



DAVID
SHELDRIK
WILDLIFE TRUST

2006 *newsletter*

2006 NEWSLETTER

It has been an extremely busy and also, insofar as the Trust is concerned, a very successful year, hence it has passed rapidly without us hardly even knowing it. Time now again to wish all our Supporters and Friends, **A very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous, Healthy, Happy and above all Peaceful 2007** and to thank them wholeheartedly for their support throughout the year.

Daphne's Investiture

2006 began with an unexpected but very pleasant surprise for Daphne in the form of a call from the British High Commissioner on New Year's Eve informing her that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had elevated her to a Dame Commander of the British Empire (DBE) - the equivalent of a Knighthood - apparently the first in Kenya since the country became independent in 1963.

From now on she would be known as Dame Daphne, one of only some 840 Britons world-wide so honoured there



Dame Daphne Sheldrick

being a ceiling on the number within this order at any one time. Daphne was dumbfounded, since this was the last thing she expected. Nevertheless, she cannot help but be proud that the work of the Trust established in memory of David has been recognized in this extremely prestigious manner, mindful also that it comes as the result of the Trust's very hard-working team of dedicated personnel, all of whom labour long and hard beyond the call of duty, and none more so than her daughter, Angela and Angela's husband, Robert. It is they who now shoulder the day to

Dame Daphne with some of the DSWT Team at her investiture party held at the British High Commission residence in Nairobi



day burden of running of the Trust, thereby freeing up Daphne to be able to concentrate more on her long awaited Autobiography. This has had to be relegated to the Back Burner each time a new orphaned elephant arrives in the Nairobi Nursery and since there have been 70 since the first (2 week old "Olmeg") came in, it is small wonder that the elusive "Book" has been so long in forthcoming!

The British High Commissioner very kindly hosted a Reception in Daphne's honour at his Nairobi Residence which was attended by some 250 guests, many of whom made the effort to come from far corners of the country, quite a feat in view of the state of Kenya's chaotic traffic and pot-holed roads. At the end of May she was at Buckingham Palace for the Investiture itself, this time Prince Charles doing the honours, who was very well informed on the conservation challenges in Kenya. Accompanying her were the permitted 3 guests - her two daughters, Angela and Jill (who traveled from France for the occasion) and her son-in-law Robert Carr-Hartley. Yet another Reception in her honour followed the Investiture that same evening, this time organized by the Trust's U.K. Charity with the help of Koan Public Relations Company, who most generously donate £3,000 worth of free publicity to our U.K. Charity each month. The venue was the RAF Club in Piccadilly, (just a stone's throw from Buckingham Palace), which was a very convenient and congenial venue kindly organized by our US Friends Board President, Stephen Smith, a longstanding Member of the Club.

The evening was an enormous success, and better still was entirely funded by Angela through the sale of five of her paintings at the function, which came as another well hidden surprise for Daphne. Again some 250 conservation colleagues, friends, relatives and dignitaries attended the function, including Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, the outgoing High Commissioner of Kenya, Sir Edward and his wife Lady Clay, and Rula Lenska who very generously donated in support of the orphans the entire proceeds of her Celebrity Big Brother TV appearance. David Shepherd, (an old friend of David and Daphne's) spoke amusingly and movingly about her accomplishments, and our US Board members flew across the Atlantic for the occasion (at their own expense). It was a day and an evening that Dame Daphne will never forget!

(Thanks to Robert Brandford of DSWT U.K. and Koan for organizing the Reception, to Doolhof wines for their generous contribution of wines for the event, to our US Board Members for being there and to all who made the effort to attend and help make the evening such a success.)

Trust Personnel

The Trust now handles a sizeable work force, but only four undertake the day to day management, all the rest actively engaged in hands-on conservation initiatives. We enjoy an enviable reputation for the efficiency of our administrative commitment to Grant Donors, which is handled by Angela, assisted by Lina Sideras

Tsavo on a monthly basis, under the eagle eye of Robert, who insists on high standards. Elephant Keepers, who also take turns to do Yard Duties, number 43, De-Snaring personnel 37 the Mobile Veterinary Unit just 2, (the Vet and his Driver) who are assisted by the De-Snaring Team of the area in which they are operating while Caretakers at the Trust House, the Kaluku De-Snaring base, and the Ithumba Camp number 5, Cooks for the various Staff Canteens 3 and skilled Artisans such as Masons and Carpenters 4, three of whom are attached to the field, supervised by Lionel. The Trust has certainly grown in the 30 odd years that it has been operational and is now a far cry from when Daphne and her daughter, Jill, handled everything, including feeding

results of their funding. We are deeply indebted to our extremely competent US Friends President, Stephen Smith and his wife and help-mate, Jan, who work so tirelessly and so willingly for the Trust, to Brian Miller and Marty and Sue Moore who are always more than generous in their contributions and to Tim Mott for his wise counsel and concise vision, not forgetting the Worker Bees behind the scenes who similarly work voluntarily and very hard, especially Kathryn Fenley and the volunteers she mobilizes when extra help is needed. Similarly we value the efficient input of Robert Brandford who manages the U.K Charity, solicits grant funding, handles publicity,



Angela Sheldrick



(funded courtesy of our US Friends), and two Accounting Clerks. (There is great merit in keeping the administration of any organization "lean and mean", so that the right hand knows what the left is doing at all times, and decisions can be taken rapidly.) Angela's husband, Robert, oversees all the Trust's Field Projects in conjunction with our Field manager, Lionel Nutter who communicates with the Trust H.Q. on a daily basis, while two very worldly Messengers brave Nairobi's traffic jams on a daily basis acting as the Trust's legs. A roving Mechanic and his one Assistant regularly service all the Trust's vehicles and equipment both in Nairobi and

and sleeping with the first elephants, plus fundraising, with cap in hand, doing the rounds of Hotels and Clubs to talk and show environmental films. David Sheldrick always led by example and no Trust worker is expected to undertake any task that Management Staff are incapable of doing themselves.

(We owe a great deal of this year's success to our very active US Friends Board, all of whom work entirely voluntarily to bring the Trust's Wish List to fruition, and who travel half way across the world at regular intervals for meetings and to monitor the

keeping in contact with all our U.K. donors, and generally ensures the smooth running of our U.K. arm. We are also extremely grateful for the continued input of Mr. James Clark whose advice and expertise is so valuable and lastly but no means least, we are grateful for the voluntary assistance of Pablo Lo Moro who helps Angela with the format for the Kenya Trust's Grant proposals We are deeply grateful to Mary Barry, the Public Relations Manager of British Airways for embracing the Trust's community input and Orphans Project.)

Below, a Brief Summary of the Year's Good News:-

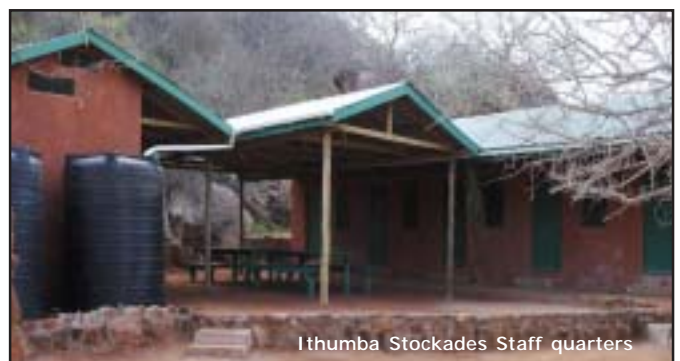
In Nairobi

- ◆ The rescue of 10 orphans and successful rearing of 7.
- ◆ The successful rehabilitation of our 2 orphaned rhinos.
- ◆ A new Veterinary Drug and Milk Store for the Nursery.
- ◆ Upgrading the Nursery Elephant stables and Stockades.
- ◆ The success of the BBC's "Elephant Diaries" both in the U.K. and USA.
- ◆ A marked increase in the number of visitors to the Trust on a daily basis.
- ◆ The Orphans Project featured on CBS 60 Minutes in the U.S.A. and Australia.
- ◆ The January U.K. update of "Elephant Diaries".
- ◆ The Filming by the BBC of "Elephant Diaries II" due to be released next Spring.
- ◆ The resulting increase in tourism as a result of the above exposure.

In Tsavo

- ◆ The funding of a detailed Management Plan for Tsavo.
- ◆ The popularity and success of the Ithumba Camp.
- ◆ Extension and maintenance of the Northern Area Boundary Fence.
- ◆ Upgrading and expanding the Staff Quarters at Ithumba.
- ◆ A third Elephant Stockade at Ithumba.
- ◆ The progress and adventures of the orphans at both Tsavo Rehabilitation Units.
- ◆ The establishment of a seventh De-Snaring Team for Chyulu National Park.
- ◆ Training of our De-Snarers by the British Army Peace Support Team.
- ◆ The establishment of Rhino Release Holding Pens in the Tsavo Triangle.
- ◆ Upgrading the Voi Elephant Stockades.
- ◆ A new Lorry to cart cut greens to the Voi Orphans for night fodder.
- ◆ Addition of stables to house orphans other than elephants, currently a zebra foal and a baby kudu.
- ◆ The establishment of a Tree Nursery on the Trust Land at Mtito and at Voi.

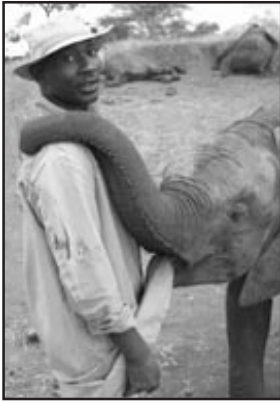
- ◆ The Trust's Community initiatives around Tsavo.
- ◆ The sighting of ex orphans "Eleanor" and "Mary" and their wildborn offspring.
- ◆ Emily and others, hand-reared from early infancy, now rehabilitated.
- ◆ The provision of a new borehole at the Kamboyo H.Q. for Tsavo West.
- ◆ The work of our Mobile Veterinary Unit.
- ◆ The formation of a Second Mobile Veterinary Unit for the Masai Mara, Naivasha and Nakuru.



Now, A Summary of the Not-So-Good News

- ◆ Somalia in chaos.
- ◆ A growing Chinese involvement in Africa will exacerbate the trading of illegal Ivory.
- ◆ The death of our little blind elephant "Ndololo", and others too damaged to save.
- ◆ The on-going drought conditions within Tsavo and Northern Kenya.
- ◆ Illegal logging, Charcoal Burning and Deforestation continuing.
- ◆ Declining water levels in all Kenya's Rift Valley lakes as well as Victoria.
- ◆ The predicted catastrophic impact of Global Warming on Africa.
- ◆ The unsustainable toll of wildlife for the Bushmeat Trade.
- ◆ The mass incursion of livestock into all National Parks.
- ◆ The illegal de-gazetting of Amboseli National Park.
- ◆ Pressure to reinstate hunting.
- ◆ The poaching of two free released rhinos in Tsavo East in May.
- ◆ Politics influencing the efficiency of KWS.





THE ORPHANS' PROJECT

The Nursery

A serious blow to our Orphans' Project this year has been the temporarily loss of a means of getting the donated "reworked" milk (time expired for human consumption) out to us, since our longstanding Carrier is no longer permitted to carry charitable goods even though milk for elephants surely falls within the category of "conservation" rather than "charitable", since it is saving an endangered species. We have therefore had to resort to purchasing the elephant milk at the market price to avoid endless wasted days trying to extract it from the Customs Shed, not to mention the expense of doing so in terms of duty. For the very young Nursery babies, SMA is purchased off the shelf and for the older elephants, a Milk Replacer is bought, neither of which come cheap. That aside, the contribution our orphans have generated for Kenya, and their species, cannot be quantified in financial terms.



