

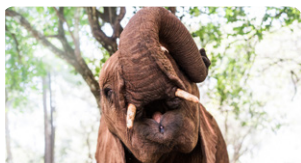
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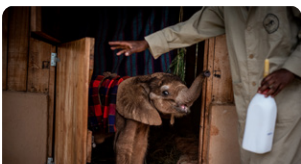
Habari!

SAVING WILD LIVES TODAY · SECURING HABITATS FOR THE FUTURE





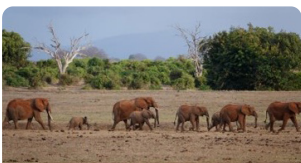
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What news?

In a word: rain. As I welcome supporters old and new to this latest edition of Habari (which means 'what news' in Swahili), I am delighted to share news from Kenya that there have been rain showers in the Tsavo and Amboseli ecosystems, where the SWT undertakes extensive operations.

Many here in the UK revelled in our hottest summer on record until parts of the country were officially classified as being in drought. But, for us, the wait for the rains was relatively short-lived. Some 4,500 miles away in Kenya, where the Trust's field conservation projects are carried out, the last six months have been among the most gruelling in 40 years, for all species of life. After below-average rainfall in the last two rainy seasons, parts of the country entered into the worst drought in four decades: with conditions deteriorating each day, hundreds of animals have lost their lives and the number of elephant orphans has rocketed. For many of these orphans – some you'll read about here – the SWT has been able to offer them a second chance and, now, as we look to the first signs of rain, we must also look to the future we can provide for these tiny calves, so that they can live to be the giants of tomorrow.

In this issue of Habari, we share the difference we have been able to make for individual animals and entire ecosystems, and also celebrate yet more babies born to our wild-living orphans. With the drought dominating much of the year, we share details of the Trust's mitigation measures, from the provision of water to the distribution of food for animals and local communities, to tackling a symptomatic rise in human-wildlife conflict.

SWT-funded veterinary teams are treating injured and sick animals in their thousands, trained rangers are patrolling to deter illegal activities such as snaring and laming, pilots are pulling elephants out of drying dams, and Keepers are supporting newly rescued orphans as they take the first steps amongst their new surrogate herd. All of this, and more, is only made a reality by those supporting our mission. In these financially testing times, my team and I are increasingly humbled by each and every individual supporting the charity. In a world dominated by humans, wildlife cannot plot its own survival; we must do that through how we live our lives. And, as we do this, we need to save wild lives today, and secure remaining wilderness areas too, so that those animals have a viable future home to roam.

Thank you for standing with us – we couldn't do it without you.

Rob Brandford
Executive Director

NEWS

A growing family tree

The birth of an elephant calf is always an emotional moment; a celebration of life, of motherhood, of miracles. Despite difficult times, there are plenty of reasons to rejoice – and one of these reasons is named Yebo, ex-orphan Yatta's "grand-calf", and her daughter Yetu's first baby, born November 2022, making the SWT great-grandparents at Ithumba for the first time! **Meet more wild-born calves on pages 10-11**



News



Saving a mum and calf

In September, a mother elephant and her baby were freed from a muddy prison – a dramatic rescue in the midst of a brutal drought. Elephants can lose their footing as they walk into drying dams to find water, and if they fall, they can become hopelessly stuck. This rescue was the second of its kind at the same dam, so the SWT sought a longer term solution; engaging county government and the local chief, before funding an excavator to dredge the dam; removing the muddy sediment and resealing its floor.



Fighting fires ◀

In early October, a fire was started in the Chyulu Hills, threatening this richly biodiverse habitat. A rapid, coordinated response from the SWT, KWS, & field partners ensured we not only extinguished the fire within 24hrs but also arrested the suspected arsonist behind it. Days later, the Chyulus faced a larger fire: field partners and community members rallied together and, over the course of 3 relentless days of firefighting, their heroic efforts brought the blaze under control.



Planting a seed ▲

The most efficient way to reforest an area is often to allow for natural regeneration – but sometimes nature too needs a little boost. The SWT and local charity the Kibwezi Well Wishers have spread 45,000 acacia seedballs over 17 acres of degraded habitat. They'll lie dormant until the rains trigger germination..

YOU ASKED



"Do the orphans ever manage to reunite with their families when they return to the wild?"

Given the vast distances that elephants roam and the time that elapses between an orphan's rescue and their ultimate return to the wild, a later-in-life reunion with their natal herd is unlikely — but, for those that were rescued from the Tsavo region, where SWT's Reintegration Units are located, it is not impossible. Nguvu was raised at our Voi Unit, close to where he was rescued, and chose a wild life only a few years later. He attached himself to a herd in the area – a rapid rewilding for an orphan, perhaps triggered by a shared ancestry with this herd. We can never know for sure, but we can hope.

Even if the orphans don't reconnect with their natal herd, they always have a family with us, and with each other. This genuine sense of family is at the heart of the Orphans' Project, and prevails long after each group of elephants sets off into the wild. They may have been rescued from all

corners of Kenya, making them genetically unrelated, but these elephants are bound by a shared experience of being orphaned and of growing up together, making them as tight-knit as any natural family group.

When wild-living orphans come back to visit their human family, it is always cause for celebration; especially when they bring a new baby to meet us. These tiny additions herald a new generation of elephants, contributing to the population as a whole, and cementing their parents' place in the wild community. With each baby born into our ex-orphan herds, we see the orphans building a family of their very own, and recreating all that was once lost to them.

