

The David Sheldrick WILDLIFE TRUST



Newsletter 2009



www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

Hope is something that has been needed for wildlife this year as never before, but as 2009 ends, it is time again to **hope**, despite all the grim predictions for our fragile earth and its wild inhabitants. Importantly, it is also time to thank all who have supported us so generously throughout the year, dipping deep into their pockets during a time of financial crisis and thus enabling us to cope during what has been an extremely challenging year.

An Overview of the Year

2009 began with foreboding, turmoil in the Middle East, a deep freeze in Europe when Russian gas was turned off and here the prospect of impending drought due to the shortfall in last year's rains. This was, however, briefly tempered by euphoria over the inauguration on the 20th January of President Barack Obama, the product of a Kenya born father who is widely considered by Kenyans as one of them.

There was **hope** that the country's new Constitution would bring positive change to the country, particularly concerning the tenure of land, (always a hot issue), the structure and workings of Government and equally as importantly, as regards the management of the country's wildlife. This has, and will occupy the pages of the Press for many months to come until it passes into law sometime in the future. A new Wildlife Bill will have enormous implications for the future of wild populations in this country so the outcome of this is awaited with trepidation.

Meanwhile, following the ethnic clashes of early 2008, tourist earnings dipped to K. Shs. 8 billion instead of the ambitious sum previously projected and as a result, certainly at the field level, wildlife needed its friends as never before. In this respect the Trust has more than fulfilled its mission, embracing all measures that compliment the conservation, preservation and protection of wildlife, including anti-poaching within Tsavo in conjunction with KWS for the first 5 months of the year and since, on and beyond the boundaries of the Park on private and community land and Wildlife Conservancies. We have safeguarded the natural environment by taking good care of the Peregrine land under our jurisdiction, as well as protecting the important Kibwezi forest and the beautiful Umani Springs within it, now also under our jurisdiction under the terms of the lease acquired by the Trust last year. We have supported Tsavo to the best of our ability, enhanced

community awareness through our community outreach initiatives, including the daily public viewing of the elephant orphans in Nairobi, something enjoyed by hundreds of school children throughout the year. More recently school children living within reach of the two Rehabilitation Facilities in Tsavo have also been allowed access to the orphans and relished the experience. We have addressed animal welfare issues through numerous Affidavits that have tipped the balance in Court cases against the perpetrators of abuse to captive elephants, and provided food for hippos starving in Mzima Springs in Tsavo West National Park, as well as those on the Peregrine land after the Athi river ceased to flow. We have provided veterinary assistance to animals in need through our two highly successful Mobile Veterinary Units and at the Infant Elephant Nursery in Nairobi we have rescued and saved dozens of orphaned elephants, as well as a prematurely born infant rhino from Tsavo West's Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary. In addition we have successfully hand-reared and rehabilitated other wildlife species so that they can ultimately enjoy a quality of life in wild terms when grown, for instance, the three orphaned lesser kudu reared by our Voi Elephant Keepers which have recently joined a wild kudu group near the Voi Headquarters, two duikers, one hand-reared by Trust personnel at Ithumba and another at our Kuluku Field Headquarters. Here in Nairobi a dikdik orphaned as a tiny baby about to make a bushmeat meal for a poacher on the main Mombasa highway is now almost full grown and in the process of going wild.

Events in Africa are never predictable but always there is **hope** that times of hardship are only transitory. A great deal of **hope** is vested in the younger, more enlightened generation many of whom care deeply about the future of their country, their wildlife and the environment, witnessed on a daily basis amongst our extremely dedicated and proficient Elephant Keepers, our De-Snaring teams and the work of our Mobile Veterinary Units as well as at the field level of the Kenya Wildlife Service. Hence, although our wildlife and wild places have taken more than their share of knocks of late, the **hope** is that Mother Nature has the capacity to heal and restore. Even should the warming of the planet change the face of Africa, we **hope** that most of the wild species that bless this land will be able to adapt and survive, as they have before throughout evolution.

This year as the hot months of January, February and March withered the fragile flush of green vegetation brought on by last year's sparse rain, there was **hope**

that the so-called “long” rains of April/May would compensate by being more plentiful, but sadly they too fell far short of expectations throughout much of the country. Soon the natural waterholes in Kenya’s wild places dried out and water dependent wild species country wide were forced to return early to dry season ranges within reach of permanent water, this time facing mounting competition from hordes of domestic livestock illegally in the Protected Areas. Only two permanent rivers serve 5,000 sq. miles of naturally arid country in Tsavo East National Park, and as the silted Aruba dam rapidly returned to quick-mud beneath the illusion of a hard crust, it again reverted to a death trap for heavy animals. Now the Trust’s three Windmills in the Southern section of the Park became the crucial livelihood for all water dependent species and throughout the year we have had to maintain constant vigil to ensure that they remained functional and thus avert a catastrophe of monumental proportions.

With the passing of the months, lake levels in the Rift Valley began to drop dramatically, the flow of the many rivers that feed them having been compromised by illegal activities taking place within Kenya’s important Water Towers such as the Mau and Mt. Kenya forests. The Mau forest is the source of the very important Mara river as well as many of the country’s other river systems which replenish five Rift Valley lakes, including Lake Nakuru, famous for its flamingoes.

It was the reduced flow of the Mara this year that focused attention on its Mau forest source, the Mara being the main artery that serves what has recently been acclaimed The Eighth Wonder of the World - the world famous Masai Mara and Kenya’s main tourist draw. This region also happens to be the traditional dry season range for over 2 million wildebeest, zebra and smaller antelopes comprising the migratory hordes that make the journey every year from their Tanzanian Serengeti homeland to greener pastures of the Mara where the influence of Lake Victoria brings a higher annual rainfall.

Normally, the migratory hordes have to risk life and limb by plunging into and swimming across what is normally a sizeable river in order to reach their dry season destination, in the process providing a banquet for the river’s huge resident crocodiles - a spectacle that attracts thousands of tourists to the country every year. However, this year the animals could merely stroll across, denying the crocodiles their usual element of surprise. Many tourists were also disappointed to find large herds of domestic livestock competing with the wildlife for

grazing actually in the inner sanctum of the Park itself, an area normally reserved for the migration.

Meanwhile, as the drought progressed, the death toll of wild animals rose within Kenya’s largest and most important National Park – Tsavo - where attempts were made to expel the domestic cattle herds who had illegally invaded the Park some years back, and whose numbers were now swelling with multiple fresh arrivals. However, the attempted expulsion produced an adverse reaction - the deliberate spearing of some of the Park elephants by aggrieved herdsman and in any case those that had been successfully driven out merely returned as soon as the pressure was eased. Short of funds, and lacking the Government will to deal harshly with such a politically sensitive and controversial issue, KWS was overwhelmed and so the status quo remained to further impact on the survival of the Park’s wild residents.

Deprived of adequate grazing within reach of their watery homes, Tsavo West’s hippos were amongst the first to die, and they did so in ever growing numbers, even at the famous Mzima Springs. Many elephants in the Southern section of Tsavo East, including our ex Voi Unit orphans, left the boundaries of the Park in search of browse and water, thereby becoming vulnerable to both human/wildlife conflict as well as poaching. Grazing species such as buffalo, zebra, impala and kongoni died in large numbers inside the Park from the affects of drought, their survival compromised by competition for grazing from the domestic livestock. Bushmeat Poaching increased and continued to take an unsustainable toll, now aside from being commercial, viewed as a subsistence necessity for the growing number of displaced and unemployed people.

Meanwhile, the price of ivory in the Far East rose to over US\$ 1,000 per kilo, and the price paid to a poacher rose in tandem, up from K. Shs. 300/- to K. Shs. 5000/- per kilo. Thus the incentive to resort to poaching was strong, so many of the displaced and unemployed picked up their bows and poisoned arrows again, adding to the ongoing and ever present Somali shifita AK 47 poaching threat fuelled by the chaos of neighbouring Somalia. Soon KWS had to admit that the toll taken on elephants through poaching had doubled that of last year and following the apprehension of Chinese Nationals attempting to smuggle poached ivory out of the country, the finger of blame pointed to China. Many Chinese were now involved in aid related road construction work in the Northern districts of Kenya and around Amboseli where many of the poached elephants were found.



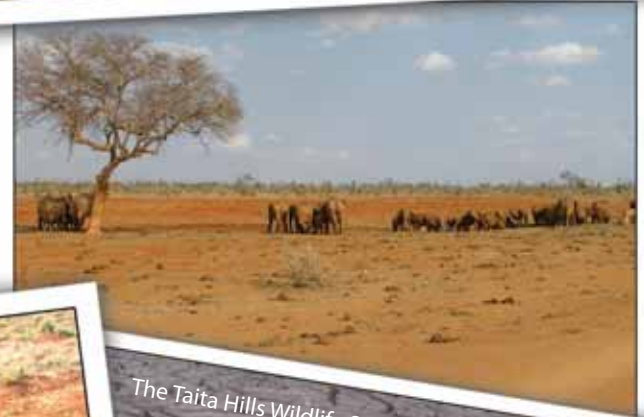
Team members rescue heartbeast from drying dam



Elephants come to drink at the Dida Harea water hole



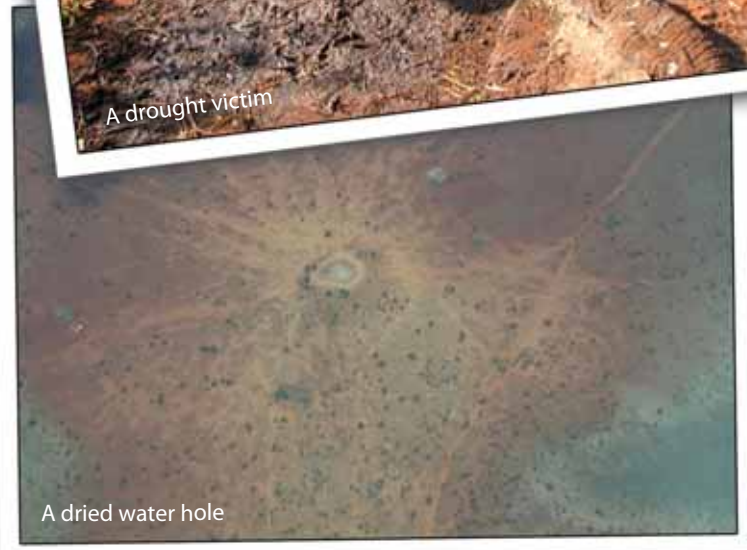
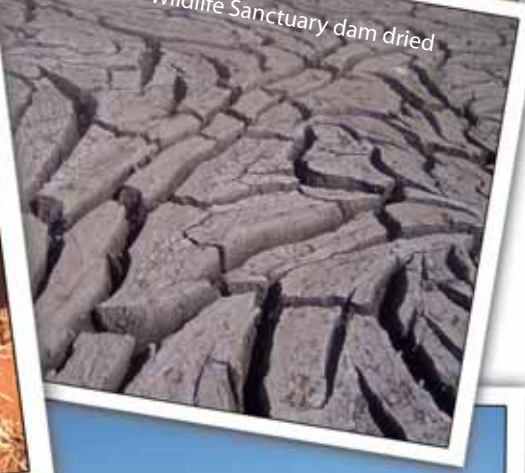
Many of the rivers dried



The Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary dam dried



A drought victim



A dried water hole



The desolate landscape near Aruba

Undoubtedly many others die un-noticed and uncounted and therefore the official figure released of just over 200 could probably safely be tenfold.

A lucrative and accessible outlet within the country for poached ivory poses an even more sinister threat to elephants and rhino, an evil that is allegedly beginning to take root in Tanzania's Selous National Reserve, and which during the seventies and eighties was rife also in Kenya - the danger of in-house poaching perpetrated by those employed to protect wildlife within the country's Protected Areas. Poverty and greed are compatible bed-fellows in the Third World so this scenario can never be discounted and sends shivers down the spine of all wildlife minded people. Were this to happen again in Kenya, **hope** would very soon descend into despair!

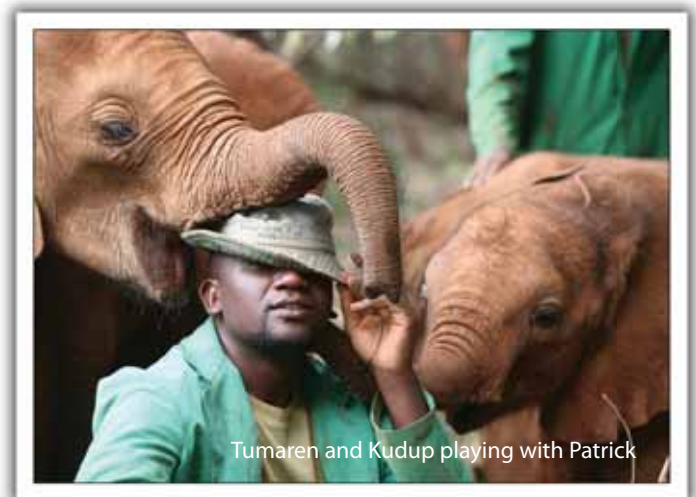
Sadly, the toll taken on elephants through drought related causes was also substantial and widespread throughout the country, particularly of milk dependent calves whose lactating mothers were unable to produce milk in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of their growing young. (Young elephants are milk dependent for at least the first 3 years of life, and likely to be partially dependent until past the age of 5). Therefore it is not inconceivable that the country could have lost two generations of young elephants from drought and poaching related causes during the year. Many older youngsters resorted to consuming invasive Prickly Pear cactus to appease their hunger, something that merely hastened their demise, this noxious weed being particularly prevalent on some of the private Conservancies in Laikipia and Northern Kenya.

