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Habari!

SAVING WILD LIVES TODAY · SECURING HABITATS FOR THE FUTURE





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Welcome

It is said that every picture tells a story. Never has that been more true than when looking at the photographs in this newest issue of our supporter magazine, Habari! They tell of tiny trunks that have survived unimaginable trauma; supporters going above and beyond to raise precious funds for wildlife; and the efforts to which the Sheldrick Trust's field teams in Kenya will go to help not just animals, but people too, as pilots raced against rising floodwaters to save a stricken lorry driver whose vehicle had overturned on a river causeway.

My personal favourites are the images of Mwana, the 55th (known) wild-born calf of the Orphans' Project. Her birth is a reminder to never give up hope, however bleak a situation may seem. It is a sentiment echoed in Raha's remarkable tale of recovery. This impossibly tiny black rhino has an entire team of SWT Keepers at her beck and call (or squeak!), dedicated to helping her every step of the way until she is ready to return to the wild. So far, that's included major veterinary surgery and months of convalescence.

Human-wildlife conflict is a threat you'll read about in these pages. Not pictured, but just as important, is what's happening on the ground in Kenya right now to stop it. As I write this, SWT teams are fielding reports from communities as elephants stray beyond the borders of the National Parks, encountering dwellings, roads, towns, and farms. Like a well-oiled machine, the sum of the SWT's many parts come together to urgently respond to these calls, mobilising aircraft to shepherd elephants back into protected areas through sections of fence lowered by SWT ground teams.

All this brings projects like Community Outreach into sharper focus. One of the Trust's oldest initiatives, it holds the greatest potential for securing the long-term future of wildlife. In this issue, we show how Samuel and the team are building vital relationships with people living alongside wildlife and engaging school children in conservation for the betterment of tomorrow.

Which brings me to you. If this magazine is a celebration of anything, it is a tribute to our supporters like you who continue to stand with us in our mission to protect all wildlife and habitats in Kenya.

Rob Brandford
Executive Director

NEWS



Picture this: An impossibly tiny rhino calf trotting about with a brightly coloured blanket on her back, pushing and prodding her little button horn into all she encounters. That's Raha!
Get to know this colourful character on page 7.

News



Treating a Tiny Lion Victim

Set upon by lions and suffering from septic bite wounds, emergency in-the-field care in June 2023 ensured this one-and-a-half-year-old elephant calf lived to tell the tale. Step one saw the SWT/KWS Tsavo Vet Unit immobilise the mother and her stricken baby with an anaesthetic. Next, the team cleaned the calf's infected injuries and administered long-acting antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to facilitate a speedy recovery. Once the treatment was complete, they awoke the sleeping duo who rushed to each other's side. A little life saved and a family kept together. **Read about more life-saving veterinary operations on page 25.**



Moving Mountains

What happens when an elephant gets stuck far from home? It's a quandary the animals are increasingly facing now that rangelands are strewn with farms, highways and entire towns. Over the past year, the SWT has taken a leading role in shepherding elephants off community land, utilising the SWT helicopter and field teams to proactively prevent incidents of human-elephant conflict. When that isn't workable, the Tsavo Elephant Transportation Unit will take steps to offer them an emergency exit and safe passage, physically transporting elephants back into protected areas. Angela Sheldrick explores this vital but lesser-known aspect of the SWT's work in a recent edition of field notes - read at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/news/fieldnotes/march-2023

Planting a Greener Lamu

Fantastic news from Amu, where an ambitious treeplanting project to regenerate one of Africa's oldest coastal mangrove forests is reaping rewards. Led by SWT conservation partners the Eden Reforestation Project, and with support from SWT and the Lamu Conservation Trust, over 11 million trees have been planted, and 76 full-time jobs created for the local community since 2021.



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

SWT NEWSLETTER



Every year, the SWT in Kenya publishes an annual newsletter, showcasing how your donations have helped countless wild animals. This year is no exception, resplendent with beautiful photography worthy of a coffee-table book, and tales from the field. Here, we give a sneak peek of what awaits you and share an excerpt from Angela Sheldrick's personal introduction...

“Where to begin? 2022 marked our 45th anniversary — and it was a year that will go down in history. What started as an extended dry season soon devolved into a large-scale drought that gripped much of Kenya. Rivers ran dry, vegetation withered away, as great landscapes dried up across the country.

But, as is so often the case, from hardship emerged hope. While 2022 brought about conservation hurdles on a new scale — near-daily orphan rescues and field emergencies, a surge in illegal activities, local communities in need of help — it also showed us how far we have come. Because of donors like you, we were able to answer the call, no matter how great the challenge, providing life-saving support across the country.

In our 2022 Newsletter, discover how your support helped us see Kenya's wildlife and communities through the drought, all while building upon our conservation projects across Kenya.”