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

Have a burning question about our work? Send it to
info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

ORPHANS' PROJECT

Saving an orphan, securing a species

When our late founder, Dame Daphne Sheldrick, first began hand-raising orphan elephants and rhinos with her husband David, never could she have imagined the impact that saving these individuals would have. Born out of necessity, the Orphans' Project has been at the centre of the Trust's activities from the start and exists to offer hope to orphaned calves who have lost their families in the face of poaching, human-wildlife conflict, habitat loss and drought.

By rescuing orphaned infants, hand-raising them, and supporting their reintegration to the wild, the SWT is not only offering them a second chance at life, but allowing them to reclaim their birthright and fulfil their role in the natural world. Elephants are a keystone species; they provide vital ecosystem services, through their diets or simply their movements, which are essential for the survival of other species in the environment. For their part, rhinos are known as an umbrella species, meaning that other species, from plants and birds to insects and mammals, depend on them to thrive. So, in saving an orphan, we are helping to keep entire ecosystems in balance, while opening a door for future wild generations – as demonstrated by the 53 baby elephants, and 2 rhino calves, born to rewilded orphans.

There are numerous factors that contribute to a wild animal becoming orphaned, and each calf has their own unique story, as collateral victims of poaching, or of human-wildlife conflict like Rafiki (page 8), separated from their family as a result of habitat loss and the need to travel through human settlements like Nyambeni (page 8), or, as we are seeing on an increasing scale, they may be compromised by drought, like Mageno (page 7). Their circumstances may differ, but they have much in common and, once in our care, they become part of our extended human-elephant family.

Decades of experience allows us to offer them the physical and emotional support they need to overcome trauma, and to find safety, security and a sense of belonging, an environment we can provide thanks to the generosity of foster parents and donors

Orphans' Project stats



137 orphaned elephants currently in our care



17 rhinos successfully hand raised



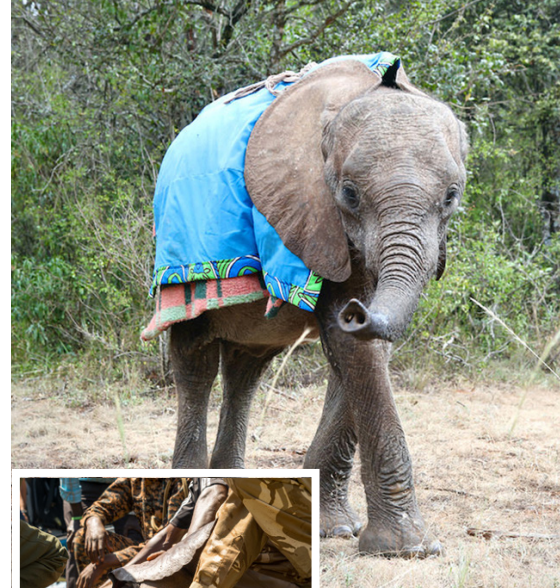
53 calves born to wild-living orphan elephants

Mageno, orphan of the drought

Mageno's story began with a routine aerial patrol; flying above Mgeno Ranch, a Wildlife Works pilot spotted a baby elephant, alone, lying on his side in the parched landscape. When the SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Vet Unit arrived at the scene, they feared the worst, but Mageno rose to his feet as they approached, showing the full extent of his frail condition; this baby had been without his mother for a long time.

Elephants are particularly susceptible to drought – requiring vast amounts of food and water to sustain them, they travel great distances in search of these precious resources. Young calves, weakened by the conditions and a reduced supply of their mothers' milk, are often the first to succumb, unable to keep up with the herd.

Luckily, Mageno's fate crossed the SWT's path; he found an adopted human-elephant family at the Nairobi Nursery, and is slowly healing thanks to the love, patience and care offered by his Keepers and the companionship of his newly acquired "sisters", Nyambeni and Mzinga. Although several months older than them, Mageno joined these blanket-clad babies due to his fragile state, and seamlessly made himself an irreplaceable member of their gang, as the "big brother". He quickly learned the Nursery routine and loves to lead, guiding the orphans from milk feed to mud bath, out to the forest and back to their bedrooms in the evening! The Keepers are continually impressed by his orientation skills!



Mageno has proven to be a gentle and patient bull, a sort of mini-matriarch in male form, who loves nothing more than a good dusting or mud bath, no matter the weather! You can read his full story and support his care through an adoption via our website.



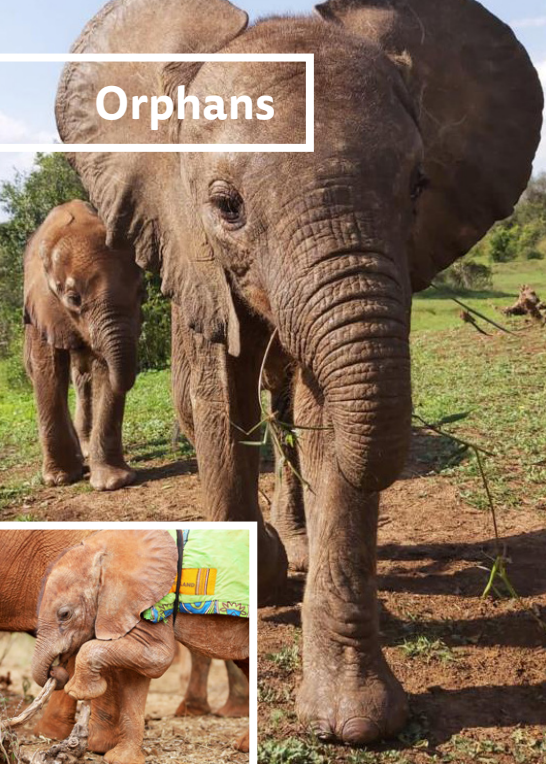
How your donations help orphans like Mageno?

