benefit of all life. That's why, for the past 45 years, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Kenya has worked on the front lines of conservation, operating innovative field projects to save wildlife and protect habitats.

From pioneering the husbandry needed to successfully reintegrate orphaned elephants back into the wild, to funding a country-wide veterinary project; and, more recently, embarking on collaborative initiatives with community groups to conserve wilderness areas under threat, the SWT embraces initiatives that meet the challenges facing wildlife today, while always planning for the threats of tomorrow.

You can play a role in continuing our legacy by making the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust a part of your Will. It is a gift from the heart and a wonderful promise to help us protect Africa's wildlife long into the future.

Request our Legacy Information Pack and 45-Year Brochure to learn more about how you can leave a gift to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in your Will, and make a lasting difference, by contacting:

**[louise@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org](mailto:louise@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org)**  
or giving us a call **01372 378 321**





# Vulnerable Elephants Join Our Foster Family

## Latika the Brave

With her distinctive curled-over ears, little trunk and long eyelashes, one thing is for certain: unique Latika couldn't be more deserving of a second chance. She was rescued during drought-stricken times after she was found without a mother or herd, with a wire snare encircling her neck.

The multi-personnel operation to save her involved the SWT's helicopter, Veterinary Unit and Anti-Poaching Team who worked together to bring her to safety at the Nairobi Nursery, where she has found a family and a future.



## You can help

Adoptions help save the animals you love, including orphaned elephants like Latika and Kamili. Find out how you can adopt them at: [sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/adopt](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/adopt)



## Kamili beats the odds

Kamili was spotted completely by chance by the SWT Field Manager, who found her under the blistering sun in such a weak condition that she couldn't take more than a few, staggering steps.

In drought victims, even an hour can make the difference between life and death and the rapid response to rescue her undoubtedly saved her life. Drips, water, supplements and weeks of painstaking, intensive care brought Kamili back from the brink and she continues to make positive progress daily.

## Tsavo, Where Elephants Go Wild

The Tsavo Conservation Area is home to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's three Reintegration Units, where older orphans lessen their dependence on their human carers, interact with wild adult elephants and eventually go wild. Over the past few months, there have been lots of exciting developments at the Reintegration Units – here are some of the highlights!





## **Larro, Mukkoka and Naboishu Settle Into Their New Home**

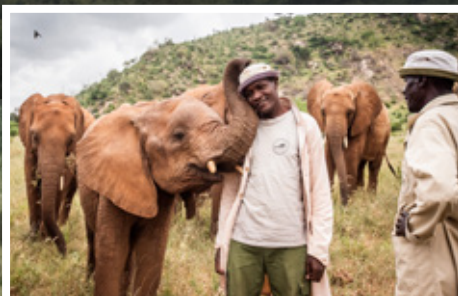
Following their translocation in January 2022 to the Ithumba Reintegration Unit, the trio have enjoyed such a seamless transition that Head Keeper Benjamin has christened the group “the good students”. Larro has already mastered the area, leading the herd out most mornings. Mukkoka has made good friends with other bulls his age, but it seems old habits die hard for Naboishu who has reverted to his old Nursery trick of stealing milk. Luckily, he'll find lots of willing mentors to show him some manners at Ithumba!

## **Lemeki and Thamana Forge New Friendships**

It is no surprise to anyone that Lemeki has enthralled everyone since her graduation to the Voi Unit in January 2022. Initially, this confident girl was a little shy – but that only lasted a few hours before she boldly introduced herself to her new Keepers. In the months since, she's even been spotted ingratiating herself with wild herds in the area. She graduated alongside best pal Thamana, who has likewise taken the transition in his stride. Both babies are popular among the older females, with Sagala, Tamiyoi and Suswa competing among themselves to nanny the new arrivals.

## **Ten Orphans Go Wild From Voi**

In January 2022, ten orphans went wild from the Voi Reintegration Unit in what was the SWT's largest group reintegration in recent history! Kenia, Ndii, Ishaq-B, Panda, Naipoki, Tundani, Bada, Mashariki, Ndoria and Araba had previously been experimenting with a wild life until their friend Nelion was killed by lions in 2020. Deeply shaken, they circled back to Voi, where they could rebuild their confidence surrounded by the Keepers. They spent last year tiptoeing back towards independence, embarking on unchaperoned foraging missions during the day, before returning to the comfort zone of their stockades at night. The appearance of Edie and Mweya's wild-living herd in early 2022 proved to be the catalyst they needed to go wild again and saw them joining this established group, wandering off into the Park with their older peers.