— Angela Sheldrick

Read a copy of
the newsletter by
scanning this QR
code:



ORPHANS' PROJECT



The Sheldrick Wildlife Trust offers orphaned baby elephants and rhinos the best possible chance of survival and an eventual life back in the wild. As drought and human-wildlife conflict continues to blight wildlife, we have recently welcomed several orphaned elephants - and a bitty baby rhino - into the SWT foster family. We've shared some of the biggest characters to join the fold over the following pages. But there are many more stories to read and little trunks deserving of your support. Learn more at: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org



Courageous Raha Brings Joy to the Nursery

Rhino-lovers will rejoice with the rescue of Raha, a critically endangered black rhino. She is a typical baby rhino: very inquisitive, full of energy and loves to squeak animatedly at anyone that crosses her path.

Raha's heart-breaking story began in September 2022 when, for reasons unknown, she became orphaned, aged just a few days old. When scouts from Ol Pejeta Conservancy found the impossibly tiny calf, she had been attacked by predators. Suffering grievous and extensive injuries, her tail had been bitten clean off and her rear end mutilated. Over the past ten months, she has required surgery to repair the damage, and a careful diet to manage the digestive challenges that have come with such severe injuries. Throughout, Keepers have remained with Raha day and night at the Nairobi Nursery, giving her the



medical attention, love and care she needed to survive this most precarious stage.

Raha's extraordinary story is only just at the beginning, but in spite of the odds against her, she has already begun to adapt to her new (tail-less) life at the Nairobi Nursery, revealing her innate bravery and resilience with each passing day. Her presence is a pure delight and so, what better name for her than Raha then, which means "joy" in Swahili.

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



Orphans



Drought Miracle Mwinzi

First teeth are a major milestone for any baby elephant and little Mwinzi already has several molars to his name - earning him the nickname of 'the biting elephant' during his rescue. As it happens, they are all the better for eating his favourite food: Greens! Most orphans his age pick at branches with varying degrees of interest but Mwinzi feasts with unbridled delight.

Unsurprisingly, his prodigious appetite has seen him grow plump and healthy. He currently lives at the SWT Kaluku Neonate Nursery, and his remarkable rescue story began in September 2022 when he was just five months old and became stuck fast in mud, too weakened by drought to extract himself. In a state of comatose at point of rescue, he was airlifted from Kimana to the Kaluku Neonate Nursery in the SWT helicopter. Now his days of deprivation are over and he is surrounded by love, family and food!



Mokogodo Steals Hearts at the Nursery

Everyone has fallen in love with Mokogodo - we challenge you not to too! She is larger-than-life, fun-loving, and has overcome tremendous adversity to be with us today.

Rescued from the Mukogodo Forest in Laikipia on Valentine's Day in 2023, she had been found all alone as a tiny four-month-old calf. We're not sure how she came to be an orphan, but at the SWT Nairobi Nursery where she is growing up, Mokogodo has found plenty of adoptive brothers and sisters to keep her company. Her recovery continues to be smooth sailing, and she is growing apace and filling out beautifully.



Doldol - Kaluku's Little Beetle

Introducing the smallest elephant to ever be rescued by the SWT... precious Doldol. Fondly known as a 'little beetle,' Doldol is small and round, with protuberant eyes and heart-shaped ears that are constantly flapping like wings. Even her demeanour is like an insect; she buzzes around with great purpose, always busy and investigating.

Doldol is no stranger to adversity. Rescued in November 2023, it is believed she was born premature and her mother was disturbed during birth, taking off and leaving her baby behind. Fresh from the womb, Doldol was so young when she was abandoned that it is unlikely she even had her mother's colostrum, which contains vital antibodies. Luckily, a community member cared for her overnight, saving her from predators and the freezing cold. The next day, rescuers from the SWT flew her to the Kaluku Neonate Nursery. It was here that she first met Keeper Mishak, an experienced Keeper who is known for being something of an elephant whisperer, and has primarily cared for her ever since. It's thanks to these guardian angels - not to mention generous SWT supporters that have funded her care for the past year and a half - that Doldol is still alive today, happily running headfirst into her life at Kaluku.



Babies like Mwinzi, Mokogodo and Doldol need milk, and plenty of it.

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



Adoptions help support the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's work and save the animals you love, including orphaned elephants like Mwinzi, Mokogodo and Doldol.



Adopt an orphan by scanning this QR code:

Reintegration Units

A New Home Awaits Esoit, Olorien and Lodo

In April 2023, Esoit, Olorien and Lodo bid the Nairobi Nursery farewell following weeks of preparation to acclimate the orphans with their jumbo-sized taxi (AKA the SWT's custom built moving lorry). Just as we have seen time and time again, they were accorded a wonderful welcoming party at their new home as the Ithumba herd greeted them with trumpets, trunk hugs and rumbles. Older Ithumba orphan Kauro even went above and beyond to make the trio feel welcome, lying down on the ground, inviting Olorien, Esoit, and Lodo to play with him.

Bondeni, Kindani and Kinyei Make the Big Move

A month later in May 2023, it was the turn of the 'Kaluku Trio' to make the move to Ithumba. Kindani, Kinyei and Bondeni initially grew up side-by-side at the Kaluku Neonate Nursery, before moving to the Nairobi Nursery to enjoy their toddlerhood amid the mentorship of older orphans.