Baby elephants might be the first to fall in times of drought, but with your support we can catch them.

With an influx of orphans this year, the UK charity has provided funding to cover additional rescue flights needed to collect calves from across Kenya, the construction of more stables in Nairobi to house them – with extra accommodation for additional Keepers too – and more specialist milk formula to keep all the tummies full.



Orphans



Nyambeni, a tale of changing times

Walking to the source of a strange noise, a farmer in Meru County discovered a baby elephant, utterly alone and stuck in a shallow, muddy ditch. In the past, orphans found in this region of Kenya would have likely met a tragic end. At best, they would have been left to die; at worst, they would have been poached for subsistence. But times are changing, and more and more we are encountering community members more invested in the giants they live alongside. The good Samaritan was determined to help this innocent calf, hauling her out of the ditch, before tethering her to a tree, to allow him to rush to find help. Nyambeni was flown to the Nairobi Nursery where today you will find her happily frolicking with the other members of the so-called "Blanket Brigade".

Nyambeni has an infectious playful and curious personality; she is always on the lookout for something fun to do, constantly cooking up the next activity, be it a game of hide and seek or a frenzied dust bath with her newfound "siblings", Mzinga and Mageno.

Our friend Rafiki

It's not every day that you wake up for breakfast and come face-to-face with a baby elephant! That is, however, what guests at a camp in Samburu experienced in July when a little calf, whose mother had been killed due to human-wildlife conflict, sought help from humans.

By the time SWT's Keepers arrived to rescue him, Rafiki (meaning 'friend' in Swahili) had conquered everyone's hearts and it wasn't long before the Keepers fell under his spell too! Typically, orphans whose mothers have been killed by humans are wary and distrustful, but Rafiki had no such reservations. He was visibly relieved to be rescued and arrived at the Nursery incredibly friendly and trusting... but riddled with worms! Several weeks of specialised care worked its magic and Rafiki was brought back to good health.

Although he loves his human family unreservedly, Rafiki is a little reticent around the other orphans. With time and support, we feel confident that he will come out of his shell and show the full extent of his warm and friendly character.



Little hero Shujaa

Not all heroes wear capes... some wear blankets instead! This little bull, named Shujaa (Swahili for "hero") was spotted by chance at the end of August, as tourists took an evening game drive along the Voi River Circuit. In the dim light, they noticed the movement of flailing limbs and discovered a tiny elephant calf, barely 9 months old, stuck fast in the muddy embankment. Despite spending an extended amount of time in the mud, which can oftentimes lead to a calf's health becoming compromised, Shujaa's courageous attitude has helped him defy the odds to survive – hence his fitting name.

After overnighting at our Voi Unit, he was helicoptered to the Nursery the next morning, where he's settled in seamlessly. Now safe and sound in the SWT's care and surrounded by friends, he has a future ahead of him as bright as his blankets. Although a little reserved in the beginning, he ingratiated himself into the "blanket brigade" in no time at all. Now he has set his sights on the older orphans, who he loves to shadow, even copying their rebellious antics on occasion!



Kapei steals heart in Umani Springs

While we will never know for sure what led Kapei to be on his own, his weak and fragile state suggests he was yet another victim of the drought, and one that needed to be handled with great care. At approximately two years of age, he was seen wandering alone on the south-west boundary of Tsavo West, dangerously dehydrated and thin. With daylight fading and little time to fly him to safety before nightfall, we decided to do something unconventional to give him the best chance at recovery; instead of heading for our Nairobi Nursery, we winged him to our nearby Umani Springs Unit, where his arrival has caused quite a stir.

Kapei has literally landed in a nest of 'mothers', with Murera, Sonje, Lima Lima and Quanza all vying for the privilege of caring for the new baby. And it's not only the female elephants who are excited - young bull Maktao was so smitten with Kapei that he demanded to be moved into the same night-time stockade as him! He's a charming little bull who has a real appetite for life – and greens!



WILD-BORN BABIES

Since our last edition, we have been blessed to welcome a number of babies to our extended herd; born to elephants rescued and raised by the SWT – and even those born to their calves! Every birth is an opportunity to celebrate the success of our Orphans' Project which is funded entirely through adoptions and donations.



Milo, Ithumba's surprise delivery

In the early hours of 29th October, commotion erupted outside the Ithumba stockades. The excitement had been caused by the birth of Melia's first calf, Milo, whose name means "beloved". Elephants usually give birth under cover of darkness, so it was an extraordinary privilege for the Keepers at Ithumba to have a front row seat at the delivery, a miracle witnessed by us only once before, at Voi. Motherhood may be new to Melia, but she's embracing this new chapter with pride and competence, ably assisted by her friends.



Wimbi, Wendi's third daughter

On the morning of 9th October, less than 24 hours after giving birth, Wendi brought the newest and tiniest member of her family to our Ithumba Stockades for the traditional introductions to the Keepers. Everyone was delighted to meet little Wimbi, who is ex-orphan Wendi's third daughter; Wiva, her first calf, was born in 2015, while Wema made her debut in 2019. This growing family could very easily not have existed. Wendi was orphaned 20 years ago, as a newborn. The fact that she's alive today is no small miracle, but that she has three healthy daughters by her side (and often underfoot!) is a wonder we could never have imagined.