As a result of all these factors, back at the Trust's base in Nairobi National Park, more and more orphaned elephant calves of varying ages were being rescued and flown into our Infant Elephant Nursery. These were the fortunate few lucky enough to have been found in time, and by ele-friendly people who had the compassion to rescue them rather than either killing them or merely leaving them to die a lingering death in lonely isolation. The orphans came from all corners of the country, their presence reported to the Kenyan Wildlife Service by local tribes-people, sympathetic KWS Field Officers, Private Landowners and even visiting overseas tourists who happened upon them during game drives.

Never before had we had to cope with such numbers at any one time, but somehow we managed, thanks to the support of many caring people throughout the world. Elephant Nursery inmates had to be doubled up in

partitioned existing accommodation, while additional space was organized, always necessitating close consultation with the Keepers about who was compatible with whom, since any emotional upheaval can tip the balance in terms of survival. Mercifully none of our other conservation initiatives were compromised either, modern technology having greatly revolutionized our work enabling us to keep in close supervisory contact of all our field projects.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding aspects of this year for the Trust has been the very encouraging results of our community outreach programmes as well as the local reaction to the screening on local Television of the BBC Series "Elephant Diaries". A noticeably much more sympathetic attitude towards wildlife has become apparent and this is extremely heartening. Yet again, aside from highlighting Kenya as a tourist destination through ongoing and widespread international exposure, the elephant orphans have more than proved their worth locally, and that, in itself, is good reason for **hope!**



THE ORPHANS' PROJECT

By the beginning of January 2009 we had successfully hand-reared **through our Nairobi Nursery** 82 infant elephant orphans, some from just days or weeks old and 2 from the day they were actually born, who arrived still encased in foetal material. Baby elephants are essentially extremely fragile and milk dependent for at least the first 3 years of life, as well as being partially so up until the age of 5. Although able to consume vegetation from about the age of 4 – 6 months, the quantity of which mounts as they grow older, they still cannot survive without milk under the age of 3 years and those that survive without any milk orphaned between 3 and 5 years of age, are few and far between. Very newborn orphans who have not benefited from their mother's first Colostrum milk suffer from immune deficiency, their only hope of survival being an intravenous infusion of elephant plasma through an ear vein, but sometimes even this proves fruitless.

In addition to the 82 orphans reared from early infancy through the Nursery, others rescued older and sufficiently fit enough to be able to by-pass the Nursery stage have been sent directly to the Voi Rehabilitation Unit to complete their milk dependent period down there, thereby swelling the Trust's living elephant successes at the start of 2009 to 94. However, over and above all those that lived, a total of 56 had died over the years, many having arrived too far gone for us to be able to retrieve. Others succumbed to pneumonia, (the main killer of infant elephants who are unable to cough, since elephant lungs are attached to the rib cage), viral diarrhoea which could not be brought under control, or the failure of vital body organs such as heart, lungs, liver or kidneys. Little did we know when we embarked on the year 2009 that this year elephant deaths in the Nursery would, for the first time in the history of the Trust, overtake the living, making 2009 the most stressful and heartbreaking year our Nursery Staff had ever endured. However, events in the Nursery were just a reflection of what was taking place within Kenya's wild elephant population countrywide during the devastating drought that has cost the country dearly in terms of all wild animals, although elephants are especially fragile and usually amongst the first to be affected by adverse conditions. As the Gardeners of Eden who recycle trees by pushing them down, they also plant another generation of trees in their dung, and Nature limits their numbers so that those seedlings can grow and reach maturity without their impact.

The Nairobi Nursery

January 2009 began with **13 infant elephants** in situ in the Nairobi Nursery, namely **Lesanju** (from the Milgis Lugga, Laikipia), **Lempaute** (from Samburu West Gate Conservancy), **Sinya** (from the Amboseli ecosystem), **Shimba** (from the Shimba Hills), **Wasessa** (from Tsavo East National Park below Wasessa hill), **Dida** (From the boundary of Tsavo East near Ndara), **Kenia** (from Mount Kenya National Park), **Siria** (from the Masai Mara), **Kimana** (from Kimana Springs in the Amboseli ecosystem), **Taveta** (from Tsavo West National Park near Taveta), **Suguta** (from Suguta Maamaa near Maralal), **Mzima** (from Tsavo West National Park near Mzima Springs) and **Ndii** (from Tsavo West National Park near Ndi).

At the time we thought we were unduly stretched, but little did we know how much more stretching would be needed during the year! It would be a year that would necessitate the transfer of older Nursery inmates to the Tsavo end earlier than usual, simply to make room to accommodate the growing number that were coming in, sometimes during the height of the drought, almost on a daily basis. Fortunately we still have lots of space between both Relocation Centers in Tsavo, many of our older orphans having made the transition back into the wild herds and now fully independent of their Keepers leading natural wild lives back where they belong. At present the Voi Rehabilitation facility has the capacity to facilitate 45 growing orphans who have past the Nursery stage, while the Ithumba facility can accommodate 35.

As November 2009 drew to a close, we had undertaken 52 elephant rescues so far this year. 22 of the rescued orphans were still alive, but too many had died, some unexpectedly and mysteriously but mostly from having arrived too emaciated for us to be able to retrieve. This year, for the first time in the history of the Orphans' Project, orphan deaths in the Nursery outnumbered the successes. Below is a list of the rescues in the order they were made.

New Arrivals during 2009

January

Name of Orphan: Ziwani (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 21st January

Female

A yearling female orphan rescued near the Ziwani Sisal Estate in Southern Tsavo West, who had multiple spear wounds inflicted by illegal Masai herders in the Park, aggrieved at having had their cattle herds driven out. One spear had punctured the stomach cavity



Mutura with Peter Mbulu

causing peritonitis, so the human inflicted damage sustained by this orphan was irreparable. She was euthenazed.

Name of Orphan: Mawenzi

Date of Arrival 30th January

Female

This elephant baby was found trapped in a well in the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro, on community lands close to the Tanzanian border just outside Amboseli National Park. The calf was found early in the morning by two Masai men, having slipped down the steep sides of the same well that had orphaned one of our earlier orphans named Sinya. Fortunately the well was shallow, but the sides were steep. The presence of the calf down the well was reported to the Kenya Wildlife Service staff at Amboseli, who in turn alerted the Amboseli Research people and it was they who organized the rescue. Due to the injuries sustained whilst falling down the well, the skin on the back of the rescued calf turned necrotic and had to be slowly pared away in the Nursery as new skin gradually replaced it, involving a great deal of hands-on care during the ensuing months.

February

Name of Orphan: Sabachi

Date of Arrival 3rd February

Male

This 5 month old calf walked into the grounds of the Serara Camp situated within the Namunyak Conservancy in Northern Kenya, surprising a Gardener named Aden. The calf takes his name from the sacred mountain of the Samburu people which dominates the low lying and arid landscape of an area where both water and grazing are scarce commodities. Deep wells dug in the dry sand luggas serve the domestic livestock as well as elephants who come to drink in between the cattle herds, and often at night. Always in a hurry to leave such places, the elephants crowd around, desperate to drink, and boisterous thirst crazed calves can easily fall in. We believe that orphan Sabachi was likely to be one such victim who could have been pulled free by a passing tribesman, but who then ran off into the bush. He had tell-tale abrasions under his chin and along the sides of his body and the tip of his trunk had also been damaged by a predator.

Name of Orphan: Kibo

Date of Arrival 6th February

Male

This baby bull just 3 weeks old was discovered at 9 p.m. by Masai elders down the same well that orphaned Mawenzi and Sinya before her. He was

taken to the Amboseli Elephant Research Project Headquarters for the remainder of the night where he was fed water, kept warm and lovingly watched over all night until we could be alerted the next morning. Little Kibo had similar skin damage to his back as had the other victims of that particular meerschaum well.

Name of Orphan: "Loimugi" (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 13th February

Male

This 10 month old calf from the Namunyak Conservancy was found alone at the Loimugi crossing near the Serara Camp by a Scout named "Saningo". Desperately thirsty and weak, the little elephant followed the Scout back to the Serara camp, where he was given water and attended by Scout Saningo throughout the night. Ian Craig of the Northern Rangelands Trust contacted us in Nairobi the following morning, and the calf, thought possibly to be a poaching victim, was flown to the Nursery. Despite all our efforts, we were unable to control the diarrhoea which was with him on arrival and soon took what little strength he had left. He fell into a coma on the 20th February, and was put on life supporting dextrose and saline drips, but died a few hours later. The autopsy confirmed the cause of death to be Rota Virus, something we had never encountered previously.

Name of Orphan: "Muti" (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 14th February

Male

Another rescue, this time an 8 month old baby bull found by Masai tribesmen wandering alone near the small town of Kilgoris in the Masai Mara. Anxious that the calf be saved, his rescuers contacted the Kenya Wildlife Service. Cpl. John Simka and his Rangers responded immediately and drove the calf to a holding pen not far from the Kichwa Tembo airfield, to await the arrival of the Rescue Plane. Upon arrival, our Keepers were taken to the little elephant, and were able to give him a milk feed before preparing him for the flight back to Nairobi. A great deal of community work has sensitized many tribal communities to the value of their wildlife, and it is rewarding that so many communities now go out of their way to save orphaned elephants whereas before they would probably not have bothered. Muti collapsed without warning during the early hours of the morning of Saturday 21st February, fluid from the trunk and laboured breathing indicative of the dreaded pneumonia that has taken so many of our orphans, all of whom come in with depressed immune systems due to the trauma of losing their elephant family and the shock of capture.

Name of Orphan: Milgis (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 15th February

Female

Having had three elephant rescues in just three days, yet another baby elephant was flown in, this time a newborn infant from the Milgis area in Northern Kenya, discovered down an erosion gully whilst the Milgis Scouts were actually trying to track down two other lone elephant calves reported to them earlier. Helen Dufresne of the Milgis Trust flew this tiny baby to Nairobi in her small Cessna 182 aircraft, the little elephant standing quietly between two Scouts in the back of the plane. As she approached Nairobi's Wilson Airport, she requested priority from Air Traffic Control since she was flying with an elephant! The astonished Controller instantly cleared the skies, and word soon got round, because by the time the plane landed, curious onlookers from all over Wilson Airport had poured out of buildings to catch a glimpse of the spectacle. Baby Milgis was brand new and perfect, soft and pink and devoid of fear. We prayed that she had been able to benefit from her mother's first Colostrum milk which imparts the antibodies needed for life, and which has to be ingested within the first 48 hours to be effective. However, soon life threatening diarrhoea set in and we knew that we had just one option now to try and save her - risk anaesthetizing one of our healthy elephants in order to take blood from which plasma could be separated and infused into the baby's ear vein. Not without serious reservations, we selected Sinya as the blood donor, which involved an anaesthetic, and whilst she was under, everyone held their breath, appreciating the risk attached and praying that she would be alright. It was an enormous relief to see her back on her feet again! Milgis's little heart was still beating when the plasma eventually arrived 48 hours later. It was infused into an ear vein during the morning of 21st February and we all prayed for a miracle, even though the calf had now become very weak. We were heartened when she managed to survive the night, but sadly she died that evening, the same day that we lost Muti, and the day after losing Loimugi. Never before had we had to bury 3 elephants in just 3 days, turning the month of February into a very tragic time.

Name of Orphan: Kirisia (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 24th February

Male

This 3 month old orphan was found by KWS Rangers who had followed his small lone footprints from the Kirisia forest near Maralal. They eventually found him in an enfeebled condition, clearly having been without his mother for some time. He arrived in the Nursery gaunt and weak, so his chances looked slim

from the outset and sadly, like those before him, he died a few days later, the cause of death again confirmed Roto Virus.

Name of Orphan: Soit (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 26th February

Male

This baby elephant of about 1 month old was heard bellowing during the night of the 25th February near a Masai village in the Esoit area of the Masai Mara. At first light on the 26th February a Masai Elder named Ole Nyankoi went to investigate and found the calf all alone, with no adult elephants anywhere in sight. Its presence was reported to the KWS personnel based at Soit, and Coordinators Edward M. Nkoitoi (Warden Operations) and Jane Giotau (Warden in Charge) detailed Rangers to rescue the calf, which had a spear wound in its side. The baby then had to endure the bumpy journey in the back of a Pickup truck to Kichwa Tembo airstrip and upon arrival was clearly extremely stressed and in much discomfort. Back at the Nursery diarrhoea set in within a day, and despite being put on life support, died during the night of 2nd March.