Loaded up into the moving lorry side-by-side, they arrived at the Ithumba Reintegration Unit early in the morning so they could enjoy a full day in their new home. As is so often the way, Kindani, Kinyei and Bondeni's graduation coincided with the return of a large number of ex-orphans, who chose to make a pilgrimage 'home' to welcome the new arrivals. Around 60 ex-orphans and their off-spring turned up to the Ithumba mud-bath, but Kindani, Kinyei, and Bondeni took in everything with wide-eyed wonder, but they never seemed overwhelmed.

Giant mud baths, wild roaming elephants and piles of mud and dust around every corner await the graduating orphans at Ithumba where, over the coming months and years, they will learn how to live as wild elephants - until they will one day feel ready to reclaim their place amongst Kenya's wildlife. Because of your support, the SWT are able to give them the future they deserve — a completely wild life, in one of the most spectacular habitats in Kenya.

Injured Bull Seeks Out SWT for Help

Over the years, a number of wild animals have turned to the Trust at their hour of need. In July 2023, an astonishing operation unfolded when an arrowed elephant visited the Ithumba Stockades twice, seemingly asking for help. Unfortunately he came and went too quickly during his initial foray to mobilise a treatment. But to everyone's delight and disbelief, he made a second sojourn to the stockades days later, this time in the company of ex-orphans Zurura and Kasigau. As other elephants continued to filter in and out of the area, the bull planted himself at Ithumba, patiently waiting. As the Keepers relayed, he could not have made it more clear that he was asking for assistance.

Since an arrow to the joint can have dire consequences for an elephant, the SWT mobilised a rapid response: A SWT pilot flew a KWS Vet to the scene where an in-situ operation unfolded, surrounded by a sea of elephants.



Throughout, Zurura and Kasigau stood sentry over the patient; like the bull and all the elephants present, it was as if they understood he was being helped. Once the treatment was complete and the reversal drug was administered, the bull got back to his feet and walked back into the Tsavo wilderness from whence he came.

Incredibly, there is more to this story still. Exactly one week after he was anaesthetised, SWT Keepers reported that the bull returned for a drink, standing tall and proud and healing beautifully.



Kaluku orphans



The SWT's Kaluku Field Headquarters serve as a secure and comfortable pitstop for many orphaned animals as they journey back to the wild. Here we share some of their furry faces...

'Nini' by name, mini by nature, Nini (top left) is an orphan Thompson's Gazelle. Although she is growing, she still does a good job of making herself look tiny, tucking down in the grass as she would in the wild.

Abandoned when he was just five days old, rescued orphaned buffalo Mkubwa (top right) is one of the older - and bigger - orphans at Kaluku. Fittingly, his name means 'big.'

Harvey the Harvey's duiker (bottom left) is one of the smallest antelope orphans being hand-raised at Kaluku. His best friend and bedtime buddy is the equally diminutive Nini.

Introducing Twiggy...

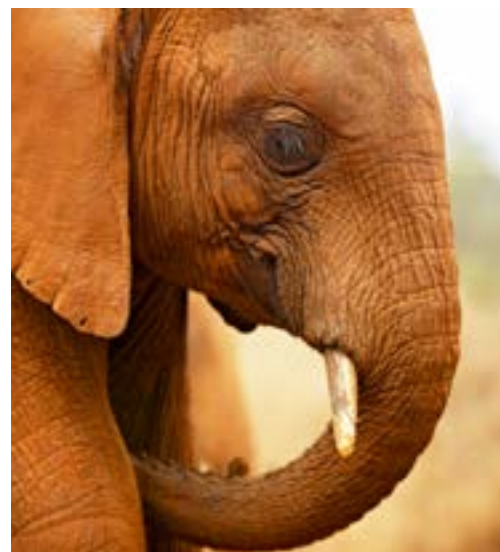
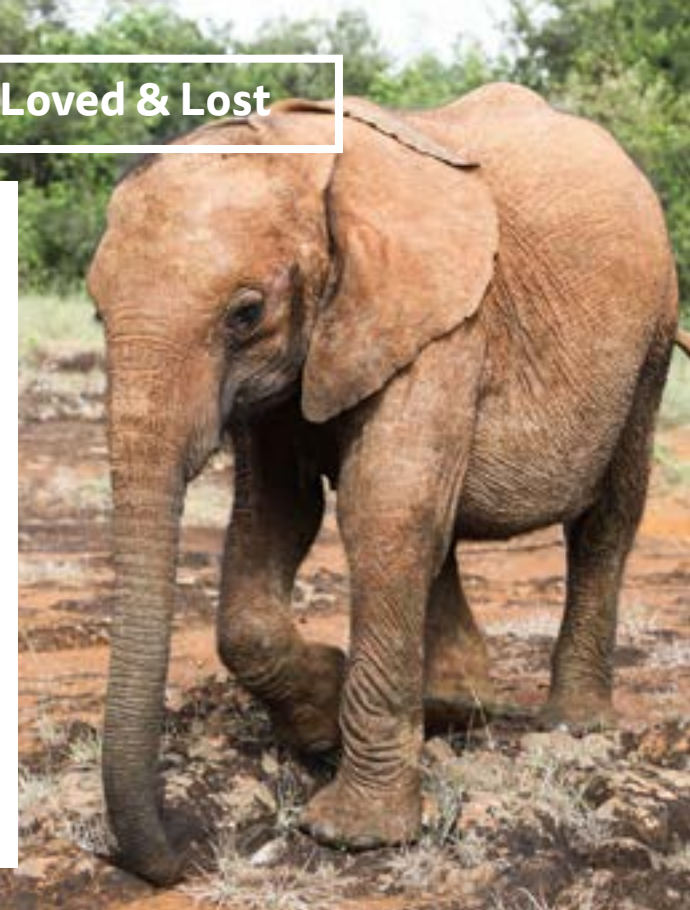
Twiggy stands head and shoulders above the Kaluku orphan herd. She was rescued in November 2021, after reports came in of a tiny, orphaned giraffe who was trying to join a herd of zebras. All signs indicated that she was an orphan, but to be absolutely certain, the SWT/KWS Burra Anti-Poaching Team was put on her trail. With night falling, predators about and no other giraffes in the area, it became obvious that a rescue was the only chance of securing her survival.