Milestone baby Iman

Iman's arrival in July was significant; she is Ithumbah's first calf, but the 50th born to orphans raised by the SWT, marking an important milestone for our Orphans' Project. Iman brings her mother's story full-circle; found bogged down in the mud of a drying dam in 2010, two-year-old 'Ithumbah' was raised at our nearby Ithumba Reintegration Unit, where she was cared for until she was ready to return to the wild. Her story now has the happiest outcome, circling back to the place she was rescued as a calf, this time with her own calf in tow.



A grandson for Yatta

Mum of three, Yatta, is now a grandmother of one! Her eldest calf, Yetu, born in 2012, gave birth to a baby boy this November, named Yebo. While Yetu has grown up as a wild elephant, she was introduced to Yatta's human family as an infant and has known the Keepers as extended members of her herd. This love and trust has been affirmed in Yetu's decision to bring her tiny calf to meet them, just as Yatta did, when Yetu herself was just days old.

As one of the first orphans to be raised at Ithumba, Yatta has been pivotal to the success of this Reintegration Unit. Now, she leads not only an ex-orphan herd, but a dynasty of three generations. Pictured here: Yetu with baby Yebo; next to uncle Yogi (Yatta's third calf) and proud grandmother, Yatta.



Sweet Mojo

Mweya surprised and delighted us all when she arrived at Voi with Mwit, Eden, and a little calf at her side that we named Mojo.

New life is precious, and just weeks after celebrating the arrival of Mojo, the 53rd elephant born to an ex-orphan, we were reminded of its fragility. Mweya reappeared at our Voi Stockades on 5th November, but there was no sign of her second calf, Mojo. Born in September, during Kenya's worst drought in 40 years, it appears the conditions claimed his young life. As we grieve with Mweya, we find strength in knowing she has her firstborn Mwit, and Edie's daughter Eden, to support her through this period.

LEAVING A LEGACY



Their future. Your legacy.

It's our shared responsibility to protect and preserve nature for the benefit of all life. Remembering the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in your Will is one of the most powerful and meaningful actions you can take, empowering us as we seek to secure a future for elephants and all wildlife in Kenya, saving species and entire ecosystems through your lasting support.

Your gift will live on through the orphans we rescue and raise; the miracle babies born to our wild-living orphans; our Kenya-wide veterinary interventions and, perhaps most pertinently as you think to your own future and legacy, the protection and preservation of wild habitats; the places wildlife calls home, without which any successes we have in raising the orphans would be short-lived.

In the face of global challenges, and local threats to wildlife, securing their survival is a huge undertaking, but our foundations are strong and proven. With your help, we can build a better future for Africa's giants, and all those species reliant upon them. You can play an important role in making our vision of hope a reality by including the Trust in your Will: a gift from the heart that is a wonderful promise for a bright collective future.

To find out more about how you can remember SWT through a legacy gift, please contact Louise at louise@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org or call 01372 378 321

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



TO THE RESCUE

Every day, the SWT/KWS veterinary initiative responds to all manner of wildlife emergencies across Kenya, and each patient presents a different set of challenges! Because of the Vet Teams' presence, thousands of creatures are alive today who otherwise would have had no hope of survival. This ability to respond to urgent cases and provide life-saving treatments is made possible through your support.



A pawisitive outcome

Listed as vulnerable on the IUCN list of threatened species, leopards have vanished from at least 40% of their historic range in Africa, largely due to human pressure, habitat loss and fragmentation. So when we learnt the plight of this young female leopard caught in a trip snare, the stakes were all the higher. Sky Vets responded, due to the nature and remote location of the patient, who was already attempting to free herself by chewing off her trapped paw. The treatment itself was straightforward; the feline was darted, snare removed, wounds (from both the snare and her chewing) treated. She has since made a full recovery and has adapted well to being almost clawless on one side!



Team work makes the dream work

The Mobile Vet Units work hand in hand with our Air Wing to save wild lives across Kenya. In a carefully choreographed, timely executed collaboration to which this snared giraffe owes her life, the patient was darted from the air, while the team on the ground moved rapidly, bringing her down carefully and reversing the anaesthetic ahead of treatment. Several rangers then held down her head, to protect her from breaking her neck or causing injury. The thick rope snare was coiled taut around her leg but had not yet sliced into the skin. After cutting off the rope, the giraffe rejoined her friends, soon disappearing in the wilderness. **Scan the QR code to watch the rescue!**



Ndotto, a nosey elephant

In September, Dr Limo was called to intervene on no one other than our biggest Voi character, orphan Ndotto, who had inhaled a foreign object, now stuck in his trunk. The nose accessory, a fairly large stone, was removed by the vet using long forceps. It had left a very small injury, which was treated and Ndotto was himself again!

FOCUS ON Drought in Kenya

Many parts of Kenya face a never-ending dry season, and Tsavo, one of East Africa's greatest remaining wilderness areas, is no exception. Poor rains last year followed by no rain earlier this year have left Kenya's largest National Park in the grips of a dramatic drought, putting enormous pressure on already threatened wildlife populations.

Kenya is home to over 36,000 elephants, representing an increase of 21% since 2014, when poaching was at its peak. This growth shows that conservation efforts are not in vain – with proper protection, wild populations can recover and thrive. However, this year's drought, the worst Kenya has seen in 40 years, means that now is no time to be complacent. On the contrary, our teams find themselves busier than ever.