March

Name of Orphan: Shira

Date of Arrival 14th March

Female

Another yearling calf rescued from that self same meerschaum well at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Masai tribal land at the place named Sinya. Our orphaned elephants "Sinya", "Mawenzi" and "Kibo" all are victims of this well, all suffering similar serious skin damage to their backs. "Shira" had remained trapped down the well overnight, and also had superficial wounds on her trunk, probably caused by a small predator such as a jackal. She was discovered the following morning by two Masai cattle herders, who alerted the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Amboseli Researchers to the presence of yet another elephant well victim. Nora Katito of the Amboseli Research team assisted by KWS Rangers managed to extract the calf and drove her to the Amboseli National Park airstrip, from whence the Rescue Plane collected her. The Amboseli Elephant Trust and KWS then managed to persuade the Masai tribesmen of the area to agree to an experimental low stone wall being erected around the edge of the well so that adult elephants could still stand and drink, but their calves would not so easily fall in. The Masai were at first against any alteration to their well which they felt might inhibit the supply of crucial water for their herds, but eventually agreed to the low stone wall. Since then other wells in the area have also been protected.



Enesoit's rescue



Bhaawa's rescue



Kavu



Mara's rescue



Little Kibo



The Nursery Orphans



Maalim



Tassia



Mawenzi trapped in a well



Kilaguni's rescue



Mischak, Sala and the men who helped save her

Name of Orphan : Bhaawa (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 15th March

Male

Another Sunday, and yet another elephant rescue alert, this time again from the area around the Kirisia Hills near Maralal in Northern Kenya. This casualty was a 5 month old bull who became hopelessly bogged in the mud of a drying waterhole during the night of the 14th/15th March, in an area known as Bhaawa. He was found in the morning by Samburu cattle herders who alerted the Chief. However, at first the Chief was reluctant to save the calf since just the previous week an elephant had killed a man, but the KWS Rangers managed to persuade the Chief to rescue the calf rather than allow it to die. Bhaawa died eight months later.

Name of Orphan: Tassia

Date of Arrival 26th March

Male

This 9 month old bull calf was found all alone by three Samburu herdsman herding their cattle near Ntalabani hill, an area where there has been a marked upsurge in poaching for ivory ever since the arrival of Chinese road construction workers. There were the remains of dead elephants around, but no sign of any living, so this calf was obviously a poaching victim, fortunate to have been found by ele-friendly tribesmen who reported his whereabouts to the Headquarters of the nearby Il Ngwezi Conservancy. They in turn sought the assistance of Lewa Downs to help capture the calf and transport him to the nearest airfield near Tassia Lodge, there to await the arrival of the rescue plane. The care and concern shown this calf by his rescuers was most touching. Although emaciated and weakened from milk deprivation, he arrived in the Nursery with a strong will to survive and thrived from the outset.

Name of Orphan: Isiolo (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 4th April

Male

This rescue alert came from the Kenya Wildlife Service Senior Warden based at Isiolo named Mailu who was involved in the rescue of Orphan Rapsu whilst serving in Meru National Park under Mark Jenkins. He informed us that Samburu herdsman had come across the calf down a deep erosion gully, and that the mother and herd had long gone. Having received the message, he immediately sent Rangers to extract the calf and drive it to Lewa Downs Airfield to await the arrival of the rescue plane. Little "Isiolo" never thrived in the Nursery, and although we fought long and hard to save him, he eventually died 5 months later on the 5th September. A post-mortem autopsy revealed the cause of his debility and ultimate death - a diseased

liver, twice its normal size and blue in colour rather than the normal healthy red. He also had enlarged lymph nodes indicating an underlying and chronic infection. Surprisingly, an Achilles tendon had become separated from his right tarsal joint, which according to the Vet could never have healed, and was the obvious cause of the pain he had been experiencing when rising from a sleeping position.

Name of Orphan: Pasaka (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 10th April

Female

Yet another rescue alert this time on Good Friday. The Manager of Satao Camp in Tsavo East National Park heard a great deal of elephant screaming at a nearby waterhole during the night of the 9th and at first light ventured out to investigate. He came across a female calf estimated to be about 1 month old who was totally exhausted and lying flat on the ground with no sign of other elephants, or its, mother, nearby. The calf was thin and very weak, having obviously been without its mother for some time and it had also evidently suffered rejection from other elephants that came to drink during the night. Evidence of this was in the multiple tusk abrasions on its back.

During such a challenging dry year, few wild herds other than the baby's immediate family would be willing to be encumbered by a milk dependent orphan that they would be unable to suckle and which would jeopardize the survival of their own family by holding them up. The calf was taken to our Voi Elephant Stockades where the Keepers were able to feed her milk and rehydration whilst awaiting the arrival of the rescue plane. However, from the onset her digestive system was in a mess, passing black watery stools which failed to respond to the usual treatment. Despite intravenous life support, sadly she passed away four days later, during the early hours of the 14th.

Name of Orphan: Sieku (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 11th April

Female

Just a day after the arrival of orphan Pasaka from Satao Camp in Tsavo East National Park, we were alerted about the presence of another orphaned elephant, this time from the Kipsing area on Samburu tribal land, where an outbreak of cholera had been recorded in recent months. This orphan was discovered bogged in the deep mud of a suspected cholera infested watering place near the Leseku lugga which had previously been heavily utilized by starving and diseased domestic livestock. The body of a lactating elephant cow riddled with gunshot wounds was found

nearby, so the calf was a obviously a poaching victim. The presence of the bogged baby was reported to KWS and us by Julia Francombe of Ol Malo Ranch, who, along with her father, supervised the extraction of the calf from the foul mud, and transported it to the nearby airstrip to await the arrival of the rescue plane. (All involved in the rescue of this calf had to undergo a precautionary course of Doxycycline upon their return, and have their garments sterilized). From the start, this baby was a reluctant feeder, taking an insufficient quantity of milk to sustain life, and rapidly becoming weaker. She collapsed and died very suddenly on the 16th April whilst out in the bush with the other orphans.

Un-Named (Lost)

Date 17th April

The rescue of this calf of unknown sex from the Maralal area had to be aborted because the calf escaped after capture, and was never found again. Hence, the charter plane returned empty.

Name of Orphan: Nchan

Date of Arrival 18th April

Female

The Milgis Scouts received a report from a Samburu elder that a baby elephant was trapped down a well in the Milgis Lugga. They arrived to find a panicked calf struggling down a narrow 10 foot well. They managed to throw a looped rope around the calf's chest and haul her out. Hoping that the mother might return to collect her bellowing baby, the Rescuers hid nearby overnight watching the calf to ensure that she was not taken by hyaenas, but when dawn broke, there was still no sign of the mother or any other elephant. At the request of the Milgis Trust personnel, the new arrival in the Nursery was named "Nchan".

Name of Orphan: Olkeju (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 29th April

Male

This tiny calf came from Mugie Ranch in Laikipia where a cow elephant, well known to the Management of the Ranch for the past 10 years, finally, succumbed on the 16th to a longstanding abscess on her flank. She was found to be lactating, but her milk dependent calf had obviously been taken off by the family herd. The herd was monitored over the next few days, and the calf was able to be identified because it was becoming too weak to keep up with the herd. It was about 6 weeks old, but to have been able to survive the two weeks since his mother died, he had obviously been able to sneak a little milk from other lactating cows, there being another three calves of his age in the family herd.

Eventually however, the orphan was captured with the help of a British Army team who were undertaking a Remote Adventure Training Expedition on the Ranch at the time. Kenya born Captain J.E. Faul orchestrated the rescue helped by KWS and Mugie Ranch Scouts. We were confident that little "Olkeju" was going to survive, and but for a tragic accident, he probably would have. However, too eager for his milk one evening, he gulped it down rapidly and some went into his lungs. He died just half an hour later in the arms of his favourite Keeper, who also happened to be one of our most experienced and best. We were shocked by this unexpected tragedy, the cause revealed by the autopsy that was carried out – milk in the lungs, but otherwise everything else in good working order. It was a tragic accident which made the loss of this otherwise healthy calf exceptionally unfortunate.

May

This month at least 3 young yearling elephant calves were found dead near the Milgis Lugga, and the rescue of another on the 3rd had to be aborted because the orphan died before the plane landed. On the 12th yet another from the Milgis never happened because the rescued orphan died just as the plane was taking off from Nairobi.

Name of Orphan: Kudup

Date of Arrival 14th May

Female

Because of a heavy rain storm, there was actually no need for the local tribesmen to visit the wells in the Milgis Lugga in Northern Kenya that day, for there was rain water everywhere. However, opportunely, one man just happened to be passing by, and heard the bellows of a baby elephant down one of the wells. Upon inspection it was obvious that her elephant mother had desperately tried to extract the baby, for she had dug all round the sides of the well with her tusks, but the ground was hard, and the well deep, so in the end she had accepted defeat and been forced to abandon her precious baby.

The passer-by managed to get a message to the Milgis Trust Headquarters and a five man rescue team was soon at the scene, who managed to maneuver a rope loop around the torso of the calf, made easier because she was standing on her back legs attempting to climb out. If ever there was a lucky little orphan, it has to be this one, as hours later the Lugga flooded and the calf would surely have been drowned. The men remained with the baby all that day and throughout a very uncomfortable night, not only fearful that they might be taken unawares by a visiting herd of elephants, or perhaps even the return of the mother, but also surrounded by



Kudup playing



Melia



Olare



Meibai



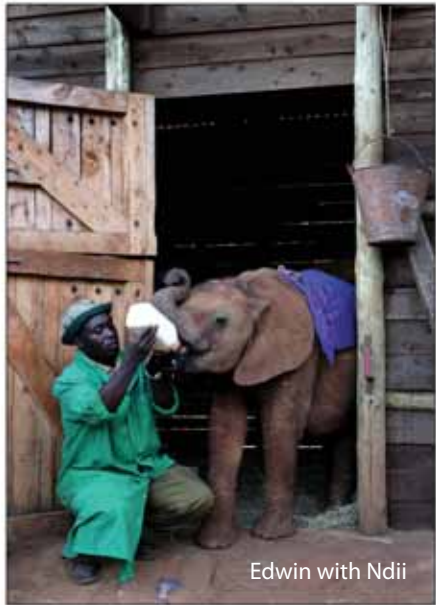
Rescuing Shira



Rescuing Kigelia



Maxwell



Edwin with Ndii



Pasaka on a drip



Taru, Roan and Angela



Isiolo and Sabachi



Baby Nchan



Lesanju

hungry hyaenas bent on a free meal. However, released from their drought stricken dry weather range by the rain, all the elephants had since left.

Meanwhile, we in Nairobi were standing by, all the while hoping that this baby may be lucky enough to be reunited with her elephant mother. However, it was not to be, and she was airlifted to safety during the afternoon of the 14th May, and at the request of her rescuers, was named “Kudup” – the name of the place where she was saved on that fateful day.

Name of Orphan: Kilaguni

Date of Arrival 22nd May

Male

A wounded baby, aged approximately 5 – 6 months, was reported by KWS, found alone near the Chyulu Entrance Gate to Tsavo West National Park. Somehow he had managed to survive an attack by a predator, possibly a lone hyaena, because had there been more than just one, he would not have been able to survive a pack assault. He was flown to the Nairobi Nursery from the “Kilaguni” Lodge airfield in Tsavo West National Park, and named “Kilaguni” since the Chyulu Gate is not far from the Lodge. He arrived at the Nursery just after dark on the 22nd, and by torchlight we were able to assess the extent of his injuries. His entire tail had been bitten off, leaving just a swollen stump at the base, with surrounding tooth punctures clearly visible. Bite sized chunks had been taken from both ears, and there were wounds on his back legs, some of them deep. However, he was in fair physical shape, so had probably only been without his elephant mother for a couple of days, and had probably been beside her body when the hyaena turned up to feed on the carcass. The reason he was orphaned is likely to be as a result of poaching for ivory since the body of a cow elephant was found minus its tusks. Little “Kilaguni” was remarkable in that he was instantly loving to his Keepers, despite his age and the pain of his wounds which had to be cleaned and dressed on a daily basis in addition to antibiotic injections to prevent sepsis. Desperately sucking on fingers, and eager for milk and water, there was no hint whatsoever of aggression or fear from this baby right from the start, which was very unusual. He has turned into a Nursery favourite, a very gentle, mellow and beautifully natured little elephant.

Name of Orphan: Kalama

Date of Arrival 30th May

Female

In the Kalama area, near Archer’s Post in “Samburu district”, four Samburu tribesmen visited what is known as “the white well” (Ikawasi Naibor), and discov-

er a baby elephant standing chest high in water at the bottom. They managed to extract the calf aged about 4 – 5 months and notify the The Kalama Conservancy Chairman, Mr. Daniel Lolosoli who came with four Kalama Game Scouts to recce the area in an attempt to locate the mother, but there was no sign of any adult elephants nearby. He and the Kalama Scouts then loaded the elephant into the back of their Pickup truck and drove it to the nearby airfield to await the arrival of the Rescue Plane, having alerted us in Nairobi that a plane was needed to airlift the calf to Nairobi.

June

Name of Orphan: Chaimu

Date of Arrival 4th June

Male

Another orphan, this time from Kampi ya Kanzi on the slopes of the Chyulu Hills. The Manager of Campi ya Kanzi Lodge had actually been searching for this calf for a couple of days, having heard reports about a lone elephant baby. Two days later the calf, aged about 1 year, was located, and having been captured, was taken to the nearest airfield to await the arrival of the Rescue Plane. It is not known whether he is a victim of poaching or drought, since both have taken an enormous toll during the year. What was evident is that he had walked over 22 kms through waterless terrain from where he was originally sighted before being found. One eye was practically blind, but with treatment is gradually improving.