The benefit to the Trust and to Kenya as a country resulting from the highly successful BBC series "Elephant Diaries" has definitely been instrumental in the increase in tourist numbers to the country this year, as well as its educational value in promoting a better understanding of elephants who duplicate humans in terms of emotion, age progression and life expectancy. In many cases, the fact that tourists have chosen Kenya as a destination rather than Southern Africa is simply because of the impact of Elephant Diaries, something that is endorsed repeatedly by the visiting public during our one "open hour" a day, when the public arrive to enjoy the orphans' mudbath. There has also been a great increase in the number of African school-children at this time, but whose numbers have had to be limited to 250 per day. All are eager to see an elephant and learn about them from the Keepers who care for them. It must be remembered that most Kenyans have never even seen an elephant, let alone been able to get close to one.





BBC's Elephant Diaries and CBS 60 Minutes

At the beginning of the year an update on the orphans was screened in the U.K. and since then the entire programme has circulated throughout Europe, Australia and even shown in flight on South African Airways. "Elephant Diaries" went to the American public on the Animal Planet Channel, and soon afterwards the orphans were the subject of the prestigious CBS 60 Minutes, which enjoys a viewership of over 20 million people, and again benefited the Trust with unprecedented exposure.

This year, the BBC have completed the filming of the second "Elephant Diaries" series, which promises to be equally as good, if not better than, the first.

The Trust's innovative Fostering Programme, the brain-child of Angela in conjunction with our web-master, Paul MacKenzie, has proved immensely popular and generates ongoing funding to help cover the increasing outlay involved in rearing long-lived species such as elephants and rhinos. The Trust has now hand-reared through the Nursery 70 infant elephants, 10 of whom are still within the Nursery, 22 growing up at the Ithumba Reintegration Centre and another 23 still dependent in the Voi Rehabilitation Centre. 15 of our ex-Nursery orphans, along with others orphaned old enough to skip the Nursery period making 26 in all are now successfully reintegrated back into the wild elephant community of Tsavo

National Park. Some of these have had wild-born young, which they bring back to show their erstwhile human family, among these the famous early elephant named "Eleanor", who grew up to become the Matriarch of orphans during the time of David Sheldrick. She weathered three decades of rampant poaching by remaining to embrace the victims of poaching, shunned until the age of 36 by the wild herds due to her affiliation with the human "enemy".

This year the Nursery Orphans' Night stables and Stockades received a much needed face-lift with additional Sensor lights installed as a security measure to protect the Night Milk Mixer from running into a buffalo or wild rhino, many of whom choose to spend nights in the proximity of the Trust's Headquarters. Garage space abutting Daphne's house has been converted into a larger Milk and Medical Store for the Nursery Elephants, made possible by the generous donation of Rula Lenska at the Investiture Reception and making space for a small office for Angela's Assistant, Lina Sideras, partitioned to provide working space for our two Accounts Clerks.

People who have signed up to becoming Foster Parents, either on line through the Internet, or at the Nursery itself, are, by appointment, permitted a more intimate involvement with the Nursery elephants in the evenings when they return to their Night Stables. Exclusive Viewing at 3 p.m. is also possible, but for an enhanced fee, and this is also becoming popular

with Tour Operators. However, once the orphans leave the Nursery for gradual rehabilitation back into the wild community within Tsavo National Park, visiting is strictly restricted to only Foster-Parents, and then only in the evenings at the Voi Unit when the elephants return to their Night Stockades or by booking the Ithumba Camp in the Northern Area in order to have access to those at Ithumba.

At the time of writing (mid November) this year we have been involved in the rescue of 10 new infant orphaned elephants, 3 of whom subsequently died, all hopeless cases who arrived too far gone for us to be able to save. We began the year with 7 infants in the Nairobi Nursery, namely **Lualeni, Kora, Makena, Rapsu, Challa, Zurura and the tiny blind baby, Ndololo**, but the ongoing drought conditions soon took their toll and others followed:-

Loijuk

The first to arrive was a young bull of about 8 months, from Tsavo West National Park in an advanced state of emaciation, who died the next day, closely followed by the second orphan, a female of about 7 months named **Loijuk** from the West Gate Community Sanctuary of Samburu who likewise arrived in a pathetic state, already given the name, "Loijuk" by the warriors that found her. We were not hopeful of being able to save this calf either, for tell tale fluid was coming from the trunk, usually a sign of pneumonia, which is a killer, but she immediately took milk and responded



positively to the normal prophylactic course of injectible antibiotics plus a night long massage with essential oils of Eucalyptus and T Tree. Most orphaned elephants who are forced to share pasture with domestic livestock also arrive with an overload of stomach parasites, Loijuk being no exception, but once these had been eliminated, she slowly began to recover and at the time of writing is thriving.



Jonathan Scott with Emily



Ithumba Orphans



The Elephants Nursery

Sian

The next to arrive was an Amboseli calf, the 9 month old baby of 23 year old "Soila", well known to the Researchers, being a member of their SA Study family. Named "**Sian**" this calf returned without her mother after crossing into

Tanzania, but before a rescue could be mounted, she accompanied the family back again. She was next seen two weeks later near one of the Amboseli Swamps, still minus her mother, but accompanied by 4 large Bulls. Since baby elephants cannot survive without milk if orphaned less than the age of 2 – 3 years, it was urgent to try and capture her, even though the presence of the bulls made this a daunting proposition. Understandably, they did not take kindly to the rude intrusion of being charged by several roaring and hooting vehicles during an attempt to separate the calf, one vehicle being that of Cynthia Moss herself, normally just a friendly observer well known to them. This character change obviously puzzled them, and after some anxious moments, happily they decided that discretion was the better part of valour, and began to move off, presenting an opportunity to isolate the calf, and capture her. To begin with Sian was intent on flattening everyone in sight, repeatedly crashing against the bars of her Stockade but following the example of the established group, she accepted milk overnight and after just one more day in the Taming Stockade, was able to join the others out in the bush. Today, she is the current Mini Matriarch of the Nursery orphans and an extremely caring and proficient one at that.

Ndololo

Meanwhile, our precious little blind baby, **Ndololo**, was thriving after a very wobbly start. His eyes were beginning to clear, enabling him to respond to light and notice shapes and the two Eye Specialists who had been treating him, were optimistic that he would make a full recovery and regain his vision. We were too, until the 23rd January, when he suddenly and unexpectedly died with practically no prior warning apart from some mucous in the stools, which otherwise looked normal in consistency. An autopsy revealed an infection of the small intestine that had spread towards his mouth rather than down the other way, possibly due to a lack of fibre in his diet to hasten the progress of milk through the system. Normally a calf of his tender age would begin taking food from the mouth of another elephant and it simply did not occur to us that being blind, Ndololo was unable to do this.

There were no dry eyes that day and the death of Ndololo was a particularly painful heartbreak for us, all his Keepers, and his many foster-parents world-wide, who had followed his short life with such interest and concern. The other Nursery inmates also mourned his passing, especially Zurura, who had been his best friend. Having overcome successive bouts of life threatening diarrhoea and looked death in the face many times, Ndololo had turned into a plump, healthy, playful and extremely bright little elephant, even managing to kick the football accurately, as his eyes began to heal. He taught us so much during his brief life - about the mysterious intelligence of one so very young; about the acuteness and proficiency of the other senses that became so attuned that one would be forgiven for not knowing that he was blind. He could identify his favourite Keeper in amongst all the others, and could walk with confidence following the soft tapping of a stick on the



Ndololo



Shida



Shida's friends

ground, weaving his way through the thickets and avoiding all obstacles. The outpouring of affection that he gave his Keepers, and his trust of them, made little Ndololo a very special baby who will live in all our hearts forever. There are, however, always lessons to be learnt the hard way from every elephant that passes through our hands, and now the newborns have a spoonful of natural fibre (Isabgol) added to their milk.

Nairobi Park Wild Residents

By the end of January the drought began to take a toll of the Nairobi Park's wild residents, mainly the resident buffalo who grew thinner by the day and congregated around the Trust's Headquarters during the night to feed on hay discarded from the elephants' Night Quarters, even marching directly into the Hay Store to help themselves. Although a hazard for the Night Milk Mixer, at least they enhanced our Security! Old friends such as Helmut, Hellier and Hardnut (mentioned in previous Newsletters) reappeared, looking older and a little more decrepit, but had become so accustomed to the presence of the elephants and their Keepers that they were benign.

The plight of the Park's wild residents was exacerbated by the intrusion of hordes of starving and sick Masai livestock, about which KWS could do little, since the President had decreed that

domestic herds be allowed to graze any public land during the drought, having turned their own pastures into a dustbowl due to overstocking. That, of course, included the National Parks, even though the wild animals were also suffering due to the extremely dry conditions.

Magnum

Meanwhile, our orphaned rhino **Magnum** (now 8 years old) was having a hard time from a Nairobi Park wild inmate, (probably displaced by the cattle) who forced him to retreat back to Home Base at Trust H.Q. Usually a docile character, Magnum was unusually nervous and irascible having come off second best during a punch-up with the wild adversary. With the permission of KWS, and mindful of the Makosa tragedy, we began to make preparations to move him to the Tsavo Triangle so work was initiated on Holding facilities in the Triangle where he could be closely monitored by a nearby KWS Outpost and also by our Mtito De-Snaring team



Magnum

based at Kaluku. As it happened, however, KWS decided to move 10 Nairobi Park rhinos to Meru Park and obviously amongst them was Magnum's antagonist, because overnight his demeanor changed. Soon he was back in the territory he had carved out for himself on the plains below the Trust H.Q. and became his old docile self, returning only infrequently to make sure that all was as it should be back at home. Being confident that he is now an established member of the wild Nairobi Park rhino community, and since the translocation of such fiercely territorial animals imposes enormous trauma on them, his relocation to Tsavo has been put on hold. Nevertheless, the Holding Pens remain in case others need to be transferred to Tsavo.

Shida

Our second rhino, **Shida**, who turned 3 in August, decided that the time had come when he, too, qualified to be a "wild" member of the rhino community. Just 3 months old when his mother died of old age at the Ivory Burn Site in Nairobi National Park, since being in our care he has been diligently escorted around the wild resident's dungpiles and urinals by his Keepers, in order to leave his "Visiting Card" at the appropriate places - a necessary process in order to introduce a newcomer into an established rhino community.



Orok



Lesanju



Orok and company



Sidai



Naserian with Lualeni



Zurura



Taru & Lempaute

This year, he began deliberately giving his Keepers the slip, turning up at the mudbath at a time of his choosing and returning to his Night Stockade long after dark, on one occasion accompanied by a grown wild rhino friend, something that astounded the Night Keepers who were witness to this event. He enjoys chasing any wild giraffe he comes across, who obligingly run away, and he has been befriended by the resident wild warthogs that frequent our compound, who find him a convenient shield against predators. When he takes a nap during the day, his warthog friends cuddle up close to him for warmth, and are also allowed the luxury of sharing the extra rations provided for him when he decides to return to his Night Stockade.

Shida's newfound freedom has necessitated reactivating the "hot wires" around the compound to protect the vehicles from being used as Horn Sharpeners, and furniture heaved off verandahs. Fortunately, rhinos are the easiest of all animals to "teach", for just one "zing" from the "hot" wire suffices as a permanent deterrent and thereafter just a simple string barrier does the job. Like elephants, they have long memories!

Shida is now familiar with Magnum after many bush encounters, when they engage in sparring bouts where Shida usually emerges victorious, Magnum being handicapped by being blind in one eye. One day the mudbath visitors were treated to Shida chasing Magnum off down the hill, which caused a stir, but visitors to the Trust have learnt to expect the unexpected. On occasions one of the old buffalo bulls turns up, and giraffe, bushbuck and impala are regular visitors.