Twiggy is now growing up at the Kaluku Neonate Nursery, where she enchants everyone who crosses her path. Gentle and curious, but also shy and quiet, she is a friend to orphans big and small.

Loved & Lost

Ziwadi (2019 – 2023)

Ziwadi's sudden and unexpected passing in February 2023 left us, and her many adoring foster parents, bereft. She was rescued as a tiny elephant, all alone, with no signs of any other elephants or her herd. She spent her days at the Nairobi Nursery, enjoying an endless supply of greens and milk but suffered from seizures from time to time. Despite this frailty, she always forged her own path and as her Keepers noted, she was always in her own world "with the fairies". Following an unexpected and fatal seizure, now she is with them forever.



Oldepe (2019 - 2022)

Oldepe was found wandering the swamps of Amboseli alone during the drought that gripped Kenya in 2021-2022. He was a stoic young bull who had a surprising mischievous streak and enjoyed many a game of 'hide and seek' with his Keepers when it came to bedtime. His heart-breaking demise followed days of mysterious ill-health and his utter refusal to eat, amid a herculean battle by vets to establish a diagnosis of his mysterious illness.

WILD-BORN BABIES

Meet Mwana



Mwana is one of the newest wild-born calves to join the SWT family and her birth offers much cause for celebration to conservationists. She is the first wild born heir from the Umani orphan herd and her birth is a miracle in of itself considering her mother, Murera, very nearly didn't survive infancy. And did we mention she was adorable too?



To get a sense of the true enormity of Mwana's birth, we must first touch on Murera's story. It began desperately, at the height of a poaching crisis in 2012, when Murera trod on a poisoned spike trap, which ravaged her hind leg and left her with deep wounds. Compounding her misery, it is believed she had also fallen and dislocated her other hip, incapacitating her further. Few believed she would survive the tragedy but sometimes, an elephant comes along who defies their fate.

Brought to the Nairobi Nursery, Keepers were faced with a bleak sight: Murera's poor body was racked with pain and she could barely put any weight on her injured legs. Yet despite all of this, she fought to live. Responding in kindness, Keepers administered life-support and daily wound care, sometimes physically helping to support her. Eventually, their hard-won persistence paid off and Murera began to recover, in time gaining some mobility. In spite of such an unprecedented progress, however, it soon became clear she would never be able to roam the vast distances typical of her species.



It was out of this need for a sheltered but wild home that the Trust built the Umani Springs Reintegration Unit, nestled in the perennially lush Kibwezi Forest which would become the perfect home for compromised orphans like Murera.

Meet Mwana



As one of the original and eldest orphans at Umani, Murera has always ruled rank and file over the orphan herd, albeit from behind because of her compromised leg. Historically, she never strayed far from her orphan family but when her beloved orphan friend Luggard, passed away in May 2021, she embarked on a four day mourning period away from the herd. It was during this 'wild safari' she met her wild suitor. The SWT Keepers knew she was expectant from her progressively rounder belly and nearly 22 months to the day, Mwana was born in March 2023, just metres away from her Keepers in the forests of Umani Springs. True to form, Murera proudly returned to introduce her brand new baby immediately after she was born, fresh from the womb.

Mwana's name means 'child' in Swahili and it's fair to say she is part of a large and unconventional family which affords her the best of both — the freedom of a wild life, and the support of an extended human-elephant family. In her early days

following her birth, this support system proved especially important when mother and baby struggled to establish nursing, necessitating the Keepers to hand express milk from Murera to ensure her young baby received the all-important colostrum. In a staggering display of trust, Murera fully cooperated and 11 days later, mum and baby finally cracked it, with Mwana making a seamless transition from the bottle to breastfeeding.

Fast-forward to today, and Mwana is growing apace and the absolute darling of the Umani herd. Enkesha and Kiasa have emerged as particularly attentive nannies and the squeakiest trumpet or slightest ear flare from Mwana sends the entire herd into chaos, with everyone dashing around to protect the baby and find the source of her ire. She is precocious and a fast-learner in equal measure, and mimics the other members of the herd, even if her tiny trunk isn't up to the task.