Due to their sheer size, elephants are among the animals who suffer the most when faced with drought. Digesting only 40 to 60% of what they eat, they must consume enormous quantities of food and water to survive. During such lean times, lack of access to these resources is increasingly resulting in tragic consequences for elephants.

As if lack of water is not enough of a challenge, almost every threat to wildlife is exacerbated by drought.

Climate change is an issue to be tackled on a global scale, but, on the ground in Kenya, field-level conservation is the most effective way we can secure a future for elephants and the many species that depend on them for survival. That's why the SWT is active in the field every single day, bringing immediate relief to wildlife, and implementing sustainable solutions to safeguard Kenya's flora and fauna in the long term.

The SWT's **Water for Wildlife** project provides permanent and seasonal water sources for wild animals within the safety of the National Parks. Already, the Trust has drilled and maintains 32 boreholes, (29 across Tsavo), tapping into water tables beneath the ground and offering year-round hydration, far from human settlements. Our 8 water bowsters provide the SWT with additional means to ferry hundreds of thousands of litres of water at any one time, to top up troughs and water holes that serve as lifelines for wildlife in otherwise arid landscapes.

As if lack of water was not a big enough challenge to contend with, almost every threat to wildlife becomes exacerbated by drought.



Through your support, we've upgraded the pump system of the Aruba borehole, solar powered by day with a wind-assisted turbine operational at night, ensuring this water source runs at full capacity 24/7.

As riverbeds dry up and grasslands wither, elephants and other wild creatures are forced to venture outside of the protected areas in search of sustenance, bringing them into closer contact – and conflict – with humans. Following old migratory routes and oblivious to the changes humans have made to the land, elephants find themselves on farms where they can clear a field of crops in a single night. The SWT/KWS **Mobile Vet Units** remain on high alert, ready to come to the aid of wildlife injured by spears and arrows, as communities seek to defend their livelihoods. In other cases, the quest to quench their thirst leads elephants to drying waterholes, where one slip can leave them stuck fast in thick mud, and it is these same Vet Teams, supported by other field personnel, who are on hand to haul them out.



Your donations have funded over **200kg** of green clay, a natural substance effective in speeding healing and preventing wound infections.



Numbers and stats



59 orphan elephants rescued in 2022 (at time of print)