Rearing the orphaned rhinos (Daphne has now hand reared 13) has been a very enlightening experience, for many aspects of their sophisticated nature is hidden to just a casual observer. Theirs is a life that is ancient and complex, orchestrated by hormone levels, chemistry and memory. Whilst rhinos are generally regarded by the public as archaic and "stupid", in reality they are anything but stupid, and in terms of Nature perfect for the function for which they have evolved, unchanged since walking out from the Dinosaur age, evolution having found no reason to adjust the model in any way. Shida astonished even his Keepers one morning when he suddenly halted in his tracks and refused to proceed. As it turned out, secluded in a nearby thicket, entirely hidden from view, were two buffalo bulls, who could have proved a problem had they been disturbed at close range. Shida's perception prompted the Keepers to take another route and as they moved away, and the buffalo emerged from hiding, they were very glad that they did!

Sidai

In February, the Nursery welcomed two further elephant newcomers - the first, a female calf of about 18 months from OI Pejeta Ranch in Laikipia, named **Sidai**, who again arrived in a pitifully weak state as a result of milk deprivation. Had it not been for the timely intervention of

Batian Craig who alerted us to the presence of this orphan, and subsequently, Robert Carr-Hartley, who inserted a drip into an ear vein before the Vet could arrive, we would have lost her to muscular dystrophy, a common ailment for starvation cases following the trauma of capture. It was a long while before Sidai could get up from a sleeping position unaided, but she gradually recovered and today, along with others, thrives at the Ithumba Reintegration Centre.

Orok

Next to arrive was another Amboseli orphan, this time a young bull also aged 18 months from the O Study Group whose mother had been found dead some 3 weeks previously, and whom, at Cynthia Moss' suggestion, was named "**Orok**". He obviously harboured unfortunate memories involving a blanket used during his capture by the Amboseli Rangers, for he arrived with a violent antipathy to both blankets (and humans). For 5 full days, the Keepers who were with him in the Taming Stockade were repeatedly forced to take evasive action by scaling the escape platform, but fortunately, taking a queue from Kora, whose Night Stockade was next door, he decided to accept his milk, roughly gulping it down before retreating back into a far corner with outspread ears preparing for the next onslaught! In the end, we simply let him out in amongst the other elephants, but no matter what ruse we devised, all efforts to protect him from the cold by draping a blanket over his back, were fiercely resisted. Instantly it was dragged off, and kneeling down, he would pummel it into the ground to "kill" it!

Other Nursery Orphans

Prior to the arrival of the newcomers, **Makena** (rescued from Laikipia) was the smallest in stature within the Nursery, despite being older than the young bull named **Zurura**, (rescued from a ruby mine). **Lualeni**, (A star of Elephant Diaries I, who melted all hearts through heartbreak over the loss of her elephant family) had grown up to take on the roll of Nursery Matriarch following the transfer to



Kamboyo's rescue



Chyulu's rescue



Chyulu

Ithumba of the previous Mini Matriarch, **Naserian**. With the departure of Naserian, Makena switched her allegiance to Lualeni who doted on her almost to the point of obsession, and this rankled with Zurura. At the time both he and Makena were still being fed next to a hung blanket against which they rested their trunk during suckling, but Zurura liked his head actually covered completely by the

blanket which allowed Makena to sneak up on him and disrupt the process, obviously thinking that only she should enjoy a feeding blanket! Invariably this resulted in a punch up between these two miniatures, necessitating the intervention of either the Keepers or Lualeni, and providing endless amusement for any audience.

Zurura, who is mischievous, clever and scheming, has always enjoyed deliberately provoking Makena to get his own back on her, envious of her friendship with the then Matriarch, Lualeni. He lies down to tempt her to approach and then at the last moment leaps up unexpectedly in order to prove dominance by mounting onto her, which is always grounds for yet another punch-up! Besides baiting Makena, another favourite pastime is emerging from the mudbath with outspread ears and a squeaky trumpet to chase off the new generation of tiny warthog piglets! One day, he demonstrated intelligence by pressing up against his Keepers to get their attention, then lifting a front foot and touching it with his trunk, indicated the presence of a thorn which needed to be extracted. At first the Keepers thought he must have been stung by an insect, but upon closer examination they could see the tip of the thorn protruding from his pad, and with a quick pull, extracted it!

Kora

Having given up on Lualeni because of her obsession with Makena, Zurura formed a strong friendship with **Kora**, who condescendingly indulged him by allowing him to win pushing contests. (All young bulls enjoy testing their strength in pushing matches, which boost confidence and is a means of determining rank and hierarchy). However, for the first half of 2006, it was Kora who became the focus of our concern, for the broken jaw that he came in with, and which we thought had healed, opened up again, exuding small quantities of pus. Following numerous veterinary opinions, the proposed operation to insert slow release antibiotic beading along the jawbone, was ruled out. Not only was the bacteria resistant to the antibiotic of choice, but entailed

two long life threatening anaesthetics, plus the fact that a very large artery runs within the jaw bone, so massive blood loss could be expected. "When in doubt, don't," is always a good option, and one that on this occasion was shared by our Vet as well as Southern African experts. It was decided instead to give Kora a long course of penicillin injections (which left him so sore that he could barely walk) and then to get him to Tsavo as soon as practicable, in the hopes that his body might overcome the problem. There the vegetation is rich in minerals, and a quality of life amongst his peers in prime elephant habitat would boost his immune system, Wild animals do have amazing powers of recovery.

Meanwhile, we were very fortunate to discover that we could draw on the expertise of a Dutch Specialist named Marleen LeFebvre, who, using a small sample of urine and saliva is able to make a diagnosis. Marleen, now interprets the medical needs of all our newcomers, and has taken under her wing older patients such as Kora, Madiba (who has long suffered from another chronic condition that we thought was a lymph infection but turned out to be a thyroid deficiency) and our weakling elephant down in Voi named Mweiga whom we thought suffered from a defective heart, but was diagnosed with a joint problem.

Kamboyo

March saw the arrival of 9 month old "Kamboyo", a young bull found wandering alone in the Tsavo Triangle, not far from the Tsavo West Headquarters (known as Kamboyo). He was surprisingly trusting for a 9 month old, with no fear of the Keepers, and just happy to have a bottle of milk at 3 hourly intervals, so he was therefore able to join the other Nursery babies that same afternoon, which was unusual for a wild caught calf of that age.

Chyulu

The next to arrive was 5 – 6 month old **Chyulu** in August, rescued by our new Chyulu De-Snaring team having been found bogged in a drying mudhole on the edge of the Chyulu Hills overlooking Tsavo West, where they operate. Since it was too late to arrange an airlift that day, the calf spent a night at the Voi Stockades, and was flown to the Nursery the following morning. Being the smallest, she was instantly embraced by the Nursery females, Makena

surprising everyone by taking a special interest in the newcomer.

Lenana

September saw the arrival in the Nursery of yet another young female just over a year old, named **Lenana**, whose mother died from advanced septicemia on OI Pejeta Ranch near Nanyuki. Batian Craig, the Manager of OI Pejeta put a guard on the body of the mother and her attendant baby, to safeguard the calf from predators until he was able to arrange her capture the following day. What had caused such a serious infection of the mother's entire system could not be determined, but could be human related, since her calf is extremely fearful of all humans, wary even of the Keepers who feed her milk. Such a deep psychological aversion tells its own story, so it is likely that this little Laikipia elephant has been witness to some terrible tragedies in her short life where elephants are constantly in conflict with the burgeoning human population that has infiltrated their ancient migratory corridors.

Ithumba Move – Sidai, Challa and Orok

By mid year, three of our Nursery inmates had recovered sufficiently to be transferred to Ithumba, namely Sidai, Challa, (an earlier starvation case who, like Sidai, was over a year old when rescued) and little Orok who was still "killing" his blanket. With the onset of the cold season imminent, Daphne took the decision to send him to warmer climes along with the other older two and a few months later they were followed by Kora and Lualeni.

We expected Makena to go into a decline following the departure of Lualeni, but instead she seemed rather pleased to be able to take charge of little Chyulu. Meanwhile, Kamboyo moved into the Night Stockade vacated by Kora, next door to the newcomer "Lenana", and seemed to blame her for Kora's sudden absence, singling her out to be "shoved" whenever she came within range which has not helped boost her confidence. Lenana is still mourning her lost mother and elephant family, choosing to spend time apart from the others, and showing little interest in the younger orphans, which, for a female, is unusual. The grieving process is something all the older orphans have to weather, and it can last for several months.



Kora meets the Ithumba Orphans



Benson Inspects Kora's jaw



Shimba and his dead mother



Shimba

Shimba

October 1st, just a day after the departure of Kora and Lualeni, 6 week old Shimba was flown into the Nursery which proved a distraction for the remaining youngsters. The newcomer was a casualty from the ongoing KWS relocation of elephants from the Shimba Hills National Reserve to Tsavo, as ordered by the President last year. The mother of this calf only had a small portion of her trunk left, the rest obviously having been severed by a wire snare. Restricted in foraging, plus being weakened by recent childbirth, she was not sufficiently strong to withstand such a move and died a day or two later, leaving her 6 week old calf. Very fortunately, he happened to be spotted by a road gang, desperately trying to suckle his dead mother in between clambering over her in a futile attempt to rouse her. He was very fortunate not to have been killed by predators before being rescued by our Voi Keepers, and airlifted to the Nursery.

Shimba takes his milk very slowly, and his terrible ordeal is reflected in marked insecurity exacerbated by grieving. Glued to the side of Sian, he cries pathetically whenever separated from her, usually by being kept inside his stable during rainstorms, since one so young with a depressed immune system due to trauma is very prone to pneumonia. Soon the tell-tale wet trunk necessitated a second course of injectible antibiotic to stave off this killer of elephant babies, so little Shimba is not out of the woods yet.

As a bull, Kamboyo has been touchingly sensitive to little Shimba's

distress, allowing him to suckle his ears, and even standing with a foreleg forward to allow easier access to his teats if Sian is otherwise occupied! Until he became accustomed to spending time with the two tiny Nursery newcomers, namely Lesanju and Lempaute, he divided his days between trying to suckle either Sian or Kamboyo, both of whom were extremely long-suffering.

Lesanju

October saw the rescue of the two tiny orphans mentioned above. The first was a three week old female named **Lesanju** who was literally brought to our doorstep by the Helicopter loaned by Mr. Halvor Astrup of Enoisot Ranch, and flown by Phil Mathews. Helen Defresne, who heads the recently established Milgis Trust and who orchestrated her rescue from a remote tribal manyatta inaccessible by road, cradled the tiny elephant in her lap for the journey. Too young to understand fear, once unloaded, the calf trustingly followed the Keepers to her stable, and immediately downed a bottle or two of milk. Sadly her ears had been mutilated by the tribesmen that rescued her, a means by which they identify ownership of their livestock, but otherwise she was still in good

condition and instantly drew the attention of all the Nursery females, even little Chyulu. Female elephants display strong motherly instincts, even in early infancy, and only Lenana has, so far, chosen to remain remote.