Un-Named: (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 10th June

Male

A 3 year old calf, and as such still milk dependent, was flown to us from Laikipia, but died during the night, too far gone to be able to save.

Name of Orphan: Naimina

Date of Arrival 12th June

Female

This orphan was approximately 1 ½ years old, and therefore still milk dependent. She was spotted alone by the Amboseli Baboon Research Team at around 1.30 p.m. who alerted Elephant Researchers Soila and Norah. They managed to locate the calf outside the Park at a place called Narubaala, the elephant obviously having come from the Tanzanian side of the border. She had a fresh spear wound in her chest so it is highly probable that her elephant mother had been killed in Tanzania where elephant poaching is now extremely serious, massive hauls of illegal ivory identified by DNA as having come from Tanzania recently intercepted on route to China and the Far East. Assisted by

KWS Rangers, and using ropes, the Amboseli Researchers managed to capture the calf and drove her in the back of the KWS Landcruiser Pickup to the airfield to await the arrival of the Rescue Plane, which was already airborne and landed 20 minutes later.

Name of Orphan: Mkali (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 18th June

Male

A 2 – 3 year old orphan from Laikipia, who died during the night, on arrival passing faeces that was literally heaving with parasites. Clearly a drought victim that had been rescued too late to save.

Un-Named (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 19th June

Male

Yet another young bull from Laikipia flown in, but died soon after arrival in the Nursery – like the previous one, too far gone for us to be able to retrieve.

Un-Named (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 24th June

Female

A yearling calf found in a state of collapse on the Chyulus by our Chyulu De-Snaring Team near Kampi ya Kanzi who died before the rescue plane had even left Nairobi.

Un-Named (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 28th June

Another orphan from Ziwani in Tsavo West National Park who narrowly escaped being hacked to death to make a meal for those that found her, and who was rescued by just one ele-friendly soul amongst them who managed to persuade the killers to refrain. This orphan was extremely stressed and fearful of humans upon arrival in the Nursery and died 2 days later.

Name of Orphan: Melia

Date of Arrival 28th June

Female

During the evening of the 27th June, a yearling female calf was found alone by our De-Snaring team near the Mombasa Pipeline opposite the Ndara plains in Tsavo East National Park. There were no wild elephant herds in sight, and since there were also a lot of lions in the area, KWS and our Voi elephant Keepers were alerted that a rescue was imminently needed to save this calf, who would probably not survive another night alone.

With the help of KWS Rangers, our Voi Elephant Keepers were able to overpower the abandoned calf, and having covered her head with a blanket and bound her legs, transported her back to the Voi Stockades for the

night where she took water and a little milk from a bucket. The next morning she was airlifted to Nairobi.

Un-Named: (Deceased)

Date 29th June

Female

The mother of this calf fell into a Lodge swimming pool, severing one of her breasts in the process. She was treated on two occasions by our Mara Veterinary Unit, but lactation from the remaining breast failed and her calf became systematically weaker. We were alerted too late to be able to save this baby, who died before we could collect her.

July

Un-Named (Deceased)

Date 8th July

(3 Shocking Deaths)

An elephant herd targeted by Pokot poachers near Olmaisor Ranch near Rumuruti left 1 yearling calf dead, another shot in the stomach, and yet another dying nearby. The dying calf was easily overpowered by Ranch personnel, and a rescue put in place, but despite being put on life support during the flight, the calf died a few hours after arriving at the Nursery.

Name of Orphan: Tumaren

Date of Arrival 21st July

Female

On the 20th July Kerry Glen of Tumaren Ranch in Laikipia phoned us to say that an elephant calf aged about 10 months had been seen beside its dying mother who, for some unknown reason, appeared to be paralyzed. KWS granted permission for the calf to be captured, since the mother was obviously beyond recovery and the calf, being still milk dependent, would be unable to survive without her, particularly as there were a lot of predators in the area. Kerry Glen and Jamie Christian, along with the Ranch workers managed to capture the calf and take it back to their home for the night, where Jamie provided the company it needed from an adjoining room. The mother elephant was subsequently euthenized by a KWS Vet to spare her further suffering.

Name of Orphan: Tano

Date of Arrival 26th July

Female

Tom Silvester, the Ranch Manager of Loisaba, rescued this tiny female who was only about 2 ½ months old. She had been located near “Boma Tano” (the 5th Cattle Enclosure on the Ranch) and was suspected to be a poaching victim. The baby was too young to understand

fear and was trusting of humans from the start, instantly capturing the hearts of the Ranch Staff and the Manager's children. They asked that she be named "Tano".

Name of Orphan: Mutara

Date of Arrival 27th July

Female

A newborn elephant baby found alone at 2 p.m. on the road between Rumuruti town in Laikipia and Mutara Ranch. All our land lines happened to be out of order (as usual) so the Ranch personnel, with the permission of KWS, asked the Ol Pejeta Conservancy to care for the calf overnight. She was flown to the Nursery the following morning and since she was unlikely to have benefited from her mother's first colostrum milk, she was given elephant plasma intravenously, which fortunately we had available frozen in our Deep Freeze. She is likely to have been orphaned through poaching.

August

Name of Orphan: Turkwel

Date of Arrival 4th August

Female

This rescue of a 4 month old calf was one of the most dramatic that has ever been undertaken. She was in the hostile region around South Turkana National Reserve, an area inhabited by wild and warring pastoral people from the Pokot and Turkana tribes who are constantly in conflict over sparse resources centred around grazing and livestock, and have been so since time immemorial. The Trust received the rescue alert from the Kenya Wildlife Service during the evening of the 3rd August, too late to initiate a rescue that day, but the plane left at 7 a.m. the following morning (4th August) and after a 2 hour flight, landed at the remote bush Turkwell Airstrip to await the arrival of the calf, with gunshots going off all around!

The Deputy Park Warden of the Nasalot and South Turkana National Reserves, Mr. Nduati James, must be congratulated for organizing a very high risk and brave rescue of the little elephant, who had been spotted alone near the Wei Wei river heading into an extremely high conflict zone. A team of Rangers escorted by armed paramilitary personnel from both the General Service Unit and the Police set off to rescue the calf, risking ambush by armed bandits at any moment who had blocked all roads leading into the area. It took the team all morning to clear the roads of obstructions in order to get a vehicle to the Juluk area where the calf had last been seen. They managed to track down the baby, capture it, and take it to the airfield where our team

awaited them, albeit somewhat nervously, the pilot very much on edge, doubtful that it was wise to stick around a moment longer!

Name of Orphan: Olare

Date of Arrival 5th August

Female

Just one day after the dramatic rescue of little Turkwel, a young calf and its ailing mother was seen by a passing tourist in the Masai Mara, who alerted our Mobile Veterinary Unit headed by Dr. Dominic Mjele. The Mobile Veterinary Unit found the elephant mother in a pathetic state of collapse, able only to move her front legs and trunk, her baby clambering over her in a state of sheer terror and confusion. Having immobilized the mother, Dr. Dominic Mjele was able to determine that her femur had been shattered by bullets resulting in severe nerve damage that left her paralyzed and with no hope of recovery or survival. We were alerted that the rescue plane was needed to save the calf, and when it landed at the Olkiobo airstrip, Dr. Dominic Mjele and KWS Rangers were awaiting our team to take them to the tragic scene, some few kms away. What confronted them was so heart-wrenching that there were no dry eyes that day. The paralyzed mother was desperately trying to protect her terrified calf by flailing her trunk, while the baby was climbing over her in panic, desperate to evade the dreaded humans that had caused so much suffering to her mother. The mother was again immobilized so that the Keepers could safely undertake the capture of the calf, who put up strong resistance, but they managed to pull it off efficiently and as painlessly as possible. Once the calf had been removed, the mother was euthenazed.

Un-Named: (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 8th August

Male

A young bull flown in from Morondo Ranch abutting Tsavo died soon after arrival, too emaciated to be able to retrieve.

Name of Orphan: Enesoit

Date of Arrival 11th August

Male

A lone bull calf, roughly 18 months of age, had been observed for about 5 days by the Staff at Enesoit Ranch in Laikipia, who were hopeful that his mother might appear to repossess him. However, the calf was obviously an orphan, for he was becoming weaker and thinner by the day, so the decision was made by the Ranch Manager, Mr. Peter Glover, with the authority of KWS, to rescue him, since he was still milk dependent. Nevertheless, he still had sufficient strength to put up a



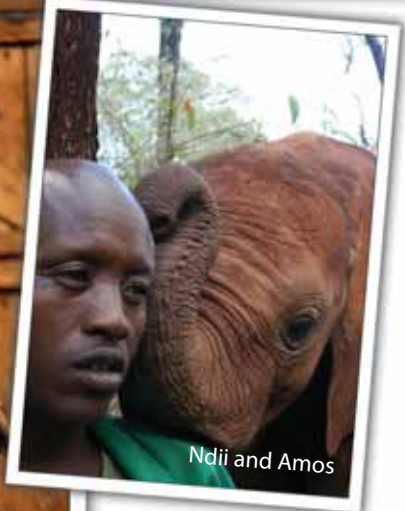
Mud bath time



Feeding time



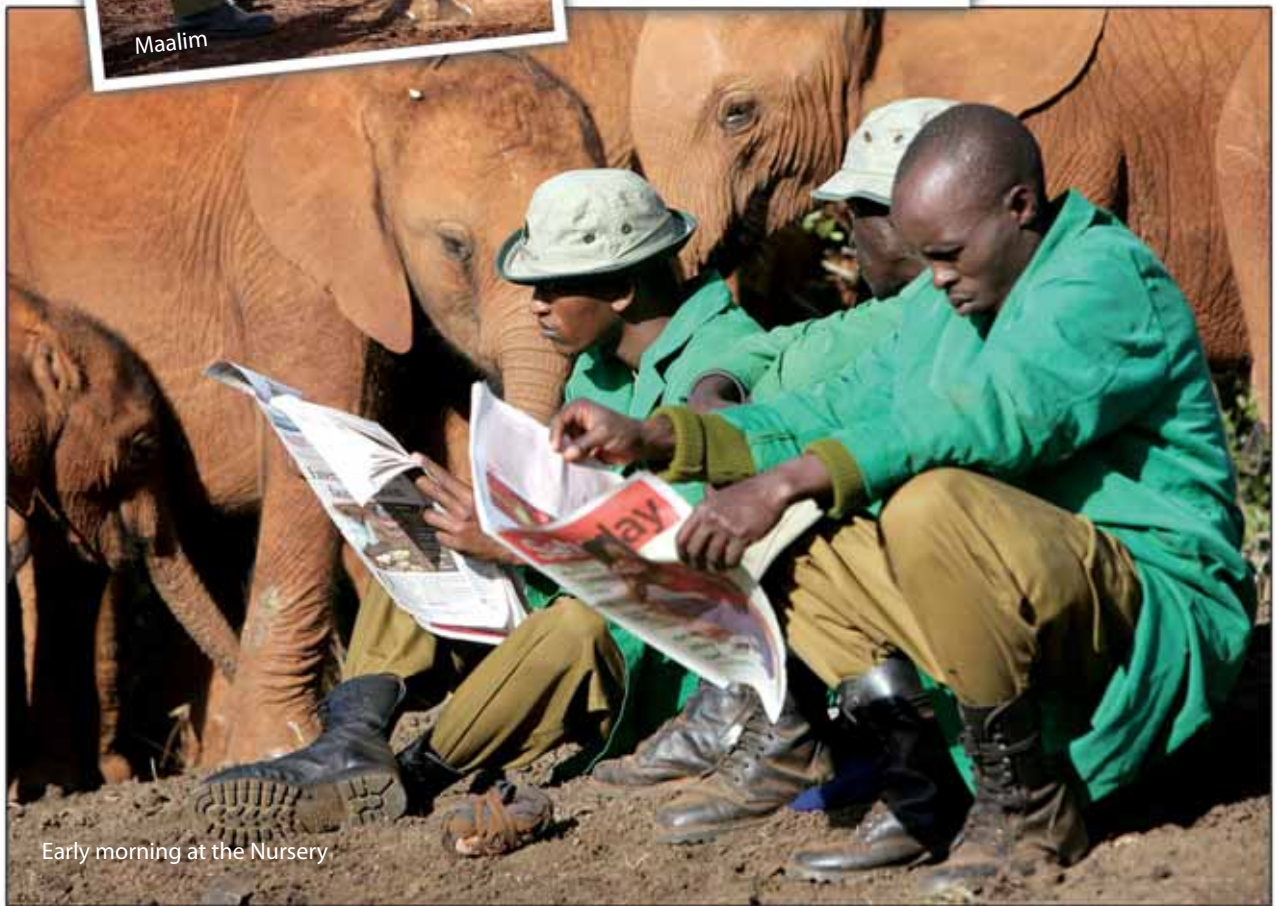
Peter with Kimana



Ndii and Amos



Maalim



Early morning at the Nursery

spirited struggle and it took the combined effort of the Ranch Staff, Nanyuki KWS personnel, local community members and workers from neighbouring Ol Jogi Ranch to overpower him. Back in the Nursery, having calmed down sufficiently to be deemed ready to be allowed out to join the other orphans, he ran off into the Park. Hastily we had to mobilize the Trust's new Top Cub aircraft in order to trace his whereabouts so that the Keepers could recapture him and return him to the Nursery, which, thanks to the aircraft, they managed to do before nightfall. Thereafter poor Enesoit spent another 10 days enclosed in the Stockade, just to make sure that there would no repeat of an attempted escape. By the time he was allowed out again, that was the last thing on his mind!