Our Family Grows Further with Nyx

In December 2022, orphan elephant Naisula gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Members of the SWT team were afforded their first glimpse of the tiny baby in the early hours of 5th December via a night vision camera, when the first-time mum brought her calf to the Ithumba Reintegration Unit Stockades under the cover of darkness. Zooming in closer, they saw a tiny figure darting amidst a herd of sleeping wild-orphans!

As has become a time-honoured tradition among the ex-orphan mothers, Naisula made it her first priority to introduce her newborn to the men who raised her. In honour of her nocturnal arrival, the SWT have named Naisula's daughter Nyx, after the Greek goddess of the night.

Watch a very special update on Mwana's progress by scanning this QR code:



SUPPORT SWT



Their future. Your legacy

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

Your gift will live through all the tiny orphans we're currently raising; the miracle babies born from our wild-living orphans (55 and counting, at the time of print!); our country-wide veterinary project and of course, through the protection and preservation of their habitats, the places they call home.

This is not an easy task, and not one we can't do without your help as African's giants, and all their wild kin, continue to face growing challenges, exacerbated by the climate crisis.

Play a role in making our vision of hope a reality, make the Trust a part of your Will. It is a gift from the heart and 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 01372378321

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



Fundraising

Your fundraising activities are raising vital funds to help the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust save wild lives. Here's just a few of the ways you've supported us...

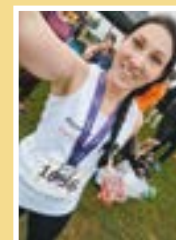


A Special Trek for Elephants

Nine-year-old Ada proves that when you put your mind to it, anything can be achieved. She recently completed a 10-mile sponsored walk in the Chilterns with her friend Olivia, to raise money for charities they cared about, as part of their Brownie Charity badge. Ada says "I chose the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust because I love elephants (my favourite is Lima Lima)." All in all, £330 was raised for the Sheldrick Trust - a brilliant effort that can benefit all the orphans in our care.

Special thanks to...

Samantha Gilmore who raced 10k in the Colchester Stampede, raising £90 in the process for SWT and achieving a PB!



Photographer Gary Roberts, who has visited and photographed the Trust as part of his long-running support for the charity, ran 10k in the Great Manchester Run, raising £305 for the SWT.

Schools Celebrate Africa and Support Elephants

'Celebrate Africa' has become a favourite event in the calendar for Carrongrange and Grangemouth High Schools. In June, pupils at both schools all had a wonderful time learning all about the continent and raising funds for the SWT in the process! Activities included turning up in animal print and bright colours to take part in a Great Elephant Walk around the playground, joining in an animal safari themed treasure hunt, drumming workshops, a cookery class and an Oware/Ayo tournament, where pupils from across school taught each other how to play this popular African game. Our sincere thanks to all the students, as well as Donna Mackenzie and Anne Ngabia, who visited the Trust in 2016 and started 'Celebrating Africa' 10 years ago!

Giants of Rugby Supporting Giants of Africa



In June 2023, the worlds of rugby and conservation came together in support of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, raising £2,000 in support of wildlife conservation efforts! Organised by Mark Dean, and with appearances from former rugby union players Andy Powell and Lee Mears, the event included a delicious dinner for 40 people, auction and a fun game of "stand up, sit down" to adopt elephants.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

In the field with Community Outreach Officer, Samuel

DAY 1:

It's Tree Planting Inspection Day! Deforestation around communities has left many schools without adequate shade from the scorching sun. The SWT works with wildlife clubs in schools to supply indigenous seedlings which best suit the arid environment, and can grow to provide a cool learning environment. Samuel meets with students to encourage constant watering, share tips on planting, mulching and track the tree's survival rate.



DAY 2:

The recent drought had a big impact on education, with many rural families struggling to feed their children and school absenteeism increasing. In Tsavo, SWT works with eight schools to supply food packages for lunch, supporting over 5,300 pupils last year alone. Each delivery of food offers Samuel the chance to encourage meaningful conservation activities by pupils. He says, "Tree planting is a favourite, and students are eager to point out the tree that they planted and tend to, standing next to it for a photograph."



DAY 3:

"Time to suit up in a bee suit" says Samuel, who spends the day inspecting farms and their bee hive fencelines. SWT funds hives and trains farmers to care for their precious bee colonies, which act as a natural deterrent to crop raiding elephants. Plus, they are excellent pollinators! Samuel's top tip when inspecting unoccupied hives: "Wiping the interior of the hive with a local herb is the wakamba secret to attracting bees. The sap is irresistible to bees!"



DAY 4:

The SWT funds fully-subsidised school trips into Tsavo East and West National Park so students can see Kenya's wildlife up close. "A normal school trip day may start at 5am in order to travel and reach the school on time" Samuel says. He adds, "The children are provided with guide books and come furnished with pens to document as many species as they can during the trip."



DAY 5:

Engagement with local communities, which are natural guardians to wildlife, is key to successful conservation. Samuel spends time building relationships with those who live on the boundaries of the National Parks and working with them in conservation efforts. That includes meeting with local leaders and conservationists to discuss community needs at the grass-roots level and attending stakeholder conservation meetings.