Lesanju apparently fell down a deep 18 ft. well dug in sands of the Milgis Lugga by Samburu tribesmen to water their cattle. It was an outstanding feat to have been able to pull the elephant calf up from such a depth. It was the newly deceased Chief's brother, who was responsible, and who requested that the calf be named "Lesanju", in honour of that brother. *(We are deeply grateful to Mr. Astrup for the use of his Helicopter for this rescue, and to Helen Defresne and Phil Mathews, who brought her to us, and have been so concerned about her progress ever since.)*

Lempaute

Just a few weeks later, an even smaller 2 week old calf was flown in, who had been found all alone in the West Gate Samburu Community Conservancy, from whence Loijuk originated. Ian Craig of Lewa Downs relayed the message to us that this baby was waiting near an airfield to be airlifted to safety. Fortunately, she had been spared the ear mutilation endured by little Lesanju, and apart from sun damage to the top of one ear, was otherwise in good condition. These two miniature babies, when wandering together, looked like twins, tiny Lesanju taking on the role of "Carer" to the tinier newcomer, whom, the rescuers insisted, be named "**Lempaute**", meaning "Big pool of water". Her arrival, at the time of writing, brings the Nursery contingent back to 10.



Lesanju



Edwin with Lesanju, Lempaute, and Shimba



Lempaute

Whilst tiny Lempaute is comfortable amongst the older elephants, and is adored by all, Lesanju, equally adored, is, however, more comfortable remaining close to the Keepers and recently little Shimba has joined this infant group, forming a threesome. All three babies need the hung blanket against which to take their milk, and whilst Lesanju looks upon herself as the Carer of the other two, not so if they trespass against her particular blanket at the milk feeds! Infant elephants are extremely possessive of the milk bar, and the hung blanket replaces the body of the mother at feeding times, since the trunk must feel comfortable.

The Voi Orphans



"Eleanor", the famous Tsavo elephant Matriarch whose reign spanned three decades, left to join the wild elephants on a permanent basis when she eventually fell pregnant in 1996, fearing that humans would take her calf, having seen Daphne periodically arriving to hand over new ex Nursery babies. (Orphaned elephants deprived of their natural elephant family, are prone to hijacking the calves of others to rebuild their family, Eleanor herself guilty of this when she tried to take orphan Mary's calf from her.) It was therefore a wonderful surprise to read in the Keepers' Diary that "a very large tame wild cow" with 3 offspring joined the orphans briefly. None of the current Keepers with the Voi orphans ever knew Eleanor, but they recorded this unusual event on their digital camera for The Keepers' Diary, and the resulting image was instantly recognized by Daphne and Angela in Nairobi. A subsequent comparison with earlier photographs endorsed the fact that this "tame wild cow" was, in fact, Eleanor, who would now be in her late forties. She was then sighted again near the Voi Safari Lodge and filmed by the BBC Elephant Diaries II team, so after an absence of 10 years living as a wild elephant, Eleanor has returned to renew contact. With her were her 3 youngsters, a ten year old, (obviously the one she carried when she left), the next a five year old, and a tiny newborn baby. (Many people who knew Eleanor of yore were distressed to read about the demise from snake-bite of an elephant of the same name in Samburu, prompting a flood of condolence letters to Daphne, for Eleanor was an international celebrity

in her time. We were happy to be able to reassure them that the snake bite victim in Samburu was not, in fact, our Tsavo "Eleanor" who is still very much alive and well.)

Mary

Similarly, it was another very welcome surprise to read about the visit of another "tame wild elephant and her young" in the Keepers' Diary, and this turned out to be **Mary** (ex Mount Kenya Safari Club) who gave birth to a baby bull when still within Eleanor's custody. It was her calf that Eleanor was guilty of trying to "snatch", and this prompted Mary to leave Eleanor's unit in 1994 and attach herself and her baby to a more accommodating wild herd Matriarch. She was subsequently seen by the Keepers with this wild herd several times, but the event photographed for the Diary was the first time she returned to meet the other still dependent orphans after an absence of over 12 years.

Lissa

On the other hand, 20 year old **Lissa** who was also a member of Eleanor's unit, remains in close touch with the Voi orphans, and has with her 2 female wild-born young, Lara and Lali. (We expect a third soon). She interacts regularly with our orphans, often bringing with her **Mpenzi**, another ex orphan, who acted as Nannie to Lissa's two babies, and who also gave birth recently, but sadly lost her calf to 12 lions the day after it was born, a tragic event that took place in August.

Mpenzi

Mpenzi is now 14 years old. That the lions were harassing the young mother in an attempt to kill her calf was witnessed by onlookers at the Voi Safari Lodge, who alerted our Keepers to prepare for a possible rescue, since the young mother, who was alone, could not possibly save her calf from so many determined lions. Every time she chased one off, the others moved in. Sadly, however, the S.O.S. came too late, for by the time the Keepers arrived at the scene, the baby had already been killed and the Keepers were aghast to discover that the young



Lissa visits the Voi Orphans



Mpenzi



Mpenzi with her dead calf

mother in question was, in fact, none other than "Mpenzi", found as an orphan near the Park Headquarters and absorbed directly into the Voi Unit. It was, of course, unwise of Mpenzi to leave Lissa's protection in order to give birth alone, but she was obviously fearful that her baby would be "snatched". She remembered the Keepers, of course, and cooperated with them to try and drive the lions off her dead baby that she was still protecting, but as darkness closed in, both she and the Keepers had to give up and leave the lions to their grizzly meal. It upset the Keepers greatly to see Mpenzi slowly walking away, temporal glands streaming, indicative

of deep distress. The next day they set out to try and find her again, which they did. Still alone, and still deeply disturbed, she was, however, not far from a wild herd. It was therefore with great relief that the Keepers saw her again in October when she came with Lissa and her two calves to take a drink, apparently looking relaxed and happy. No doubt Lissa's two babies would have benefited from her milk, sparing her the agony of engorged breasts and we hope that next time round Mpenzi will understand that she needs the protection of an older cow when the time comes to give birth, and also to avoid the Voi Safari Lodge where the lions consort in large prides

and ambush prey that comes in to drink at the Lodge waterhole. Gory scenes are enacted there almost on a daily basis during the dry season when water resources are limited.

Emily and The Voi Unit

Unfortunately, for the Voi orphans, the rains fell far short of expectations yet again, and for the third year running, the search for sufficient fodder dominated this year. **Emily**, a recent Matriarch of the Voi unit who made the quantum leap into the wild community last year, has been diligent about keeping in touch with her previous charges, now overseen by the next oldest female named "**Natumi**". Two other young females close to her in age (namely **Edie** from Lewa Downs, and **Icholta** from Marsabit), who are also Nursery reared, have provided some competition for the coveted Matriarchal role that became vacant with the departure of Emily. It is interesting, however, that whenever Emily returns to spend time with the orphans, meeting them either back at the Stockades, or somewhere out in the bush, she automatically takes charge again, and is greeted with a great out-pouring of affection by all the still dependent group. When Emily decides to leave, she simply walks away with little or no attempt made by the others to follow her, except on one occasion in January when she took **Tsavo** off with her.

Emily's now "wild unit" comprises herself and Tsavo, Aitong and Aitong's favourite, Sweet Sally and, more recently, Ilingwezi who was escorted by a wild herd to Emily's unit who at the time happened to be below the Voi Safari Lodge. Since then, **Ilingwezi** returned alone on just one occasion when she joined the other orphans in their Night Stockade, and the Keepers believed she had chosen to come back into the fold. However, as it turned out, not so, for as soon as the Stockade Gates were opened in the morning, she left again to meet up with Emily's group, knowing exactly where to locate them. Yet again, this demonstrates the very human attributes that elephants possess. Ilingwezi had simply returned to visit her friends, and like old times, spend the night with them, no doubt telling them all about her new life, before returning to rejoin Emily's group on her own.

There are many occasions when Emily returns alone to spend time with the orphans, escorting them back to their Night Stockades in the evenings before leaving to join her now wild group. Sometimes she brings Aitong and the others along with her, and sometimes just Ilingwezi. At other times she is with Lissa and her two calves and sometimes with grown male admirers.

Uaso

After a long absence, 10 year old Uaso turned up again in May in the company of a tuskless cow and her 8 year old calf. He has been a frequent visitor ever since. Recently he has been dividing his time between our orphans, or with Emily's group, or else that of Lissa. He is the hero of all our young bulls, accommodating them by lying in the

mudbath and allowing them to climb all over him, something that is a huge privilege. (Baby bull elephants always have a hero worship on the bigger guys). However, Uaso's presence is not greeted as enthusiastically by the girls, whom he likes to pursue for "mounting" sessions. He has the "hots" for Edie, in particular, pursuing her ruthlessly, for repeated "mounting" bouts, which clearly she would rather not have to endure! After one such prolonged ordeal that left her exhausted, **Laikipia**, who had been an onlooker, and was obviously sensitive to her plight, bravely came to her rescue, challenging Uaso, who is 3 years his senior and equipped with sizeable tusks. Although defeat was inevitable, at least Laikipia's intervention diverted Uaso, allowing Edie time to escape.

Elephants are highly intelligent and exceedingly caring of each other, displaying a definite sense of family and of death, as well as compassion, caring and companionship in the face of adversity. The Keepers' Diary, which chronicles the daily progress of all the known orphans in our care, and which is posted on the Trust's website monthly, is an





Dika as a baby



Dika



Mweiga gets her medication

amazing record that demonstrates and reinforces these attributes time and time again.

One 8 year old cow within the Voi Unit, named **Mweiga**, has always been a weakling, unable to keep pace with the others, reluctant to lie down for fear of not being able to get up again, daunted by having to scale any incline etc. She is one that has benefited from both Marleen le Febvre's treatment and also the supplementary rations provided for her courtesy of Pete Fullerton, who also covers the cost of many of our air rescues. It has long been extremely enlightening to witness the support Mweiga enjoys from all members of the group, who rush to help her up whenever she stumbles, and run to her side whenever she cries. Two, in particular, are her special friends, who unselfishly hang back to keep her company, even when food is short. Never far from her side is the young bull named **Sosian** (from Sosian Ranch) and **Mweya**, the little Ugandan female. Their constant companionship, care, and compassion is repeatedly mentioned in the monthly Keepers' Diary.

Mweiga will soon be approaching puberty and since she is obviously far too fragile to carry and give birth to a calf, we decided to call on the expertise of a South African specialist in the field

of elephant contraception to spare her this ordeal. Dr. Henk Bertschinger was here for a few days in March to undertake this task involving just three injections with an annual booster thereafter, something that can be administered by Dr. Ndeereh of our Mobile Veterinary Unit. Elephants cycle for about 5 days just once every three months and because we suspected that both Aitong and Emily may be pregnant, Dr. Bertschinger went off with dung samples from both for a pregnancy evaluation. It appears, however, that they are not pregnant, which is welcome news insofar as we are concerned, mindful of the fact that we lost Malaika in childbirth aged 10. Emily is now 12 years old, and has recently been seen in the company of wild Bulls, so if she falls pregnant, she will be 14 when the baby is due, a better age to become a mother for the first time. Both Lissa and Mpenzi were 14 when their first baby was born.

The Big Boys

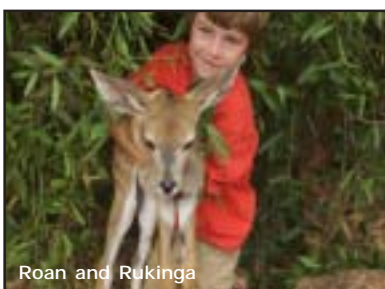
Several of our ex Nursery elephants, now known as the **Big Boys**, are also now fully integrated within the wild Tsavo community. These are. Olmeg (ex Maralal), and Taru (ex Tsavo), both now 19, 18 year old Dika (ex Tsavo); Edo (ex Amboseli) and Ndume (ex Imenti Forest) both now 17, 16 year old "Ajok" (ex Turkana), 12 year old Imenti (ex Imenti Forest) 10 year old

Uaso, mentioned above, 9 year old Lewa, who was translocated to Tsavo West some years ago, and 11 year old Lominyek (ex Samburu) who was with us for just 6 months before joining a wild unit, having arrived when just under 2 with a bullet wound in one leg. It is always an enormous thrill to see one of the Big Boys again. Up until now it has been **Dika, Ndume, Edo and Uaso** who have been regular visitors, with **Taru** seen just once after an absence of 8 years. **Ajok**, who left the dependent unit when 4 years old, has made a clean break.