Name of Orphan: Pesi (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 18th August,

Male

A newborn, no more than 2 days old, found stuck in the Pesi Swamp near Maralal by local tribesmen and flown to the Nairobi Nursery where he was given Elephant Plasma intravenously, thinking that perhaps he might have actually been born in the swamp and not had an opportunity to suckle his mother. Despite feeding well over the next 4 months, this tiny calf never thrived in the Nursery, specs of blood sometimes visible in the stool for which he was treated with both oral and injectible antibiotics. He died very suddenly during the early hours of the 13th November, having suddenly become very weak and collapsing. Despite being on intravenous life support his strength ebbed away. A post-mortem autopsy could find nothing obvious to account for his demise, all the essential body organs appearing healthy. Therefore the cause of death of little Pesi remains a mystery, attributed only to the possibility of some drought related deficiency of a vital nutrient during development in his mother's womb. The past two years have brought exceptionally poor rain.

Name of Orphan: Kisima (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 27th August

Female

This calf collapsed near the Kirisia forest in Maralal district, too weak from the affects of drought to be able to continue following her mother and the herd in their search of water. She was found close to death by Samburu Herdsmen, rescued and flown to the Nairobi Nursery, sustained during the flight by an intravenous drip in an ear vein, but she never regained consciousness after arrival in the Nursery and died soon afterwards – yet another drought victim who came in too far gone for us to be able to retrieve.

September

Name of Orphan: Shukuru

Date of Arrival 3rd September

Female

The manholes on the ageing Mzima-Mombasa pipeline have been responsible for orphaning many of our orphans. They should not, of course, be open, but the steel covers are either stolen or cast aside so that tribesmen along the route can access the water for themselves and their cattle. They seldom bother to replace the cover, because anything that falls in brings a free bush-meat meal. However, fortunately on the 3rd September a more compassionate and caring herdsman heard the cries of the baby elephant whilst herding his cattle along the Pipeline, and upon investigation could see the tip of a tiny trunk waving around just above the water-line of the manhole. With the help of some other people who were within calling distance, he managed to extract the calf, following which a heated argument ensued, since all but him were determined to kill and eat the calf. The little elephant was too young to know fear, and touched his heart by attaching itself to him, so the kindly herdsman would have none of it, and protected the calf from the would-be butchers. It followed him to his home where his family were detailed to protect it whilst he walked to the Manyani Entrance to Tsavo East National Park to report the matter to the Rangers. The baby elephant was so trusting of literally anyone and anything, even following the Herdsman's dogs, much to their dismay!

Name of Orphan: Meibai

Date of Arrival 5th September

Male

During the evening of the 4th September, Samburu tribesman from Lodingokure town in the Wamba area of Northern Kenya, rescued a 2 year old orphaned elephant that they had been monitoring for several days, in the hopes that it would find its mother or join a wild herd. However, being still milk dependent, it was becoming ever weaker, so it became obvious that its mother had either died or been poached somewhere out in the remote Northern Frontier which has been hard hit by both drought and the Far Eastern demand for ivory of late. The calf was tall for his age, but tiny tusks just visible when his trunk was lifted, indicated that he was only 2 years old. Having managed to overpower him, they took him to Lodingokure School and locked him in a classroom, keeping watch over him all night from the window of an adjoining room. He was flown to the Nursery the next morning, where he collapsed, and had to have intravenous life support. We never expected this calf to rally, but he did, although he remained wary of human contact for the

entire time he was in the Nursery, taking his milk greedily and then retreating from the Keepers, his mistrust and dislike of the human species made very obvious, and who could blame him. No doubt he had been witness to many atrocities committed by humans in his short life.

Name of Orphan: Wamba (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 6th September

Male

This orphan followed a Samburu schoolboy to his man-yatta home where he was in care until his presence could be reported to the KWS Station at Isiolo who alerted us that a rescue was needed. Sadly we lost this calf, unable to control the diarrhoea he had upon arrival – the cause of death likely to be Rota virus since the symptoms matched others that died from this viral infection.

Name of Orphan: Kigelia (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 16th September

Male

This calf was born the previous night at Satao Tented Lodge in Tsavo East National Park and subsequently abandoned by what was obviously a very young, and traumatized mother, fearful of both the human lodge residents and also the resident pride of lions who habitually hung around the Lodge waterhole where they find easy pickings during a severe drought year. When dawn broke and the mother had fled, the calf was rescued by our Voi keepers after it fell into the Lodge waterhole and risked being drowned. It was taken to the Voi Elephant Stockades and from there flown to the Nairobi Nursery, where it received an infusion of Elephant Plasma, but sadly died a few days later.

Name of Orphan: Shaba

Date of Arrival 21st September

Male

During the afternoon of the 20th September, a young Samburu Standard 6 Student named Jacob Likilwai from Grirgir Primary School happened to be walking home from a place called Ntorokombe (meaning Black Stones) in Northern Kenya's Shaba National Reserve when he suddenly became aware that a tiny infant elephant just days old had attached itself to him and was trustingly following him. The little elephant was alone, with no sign of other elephants in sight. During this extremely severe drought, Shaba National Reserve has been a very troubled place, overrun by domestic livestock guarded by trigger happy gun-toting Samburu herders not averse to poaching elephants for their ivory which fetch a good price from Chinese road workers in the area. Human/wildlife conflict over scarce water

resources has also been rife. The tiny elephant stranger followed the school boy all the way back to his homestead, and it was from there that the Elders alerted KWS at the Northern border town of Isiolo about the calf's presence. KWS Officers and Rangers immediately came to collect the calf and held it at their base overnight, alerting us that a rescue plane was needed the next morning.

Name of Orphan: Kavu (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 22nd September

Male

Galdessa Camp is a tented Lodge on the South Bank of the Galana river, popular with Italian tourists from the North Coastal resort of Malindi. During a game drive after lunch on the 21st September, a lady who happens to be a foster-parent of our orphan Shimba, spotted a tiny elephant calf alone in a nearby palm fringed dry sand lugga. The calf was very thin and about 2 weeks old, and there were no other elephants in sight. Too young to know fear, the Camp Staff rescued the calf and took it back to Camp, from where both the KWS authorities and our Voi Elephant Keepers were alerted. The Voi Keepers came to collect the calf, and took it to the Voi Elephant Stockades overnight, from whence it was flown to Nairobi the next morning. Despite putting up a brave fight for life, we lost this baby on the 27th October, his immune system obviously depressed and his physical condition too frail to be able to withstand the dreaded pneumonia.

October

Un-Named: (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 13th October

Female

A 2 year old elephant from the Chyulu Hills, who was already unconscious upon arrival, was put on life support, but never regained consciousness. Too far gone upon arrival to be able to save.

Name of Orphan: Sala (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 14th October

Female

This calf, aged just 1 week, walked into Buffalo Camp near the Sala Entrance on the Eastern boundary of Tsavo East National Park, where she was (well meaningly) fed cows' milk by the Camp Staff. Consequently she arrived with severe diarrhoea and it was only with great difficulty that we managed to gain control of her bowel. However she never thrived and literally seemed to just fade away, dying on the 29th November. The autopsy found just about everything wrong – infected lungs, bowel ulcers, enlarged spleen and liver,

damaged tendons etc., another drought victim for whom there was no hope of recovery.

Name of Orphan: Mara (Deceased)

Date of Arrival 16th October

Female

A 6 week old baby found alone near the Sand river area of Masai Mara, and rescued by the Rhino Surveillance team. She arrived in the Nursery with milky eyes that were almost blind, possibly caused by the venom of a Spitting Cobra. She died very unexpectedly from pneumonia on the 4th November.

Name of Orphan: Chaffa

Date of Arrival 20th October

Female

This baby, approximately 1 month old, is from Shaba National Reserve and was simply found wandering alone during the evening of the 19th October by a KWS Officer near the Ngaremara bridge close to the town of Isiolo. There were no other elephants in sight, so the baby was obviously an orphan whose mother had either succumbed to the drought or been poached for her ivory, poaching having escalated sharply in the area ever since the arrival of Chinese road construction workers. Since such a young calf was very much at risk from predators, the KWS Officer rescued her and held her overnight at the KWS Isiolo base, feeding her water, and keeping her warm. We were alerted the next morning, when the rescue plane collected her from Isiolo airstrip to bring her into the Nursery.

OVERVIEW

Nursery Orphans: Lesanju began the year as the main Nursery Matriarch, a rather quiet elephant who felt the weight of responsibility on her shoulders, with Kenia overseeing the very young infants who were too fragile to walk as far afield as their older peers. Suguta, who previously was glued to a Keeper in amongst the Baby Group was becoming stronger and enjoyed upgrading herself to spend time with the older elephants, always very competitive with Kimana at milk feeding times while Taveta, who was the largest Nursery boy, began asserting his dominance over the others and being labeled “the Nursery bully”. Siria, another little bull liked to try his luck mounting on the girls, who had to gang up in order to push him away and keep him in order. Shimba and Mzima, inseparable friends, were never far apart and preferred a quiet time apart from the others rather than becoming embroiled in the daily shenanigans of the more outgoing and active Nursery members.

The main instigator of any shenanigans was always Lempaute, the mischievous member of the Nursery and extremely possessive of Lesanju. Besides wanting Lesanju all to herself, she thoroughly enjoyed playing pranks on the others, deliberately scaring them by racing past as though fearful of an unseen threat, prompting all to retreat rapidly back to their Keepers for protection, Lempaute meanwhile enjoying the mayhem with a smile on her face! (Incidentally elephants do smile!) She could also always be counted upon to entertain the human mudbath visitors during the Trust’s one Open Hour per day, her latest trick being to intercept the football during a game between the other orphans and their Keepers, pick up the ball, holding it firm between her chin and trunk and then parade it along the visitors’ cordon, thoroughly enjoying the laughter this generated amongst the audience. However, during every mudbath hour, it was usually gentle and peace loving Shimba who was most accommodating of the young African school children who turn up daily to enjoy the orphans’ mudbath, and often in such numbers that they have to be relayed in fifty at a time. He would position himself close to the separating rope and present his trunk so that the children could blow down it as well as marvel at the size of his ears, opening and shutting them and all the while chattering away excitedly. Many African children (and adults) have never set eyes on a living elephant before, so it is not unusual for them to view the orphans as already adult, having no concept of anything larger than a cow! Dida and Ndiu were quiet and well behaved members of the Nursery, Dida a somewhat fragile elephant, prone to having off-colour days and adoring of Kenia, whilst little Ndiu was a friend to everyone.

Wasessa, a 2 year old orphan who arrived unconscious and close to death from milk deprivation, remembered her wild life and elephant family clearly, and sank into deep depression when she came round, grieving the loss of her loved ones deeply. Like others who are orphaned older, grieving manifests itself by choosing to spend time alone separated from the others, and also displaying intolerance of the others which is uncharacteristic particularly in a female. Only time can heal what is obviously the equivalent in humans of “post traumatic stress disorder” as the older elephants adjust to the loss of their elephant family and become accustomed to their new strange circumstances.

It is now scientifically proven through a study of the brain that elephants are indeed “human” emotionally, equally as family oriented as humans with a convoluted brain four times the size of ours, capable of sophisticated intelligence and a massive memory capacity far



superior to that of a human, reinforcing the age old saying that “an elephant never forgets”. We can certainly vouch for that through having handled elephant orphans from the day they were born until grown and leading free and normal wild elephant lives!

Unlike the Primates, (the category within which we belong), elephants, like most other animals, are also endowed with a genetic memory that is honed by exposure to a wild situation. This and their intelligence makes them one of the easiest hand-reared mammals to rehabilitate back into a wild situation - that said, only if they grow up psychologically normal by being reared with patience, love and understanding, and never abused or harmed by the human family that replaces their lost elephant one during their formative years. Elephants need space, which is something which is becoming increasingly scarce, especially here in Kenya where there is such population pressure on the land. Tsavo is the only Protected Area that offers elephants the space they need to be able to enjoy a quality of life in wild terms, and that is where, in the fullness of time, all our orphans get a second chance of life when grown.

Nursery days throughout the years are filled with all the above aspects of elephant behaviour, but with a differing cast of players, each elephant an individual in its own right with its own specific character idiosyncrasies. At any age an elephant duplicates its human counterpart in terms of age progression and as the years pass older Nursery inmates graduate to the next stage of their long journey back into the wild system, transferred in large Safari Trucks to either one of the Trust’s two Rehabilitation Centres in Tsavo East National Park. The Voi Rehabilitation Centre in Southern Tsavo East incorporates the original Stockades built in the early fifties during the Warden-ship of the late David Sheldrick while the Ithumba Rehabilitation Centre in Northern Tsavo East was established in 2003.