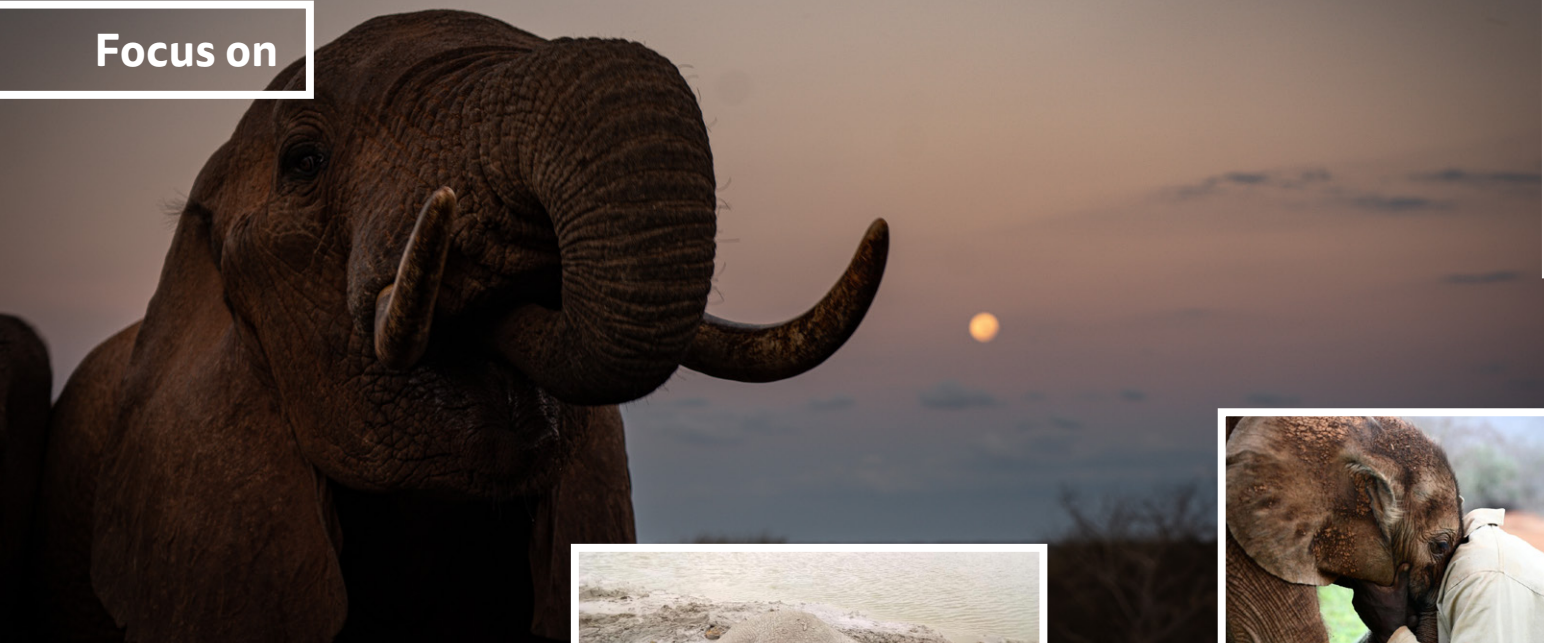
5,610 snares lifted since May 2022



85 reported human-elephant conflicts



Focus on

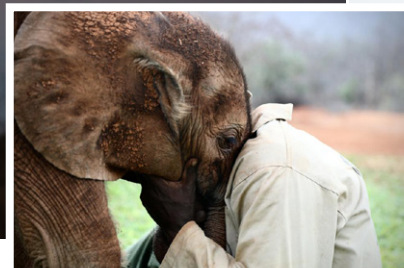


Just as wildlife may risk leaving the safety of the Parks in times of scarcity, other threats make their way inside the protected areas if left unchecked. Poachers use drought conditions to their advantage; with few water sources remaining, the movement of wildlife becomes more predictable, and snares are laid along the most frequented pathways, ready to pull tight on any animal unfortunate enough to stumble into the trap. This highlights the important role our field teams play in patrolling bushmeat poaching hotspots, to remove snares and apprehend offenders.



Monitoring from the ground and the air, the SWT-funded **Anti-Poaching teams, Canine Unit** and our **Aerial Surveillance** pilots, not only detect and deter poachers, but also respond to other activities that threaten conservation efforts, such as illegal livestock grazing within the National Parks, which further depletes available browse for wildlife, and introduces parasites and disease. Likewise, charcoal burning not only poses the risk of unsustainable extraction, but of bush fires too, where a stray spark can easily set an entire parched landscape ablaze.

Your generous support is keeping the conservation wheel turning – quite literally! SWT patrol vehicles need to cover all terrains and your donations help us ensure tyres and tubes are in tiptop condition.



Sadly, it is no surprise that we've seen a stark rise in rescued baby elephants coming through our doors this year. The harsh conditions have left many calves weakened and unable to keep up, as mothers struggle to find ample nutrition to fuel themselves, let alone produce sufficient milk for their babies. The desperate measures herds are taking in their search for food and water also lead them into dangerous, human-inhabited territory, where conflict ensues – a major cause for orphans coming into our care. All are being afforded a second chance at life through our **Orphans' Project**.

Orphans who have borne the brunt of the drought are not only being accommodated at our Nursery, but at our Voi and Umani Springs Units too. Your donations have helped facilitate these older calves' rescues to the nearest Orphan Unit by funding the fabrication of a 4-wheel trailer for the transport of larger elephants and other animals in the Tsavo region.



The list of drought-induced challenges goes on, but with your support and that of our partners, we are making a tangible, life-saving difference. By the time you read this, we can only hope that the short rains have arrived, reviving landscapes across Kenya. Whether the rains do or don't materialise, however, we know that with you behind us, the SWT will continue working on the front lines for the immediate and ongoing benefit of Kenya's wildlife, habitats and communities.



CHRISTMAS ADOPTIONS



Give the gift of life this Christmas by adopting an orphan elephant or rhino for a loved one



For a meaningful and memorable gift, look no further than adopting an orphaned animal in our care. Whether you choose an elephant, rhino, or giraffe, each orphan has their own unique story of survival, from rescue to recovery – and the journey doesn't end there! By becoming a foster parent, you or your recipient will become a part of our Orphans' Project, and an extended member of our herd, supporting these orphans on their path back to the wild.



Monthly email updates and special online access make this a gift that keeps on giving throughout the year. Through our digital Adoption Program, foster parents gain exclusive insights into the life of their adopted orphan, from the friendships they forge to the developmental milestones they reach. There are plenty of personalities to choose from and poignant stories to touch your heart, but if you're unsure, we can help you make a decision!



"I was recently introduced by a dear friend of mine to a new wonderful animal rescue charity, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. They had just rescued an orphaned baby giraffe named Twiggy that my friend adopted for me. Adopting an orphaned baby animal is a fantastic gift to give to someone you love, along with helping these animals get the support they need." Twiggy, British model, actress and singer



Adoptions save lives and give hope to the animals you love. Your gift will support the SWT in providing 24-hour care, thousands of litres of milk, and the nurturing family environment that these orphans need to thrive, all while helping to secure a safer home for them to return to in the future, where they can roam wild and free.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Boots on the ground



A typical week with our Anti-Poaching Teams

As frontline defenders of the wild, the SWT/KWS Anti-Poaching Teams are a vital link in our conservation work, connecting the dots between our other field initiatives. These 23 teams patrol daily in key habitats to tackle the most pressing issues facing Kenya's wildlife; ivory poaching, snaring for the commercial bushmeat trade, illegal logging, charcoal burning, livestock intrusion and more. No two days are the same! Follow them on a typical week...

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

A week in the field with our Anti-Poaching Teams

DAY 1:

Snaring is a crude form of hunting, targeting wild animals not only for subsistence but also on a commercial scale, to meet a growing demand for bushmeat. This illegal trade poses a real threat to wildlife populations. The SWT-funded Anti-Poaching Teams meticulously scour the bush on a daily basis to detect and remove snares, and to stop bushmeat poachers in their tracks. So far this year, they have lifted more than **8,000 snares** which could have claimed many innocent lives.



DAY 2:

Resources are scarce during the dry season, and even more so this year, being the driest and longest one on record. As grasslands wither away, pastoralists seek out other grazing spots for their livestock, which may lead them to illegally drive their cattle and goats into protected conservation areas, which brings threefold threats to wildlife – depleting already limited browse available to wild animals, especially in times of drought, introducing parasites and disease, and increasing the risk of human-wildlife conflict. Rangers are trained in law enforcement and are able to escort livestock out of the National Park back onto farm land.