This year the Keepers were excited when they happened upon **Dika** on the main Aruba road, whilst traveling to monitor the Trust's borehole at Aruba. He was amongst 6 wild cows and their various young, towering majestically over them. He was seen again at the Voi Safari Lodge waterhole checking out the girls and on another occasion, passed by the orphans briefly as they were resting under shade, greeting each one tenderly with a touch of the trunk, before moving on, obviously with another pressing mission in mind.

Other Orphans

Currently also within the Voi Unit and under the care of our Keepers are two orphans of a different species - the little Zebra female foal named "**Serena**" orphaned by a lion in



Roan and Rukinga



Mbee



Serena



Rukinga

Amboseli National Reserve, and another baby lesser kudu, named “**Rukinga**” who was rescued from a poacher by an under-cover agent of KWS. This baby replaces the earlier one, named “**Chuna**”, who tragically died of bloat, leaving his Orma rescuer distraught. This man was therefore delighted to welcome a replacement and has earned himself a permanent position with the Trust as Keeper of the Antelope Orphans.

The Ithumba Unit

Immediately upon arrival at Ithumba, ex Nursery orphan little **Orok** was instantly embraced by **Nasalot** as her special baby, and has remained glued to her side ever since, basking in her adoration and undivided attention, benefiting from her protection from the over exuberant bigger boys. As his best Nursery friend, **Sidai** also enjoyed Nasalot’s protection, so it was **Challa** who, for a few days, was odd man out, and who felt slightly misplaced at his new home, despite being warmly welcomed by all within the established group, including the Ithumba Matriarch “**Yatta**”, one of four older females moved from the Voi Unit to oversee the young elephants. Nevertheless, Challa soon settled in, special attention being given him by the younger ex Nursery Matriarchs, **Wendi, Sunyei and Naserian** with **Madiba** making a special effort to befriend him. Now, he is very much part of the herd, often leading the way to and from the Stockades and to and from the Bush Mudbath. Being “Leader” is an enormous privilege, and one usually insisted upon by either Sunyei or Wendi, so it is a special concession they have deliberately given way for Challa.



Ithumba Orphans



Sunyei leading



Wendi



Noon feeding at Ithumba

It was very mysterious that on the day that Challa, Orok and Sidai were on their way to Ithumba, the other elephants all refused to leave the vicinity of the Stockades, something that was totally out of character. It was as though they anticipated an unusual event that day, even though none of them had ever met any of the newcomers before. This astonished the Keepers, who have been deliberating about it ever since!

Lualeni and Kora

Once at Ithumba, **Lualeni** definitely felt the absence of **Makena**, even though she found herself reunited with three of her former well loved Nursery Matriarchs, **Naserian, Sunyei and Wendi**, all of whom made a great fuss of her. **Kora**, on the other hand, slotted in like a veteran, immediately recognized by his old pushing-pal **Buchuma** and also by

another Nursery playmate, **Ndomot**. All the Ithumba elephants were overjoyed to welcome another two into their herd, and the advent of the rainy season, which always brings great exuberance and joy, cheered Lualeni who is now again a very happy elephant.

Wendi

“Wendi” is the extravert of the Ithumba group, who can always be counted upon to put on a display for the benefit of any human onlookers. Even as a newborn within the Nursery, she loved an audience. (She and **Imenti** are the two raised from the day of birth, who arrived still shrouded in foetal membranes, and who, thanks to an intravenous injection of plasma taken from an older elephant, were able to survive).

Although the Ithumba elephants have yet to make contact with the wild herds, (who are only just venturing back into an area that they abandoned for three decades due to the wholesale poaching during the late seventies eighties and early nineties), the orphans are often visited by wild bulls who come to the Stockades under cover of darkness, take a look at them, and have a chat. As the scouts of elephant society, the bulls travel extensively to recce safe passage and new pastures for the female herds. However, the human scent on our

orphans, and their friendship with their human carers, has so far proved a deterrent, but no doubt this will change, given time.

Following the March April rains, which in the Northern Area were more plentiful than around around Voi, the Ithumba unit enjoyed what is known as “the Imenti waterhole”, a large shallow natural depression that fills with rainwater and was a favourite place of ex orphan “Imenti”, the pioneer orphan of the North, now living wild. The Imenti waterhole is also a favourite watering place for the wild elephants during the wet seasons, but again, under cover of darkness - somewhere where they can enjoy fresh rain water as opposed to the very saline water of the Tiva sand-river on which they have to rely during the long dry seasons.

Imenti

It took Imenti a full year before he was able to make contact with his wild peers. Eventually, however, he managed to befriend a large wild bull, and we often wonder whether he is among the nocturnal male visitors to the Stockades at night, especially as on one occasion the Keepers reported an unusually unafraid bull caller. Because it took him so long to be accepted by the wild community, he is probably reluctant to renew human

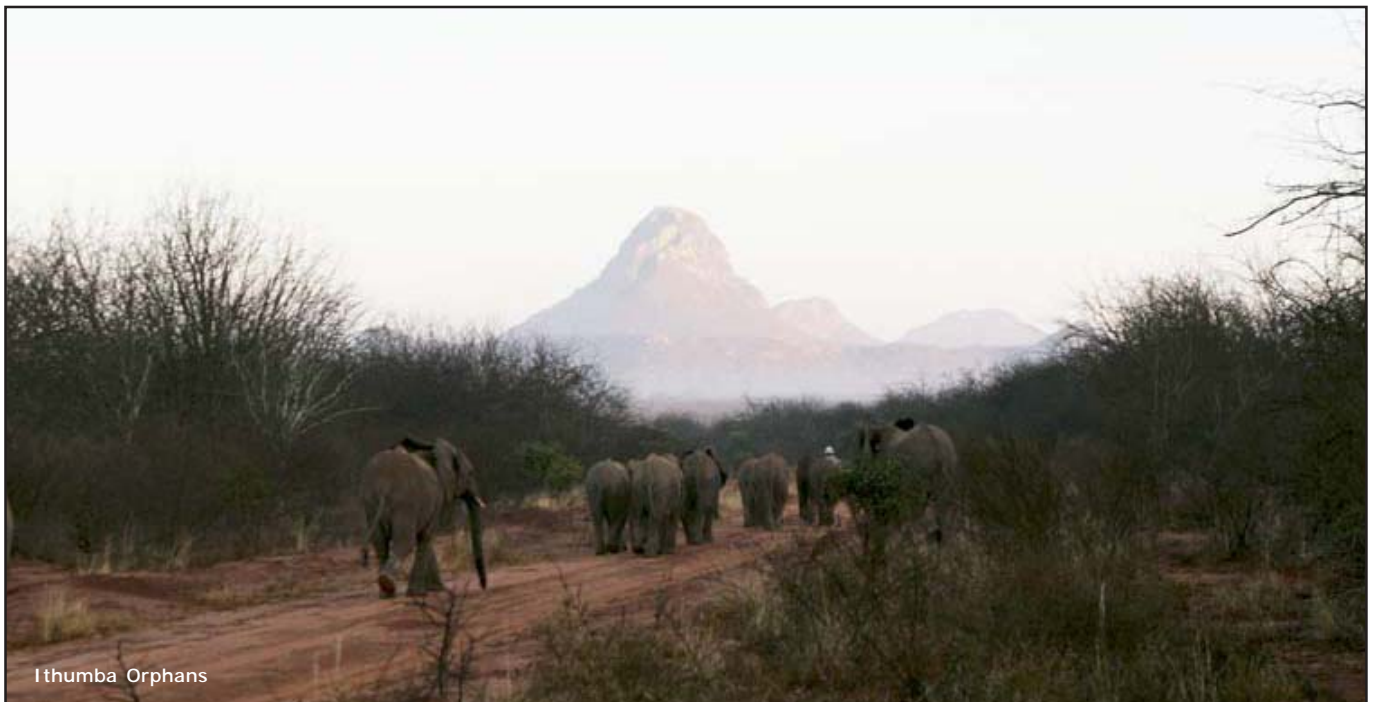
contact that would put him out of bounds again. Meanwhile, the older females amongst the Ithumba orphans, Yatta, Nasalot, Mulika and Kinna, having often associated with wild elephants whilst at Voi, are desperate to again make contact with their wild kin, often following their spoor for long distances, before giving up and turning back.

Sunyei

Whilst Wendi is the “Show-Off”, “Sunyei” is the prankster of the group, relishing scaring her friends by rushing out of the thickets as though threatened in order to send the others fleeing back to their Keepers for protection whilst, she meanwhile, smugly enjoys the chaos! The older elephants now have her measure, and ignore these deliberate pranks, but since the Ithumba unit regularly encounter the resident pack of wild dogs, and are paranoid about all canines following the rabid dog incident two years ago, Sunyei can always count on at least some of the group reacting in the way intended!

However, a noteworthy and remarkable event involving Sunyei occurred during the April/May rains when the orphans split into two groups on their way to the mudbath, one led by Yatta who took the older elephants off to forage while the milk dependent





youngsters, led by Sunyei went to the milk venue. Yatta's group failed to turn up at the mudbath as usual, so the Keepers decided that they must mount a search for their lost charges. However, drizzling rain obliterated all tracks, so whilst the men stood around wondering which direction to take, Sunyei deliberately walked up to them, touched them with her trunk to get their attention and then turned on her heels and determinedly walked away, pausing every now and then to raise her trunk and test the wind for scent. Understanding that she was leading them somewhere for a reason, the Keepers and the younger orphans followed and after a long walk of more than an hour, suddenly came upon Yatta and the missing contingent quietly feeding in a clearing! This again astonished the Keepers. Having accurately interpreted their dilemma, Sunyei had taken charge and solved the issue by leading them to the missing group, where a very touching and joyous reunion took place, dominated by trumpeting, urinating and the intertwining of trunks!

During periods of rainfall, the orphans' days are filled with fun, playing in the puddles, mud-wallowing in natural depressions, drinking clean rainwater from rock pools, and chasing smaller intruders that they happen upon, (as long as they run away) such as dikdiks, lesser kudus, ground squirrels and the ubiquitous baboons. Only the wild dogs leave them in total disarray, on one occasion causing the group to flee in separate directions. **Mulika** fled with some in the opposite direction to the youngsters, who were heading for home as fast as their legs

could carry them, bellowing with fright. Only the Keepers and Yatta remained behind to disperse the dogs, but having done so, Yatta rushed back to the Stockades to round up the youngsters and comfort them, whilst the Keepers went in search of Mulika's group. Happily, all were eventually reunited albeit trembling with fear!

Kinna, is the disciplinarian of the group, who punishes any of the bigger boys by sending them into isolation for a while if they are guilty of bullying those younger. Bullying is out of bounds in elephant society and it is the females who enforce the rules, and who come to the rescue of anyone in distress!

THE ITHUMBA CAMP

This was built by the Trust with the payment received from the BBC for the filming of "Elephant Diaries", and has since been donated to KWS to raise funding for the Northern Area. It has proved immensely popular. The Trust retains responsibility for bookings, and for overseeing the Camp to ensure that standards are maintained. It is fully furnished, comprising an attractive living area with an upper balcony commanding stunning views of 3,000 square miles of pristine wilderness, 3 separate sleeping tents each with an open air bathroom attached which is enclosed within a rugged stone wall. There is piping hot solar heated water for showering, and water-borne toilets so visitors, who have to book the entire camp, only have to bring their own food, and leave with their litter upon



departure. The Kitchen unit is equipped with a large fridge and Gas Cooker and crockery and cutlery is also provided. Waste kitchen water cleansed through a natural “shmooze deck” of sand and lava serves a small watering facility for wildlife, partially covered to inhibit evaporation, since water is precious in the North, and has to be carted to the camp holding tanks in the Trust’s Bowser. The Northern Area of Tsavo, due to its arid nature and remoteness, has always been closed to the general public, protected as a Wilderness Area for a more discerning clientele.