For the human replacement “family”, working with the orphaned elephants in the Nursery, each day becomes an emotional roller-coaster where the joy and the satisfaction of success is tempered by disappointment and depression whenever a treasured inmate becomes unwell or passes away. Elephants possess a magic that ensnares the human heart in a mysterious and inexplicable way, particularly in early infancy. Being “brethren”, they strike a chord deep within the human soul for they are endowed with many of the more noble attributes of the human species such as an enormous capacity for caring and love, stoicism and a touching forgiveness and trust of the specific human individuals who replace their lost elephant family, and whom they

recognize instantly, even after years of separation, endlessly illustrating that incomparable elephant memory. Anxiety over the wellbeing of those in our care and whom we have nurtured and reared from infancy and childhood into adulthood is a stress factor that we live with on a daily basis and from which there is no escape, for an elephant’s lifetime duplicates our own and many things can happen over a lifetime.

At the death of each and every orphan, a new grave has to be dug in the forest behind the Trust Headquarters, and although sometimes valuable lessons which aid with the survival of others can be learnt from autopsies, an elephant can be fine one day, and gone the next, and often one never knows why, other than perhaps a deficiency of some vital nutrient due to adverse climatic conditions whilst being formed in the womb, or from their mother’s milk. Elephants need to bulk up on fresh green grass after rain during early pregnancy, and immediately after the birth of a baby, and perhaps this has been the missing element during a pregnancy that has spanned the past two very dry years.

This year, we have had to recruit and train additional Keepers to cope with the unusual influx. Existing stables and stockades have had to be partitioned and new accommodation erected, cozy small stables for the very young and larger enclosures for those older (elephants suffer claustrophobia if enclosed in too small a space). Each stable or stockade has to encompass a sleeping platform for the attendant Keeper so that he can at least get some sleep in between the 3 hourly milk feeds, with one of the Keepers assigned to Milk Mixing Duty throughout the night. The Mixer’s task is complicated by the fact that the very young have a different milk formula to those older and as the elephant’s appetite grows, so the amount mixed for each elephant has to be adjusted, additives added, medication administered, varying for each inmate. The human family of Keepers must become the orphans’ new human family, and beloved, so how the Keepers handle the orphans is a crucial ingredient to success involving an all consuming commitment and 24 hour intensive care during the Nursery period which spans up to the first 2 years. Each night a different Keeper sleeps in with a different elephant to circumvent strong personal attachments which can cause psychological problems and in turn impact on the physical health of the elephant whenever that particular person takes time off.

Shuffling sleeping arrangements invariably causes an upset, for like human children, elephant babies thrive best on a regular routine involving a milk feed every 3 hours throughout the day and night

(and also on time!) and bedding down for the night in the same place. Any adjustment that has to be made to the sleeping arrangements involves very close consultation with the Keepers to establish who is friendly with whom and who is competitive with whom etc because psychological stress can depress natural immunity and in turn trigger life threatening conditions. An example of an upset was graphically brought home to us when little Sabachi was moved to a different Stockade, although his usual neighbour, Olare, was also moved in order to remain next door to him. Sabachi, who has always made his wants clear, bellowed incessantly throughout the night, stood on his head, tried to clamber up the Gate standing on his back legs and even took to kicking the Keeper with a back leg! This resulted in a disturbance that upset all the other orphans, as well as the roosting Hidada Ibis, who also protested loudly throughout the night, affording little rest for everyone, whether elephant or human!

To begin with we held out thinking that Sabachi would just have to get used to the new arrangement, but no such luck! In the end, we had to capitulate in the interests of restoring peace and a good night's rest to the entire establishment, so Sabachi was moved back to where he wanted to be, as was Olare so that he would still have her as his neighbour. From that moment on, peace returned during the nights!

Another incident involving Sabachi was more serious. One morning found him with a cloudy eye and a mysterious swelling on a hind leg which puzzled everyone, because his Night Keeper had noticed nothing untoward during the night, apart from the fact that Sabachi had cried and become very restless. At first we thought he must have had a nightmare, but then it suddenly dawned on us that he might possibly have shared his stable with an unwelcome intruder sequestered in his bedding of hay. Sure enough, this proved to be the case for a small black-necked cobra was spotted slithering down a hole at the back of his stable having come out through the sluice hole for waste water. Fortunately, Sabachi soon healed following treatment and the unwelcome intruder was despatched.

Four of the older Nursery elephants (Wasessa, Siria, Shimba and Mzima) were transferred to the Voi Rehabilitation Centre in Southern Tsavo East on the 21st February, welcomed with great delight by the Voi Elephant Keepers, who had remained devoid of elephant inmates for nearly two years. They were joined on the 29th April by Lesanju, Lempaute and Sinya bringing the total at the Voi Stockades to 9 and in August by "bully boy" Taveta and his friend Tassia

which freed up more Nursery space for the plethora of new arrivals. Next to move in early November were Kenia, Shira, Meibai, Enesoit and Naimina, Kenia and Shira destined for the Voi Rehabilitation Centre there to join others they had known at the Nursery, and Meibai, Enesoit and Naimina to Ithumba being Nursery newcomers and therefore strangers to the established Voi Unit group. The new intake at both Centres brought the number of elephants now Keeper Dependent at the Voi Stockades to 11 and at Ithumba to about 8 who returned regularly at night, but who were sometimes joined by others opting for a quieter night who normally were Keeper Independent. 22 of the Ithumba elephants were now more or less permanently independent and fraternizing regularly with the wild herds, but still keeping in close touch with the Stockade youngsters almost daily.

The Rhinos:- In addition to the elephant orphans, this year the Nursery has had to cope with a new tiny orphaned rhino named "Maalim" from the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary in Tsavo West National Park, abandoned by his mother immediately after birth and believed to have been born premature. He came to us on the 19th December 2008 just 8 inches tall and weighing 24 kilos – a miniature that could have fitted into a lady's handbag! Initially his skin was so dry and flaking that he had to be anointed with milking salve each night, something he relished, since rhinos are extremely sensual animals and rubbing them sends them into a blissful torpor. However, little Maalim also has another great love and that is his mattress, superseding even the love of his bottle of milk! Each evening when he returned to his stable, he flopped down on the mattress with a contented look, waiting to be both anointed with milking salve and fed his bottle of milk actually whilst lying down, but as the months past, and he grew bigger, the anointing became less frequent but his love of the mattress never waned. Now he hoists it aloft all round the stable until it lands on top of him like a blanket, and only then is he content to lie down and sleep!

To begin with Maalim's days were spent doing the rounds of the dung-piles and bush urinals of the resident wild rhino community to add his specific contribution of dung, kick it with his hind legs, and in this way leave his scent trail by way of introducing himself and announcing his presence to all other Nairobi Park rhinos, including the Trust's two large rhino orphans, Shida and blind Maxwell. The Keeper escorting him has to don the special rhino dust-coat (which is never washed) so that Maalim can recognize him through its rather ripe scent since the life of rhinos revolves around chemistry! Within just one month Maalim had doubled his size and put on 5 kilos without any health issues at

all, and this satisfactory progress has continued throughout the year. Today he is a sturdy yearling with a button of a horn on his nose, quite capable of flattening a human during exuberant playfulness, the reason why he no longer puts in an appearance during public viewing. After his mudbath, he always becomes exceedingly playful and even the Keepers have to exercise nimble avoiding tactics!

Shida, Nursery reared from the age of 2 months after his mother died of old age at the Ivory Burn Site in Nairobi National Park in 2003, is now Keeper Independent and fully reintegrated back into the resident rhino community of the Park. However, being a rhino, and as such a creature of habit, he continues to return back to base usually twice a day, putting himself back in his erstwhile stockade to be “wowed” by the mudbath visitors during the daily Open Hour, and again in the evening when foster-parents of the orphans are allowed privileged access. At such times the door to his Stockade is closed and he enjoys a hand-out of Copra to keep him quiet until the last visitor leaves the premises. Then up go the “hot wires” to demarcate rhino “No-Go” areas around the compound, which although often just a piece of innocuous string, are still respected.

One of the attractions for Shida is blind Maxwell in the Stockade adjoining his own. Maxwell was born with defective eyes lacking both the retina and a functional optic nerve, so nothing can be done to restore his sight. Other than this disability, Maxwell is a fine specimen for a three year old rhino, in fact exactly the same size, if not taller than Shida who is rather squat for the ripe old age of 6 years. Only Max’s shorter horn suggests the age differential between the two.

Max was heard by the Keepers one day in December 2006 crying for his mother in the Park forest abutting our premises. He was about 4 months old at the time and there was no sign of his mother anywhere nearby, the Keepers having kept watch for an entire day hoping that she would return. At nightfall when we set about trying to capture him to save him from the lions, we realized that he was, in fact, totally blind. Even so, he gave his captors a real run-around and almost flattened Dame Daphne in the process, who had to dive into a bush at the last moment when he charged the different sound of her voice. Eventually, it took 12 strong men to subdue him and carry him into a stable on the Elephant Rescue tarpaulin.

Since a bull rhino’s life involves having to fight for rank and status, unlike Shida, Max can never enjoy a

wild life, and therefore faces a sheltered and protected existence within the confines of his Stockade, which has been enlarged this year to allow him more space. However, one would never guess that he was blind, for he confidently races around his enclosure without colliding with any obstacle, often hot on the heels of the intruding wild warthogs who slip through the poles to sneak some of his food. Such prowess is the living example of the sophistication and accuracy of both the memory and the sense of smell of a rhino. Max also has other abilities that defy human logic such as being able to detect the approach of Shida long before any humans have an inkling that he is actually on his way back from the bush. Up goes Max’s tail, indicating heightened anticipation and excitement, so the daily visits of Shida are the highlight of his dark world and his rather mundane daily routine. The two enjoy sparing with one another through the poles that separate their enclosures and with such power that the uprights have to be regularly reset in concrete. At such times Shida is denied entry into his usual Stockade until the cement hardens, and this upset to his daily routine leaves him visibly displeased, so everyone has to take extra precautions!

Sadly, like the elephants, rhinos are also again being targeted by poachers for their horns which are believed to have medicinal and mythical properties in the Far and Middle East, despite being comprised of just the keratin of a finger nail! Max can at least be assured of a safe and comfortable life, and still play an important PR role for his highly endangered species. Less than 2,000 Black Rhinos remain alive today, having inhabited the earth for 60 million years unchanged, evolution having found no good reason to modify a creature so perfectly suited for its specific role within the environment.

And Others:- Buzby is a very lucky baby dikdik, discovered by a passing motorist on the Mombasa Highway being dangled by a back leg by a youth who was taking him home for lunch. At first the motorist believed him already dead but then noticed one little eye opening, so she managed to persuade the bushmeat poacher, to part with him in exchange for something else for lunch! It is worrying that this poacher was not even ashamed of being caught red-handed on a public highway and made no attempt whatsoever to hide his spoils. Buzby eventually ended up with us, and what a success story he has been.

Initially, he slept on a little sheepskin at Angela’s feet as she worked on the computer, enjoying the run of the house, and utilizing a box of earth in which to do his



Emily and Eve's journey back for help



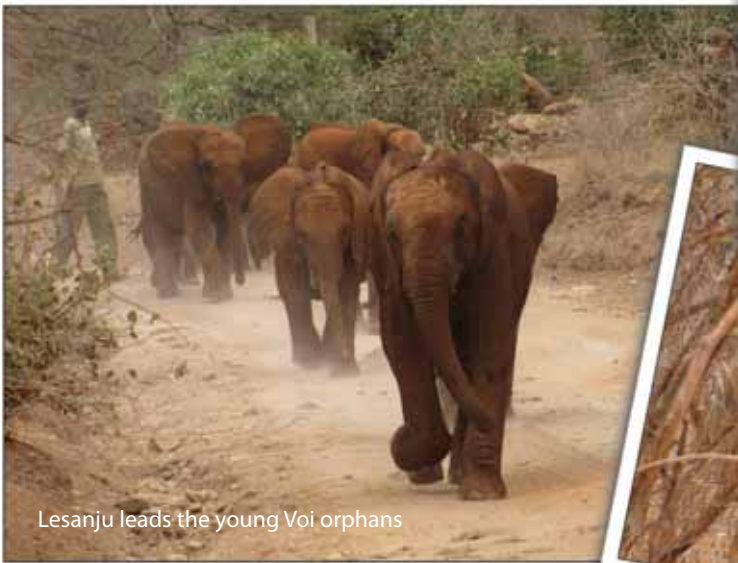
Edie and Ella



Emily with Eve and Mischak



Emily's group



Lesanju leads the young Voi orphans



Our hand raised kudu orphans

daily business. (Dikdik's have shared "middens" just like rhinos). Only Angela could pick him up, cuddle him and carry him around in her arms like a baby. Only she could feed him using an improvised dropper as his bottle. However such touching dependency was not healthy, especially as the Summer holidays were approaching and the family had plans to spend a few days at the Coast and in the Masai Mara to see the wildebeest migration whilst it still lasts. Endless debate centred around what to do about Buzby – whether to take him with us, or leave him behind which might risk breaking his little heart! Like all babies, Buzby had settled into his daily routine, which included a romp with the Carr-Hartley cat, Tickle, and quality time being escorted by Angela for an outing in the bush beyond the indoor confines of the house. Taking him along on holiday was vetoed as being contrary to his wellbeing, so a replacement to Angela had to be found and as it turned out, Buzby's little heart proved pretty resilient!