DAY 6:

For some children from impoverished areas, the fees for study materials and uniforms mean they are unable to obtain an education. A number of students from communities in the Tsavo Conservation Area therefore receive a scholarship from SWT for high school and university education. To ensure that sponsored children are faring well in school, Samuel visits respective schools to talk with the teachers about the children's academic performance and their general welfare.



Impact in Numbers



60+ School Field Trips per year



717 desks donated to Schools



131 Bee hives on fences to deter elephants





SEARCH AND RESCUE

One of the singular strengths of the SWT Aerial Unit is its ability to cover vast distances and monitor the landscape from the air, be that following a poacher's footprints among countless tracks or identifying an injured elephant among a ten-strong herd. This lent our eagle-eyed pilots perfectly to the task of saving the lives of two young children in life-or-death search and rescue operations.



Lost in the Wilderness

In late November 2022, a woman in Kone (a small town on the Tiva boundary of Tsavo East) headed into the bush to collect firewood. Unbeknownst to her, her three-year-old son slipped out behind her and got lost. In response to a request from the Community Chief for help, the next morning a SWT fixed-wing pilot who was out on patrol changed course and headed for the scene. Several hours were spent scrutinising the area but just when things were beginning to look hopeless, he zeroed in on a thick patch of bush. Watching him circling ahead, the search party ran over to investigate where they found the little boy huddled among the bushes. While in shock, the little boy was otherwise unharmed - a true miracle!



Another Remarkable Rescue

In a remarkable story, a four-year-old boy wandered 11 miles from his home in Asa and spent six days in the wilderness before being located by an SWT pilot. The child had gone missing during a thunderstorm while out herding livestock in late November 2023. Joining the operation, SWT fixed-wing pilot Roan Carr-Hartley searched from the skies but with no success. All hope seemed lost as the child's footprints disappeared with the onset of more rains. But incredibly, five days later, reports came in that new tracks had been found and in an extraordinary twist of fate, Roan was able to identify the boy hidden among dense vegetation, prompting a joyous celebration. Read a full account of the rescue by pilot Roan here: sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/news/updates/lost-child



Heli, camera, action

You could easily mistake this for a scene from an action movie, but this was a genuine high-stakes rescue mission by two SWT pilots in May 2023, to save a man's life. The saga began on 3rd May when sudden raging flood waters imperiled a truck driver who had been driving across the river between Galana and Kulalu. The rising water pushed the vehicle off the causeway, and flipped the truck on its side, leaving the driver dangerously stranded in water that was fast rising.

Receiving the alarm call from the SWT Galana Operations Manager, the SWT Aerial Unit sprung into action. Two pilots, Roan and Taru Carr-Hartley immediately embarked on a rapid response, scrambling the helicopter and swooping to the scene. There, they found a challenging set of conditions. Gusting winds were compounded by the swirling water, which created very challenging flying conditions.

Danger lurked below, between the raging river and a tanker full of petrol. Slowly, steadily, Taru inched the helicopter down towards the truck, hovering an astonishing six inches above. Meanwhile, Roan strapped into a harness that was attached to the aircraft. In one smooth motion, he stepped onto the tanker, grabbed the driver's hand, and helped him onboard.

As Angela Sheldrick puts it, "Working in conservation means being ready to answer the call, whatever it may be. Today, our Aerial Unit saved a life. Who knows what tomorrow will bring!"

Scan the QR code to watch the daring river rescue:





Remembering Patrick Muiruri

On 19th July 2023, the unthinkable unfolded at Umani Springs. Patrick Muiruri, a deeply respected and admired Keeper, was killed by a wild bull. As we grapple with this terrible tragedy, we mourn the loss of a beloved father, husband, brother, friend, and member of the SWT team.

That morning, an unfamiliar bull in musth appeared outside the stockade compound at Umani Springs. He was pursuing Zongoloni, who was in season. Musth is a healthy, periodic condition in male elephants. Their reproductive hormones go into overdrive and they become fixated on asserting their dominance. This bull was a very distinctive elephant, with a severely ragged and ripped ear.

After making a brief appearance at the stockades in the morning, the bull followed Zongoloni back into the forest. The Keepers waited until the coast was clear, holding the orphans back, before escorting the herd out for the day.

Later, the team were right next to the Umani Lodge when the bull suddenly exploded out of the forest. Again he was

pursuing Zongoloni, who ran towards the orphan herd for protection. He then locked onto the Keepers, who took off and found refuge in the nearby cottage — all but Patrick, who ran in a different direction. He took a longer route and the bull caught up with him. Patrick was killed almost instantly. His attack was entirely unprovoked, unexpected, and shattering for all who witnessed it.

Everyone acted with great bravery in the face of a shocking tragedy, as they tried so hard to divert the bull's attention and ward him off. We would especially like to commend the Umani Keepers and lodge staff, who showed enormous strength of character and leadership after witnessing such a horrific turn of events.

KWS authorised the translocation of the bull, but he had evaporated into the forest. Worryingly, the entire Umani orphan herd — includ-

ing dependent orphans, ex-orphans, and baby Mwana — had also disappeared. They were not seen for the rest of the day, nor did they return to the stockades that night.