Ithumba Camp

Wilderness

In today’s world, people seem compelled to seek ways and means of developing wild places as though to justify its very existence, viewing it as “wasted” unless subjected to human intervention. Remote Wilderness is both hazardous for travelers not accustomed to its pitfalls, and also fragile, particularly in arid areas. But, it has a unique and subtle value that is incalculable in monetary terms and

that is the long-term survival of its natural self as intended by Nature. Encompassed within this survival is Nature’s most powerful tool – Natural Selection, which distils out genetic defects and ensures a stronger and healthier biodiversity perfectly suited to the environment in which it naturally exists. Wilderness is the biological engine room that powers the planet, purifying water and air, generating oxygen upon which all life depends, storing and recycling the minerals and vitamins essential to wellbeing and yielding the raw materials from which medicines are made. It is the thermometer of the planet, for no other form of land use can retain its integrity indefinitely and it is the benchmark against which all forms of land use should be measured. It is also the natural “control” essential to sound scientific monitoring, for man cannot improve on Nature. Ultimately, it holds the key to the survival of mankind, for humans cannot exist in isolation.

An editorial in the New York Times of November 2nd had this to say –

“We keep probing the animal world for signs of intelligence – as we define it – and we’re always surprised when we discover it. This suggests that something is fundamentally wrong with our assumptions. There is every reason to value other life-forms as much for their difference from us as for their similarity and to act accordingly. That may be the only intelligence test worthy of the name”.

(Specific thanks for support towards the orphaned elephants goes to the following organizations and people, all of whom have made a significant contribution and alleviated our task, above all our wonderful and generous webmaster Paul MacKenzie, whose workload has increased, as has ours, but who insists on donating his time and effort free of charge. We are likewise extremely grateful to the following organizations and individuals for financial support:-

Wyeth Laboratories – for their donation of “re-worked” milk for the elephants and especially Dicky Evans and Daniel Hill for their extremely generous offer to solve the transportation dilemma; to The International Fund for Animal Welfare, The Dutch Vrienden van de Olifant, Care for the Wild U.K., the Eden Wildlife Trust, and Rettet die Elefanten Afrikas in Germany for annual supporting Grants, and also Terre et Faune in Switzerland, Elizabet Peterzen and Foreningen Forsvar Elefanterna in Sweden, Aga Germany and the American H.S.U.S. for their financial help. We are deeply indebted to Pete Fullerton for his generosity and considerable financial support for extra rations for Mweiga and towards airlifting others to safety and to Sir Christopher Lever and the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust for the Grader parts. Thanks to Rettet die Elefanten for the Ithumba tractor and Rula Lenska for the Suzuki, to Marleen le Febvre and Rob Faber of Vrienden van de Olifant for medical assistance, to Horace and Lynda Burnett for regular donations of essential oils, to Woodland Park Zoo, USA, for blankets and antibiotic creams, to AOV in Holland for their donation of Vitamins, to Ronnie and Carrie Wilkie for Calendula and Thuya, to Lesley Cooksley and Didi Ruchira for their homeopathic advice and assistance, to Orthica Pharmaceuticals, Holland, for



their medical donations, to Lois Reinstadler Walsh and Brian Cushing for Cards; and to others who have given us access to their photographic images of the orphans. We are grateful to all who have supported the Patrick Dokata Fund, and lastly, but by no means least all who donate through our US Friends and on-line to assist with the hand-rearing of the orphaned elephants and rhinos. We thank Michael Gavshon for the 60 Minutes piece and to the wonderful BBC Elephant Diaries Team, who have become close friends, for portraying the lives of the orphans so sensitively and accurately. We are

especially grateful to Toby Strong and his wife Becky for shooting for us just at cost the Trust's promotional DVD entitled "The Tsavo Story" which is professionally and so beautifully done. Finally we thank all who have fostered an elephant through the digital Fostering Programme, as well as all who have signed up here or contributed through our U.K. office, or our US Friends. Thanks to those who have remembered the orphans in their Wills and Legacies and lastly thanks to all whose love of animals prompts them to speak out about cruel practices and abuse).



THE DE-SNARING PROJECT

The Trust now operates 7 full time De-Snaring teams, each comprised of some 6 men, a reformed poacher/tracker/informer and an armed KWS Ranger. All our De-Snaring Team Leaders, most of whom are Post Graduates, enjoy Honorary Warden status which equips them with powers of arrest, but they are not permitted to carry firearms – hence the need for the armed Ranger. Anti-poaching work can be dangerous and life-threatening, for even a poisoned arrow, let alone an AK 47, is a lethal weapon.

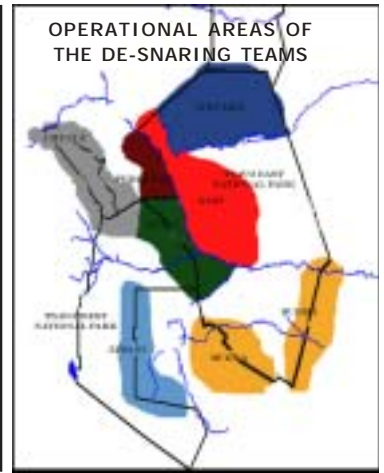
Aside from their usual patrolling duties, the Mtito De-Snaring team managed to accomplish an unusual feat this year in February, when they extracted a sub-adult, but still large buffalo youngster from a very deep well on private land not far from the Trust House. Even our Field Officer believed this would be an impossible task, and that the buffalo would have to be destroyed, but our De-Snarers miraculously managed it, by lowering ropes and somehow getting them looped below the buffalo's body in order to haul it up, after which they had to rapidly take cover behind the tractor fearing reprisals!

This year, all the De-Snaring Teams were very fortunate to be able to benefit from additional training by the British Peace Support Team, who instructed them in Map Reading, Unarmed Combat, Ambush and Interrogation techniques, First Aid plus the proficient use of their GPS's. The British Peace Support Team also arranged for the procurement of light-weight bush hammocks, field rations and other very useful items of equipment.

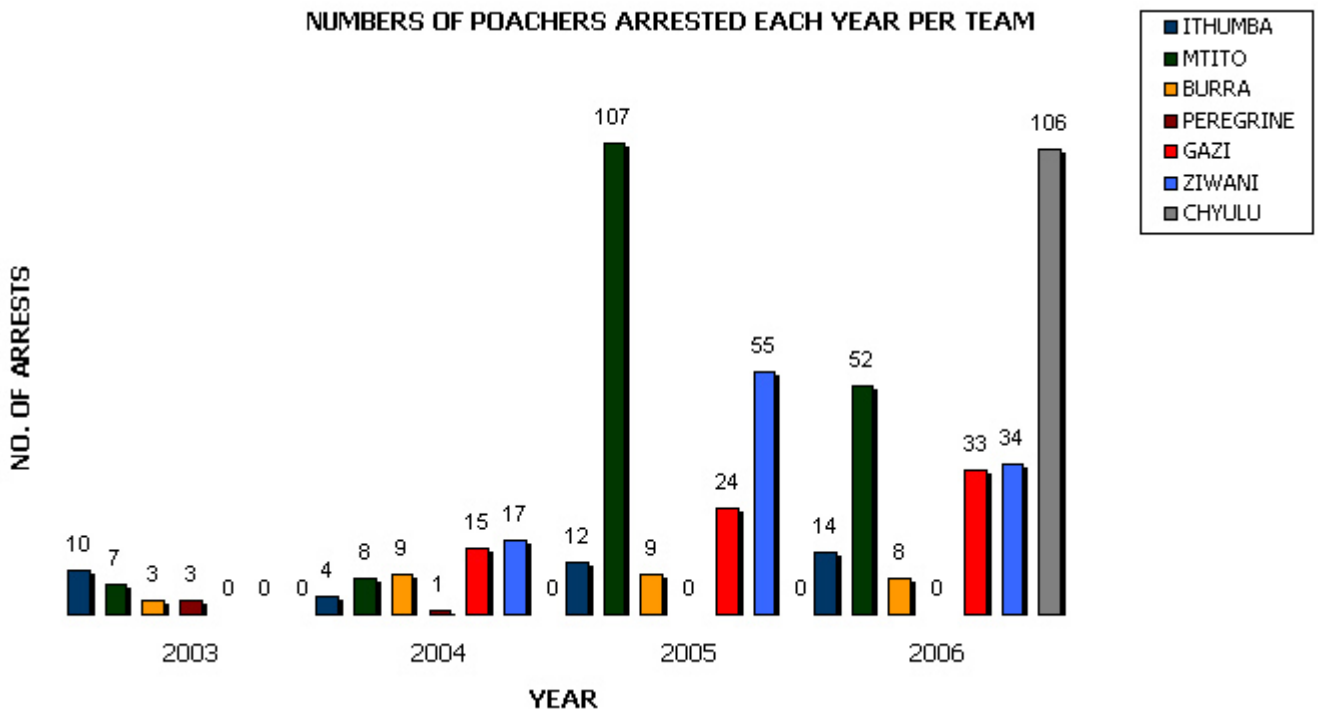
(We are deeply grateful to Colonel Stephen Kilpatrick for organizing three valuable training exercises and to the men who spent time with our teams on the Trust land abutting the Park. We are deeply grateful to the Alexander Abraham Foundation who funded the field equipment and expenses for the training programmes.)

The Maps and Charts on the following page illustrate the work and the success of our 7 De-Snaring teams as well as the areas that they cover. As can be seen, the number of snares retrieved has been systematically declining, which is gratifying but not necessarily indicative of a reduction in this evil practice, because the poachers have changed their mode of operating, concentrating more on "lamping". Under cover of darkness, they dazzle the animals with a strong spotlight, sounding a horn to get their attention, while an accomplice creeps up behind to hamstring and immobilize as many as possible, before returning to bludgeon them to death. One poacher was arrested with over 60 dikdiks slaughtered just in one night, and another with sacks that contained body parts of a herd of impalas, so, this practice is no less sinister, and more difficult to contain. Bushmeat is Big Business, with game meat identified by KWS in most Nairobi Butcheries, and known to be exported in large quantities to the capitals of Europe, that have a large West African population, and also to the Middle East. With all this, together with the Chinese market, there is no end in sight, other than resorting to putting **all** game meat out of bounds, as it used to be prior to 1991 and enforcing that prohibition.