**Thamana settles into Voi, aided by a familiar face: his Keeper Joseph**





## You Asked... Why Don't We Dye or Remove Tusks to Stop Poaching?

We've been contacted by lots of supporters over the years asking: Why don't conservationists modify or remove tusks to save elephants from poachers? We're certain it isn't a solution for a few reasons.

Starting with the practical, tusks are made from ivory which is an incredibly hard substance. Unlike rhino horn, it would be incredibly difficult to ensure that dye permeates the surface and proves a deterrent – and we're not aware this is an operation that has ever been successfully carried out. Then there's the issue of animal safety. Removing or dying tusks requires anaesthetising elephants, which is an inherently risky procedure in itself. Not to mention expensive, since it would have to be repeated as an elephant's tusks grew.

There are ethical considerations too. Elephants have evolved over millennia to grow tusks, which they use to see them through the dry season by digging for water and during fights. To remove them would be to deprive them of vital tools that secure their survival and play a role in establishing dominance and mating rights.

But if modifying elephants isn't the solution, then what is? To us, it lies instead in modifying human behaviour, through putting boots on the ground, enacting information campaigns and implementing stringent judicial deterrents. The Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is playing its role in the first two of these fronts, funding and operating 22 Anti-Poaching Teams across Kenya which play a pivotal part in stopping ivory poachers, as well as hosting educational initiatives. The results are paying off: the tide has turned against the ivory trade in Kenya and, now, poaching deaths are rare occurrences in the country.



## Giving Kenya's Big Cats a Fighting Chance

Across Africa, lions are on their knees. As if living in the wild wasn't tough enough, poaching, habitat loss and human-lion conflict are having a calamitous impact on the species. With the big cats perilously close to becoming extinct as a result of human actions, stepping in to alleviate animal suffering and give those left a better chance of survival is the very least we can do.

Aided by donations, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is ensuring these iconic animals don't disappear from the wild forever by undertaking daily patrols on foot and in the skies to monitor lion populations and the places they call home.

Meanwhile, the SWT also funds a Mobile Veterinary initiative to keep Africa's remaining lion populations fit and healthy. The six funded units have successfully treated lions for snare wounds, fight injuries, poisoning and spear wounds, as well as supporting relocation efforts.



### Lion fact file



Population: Around 20,000



IUCN status: Vulnerable



Lion habitats conserved by SWT:  
Tsavo, Amboseli, Northern Kenya,  
Mara and the Coast

### Special thanks!

Our sincerest gratitude to Elizabeth Scarlett, one of our Pachyderm Partners, who has funded the operational costs for the Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit for a further year. This Unit has been pivotal to securing the health of some of the Mara's most famous prides, as well as other wildlife in the region.

## New Shop Arrivals

### Spring Style

As the weather warms up, our baseball caps and new Logo Tees will see you through the seasons in style.

**BASEBALL CAP £18**

**LOGO TEE £16**



### Homeware

Our selection of gorgeous and unique napkins, handmade in Kenya from 100% cotton, are sure to brighten up your home.

**NAPKINS £60**



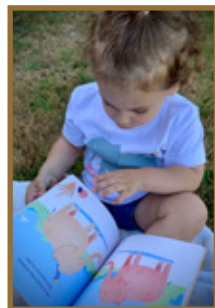
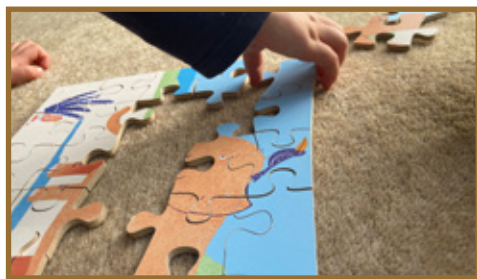
### Gifts for Little Ones

Inspire the next generation to love and care for nature by shopping our super-soft, knitted toys. Older children will also find our puzzle and first children's book a wonderful introduction to wildlife.

**KNITTED  
TOYS from £14**

**GARZI  
PUZZLE £12**

**GARZI  
STORY BOOK £5.99**





### **Commemorative Collectible**

Worthy of any coffee table, we've released a commemorative print edition of the SWT Annual Newsletter 2021, featuring 156 pages of as-yet-unseen photos and updates from the field teams. These books are a collector's item and are printed in only small, limited-edition batches. Purchase to discover the many species saved and learn more about the critically threatened ecosystems being conserved under the SWT's protection.