Angela's replacement came in the person of Emmanuel, the brother of our Head Elephant Keeper, Edwin Lusichi and he has proved more than successful in succeeding as a replacement for Angela, so much so that when she returned from the break, Buzby preferred Emmanuel to her. Every morning found him waiting at the Garden Gate for Emmanuel to collect him and escort him out into the bush. Now that he could spend the entire day out, Buzby was hooked, investigating all the exciting scents of the wild environment, meeting wild dikdiks and playing with the little Sunis that frequent the garden as well as sampling a host of different garden flowers and wild plants. When Emmanuel took a lunch break from Buzby duty, Buzby was returned to Angela and his sheepskin with a smorgasbord lovingly laid out comprised of his favourite garden flowers and wild green shoots. The same happened in the evening when Emmanuel left for the night.

As the months passed Buzby reached the age when he could be weaned off milk and then he became much more adventurous – very "rude", as Emmanuel put it whenever his charge was disobedient about coming when called by name! We heard that Buzby enjoyed going further afield and had some wild friends and that he spent time every day sharpening his tiny horns until they were as sharp as rose thorns. We had to explain to Emmanuel that this was, in fact, good news and not bad and that the day would come when Buzby would want to establish his own territorial boundaries, demarcated by his middens and the scent from his temporal glands wiped on grass stems! Also that he

would want a wife and family of his own for dikdik's mate for life.

Then, one day, Buzby headed out at speed way beyond his usual beat, and a very disconsolate Emmanuel eventually returned at lunch time without him, and in an emotional melt-down! By now he had become equally as hooked on Buzby as Buzby was on him, and he was distraught that he had been "lost".

Then, much to everyone's astonishment, who should march into Angela's house and plonk himself back down on his sheepskin at Angela's feet during the lunch hour a couple of days later, but Buzby! How we under-estimate the intelligence of even the smallest antelope! Since then these outings are becoming more common-place, and just as well, because Buzby quite enjoys threatening Dame Daphne whenever he spots her walking past Emmanuel!

The Voi Orphans:- A serious shortfall in the main October/November rains of last year forced the elephants in the Southern Section of Tsavo East to fall back on sources of permanent water further afield early in January, and our ex Voi Unit orphans who were now living wild under the Leadership of "Emily" went with them.

Emily, born in 1993, was reared from the age of just 1 month in the Nairobi Nursery, and gave birth to her first wild-born baby (named "Eve") during the night of the 10th/11th December 2008, an event that was celebrated joyously by all Trust personnel having lost our previous Nursery reared Matriarch, Malaika, who died in childbirth some years ago.

During a routine monitoring patrol regularly undertaken by the Voi Keepers, they caught up again with Emily on the edge of the Park with Lissa's group comprised of Lissa herself, her three calves, plus Mpenzi and her calf, 14 year old Uaso and some wild female friends. The Keepers witnessed an interesting interlude on this occasion when one of the wild cows began taking too much interest in Emily's baby, Eve, laying a trunk lovingly across the calf's back and trying to urge it underneath her body to suckle. This infuriated Emily, who moved in rapidly to push the wild elephant away from her calf, something that resulted in a Stand Off between the two ex orphan Matriarchs, Emily and Lissa. They confronted each other with outspread ears whilst Emily's young "Nannies"(Icholta, Ilingwezi, Mweya and Mvita), took turns in challenging the offending cow to express their own disapproval of her actions. Eventually, Emily decided it was time to take

her baby off and she and her group left that of Lissa.

Emily's jealousy indicates the syndrome of abduction, which is commonplace within disrupted elephant families who lack the usual ordered family structure where the age differential between various family members is clear, five years separating each. Those who have lost their natural family are desperate to build another by hijacking young, something that all our orphaned Matriarch's have tried to do from time to time, and which is recorded often in the monthly Keepers' Diaries on our website and also something of which the wild Matriarchs are suspicious.

February saw the arrival at the Voi Stockades of Wasessa, Shimba, Siria and Mzima, the first 4 Nursery inmates to be upgraded and a new intake after the Stockades had been rested for a couple of years. Having been orphaned older than the other three, and furthermore having been rescued not far from the Stockades, Wasessa was familiar from the start with both her surroundings and the wild elephants who came to drink at the Stockade water trough, racing up to greet a visiting wild family who turned up to drink at the Stockade trough. The Keepers were convinced that Wasessa knew them of old, because the elephant greetings were spontaneously warm, whilst Shimba, Siria and Mzima were much more reticent, careful to keep at a safe distance.

Still embarking on regular surveillance patrols, the Voi Keepers were able to keep in touch with Emily's group until March, when the dry season tightened its grip and Emily's unit along with most of the wild elephant herds vanished. It transpired that the wild herds and our ex orphans had moved beyond the Park boundary onto the neighbouring Ngutuni Ranch which had enjoyed better rainfall than the Park itself and where there was more vegetation for them, plus a fortunate leak in the Mombasa pipeline to provide the fresh water they needed.

It was there that our Keepers caught up with Emily's group again in May and were overjoyed to find that Edie had a 3 week old wild-born female baby of her own (whom we named "Ella") The Keepers filmed this new baby playing with Emily's little Eve, overseen by a host of adoring orphaned "Nannies" . However, absent from the orphaned herd was Aitong, Natumi and some of the orphans from Emily's unit who often traveled with Natumi as a splinter group independent of that of Emily. However, since there were numerous wild herds in the area, the Keepers assumed that the missing orphans were probably simply mixed up in

amongst wild elephants and thought no more of it. In the meantime, however, they noticed that Laikipia had a slight swelling on one foot, which they were able to inspect closely, Laikipia, now 10 years old and virtually now a "wild" elephant, allowing them to actually handle his foot, which was remarkable. They concluded that although the swelling might have initially been caused by a wire snare, somehow he had managed to dislodge the wire, since none remained imbedded in the flesh.

Later on that same month, orphan Natumi returned to the Stockades accompanied by Lolokwe and a few other stragglers from Emily's group. Her reappearance was greeted with delight by the Keepers for she had not been back for almost a full year. The arrival of the now "wild" group of ex orphans caused great excitement amongst the new Stockade residents, Wasessa, Shimba, Siria and Mzima, and a highly charged greeting took place initiated by Wasessa with excited rumbling, trumpeting and the usual urinating to express excitement. However, once all the excitement had died down, the Keepers noticed that Natumi had wounds both on her head and on her rump where the metal tip of imbedded arrowheads were visible. Furthermore Lolokwe had one on the rump. Dr. David Ndeereh of our Mobile Veterinary Unit was summoned and preparations went ahead to immobilize the two wounded elephants and surgically remove the arrowheads, which, fortunately had not been coated with poison. Then, having thoroughly cleaned the incisions and given the invalids a long-acting injectible antibiotic, they were resurrected and soon joined the other members of their group to head off again into the unknown.

None of us believed that the return of Natumi and Lolokwe was just a random event. We were convinced that they returned simply because they understood that they needed help, a fact that was reinforced a few months later involving the return of both Edie and Emily and their respective wild-born babies.

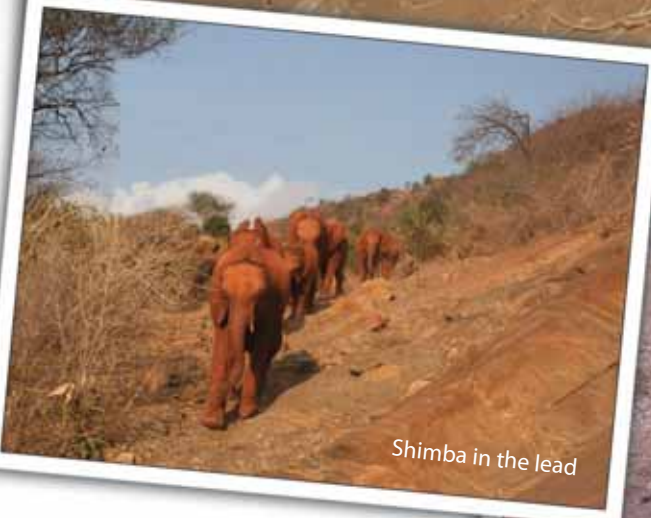
With the arrival of Lesanju, Lempaute and Sinya from the Nairobi Nursery, the number of Stockade based Voi orphans grew again. All knew one another from having spent time together in the Nursery so as usual the reunion was emotional, and recognition instant. However, Lesanju then became visually subdued, obviously not best pleased to find Wasessa now acting as the Matriarch when Lesanju had always been in charge at the Nursery with Wasessa somewhat of a nonentity as a new arrival, grieving for her lost elephant family. However, Lesanju then lost no time in re-asserting her



Mzima and Jassia enjoying a soil bath



Wild boy with Lempavit and Mzima



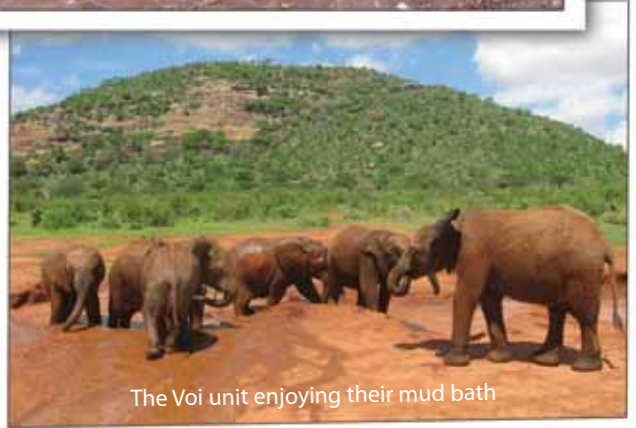
Shimba in the lead



Mkuki resting



The young milk and keeper dependent Voi Orphans



The Voi unit enjoying their mud bath

previous authority and took over the Leadership role again, something , Wasessa did not contest.

Lempaute, orphaned in very early infancy, was quite obviously overwhelmed by the immensity of her new surroundings. She clung close to the Keepers for several days during what the Keepers termed the orphans' "orientation exercises" which entail being escorted to their new feeding areas, and the artificial mudwallow created for them either somewhere out in the bush or at the actual Stockades, depending where the day's chosen feeding area happened to be. This behavior prompted us to send down Mischak, Lempaute's favorite Keeper, to help her make the adjustments more confidently with him again by her side.

By example Wasessa encouraged the new arrivals who were not familiar with wild elephants to become more out-going and mingle freely with the few wild herds that had returned briefly following a light shower of rain. One such encounter in May happened to be with ex orphan Lissa and her 3 youngsters (Lara, Lali and Luard), ex orphan Mpenzi and her baby (Asante) and Big Boy 14 year old Uaso who often travel together and happened to be on their way to the Stockades for a drink when they bumped into the Stockade group on their way out. Uaso was particularly interested in Siria, the oldest boy of the group, while Shimba and Mzima feigned nonchalance from a safe distance happy to give Uaso a wide berth due to his awesome size. Having observed Wasessa's warm reception, Lesanju plucked up the courage not to be outdone so she joined in the greetings, but Lempaute remained glued to the Keepers who were also keeping their distance.

By August the drought had turned large swathes of Southern Tsavo East into a dustbowl overrun with starving domestic livestock. Many of the elephant herds remained outside the boundaries of the Park where human/wildlife conflict became a mounting problem. It is a sad fact that some members of the communities that live alongside the Park's south western boundary are definitely not wildlife friendly, descending on any dead or wounded elephant killed by a train, or heavy vehicle on the Mombasa highway and frenziedly hacking off flesh, carting it away by the barrow full despite it being illegal to be in possession of wild game meat.

Such people were not starving – they were the settlers who had occupied and tried to cultivate ancient elephant migratory passages between Tsavo East and West that have been trodden by the elephants for centuries. Moreover they probably benefit more from the

Park in terms of employment than most, yet they pose the greatest threat to what is, essentially, their livelihood – the wildlife. They poach it for bushmeat, they poach the elephants for ivory, and they injure them willfully often just getting a kick out of doing so. Tsavo East hosts more visiting tourists than any other Park in Kenya, and brings in more revenue than any other. Thousands of people are employed through tourism or within the hospitality industry that feeds off the country's main tourist attraction – its wildlife. Tsavo will be the last bastion for Kenya's wildlife, and particularly for its elephants, because it is the only Protected Area large enough to offer shelter for a sizeable number in perpetuity and yet many brutal and uncaring people along that particular boundary are doing their utmost to destroy its key species, the elephants! Such actions prompt a dent in **hope!**

At the Voi Stockades, August brought the arrival of Tassia and Taveta from the Nursery to join the resident Voi orphans swelling their number to 9, and increasing the workload of the Keepers, who were now only able to undertake sporadic surveillance sorties in search of our now wild orphans. Most such forays proved fruitless but word did filter through that perhaps some of the orphans from Natumi's group could be on Rukinga ranch for they had been seen drinking from one of the water tanks. The Keepers requested that the ranch Staff photograph them for identification purposes and this they did, so at least we knew that Natumi and her group were there. The Keepers begged the Ranch Staff to try and protect them from harm.

It was September when the Keepers managed to locate Emily's group again. They were still within Ngutuni ranch, but the calves of Emily and Edie were taking the strain of the drought, appearing thinner and weaker. The Keepers went in search of Natumi's group on Rukinga Ranch, and just missed them, for apparently they had just left their usual watering place.