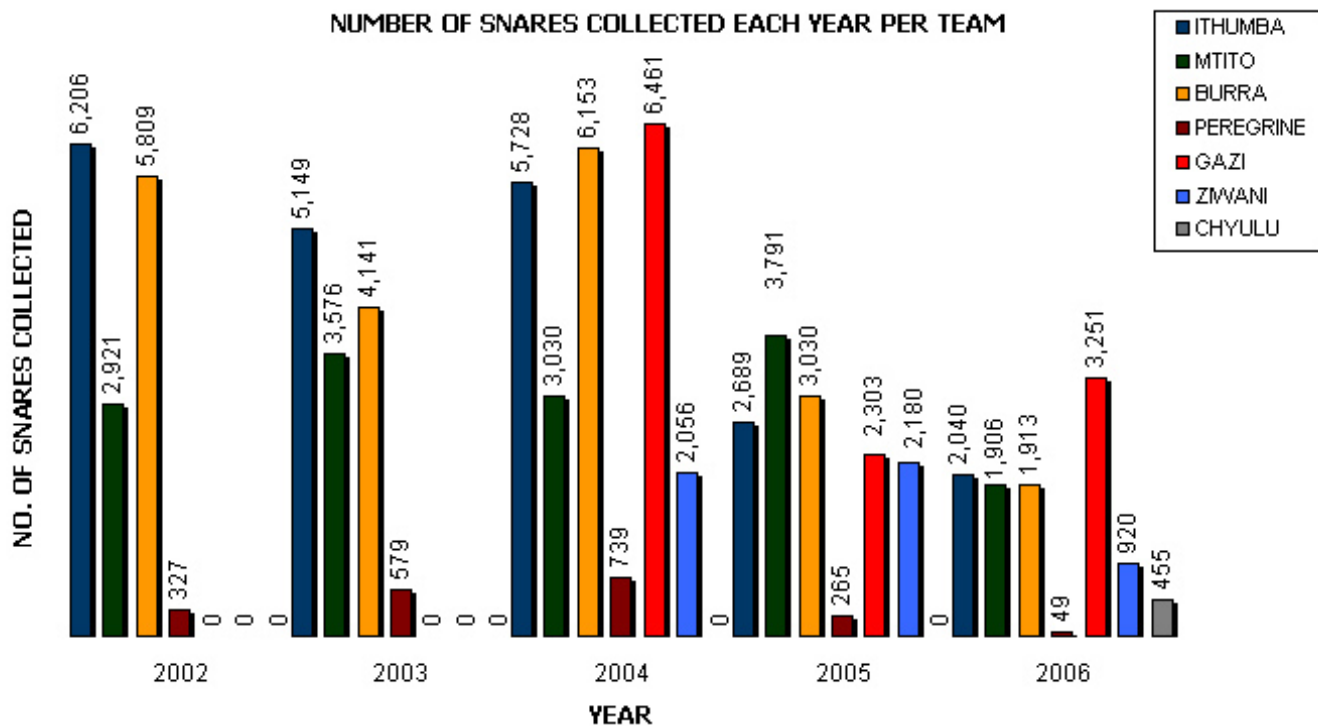




NUMBERS OF POACHERS ARRESTED EACH YEAR PER TEAM



NUMBER OF SNARES COLLECTED EACH YEAR PER TEAM





COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Trust now employs two Community Officers, who, in addition to delivering the daily talk and answering questions at the mudbath hour, also represent the Trust at Wildlife Seminars and Workshops that are time consuming. An extension of their task is to lecture and show films at schools around Nairobi and also conduct educational field trips into the Park itself, combined with undertaking clean-ups of litter along chosen routes. British Airways have very generously embraced the community aspect of the Trust's work within their own community initiative, and have invited our Community personnel to visit the U.K. and interact with schools there. With their help and using the sponsored air tickets made available to us, courtesy of British Airways, our Community personnel will greatly benefit by being able to interact with concerned school children overseas.

Lionel Nutter

Our Field Officer, Lionel Nutter, along with the De-Snaring Team Leaders, supervises the Trust's community initiatives that encompass rural schools bordering the Tsavo boundaries. Besides the usual donations of text books, desks, water catchment guttering and storage tanks, Lionel is currently involved in upgrading the existing Tree Nursery at the Trust House, and is in the process of establishing another at the Voi Stockades, for the distribution of hardwood tree seedlings to the communities. He will also be investigating the viability of encouraging the community to plant aloes, which have commercial value and thrive in an arid environment. Fish farming is another initiative he is researching as well as bee keeping,



all of which will provide alternative sources of livelihood for the impoverished communities around the Park who are largely responsible for a lot of the poaching. Lionel lives alongside the Athi Park boundary, not far from the Trust House, so he is well positioned to oversee our community outreach programmes as well as supervise our other Tsavo commitments. His experience and knowledge of the area and the Wakamba tribe who occupy it, is unequalled.

THE MOBILE VETERINARY UNIT

This project is the Trust's "feel good" conservation initiative that has definitely impacted positively on the lives of dozens of animals that would otherwise have perished. Headed by Dr. David Ndeereh, (who by now must surely be the most experience Veterinarian in Africa) this year his Tsavo commitments included the translocation of a further 78 elephants from The Shimba Hills National Reserve to Tsavo, making a total of 228 moved in all, probably the most ambitious translocation exercise of elephants ever accomplished. In addition, he was instrumental in removing others from within the electrically fenced Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary who were impacting negatively on the rhinos' food source, threatening the rhinos with death by starvation. KWS has been very reluctant to open up the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary fence and allow some of the surplus rhinos to spill out, citing security fears as the reason, but it is surely counter-productive to keep them confined and allow them to starve instead. For many years the Trust has been urging KWS to open the fence and allow surplus rhinos free range, leaving a nucleus to breed up again. Tsavo once harboured the greatest population of Black Rhinos in the world, and could do so again given adequate security surveillance and protection.

Our Mobile Veterinary Unit, during the time it has been operational, has treated, alleviated suffering and saved the lives of the following animals:-

95 elephants, 17 of whom were snared, 39 with spear wounds, 8 with bullet wounds, and others with injuries the reason for which could not accurately be determined.

12 Giraffes, all suffering from having been snared.

7 Buffalo, 8 lions, 4 impala, 11 zebra, 1 leopard, 4 Gazelles, 4 waterbuck, 1 cheetah, a baboon and a Hyaena. (More detailed reports along with a photographic record of every treated case can be accessed from our website.)

In the wake of the success of our Mobile Veterinary Unit, the Trust has secured funding for a second Mobile Veterinary Unit to cover the Masai Mara, the Naivasha area, Lake Nakuru National Park and its environs and the Rift Valley generally. This will hopefully become operational early next year. *(We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Rex Dobie and the Minara Trust for providing the funding to make this greatly needed unit, a reality.)*



A snared Giraffe



Treating an Elephant



A snare wound



Treating a Snare Wound

A snare cuts across the face of a young bull Elephant



Treating a snared Waterbuck



Treating a young Elephant calf with a poisoned arrow wound



Treating a spear wound



ASSISTANCE TO KWS (Kenya Wildlife Service)

◆ The Management Plan for Tsavo

A major contribution made this year by the Trust, in conjunction with KWS, has been the funding of a Management Plan for the Tsavo Conservation Area which is in the process of being written by Ian Games.

The Management Plan is a very detailed Scientific document based on lessons already learnt through past mistakes, written by a person whose background spans decades of African experience. Ian Games has written the Management Plans for many of Africa's most important National Parks and Reserves. The Trust views this contribution as perhaps the most important it has ever made to wildlife conservation in Kenya, that is, as long as it doesn't sit on a shelf gathering dust, as have many others!

◆ Fencing

Work on the 62 Kms. of fencing along Tsavo's Northern Boundary, is still in progress, and the Trust provides a sizeable amount of money monthly for its maintenance. This barrier fence, which is solar powered, and maintained by the community with funds provided by the Trust has been extremely successful in that not one elephant has been able to get through it since its erection. At the request of KWS and the relevant Community, the Trust now looks towards accessing funding to fence another extremely sensitive boundary from the Athi River to Mtito Andei and on to the Chyulu Hills. This is another very important and much needed project that would serve both the elephants and also the community.

◆ Ithumba Camp

We run, and look after the Ithumba Camp which generates funding for the Northern Area, and we are slowly contributing items that will make it even more attractive than it already is, thereby enhancing its popularity and

the subsequent funds it can generate for the Northern Area of Tsavo East.

◆ **Water Bowser**

The Trust's Water Bowser, besides carting water for our orphaned elephants, also supplies fresh water from the Galana river for the Northern Area Headquarters as well as the Ithumba Camp, since all ground water in the North is exceedingly saline added to which we cover all maintenance costs for the desalinating equipment on the Ithumba borehole, which has a limited capacity.

◆ **Boreholes**

We cover the cost of maintaining 6 boreholes within Tsavo as well as the Windmills at Aruba, Ndara, Dida Harea plus the Community one at Kone.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Serengeti Foundation, this year the Trust funded the drilling of a new Borehole at Kamboyo to serve the Tsavo West Park Headquarters, something that was desperately needed.

◆ **Security Fuel**

By way of anti-poaching assistance, over and above the 7 full time De-Snaring teams that the Trust operates, who continually work the boundaries of Tsavo lifting wire snares and arresting those that set them, the Trust has continued to provide Security Fuel, particularly for operations in the Northern Area of the Park. There the elephants are only just beginning to return following the poaching holocaust of the late 70's, 80's and early 90's which reduced the ecosystem's elephant population from 45,000 to just 6,000.

◆ **Reconditioned Aircraft Engine**

With the help of the Born Free Foundation, and through our US Friends, the Trust purchased a reconditioned aircraft engine from the U.S.A. for the Park's surveillance plane.

◆ **Helicopter Time**

We have funded Helicopter time in pursuit of Somali bandit/poachers, which has proved crucially instrumental in the capture of those that killed 2 rhino within Tsavo East in May of this year, who were captured near Lamu, and the horns and their firearms recovered.

We have also funded Helicopter time to drive elephants at risk in community land back into the sanctuary of the Park. The community land between Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Park lies on an ancient elephant migratory corridor between the two Parks, which has been used by the elephants over millennia, so human/wildlife conflict in this area is an ongoing problem.

◆ **Rehabilitation of Vehicles and a Laptop Computer**

The Trust has rehabilitated a number of KWS vehicles this year and donated a Laptop Computer to the Senior Warden, Ngong, to help with the monitoring and recording of elephant movements from Lake Magadi, and the Nguramans, using ancient migratory routes which today lead them into human settlement and trouble.

◆ **Mobile Veterinary Unit**

And lastly but by no means least, the difference that the Trust's fully equipped, and fully mobile Veterinary Unit has made in terms of alleviating suffering and saving numerous wounded animals that would otherwise have perished.

◆ **Second Mobile Veterinary Unit**

In addition, the Trust has now secured funding for a second Mobile Veterinary Unit which will operate the same way, and cover the Masai Mara, and the Rift Valley areas and which will be functional by early next year.

(We thank WSPA most sincerely for providing the funding for two of our De-Snaring teams; and SAFARICOM and AFEW who fund two others. We thank Born Free for helping towards the cost of the aircraft engine for Daniel Woodley's plane and our US Board for funding it; Martin Forster of CMC Corporation for easy terms of payment for the Trust's new vehicles, a Tractor and equipment.)





ELEPHANTS AND IVORY – RHINOS AND HORN

A lethal combination has emerged for elephants and even more so, for rhinos and even the Big Cats whose body parts are in demand in the Far East. Somalia is in disarray with hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees fleeing into Kenya and while the women and children are holed up in sprawling refugee camps like Darfur, most of the men are more than capable of earning a livelihood through the poaching of elephants and rhinos, with a ready market for their produce in China where ivory is sought as a luxury item by an emergent wealthy middle class that covets it as an ancient symbol of wealth. With a mounting Chinese influence in Africa, we can anticipate an upsurge in illegal poaching for ivory, as seen in Central Africa and Zimbabwe. Rhinos will also be seriously at risk for rhino horn has a great medicinal value in the Far East.

Sadly, the poisoned arrow poaching of elephants also seems to be on the increase, and, of course, the Somalis pose an even more dire threat because wherever there is conflict, ivory is exchanged for guns, it being much easier to launder ivory than money under modern restrictions. We were present at the demise of one magnificent bull in the Tsavo Triangle, who had obviously survived the slaughter of previous decades, being in his fifties, but just when he thought times were safer, ended up literally riddled with poisoned arrow wounds. We flew a Vet down, and did what we could for him, but his entire body was literally rotting, pus even oozing from the tusk sockets, and one back leg so swollen that he could barely drag it along the ground. At least we were able to end his suffering humanely, but it was very distressing for us and disturbing for our US Board Members to have to witness such suffering inflicted merely for a tooth.