DAY 3:

On their daily patrols, as they comb the conservation areas for signs of illegal activity, footprints are a giveaway that often lead to wildlife offenders. Calling in the Canine Unit for assistance, the teams are able to take advantage of the SWT's trained tracker dogs. With their superior sense of smell, our four-pawed patrol partners, Zora and Aya, are able to sniff out evidence over long distances, tracking perpetrators to their hiding place or sometimes even their front door! Once the suspect has been located, the KWS rangers assigned to each team are able to move in to make an arrest.



DAY 4:

In addition to routine patrols, apprehending poachers and preventing wildlife crime requires the element of surprise. SWT and KWS rangers are trained in tactical response, planning and executing ambushes to catch poachers off-guard and block their escape routes. So far this year, the SWT/KWS Anti-Poaching Teams have seen **495 suspects arrested** for a variety of offences, including poachers who utilise a technique known as lamping to incapacitate their wild targets by blinding them with bright torches.



DAY 5:

In an average year, these teams patrol over 58,000km on foot, but certain threats can be more easily identified from above so rangers regularly join our Aerial Surveillance pilots on air patrols. When signs are identified, a response can be coordinated with remaining members of the team on the ground. In the last six months, more than **70 charcoal kilns** have been identified and destroyed, stamping out unsustainable extraction within the protected areas.



DAY 6:

As the drought intensifies, the SWT is responding to more cases to help move elephants off community and farm land, working to keep the peace between humans and wildlife. While our pilots use the SWT helicopters to shepherd the 'trouble makers' back into the adjacent National Park, our rangers on the ground temporarily drop sections of the fence line to allow the elephants to cross back into the protected areas. In the last 6 months, the Teams have intervened and mitigated over **80 human-wildlife conflicts**.



DAY 7:

Community engagement is key to successful conservation, so another aspect of the Anti-Poaching Teams' work is spending time building relationships with those who live on the boundaries of the National Parks, involving them in conservation efforts. By regularly engaging with communities, the Teams are able to relay the importance and benefits of protecting wild neighbours.



And that's not all. In any given week, the SWT/KWS Anti-Poaching Teams assist in veterinary interventions, orphan rescues, wildlife translocations and more!

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Meet the SWT team

Benjamin Kasaine is the Team Leader of the SWT/KWS Ithumba Anti-Poaching Team, one of 23 SWT-funded teams operated in partnership with KWS. The Ithumba Team has been named “SWT Team of the Year 2022”, an annual internal award given in recognition of the top-performing Anti-Poaching Team.

Benjamin, you are the Team Leader of the SWT/KWS Ithumba Anti-Poaching Team. Tell us more about your team.

We are based at the airstrip, not far from the Ithumba orphan stockades. Our team consists of five rangers, a driver and a cook, plus two KWS rangers who join us on every patrol.

What is a normal day like for the anti-poaching ranger?

We don't have patrol times; we work different times of the day and night, depending on what is needed. For instance, today we woke up around 5 o'clock. We had planned a patrol based on poaching intelligence and were able to confiscate 112 small game snares this afternoon. We usually move to areas where we see illegal activities, following the problem.

You work closely with the Aerial Unit, as well as with the Canine Unit, don't you?

Yes, we work together very closely. Without the Aerial Unit, it would be very difficult to do our jobs; they are able to patrol areas that would be hard to reach by foot. We also work with the Canine Unit; the dogs act as an amazing deterrent to any perpetrators. When they see the dogs, they do not cross the park fence. The dogs also help us track in difficult and challenging terrain.

Read more staff interviews by signing up to Field Notes, a monthly email newsletter from Angela Sheldrick at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/email-subscriptions



Each member of our Anti-Poaching force enters the field with extensive paramilitary training gained at the KWS Manyani Academy. Thanks to your support, this year we've also been able to fund 42 days in self-defence training for all Anti-Poaching rangers (150 personnel) in Krav Maga, to equip rangers like Benjamin with extra skills to protect themselves from offenders.

You have worked in the field for a long time now. Have you seen any changes to illegal activities in that time?

It is improving, but the challenges are always changing: for example, snaring is a big problem now, targeting bushmeat. This is not only for subsistence purposes, but often commercial. At the height of Coronavirus, we confiscated 2,000 snares in two days. Life was difficult, but wildlife and vegetation were the ones to pay.

Ivory poachers are a whole different league from bushmeat poachers. In March, we arrested two ivory poachers; one guy had a knife, which he tried to use on me. We managed to arrest him, although not before he cut my arm. These guys were so smart – they had three poisoned arrows, but just the head without the shaft, so they could travel light and search for elephants. This also means when you arrest them, they don't have the incriminating evidence on them.

What do people back home think about your job?

They love hearing about it. They don't think it can be real, me standing here, just in front of a wild elephant. By sharing my stories, we are telling our families and friends about another side of wildlife.

What is your favourite part of the job?

Working in this beautiful, huge, challenging park, doing important work every day.

Supporting all rangers is essential. Through your donations, we've been able to fund continuous camping patrols by Mount Kenya Trust so that two teams can work on a monthly rotational basis, ensuring round-the-clock protection of the Mount Kenya National Park and the mountain's vital elephant corridor.

PACHYDERM PARTNERS



SWT's corporate partners support us in many ways, from direct donations, to sales-fundraising, in kind support, event sponsorship and skills sharing.