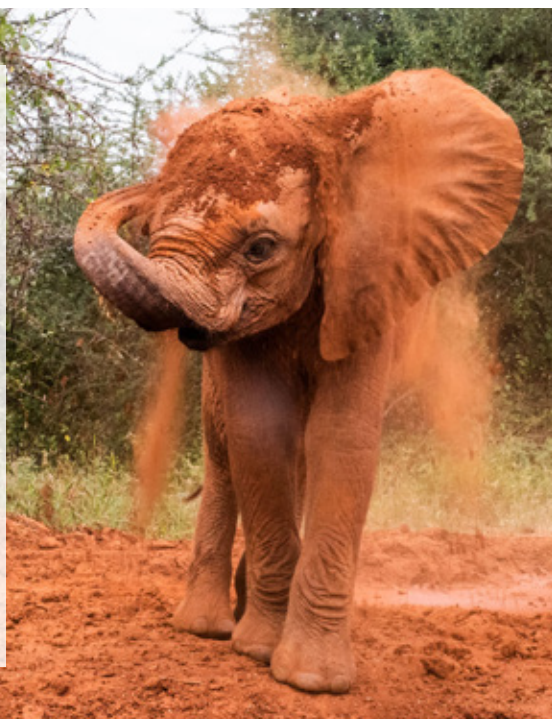
**ANNUAL NEWSLETTER £12**



### **Benefitting wildlife**

Proceeds from all shop items benefit the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's conservation projects to protect, preserve and conserve wildlife and habitats. This includes funding the rescue and intensive care of orphaned elephants so that they might one day reclaim their place in the wild. Funds also benefit veterinary and anti-poaching projects that save wild lives, and habitat restoration projects.

**Make your purchase today:**  
[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/shop](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/shop)





A large elephant and its calf are walking through a savanna landscape. The adult elephant is on the right, with its trunk extended downwards. The calf is on the left, walking slightly ahead of the adult. The background is filled with green grass and trees.

# *Inspirational Elephant Mothers*

Some of the most inspiring mothers can be found in the animal world, making sacrifices that seem beyond the pale. Orangutans, for instance, are known to carry their babies around until they are five years old while polar bear mothers won't eat for months during hibernation before they give birth. But perhaps the most inspirational mothers of all are elephants...





Dedication, protection and encouragement are at the core of an elephant's legendary parenting style. Since bulls play no role in bringing up baby, elephants are hard-working single mothers who draw on their family to help raise their calves. In fact, they learn nearly everything they need to know from their herd including survival, foraging and social skills – which can take up to 15 years. Female elephants stay with the family unit for life, pitching in with childcare so that when their turn at motherhood comes, they already have experience.

## Elephant Fact File



**Mothers will carry their young for 22 months before giving birth, the longest gestation period of all animals**



**Highly protected for their first few years of life, calves will never stray more than a few metres from their mother's side**

Given the pivotal role elephant mothers play in their calf's development, you might think that orphans who lost their mothers at a young and vulnerable age, and were hand-raised by humans, might struggle with motherhood. Yet, if experience is anything to go by, the rich and nurturing environment of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's Orphans' Project, and the many years spent interacting with wild elephants before and after their reintegration, is proving to be a fertile ground for producing top mums able to navigate the role of a parent so capably and confidently. For these elephants, motherhood is a major milestone and a recent baby boom is underway among orphans that have gone wild. We would love to introduce some of the best elephant mothers on the proverbial block...



## Edie, a Mother Four Times Over and Soon-To-Be Grandmother!

Edie's story is one for the books. This confident and successful elephant was rescued in 1999 after she tumbled into a well in northern Kenya. Her family desperately tried to free her, but when herders and their cattle arrived with the rising sun, they were forced to leave her behind. This was a deeply traumatic event for Edie, who was just four months old at the time, and it left its mark physically and psychologically. She was covered in bruises and for weeks she shunned her new human-elephant family – a clear sign of deep distress.