Two pilots flew on rotation that day, searching for the bull and the orphans, but they had vanished. The following morning, we had a breakthrough: The Umani orphan herd was spotted in the west of the forest, with the bull lurking on their periphery. The bull was darted from the aircraft and the translocation took place immediately. He was loaded onto a crane truck and moved to Tsavo East National Park, far from any communities, camps, or human settlements. He has been fitted with a radio collar, so his movements can be tracked and monitored.

Patrick was a singular person. He had a special way with elephants, as his 13-year career as a Keeper can attest to. Orphans of

all ages gravitated to his kind, calm presence. Baby Mwana, Murera's newborn daughter, was very fond of Patrick. She loved to suckle his fingers and paddle after him, trunk eagerly extended towards his green jacket. We always say that elephants are the greatest judge of human character, and everyone unanimously cherished Patrick.

Patrick will be remembered as a talented Keeper and a good friend to all who knew him. He had a bright smile that instantly lifted one's spirits — and it was a smile we saw often. His happy, optimistic spirit is one that we could all stand to emulate. Across the board, his teammates remarked upon how honest, hard-working, and respectful Patrick was. Head Keeper Edwin shared a telling anecdote from his tenure at the Nursery: "Everyone wanted to work with Patrick. For example, when I would set the roster and organise for Patrick to cut greens or do another task, all the others would argue to join him. Everyone wanted to be part of his team."

Patrick lived a meaningful life. He chose to follow a special calling, one that few are cut out for. In the process, he touched countless lives, human and elephant. Our hearts and deepest sympathies go out to Patrick's family, including his wife, Salome, and his daughters, Pauline and Braina.

In the Kibwezi Forest, Patrick's elephant family is also mourning his loss. As we mentioned earlier, the orphans didn't come back to the stockades the night of the accident. Even Murera, who always returns with Mwana, and the youngest milk-dependent orphans were absent. However, mere hours after the bull was translocated, they returned to the stockades as a group. We firmly believe that they were trying to draw the culprit far away from their cherished human family, doing everything in their power to avert further tragedy. It was a powerful demonstration of the unwavering love and loyalty they feel for their Keepers. Patrick was taken before his time, but he will never, ever be forgotten.

FOCUS ON Endangered Species

Black rhino populations have
DOUBLED
in 20 years in Kenya to reach
938 individuals.

The mission of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is, and has always been, the preservation of wild species and habitats in Kenya, so that wildlife of all kinds can flourish in its natural environment, with space to roam, honouring the right to a truly wild existence. In the face of existential challenges to their survival from all angles, the Trust is working hard to forge a future for many critically-endangered animals with your support.

Lions

While lions are listed as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List, in Kenya they are considered 'endangered' under the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act. Kenya currently has a ten-year 'National Recovery and Action Plan' aimed at sustaining and growing viable populations of lions in healthy ecosystems. The SWT is supporting these efforts through habitat protection, human-wildlife conflict mitigation and veterinary interventions. To date, more than 450 lions have been attended by the SWT/KWS Veterinary Initiative. (See page 4 to read about a recent intervention).



Black Rhino

Black and white rhinos were once found throughout Africa, but as a result of human activities, namely poaching, their populations plummeted. Black rhinos are now on the brink of extinction, listed as 'critically endangered'. In Kenya, however, fantastic strides have been made for the species. Your support has helped the Trust to increase and secure key rhino habitats in Kenya so that populations can recover. That has included funding fencelines and rangers in Meru National Park, as well as aerial and foot patrols over rhino strongholds in Tsavo West. Not forgetting the rescue of orphaned black rhinos like Raha, and especially Solio, who was rescued as a victim of poaching, and has made her own contribution to the population increase, adding two precious calves to the count.



Giraffe

Many species of giraffe are facing a silent extinction. Their populations have fallen as much as 40%, largely due to bushmeat poaching and loss of habitat. As well as raising orphan giraffes like Kiko and Twiggy, the SWT/KWS Anti-Poaching Teams are active in the field daily, detecting and removing snares, while the Air Wing is instrumental in supporting the Mobile Vet Units in carrying out swift and safe interventions for injured or snared giraffes.

Mountain Bongo

Mount Kenya is one of the last remaining strongholds of the critically endangered Mountain Bongo, a beautifully striped and striking antelope whose numbers in the wild have dwindled as low as 100. The SWT plays a key role in supporting the survival of this species, through the Mount Kenya Vet Unit which is located near a major population of the animals, as well as funding a KWS Rapid Response Anti-Poaching Team, and a Mount Kenya Trust De-Snaring Team which patrol their habitat.

Endangered Species

Team Effort Saves Speared and Arrowed Elephant

Saving endangered elephants takes coordination, determination and skill and in February 2023, the SWT was present at every step of an emergency operation, from the initial sighting to administering life-saving veterinary care.

The saga began in the evening when Ithumba Head Keeper Benjamin noticed a bull with pus oozing from a wound on its trunk. It was too late to mobilise an intervention that night, but at first light the next day, an SWT fixed-wing pilot set out to find the bull. It takes a keen eye to find an injured elephant among elephant herds hidden in thick bush but remarkably, he spotted the patient-to-be and called in its location.