With our partners' help – and the shared vision to celebrate wildlife and make our natural world a better place – the Trust is able to reach new audiences and generate essential income to support lifesaving conservation projects in Kenya.



Louise Mulgrew

A chance visit to the SWT Nairobi Nursery during her university years led Louise Mulgrew to discover her love for painting animals. Now a professional illustrator and creator of the most adorable award-winning greetings cards, her company gives back to the wildlife that sparked the start of her career, pledging 1% of turnover and donating more than £26,000 to date.

Christmas card collaborations have also become a tradition between Louise Mulgrew and the SWT, in what Louise describes as her 'favourite project of the year'. New for 2022 are our Starry Skies "Season's Greetings" designs, available exclusively in the SWT's online shop (see page 27). Plus, the original artwork from the 2021 and 2022 collections will soon be available to purchase from our shop, with 100% of proceeds supporting SWT projects.

For more wonderfully creative and sustainable cards, visit louisemulgrew.com or find her designs in shops across the UK.



Elizabeth Scarlett's elephant conservation collection

Elephant accessories have never been more gorgeous than Elizabeth Scarlett's delicately embroidered range, created in honour of the orphans in the SWT's care. Now with even more pieces to choose from – from laptop cases to mini pouches – in a brand new Baby Elephant design, each item in this limited edition collection generates a donation equal to 1-3 bottles of milk for the orphans. And, for the sleepy heads, the exclusive sleepwear collection is what dreams are made of, featuring 100% cotton pyjamas and robes, adorned with stunning elephant or giraffe motifs.

Shop here: elizabethscarlett.com



Leaving a positive footprint with LØCI

Vegan sustainable footwear brand LØCI has teamed up with illustrious stylist-to-the-stars (and long term SWT supporter) Ilaria Urbinati to create a cutting-edge collection of trainers. The three exclusive styles are unisex and made from recycled ocean plastic, available in red, black and white with a touch of Ilaria's hand-designed floral print. Best of all? 10% of the profits from this range will be donated to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

Get yours here:

lociwear.com/collections/ilaria-urbinati

Other ways to get involved

Corporate support does not have to be financial. You can give invaluable assistance by donating your time, products or services, thereby allowing the SWT to direct more funds to where they are needed – to support orphaned baby elephants and all wildlife across Kenya.

Find out more:

infouk@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FUNDRAISING

Whether you run a marathon, organise a bake sale or lemonade stand, host an elephant-themed dinner party, or simply request donations in lieu of birthday or wedding gifts, do it for the elephants and all of Kenya's wildlife.



Challenge events

However you choose to challenge yourself, be it a walkathon, Tough Mudder or Ironman, you can do it for the SWT. Use your own place at any event, or create your own sponsored challenge like Heather (below) and fundraise for us. For those wanting a New Year fitness goal to work towards, there's 10 months to train for the Royal Parks Half (Oct 2023), so lace up those trainers and join the herd! Get in touch: info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org



Superstar fundraiser and long-term SWT supporter **Heather Parsons** has done it again! She's walked over 60km in total, in two different countries (and continents!) and raised a fantastic £768 (over AUS\$1,370) at time of print, all for the elephants.

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED HELP?

Email info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org or call us 01372 378 321



Host your own fundraising activities

Fundraising doesn't have to be physically taxing! You can use all sorts of skills in support of the SWT; Patty Grant held a charity ball and raised £1,800 for the elephants, while Helen Cooper McLean has been busy sewing and selling elephant-shaped tree decorations at Christmas fayres to raise £200. How about hosting your own Bake Off challenge or pub quiz? Whatever floats your boat, find out how to get involved: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/get-involved/fundraise



Ellie Lewis is only 9 years old but she has a big heart and big ideas when it comes to helping elephants. Since March, she's been busy raising funds, making felt eles and shortbread cookies (above) for her class, and rallying her friends to organise a school sale. And she didn't stop there... Ellie's also been selling her homegrown veggies too, raising £200 in total so far!

SHOP TO SUPPORT

Our online shop has plenty of elephant-inspired items to delight all ages and what's even better is that every purchase supports conservation, with profits directed back into SWT field projects, meaning you can shop and gift while giving back!

Scan to start shopping



Orphans' Project Calendar £12

Elephants have incredible memories, but if yours isn't quite so watertight, you can ensure you never forget your engagements with the help of our 2023 Calendar. Each month features a hand-picked picture of joy, love and hope from our orphan units, making it the perfect way to celebrate your support of SWT every day of the year.



Christmas cards £8.50 (pack of 6)

Inspired by the Orphans' Project, our beautiful



Christmas cards are sure to spread love and joy this holiday season! Each pack contains six adorable elephant scenes, set against starry night skies, with gold-foil "Season's Greetings" messaging for a special festive touch. Designed exclusively for the SWT by award-winning illustrator (and animal lover) Louise Mulgrew, our Christmas cards consistently sell out each year, so make your purchase now before they are all gone!



Mtoto soft toy £16

The perfect present for little ele-lovers to cherish forever, our blanketed baby elephant toy will feel right at home in tiny hands. Representing the orphans in the care of the Sheldrick Trust, just like them, Mtoto needs a surrogate family to provide lots of love, cuddles and friendship!



Wash bags £30

These quilted organic cotton wash bags are sure to help you tick some names off your Christmas gift list! A stylish must-have to keep your cosmetics organised at home or while travelling, these lined bags have been designed and hand-crafted with elephant detailing, especially for the SWT.





GET IN TOUCH

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