Time, however, heals many wounds and, gradually, this vulnerable elephant began to embrace life. Graduating to the Voi Reintegration Unit, she eventually struck out on her own, first joining Emily's free-roaming orphan herd and then forming a splinter group with her best friend, Mweya. Her turn at

motherhood came surprisingly young, at ten years old, when she gave birth to her first calf, named Ella (who is herself now pregnant!). Two more calves followed in 2014 and 2019 and, now, her family has grown once more with the arrival of Enzo in January 2022. Having forged a tight-knit family that includes numerous diligent nannies to help keep an eye on her growing brood, she is one impressive elephant mother!







Yatta with her second calf, Yoyo

### Yatta, Not Just a Mother But a Matriarch Too! ▲

As if leading a herd of 30 elephants wasn't challenging enough, Yatta is successfully raising three calves in the wild around the Ithumba area. She was rescued 22 years ago, after she was found standing next to her mother who had been slain for her tusks. She was the founding matriarch of the Ithumba Reintegration Unit and, under her guidance, many orphans have found their place back in the wild of Tsavo. Yatta's firstborn, Yetu, was the second wild baby conceived by one of our Ithumba orphans and was swiftly joined by Yoyo in 2017 and Yogi in 2021. Giving birth during a challenging dry season is difficult for any mum but Yatta put her experience and confidence to use immediately after the birth, remaining in the vicinity of Ithumba, feasting on lucerne and taking plenty of water, knowing how important it is to rest and eat to replenish her milk supply for her new-born.

### Mutara, a First-Time Mum Who's Proving a Natural ►

One of the newest orphan mums, Mutara has been honing her maternal skills since her days at the Nairobi Nursery where she emerged as a mini-matriarch. Graduating to the Ithumba Reintegration Unit in 2013, she continued to grow as a leader and, later, led her own herd of female elephants who have all been friends since their rescues. Mutara has always enjoyed close bonds with her former Keepers, visiting the Ithumba Unit frequently and it was during one of these visits that Keepers witnessed Mutara's courtship with a bull. 22 months later, this resulted in the birth of little miracle Mambo in March 2022, the 45th wild-born calf known to the SWT.



Mutara was just a new-born when she was orphaned. Now, she is raising her own family in the wild, just as it should be.

# Supporters Making a World of Difference

## Climbing to Great Heights for Elephants

Last year, 13-year-old Bethany challenged herself to climb the height of Kilimanjaro at her local rock-climbing centre. She climbed 'the slab' 1,404 times to reach her goal and raised over £2,500 in the process. She says: "I have always loved elephants and I have a couple of orphans I sponsor. It's not just about the elephants though, it's about all animals, their environment and us finding balance with nature. I climb at my local centre and one day came up with the idea of climbing the height of Kilimanjaro. It was hard and there were a lot of hand blisters over the weeks, but I am so pleased I did it and raised more money than I had hoped for."



## Want to Join Our Herd?

We are looking for a team of runners to join us at the Royal Parks Half Marathon in October 2022, running among some of London's most famous landmarks, whilst raising vital funds to help us protect Africa's wild animals and habitats.

**If you'd like to get involved or to find out more about the event please visit:**  
**[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/get-involved/events](https://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/get-involved/events)**

## And Thank You...

*We would like to say a huge thank you to our army of supporters who have made and sold jam, knitted toys to sell at fairs and have placed collection pots in their shops and offices. All have been vital in helping us raise much needed funds for our projects in Kenya.*






### Cards That Send Love and Help Nature

Long-time supporter and Pachyderm Partner, Louise Mulgrew uses her talents to create stylish, playful animal-inspired greetings cards and prints suitable for all occasions. Available online and in shops across the UK, Louise Mulgrew donates 1% of annual company turnover to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, so every card purchased is helping us protect all manner of wild species. Since becoming a partner, Louise Mulgrew has donated over £21,000 to the SWT and its conservation efforts in Kenya!

### Putting Conservation in Focus

Corporate support doesn't have to be financial: gifts in kind – especially of equipment that's much-needed – enables the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust to effectively conserve wildlife every day. Since last year, Nikon UK has donated a total of 23 pairs of binoculars – including '8x30 Ell' and 'Prostaff 5' models – in support of the SWT's field teams which patrol tens of thousands of kilometres, every month. These top-range additions to the teams' arsenal of tools further enhance the SWT's capability to spot and respond to illegal activities.



## ADOPT AN ORPHAN

Adoptions help support the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's work to rescue and hand-raise orphaned elephants and ensure that all the calves at the Nursery – and beyond – receive the love, formula milk and nurturing care they desperately need.

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

### GET IN TOUCH

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