The following recent ivory hauls, (which are just the tip of an iceberg), tell their own sinister story, and while it was gratifying that the CITES Standing Committee recently refused to sanction the one-off sale of the Southern African stockpiles, this was only because the MIKE baseline data was missing, bringing only a 6 month reprieve for the elephants. It has been demonstrated in the past that any legal sales provide a cover for the laundering of illegal stocks, and that only when the sale of **all** ivory was banned in 1989, was the poaching brought under control. It is disappointing therefore that the International body that is tasked with the protection of endangered species, seems more bent on finding ways and means to trade them. During the days of Livingstone (1883) about 4,000 elephants were shot each year for ivory, but in the decade 1979 – 1989, 60,000 were shot per annum. Between 1970 and 1989 Africa's elephants had been reduced from 3 million to just 520,000 and could have faced extinction within just 8 years had a total ban not come into force in 1989. This year has seen a record number of seizures, mostly from CITES signatory countries, proving that the illegal trade is alive and well.

- ◆ **200 kilos** of illegal Ivory seized in Samburu, Kenya.
- ◆ **200 kilos** of illegal ivory, guns and ammunition seized in Maralal.
- ◆ **600 elephant tusks** confiscated in Hong Kong.
- ◆ **21 tons (350 tusks and some cut pieces)** seized in Singapore.
- ◆ **30 tons** of ivory (**2,250 dead elephants**) purchased by China from Zimbabwe.
- ◆ **7 tons** of illegal ivory confiscated from a Chinese Dealer in Zimbabwe
- ◆ **500 whole tusks and thousands of bits** through DNA traced to Zambia.
- ◆ **100 elephants** found slaughtered in Chad.
- ◆ **60 tons** of stockpiled ivory in Southern Africa (the equivalent of **3,500 dead elephants**) identified by CITES as sanctioned for sale, despite over **20 tons of Ivory** having been seized within the past **12 months in spite of supposed levels of protection.**
- ◆ **6,000 kgs** of Tanzanian ivory pilfered by Customs Officials in the Phillipines.
- ◆ **22 tusks worth \$54 million** confiscated from poachers in Zimbabwe.

TRAFFIC representatives identified enough Ivory in Angola's Craft Market to account for at least 250 elephants, mainly from the Congo where elephants are feared to be nearing extinction. Angola is not a CITES signatory and elephants in that country could become extinct within the next 5 years. Senegal in West Africa has only 10 left. According to Professor Wasser of the Centre of Conservation Biology in Seattle, "Central Africa is experiencing elephant population declines that are extremely severe. The whole market has reached an escalating level that is alarming" and he doubted whether CITES Membership and enforcement alone could curb the trend. "Chinese Ivory Dealers are entrenched in Africa and tons of raw Ivory is leaving for China. The poacher gets \$25 per kilo and the Ivory at the other end fetches \$75 per kilo".

Mai Mai rebel fighters, who have invaded the Congo, are known to be killing enormous numbers of elephants trading ivory for guns, as well as annihilating massive numbers of other species. Estimates suggest that there could be as few as only some 300 elephants left in this country which was once their stronghold, and it is probable that the last Northern White Rhinos have already gone. In Zimbabwe the previously protected so-called "Presidential Elephants" have been subjected to wholesale hunting, which has impacted negatively on conception rates of this beleaguered herd which once enjoyed the protection of President Mugabe, but sadly, no longer. Meanwhile elephants within

the Hwange National Park have been dying from drought.

CITES meets again next year, and has already given Japan the all clear to be the Buyer of the Ivory Stockpiles, so conservationists and environmentalists will have a tough fight on their hands to try and save the world's endangered species from annihilation through the greed of mankind.

Climate change predicts dire consequences for the African Continent, which, according to the experts, is set to become drier, many countries literally becoming deserts. This, in addition to the threat posed by the ongoing Ivory Trade as well as the unsustainable commercial bushmeat trade will undoubtedly impact devastatingly on wildlife. The illegal logging within Kenya's forests, the burning of savannah hardwoods for the charcoal trade and the toll taken for the bushmeat business are challenges that the Kenya Government will have to face sooner rather than later if the tourist industry, and indeed the human population of the country, is to survive. Already we are seeing a worrying decline in lake and river levels, so the writing is on the wall. And yet, the pressure to reopen Sport Hunting in Kenya, banned since 1974, grows ever stronger.

Wildlife Policy

A review of the current Wildlife Policy which included sport hunting, began in July and subsequently there was a clandestine attempt to rush the new Bill through Parliament and into law. However, following street protests, the President declined to sign it. Since then a National Symposium (sponsored by USAID and Safari Club International, both pro-Sport Hunting lobbies) has been charged with gauging popular opinion countrywide about this aspect of the new Bill, but the po-hunting bias at such meetings have caused widespread controversy in that dissident voices are disallowed the opportunity to air their views whilst those in favour of hunting are alleged to have been bused in and paid out to hold the floor. The new Wildlife Bill is due to become law by April 2007 and whilst most Kenyans are openly against the reintroduction of Sport Hunting in the country, which is seen as a "Colonial" relic, it will be interesting to see if the pro-hunting sponsors of the National Symposium succeed in influencing events.

If Sport Hunting is reintroduced in Kenya, it will impact negatively on Tourism and Kenya's enviable image as the only country in Africa that does not kill animals for sport. Furthermore, it will add yet another threat to already declining wildlife numbers.

Everyone agrees that communities need to be recompensed for sharing their land with wildlife, and the argument is that re-opening hunting would allow for this. However, there are many alternative innovative ways of generating funding other than killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Hunting will leave wild populations timid and very wild, ruling out non-consumptive tourism as one of the possible alternatives. Furthermore, there is absolutely no way that hunting can be policed, monitored, regulated or



Robert Carr-Hartley and Vet Dr. Chege treat a wounded Elephant in the Mara

controlled in a country where corruption is endemic. Money talks, the cheating of quotas and other malpractices will inevitably take hold. This is something that has already been demonstrated within the recent legal 10 year cropping so-called Pilot Scheme.

The Trust has been at the forefront of putting forward ideas of generating revenue from

keeping animals alive on private and communal land, rather than killing them. One has been

the idea of a "Green Tax" levied on Corporations and Companies that negatively impact the environment, in order to compensate communities who nurture wildlife on their land. Livestock numbers should also be subjected to taxation, since these represent monetary wealth for nomadic people. This would encourage

pastoralists to keep fewer and of a better quality. Privately owned Ranches that have a surplus of wildlife on their land should be able to sell them alive for restocking

denuded areas, rather than selling them as dead meat. Wild animals are worth far more alive, than dead, and this will become increasingly evident as their numbers are set to dwindle yet further.

KWS

This year has seen many Staff changes, postings, and moving of experienced field personnel, often leaving the field vulnerably unsupervised. Included has been the resignation of two key white Wardens, Bongo Woodley from Mountain National Parks, and Mark Jenkins, who is responsible for returning Meru to its former glory.

Kenya's National Parks were once acknowledged as the finest in Africa when immune from political interference, and managed by an independent Board of informed Trustees. However, all this changed

on the 13th February 1976, when the Kenyatta Government disbanded the Parks Board overnight and took control. There followed the three decades of rampant poaching, (a lot of it in-house), and it was not until 1990 that the poaching was brought under some semblance of control during Dr. Leakey's Directorship.

**"The further backward you look,
The further forward you will see".
churchill**

Politicians are never good wildlife managers, an example being the de-gazettement of Amboseli National Park to win the support of the Masai community to vote in favour of a proposed new Constitution. According to law, a National Park can only be de-gazetted through a Parliamentary process that allows a specified period

**"The greatness of a nation
and its moral progress can be
judged by the way its animals
are treated" mahatma gandhi**

of time for all arguments for and against to be assessed, so currently the matter has been referred to the Courts, and everyone anxiously awaits the outcome that will impact on the future of all the country's Protected Areas. Politicians, understandably want to carry favour with the populace in order to be voted in again, for being a Politician brings prestige and lucrative rewards ensuring a comfortable and easy lifestyle. KWS needs a competent Board of Trustees that have the power to act independent of Government with the interests of that which it is charged to protect, in mind. It must be freed from political machinations that impact on policy if it is to regain its former glory, and it must focus its efforts more on the field rather than window dressing at the Headquarter level.

Another disturbing off-the-cuff political announcement was allowing livestock to graze any public land, which has resulted in the mass intrusion of livestock into all the National Parks, and endless complaints from visiting tourists who pay increased entrance fees hoping to see wild animals, and instead are confronted with hordes of starving cattle, sheep and goats. Of course, once allowed in, it is difficult

and time consuming to get them out, particularly during drought conditions, and although KWS attempts to do so from

time to time, no sooner are the cattle chased out, than they are back again within just a day or two. They bring with them the risk of diseases that can decimate wildlife, an example being the Rinderpest epidemic of the late 1800's and the mass die-off from Anthrax of Grevy Zebra in the Northern Frontier just this year. Whereas cattle

can be protected by inoculation, wild animals cannot, so, yet again, this is yet another political blunder. Nor should a Power Line run straight through the heart of Tsavo,

when, for not much extra money, it could have followed the railway line. A blot on the landscape such as this would never have been allowed to happen in the Good Old Days when the Board of Trustees had autonomy.

All at the Trust would like to record their profound sorrow and distress at the murder of environmentalist Joan Root on the 12th January at her home in Naivasha. Joan was not only a longstanding personal friend to Daphne, but also a brave campaigner for animals and the environment, who struggled valiantly against all odds to stall the destruction of the lake and all who live in and around it. She will be sorely missed.

Photographs by Angela Sheldrick, Robert Carr-Hartley, Toby Strong, Lissa Ruben and Gary Roberts





WWW.SHELDRIKWILDLIFETRUST.ORG

On line donations can be made directly through the website and all details regarding donations to The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust can be found on the website under HOW TO DONATE

IN THE U.S.A.

We now have a "supporting charity" in the United States, the United States Friends of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust ("U.S. Friends"). The organization has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt "public charity" to which contributions, gifts and bequests are deductible for U.S. income, gift and estate taxes. Because U.S. Friends is staffed with unpaid volunteers, all amounts it receives are contributed to The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

Checks can be made out to **U.S. Friends of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust** and sent to:

U.S. Friends of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
One Indiana Square
Suite 2800
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2079
U.S.A
Telephone: (317) 238-6218
Fax: (317) 636-1507
Email: ssmith@kdlegal.com

IN THE U.K. AND THE REST OF THE WORLD (EXCEPT U.S.A)

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has recently become a charity registered in the U.K.

Charity No 1103836

Cheque donations made out to **The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust U.K.** by U.K. Citizens should be accompanied by the Gift Aid Declaration which can be printed off the Trust Website www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org The Gift Aid Declaration Form can be located on the HOW TO DONATE PAGE under U.K.

Donations can be sent to:

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
PO Box 133
Ashted
Surrey
KT21 9AB
UK
Telephone: +44 (0)1372 229 176
Fax: +44 (0)1372 229 176
Email: infouk@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

IN KENYA

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
P.O. Box 15555,
Mbagathi 00503,
Nairobi, Kenya.
Telephone: +25 420 891996
Fax: + 25 420 890053
Email: rc-h@africaonline.co.ke



www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org



THE DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST

P.O. Box 15555 - 00503 Mbagathi, Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel:- 254(0)20 891996: Fax:-254(0)20890053

Email:rc-h@africaonline.co.ke

Website:www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org