Meanwhile, the SWT helicopter ferried the SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Vet Unit to

the scene. After the elephant was darted with an anaesthetic from the air, two SWT/KWS Anti-Poaching Teams moved in on the ground to shepherd the bull to an open area, so treatment could commence. In the end, a two-part treatment was needed: first to attend to an arrow wound on the elephant's trunk, and then to clean a more serious spear wound on his side.

Given the nature of the injuries — an arrow and a spear — it is suspected that the bull got caught up in human-wildlife conflict, a growing threat and one of several reasons as to why elephants are now recognised as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red List. In collaboration with the SWT's partners and local communities, the Trust is working to forge a more sustainable future for animals and the people who live alongside them.



A Lifeline for Two Young Lions

In June 2023, two young lion cubs fell into a cavernous disused pit on Kuku ranch. Trapped at the bottom for up to 36 hours, they had zero chance of escaping unassisted. Adding further complication to the rescue effort was the fact that the six-months old cubs, though young, still posed a danger to rescuers. With safety paramount, the SWT/KWS Tsavo Vet Unit initially anaesthetised the duo before lowering a ladder into the four metre deep pit. This enabled rescuers to climb down and stretcher the cubs out to safety one at a time. On firm ground, they were given the once-over before being woken up for a much-needed meal. To mitigate any danger to the cubs, KWS officers and Lion Guardian scouts guarded them closely overnight and 12 hours later, a happy reunion ensued when their mother located her cubs. Giving the story a further twist to its happy ending, students from a high school watched the rescue take place and volunteered to fill the pit, preventing any further accidents to befall other wildlife.

A Snare Nearly Stole the Life of this Grévy's Zebra... But Not on the SWT's Watch!

This poor animal was sighted in a dreadful condition by Wildlife Works in February 2023 who reported the heart-breaking scene: the animal was tangled in a cable snare which had wound tightly around his head and severed an ear. Mounting a rapid-response, the SWT mobilised its helicopter to transport KWS vet Dr Limo directly to the scene and the snare was swiftly removed and the zebra's injuries treated. Thanks to teamwork and speedy intervention, our striped friend had a lucky escape, albeit with some scars to remind him of his terrible ordeal.



SHOP TO SUPPORT



Elizabeth Scarlett x SWT

We've collaborated with luxury lifestyle brand and long-time SWT supporter, Elizabeth Scarlett, to bring you a bespoke collection of beautifully embroidered elephant accessories, for home, days out and travel. The 'mother and calf' design perfectly encapsulates the aim of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's Orphans' Project, and has been brought to life in a custom shade - "Ithumba Blue" - in honour of Daphne Sheldrick's favourite colour, reminiscent of skies over Tsavo. Exclusively available through the SWT's online shops, stock of this range is limited - get these gorgeous accessories while you can at: **shop.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org**

Unique Pottery Pieces that Give Back to Pachyderms

Some years ago, Barbara Boylan, of Hooray for Clay, donated her time by volunteering for an elephant conservation project in Sri Lanka. It didn't take her long to discover how fortunate we are to live in a world with elephants and her encounters - most memorably with a bull elephant in musth - inspired her to continue her support by using her artistic talents to raise funds. Barbara now very generously donates 50% of profits of her beautiful handmade, original pottery to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust - browse her stunning catalogue here: **hooray-for-clay.com**



Our online shop has plenty of elephant-inspired items to delight all ages and what's even better is that 100% of the proceeds from each item sold goes towards the SWT's conservation projects. So by shopping, you can directly support Kenya's wildlife.

Scan to start shopping:



Photographic Prints by Joachim Schmeisser £60

A limited edition photographic series of the Orphans' Project, captured by award-winning photographer Joachim Schmeisser. Any of the prints will beautify blank spaces in the house, making your only challenge choosing which of the nine images to purchase. Each print comes mounted and ready for framing.



Elephant Guardian Backpack £75

The ultimate accessory in support of conservation, you can now carry a piece of the SWT with you, wherever you go! Each of these limited-edition Elephant Guardian backpacks comes with its own history, having started out as a pair of trousers - worn by SWT keepers and rangers in their daily roles. Suitable for everyday use, an outer and inner pocket allows you to organise your items, while a beautifully selected kanga lining offers a surprise pop of colour on the inside of the bag.



Organic Soft Baby Toy £8.50

New to our shop and the perfect screen-free activity to keep young minds (and hands!) occupied, these 3D elephant puzzles offer a fun way to connect kids with nature. Eco-friendly and child-safe, simply glue the pieces together in sequence to create a gentle giant that can fit in the palm of your hand. Suitable for ages 6+.



Elephant Model Kit £9

With large floppy ears for chewing and a knotted tail for twiddling, these super-soft, hand-crafted elephant toys have been created from organic cotton scraps left over from the manufacture of baby clothes, making them pure, ethical and waste-reducing. Available in various colours, no two elephant toys are exactly alike.



GET IN TOUCH

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