In late October, a substantial rainstorm relieved the situation, filled the natural waterholes again which enabled Edie to bring her calf, Ella, back to the Voi Stockades. The calf was visibly becoming weak, Edie's lactating capacity obviously having been compromised by the affects of the drought. She was wise enough to know where to come for help in order to save her precious baby. With her were Mweya (ex Uganda) who was the main "Nannie" to Edie's baby and three young bulls from Emily's unit, namely Mpala, Morani and Irima. We in Nairobi were alerted about the condition of Edie's calf and rushed down Dairy Cubes, Bran and other supplements that could boost the

mother's milk yield and so help her calf. It worked, for little Ella suckled more frequently and was soon regaining lost weight and becoming visibly stronger by the day.

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to us and the Keepers, Emily was in the process of also trying to return, but her baby, Eve, was in a much more dire condition and, in fact, not far off dying. Emily's long journey from Ngutuni Ranch had therefore been painfully slow because the calf had to continually rest. However, they managed to reach the vicinity of the Voi Safari Lodge, which is where the Keepers found them during another motorized routine patrol. Emily's calf was lying at her feet, and was obviously in a bad way.

Immediately the Keepers rushed back to the Stockades to get Keeper Mischak Nzimbi, who had known Emily from the day she arrived in the Nursery as a 1 month old, and whom she would trust implicitly. Mischak was the favourite Keeper of all our elephants, irrespective of age. By the time the Keepers returned with him and the supplements, Emily and her calf had managed to reach the waterhole below the Voi Safari Lodge, from where tourists from their elevated position were taking a keen interest in events below, probably anticipating an exciting stand-off between the elephant mother and the resident lions bent on making a meal of her calf and who had managed to kill orphan Mpenzi's firstborn. Imagine the astonishment of the visitors when a vehicle drew up and a man walked unhesitatingly up to what they believed was a wild elephant with an ailing calf lying at its feet. They must have been even more astonished to see the elephant extend her trunk in greeting and the man able to handle her confidently and lovingly before presenting her with a feast of Dairy Cubes and Coconut!

Thereafter, Mischak and the Keepers remained with Emily and her baby, as they slowly but surely began to make their way back to the Elephant Stockades. It was a laborious journey that normally would have taken just 40 minutes, but on this occasion entailed the next 6 hours since little Eve was too weak to walk more than a short distance at a time before having to lie down and rest. But, in the end they made it, and Emily took her baby back into her old Stockade and there she spent the next two days, feasting on all the supplements and cut greens provided for her, which included nutritious Grewia branches brought in from beyond the Park boundary. The extra nourishment for Emily produced the desired affect, as it had with Edie, and gradually Eve regained enough strength to give the Keepers quite a run around. However, she soon understood that they

were friends rather than foe, and settled down into sampling some of the supplements herself, as did Edie's baby, Ella.

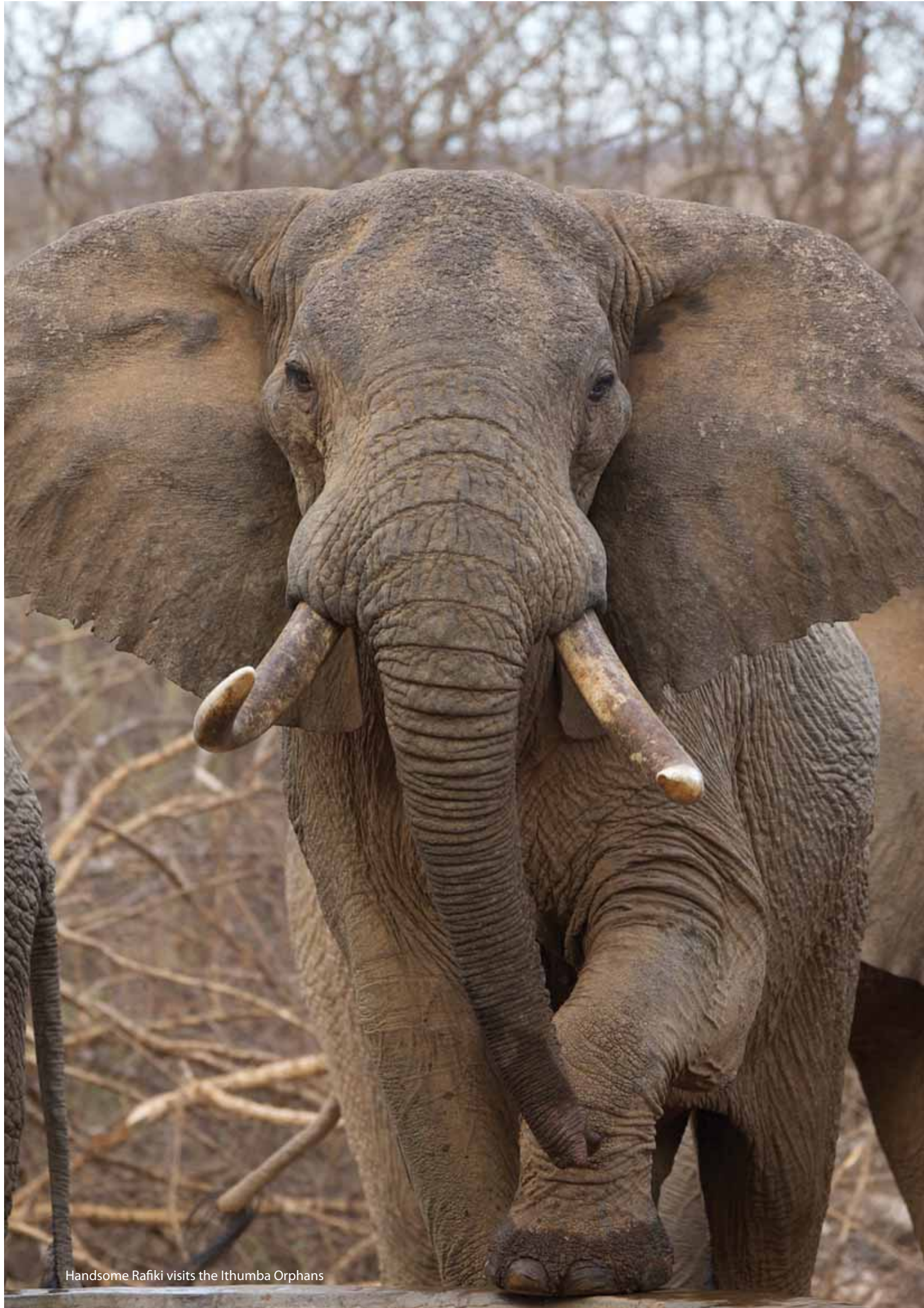
Edie was, of course, delighted to become reunited with Emily, her Matriarch, and both were happy to include the new resident orphans within their orbit, all spending quality time together browsing on the new growth brought on by several heavy downpours that came just in time for them. Soon other members from Emily's group filtered back from Ngutuni Ranch to join them, amongst them yet another that needed help – Seraa – who had a suppurating wound on her back.

Once again the Mobile Veterinary Unit's Vet, David Ndeereh was called to sedate Seraa and investigate the wound. A rib had been chipped and the positioning of the wound indicated that a spear had dropped from a height, probably from a poacher's spear trap. Dr. Ndeereh was able to remove the loose bone chippings, disinfect the wound and resuscitate Seraa, who then rejoined the others.

By now Tassia and Taveta, the two most recent new arrivals from the Nursery, had settled in, Tassia basking in being the favourite of Wasessa, who instantly adored him. They, too, enjoyed mingling with the ex orphans led by Emily, although Wasessa had to be warned off by Edie by becoming overly familiar with little Ella!

We were pleased in early December to find that as Edie and her group approached the orphans' waterhole and noticed some human bystanders, they fled as soon as they spotted the human strangers, but instantly returned when their Keepers called them by name to reassure them. They were all looking plump and well, and Laikipia, who is now huge and with sizeable tusks, invited Siria to a gentle pushing game, allowing little Siria to feel "chuffed" by pretending that he was the winner! Emily's group was not among that of Edie on this occasion, but we were glad to know that they were afraid of strange humans, obviously having learnt a few lessons during their sojourn outside the Park that would stand them in good stead in the future. Yet, they still responded to the call of their human family, and came to enjoy being with them again – how touching was that!

Others:- The two little male kudu calves, Mkuki and Njia, hand-reared by the Voi Elephant Keepers at the Voi Stockades were joined this year by another baby kudu who was found wandering alone on the Aruba/Voi road, and named Aruba. This year all three kudu orphans have linked up with the wild kudu group that



Handsome Rafiki visits the Ithumba Orphans

habitually live around the Elephant Stockades, as did a previous one called Rukinga. On one occasion only the two young males returned minus Aruba, but the next morning they left again, and later came back with her for she was desperate for some milk having spent an entire night out.

The Ithumba Orphans:- Like the rest of Tsavo, the Northern Area also suffered a shortfall of rain, but being dense Commiphora thicket, it favoured browsers rather than the grazers, and the Northern boundary, electrically fenced by the Trust, at least kept domestic livestock at bay in the area utilized by our 30 Ithumba orphans. By the beginning of the year, under the main Matriarchship of Yatta, most were in the process of reintegrating back into the wild elephant community, 16 of whom were already totally Keeper Independent, but still returning regularly to keep in close touch with the younger orphans who remained Stockade dependent at night and who were still accompanied by their Keepers during daylight hours.

Yatta was a Tsavo East orphan born in September 1999, and, like Emily, also reared through the Nairobi Nursery from an early age. At the start of 2009 permanent members of her independent group included her chosen favourite, Olmalo (ex Laikipia), Mulika (ex Meru National Park) with her chosen favourite, Selengai (ex Laikipia), Nasalot (ex South Turkana Reserve) to whom was attached little Orok (ex Amboseli National Park), Kinna (ex Meru National Park), Napasha (ex Laikipia), Taita (ex Taita Hills sanctuary) and Buchuma (ex Tsavo East National Park). Wendi (ex Imenti Forest), Tomboi (ex Samburu National Reserve), Rapsu (ex Meru National Park) and Challa (ex Tsavo West National Park). Some of Yatta's satellites still divided their time between being "wild" with those that were Keeper independent and at other times deciding to remain amongst the Keeper Dependent Juniors for a more relaxed time.

Wendi, whose name means "**Hope**" (in the Meru dialect), was one that arrived in the Nursery the day she was born. Being so young, she needed extra intensive nurturing during her Nursery time, and has always loved the company of humans, never having known her elephant mother who was killed as she was being born in a Meru maize "shamba" near the Imenti forest. Wendi was the Nursery's extravert in her time, and remained so at Ithumba, always putting on a display for the foster-parents who came to visit the Ithumba elephants and were based at the Ithumba Camp run by the Trust. She also clearly enjoyed being a Big Fish in a Little Pond with the Junior Elephants, rather than a

Little Fish in a Big Pond with the Seniors, but this was to change as the year progressed for Wendi evolved into the Chief Matriarch of Yatta's Splinter Group, in the same way as had Natumi from the Voi Unit. As such Wendi was to become a very important Leader in her own right, obviously detailed by Yatta to keep in closer touch with the Keeper Dependent orphans, thereby relieving Yatta of this chore.

However, towards the end of the year, the roles were reversed, with Wendi being allowed time off and instead Yatta keeping in close touch with the Keeper Dependent youngsters!

All female elephants are very caring of the young, and all aspire to being Leaders responsible for the welfare of the others. So when Junior Matriarchs within the Keeper dependent set choose to upgrade themselves to Yatta's Senior group, making the transition from Keeper Dependency to a wild life, younger females within the remaining Keeper Dependent group automatically assume Leadership role of those remaining. Such had been the pattern of the Voi Orphans who grew up at the Southern Rehabilitation Centre in Voi ahead of the Ithumba gang and the same pattern is now appearing to take place at Ithumba.

Mysterious rendez-vous at obviously predetermined places in the immensity of the bush, the comings and goings amongst the two groups, escorting the Juniors back home in the evenings, are all events that amaze us humans. Wendi was very often waiting for the Youngsters to be let out of their night quarters at dawn, often joining them at the mudbath or out in the bush, sometimes escorting them to Yatta's group and meeting up at a point somewhere out in the bush, and then bringing the youngsters back home to the stockades in the evening. Irrespective of wherever they happen to be, the way the orphans all keep in close touch with one another, has provided a graphic illustration of the sophistication of elephant communication which includes low frequency infrasound hidden to human ears, sophisticated chemical messages transmitted through scent, the ability to detect seismic vibrations through their feet and the mysterious way that thought processes are shared, transmitted through what can only be described as a telepathic capability.

On many occasions the Seniors hang around waiting for the arrival of the Juniors, or even the arrival of a fellow member who has taken time out to fraternize with wild friends. The two groups often meet up at the bush mudbath, or en route to and from the Stockades, and then comes the day when members of the Junior

group refuse to return into their night stockade, but instead hang around outside at the compound until the Seniors turn up to collect them. There are also times when a single Senior member from the Senior group will turn up alone to escort the youngsters out to join the others and there are also occasions when a Junior may have second thoughts about spending a full night out in the Big Wide World, and will be escorted back by several of the Seniors or even Yatta on her own, diligently returned into the care of the Keepers who open up the Stockades to allow entry. There are times when a member from the Juniors suddenly heads off determinedly in a set direction which takes him or her straight to others out in the bush – bearing in mind that the bush of the Northern Area is dense thicket, and one can become easily disoriented and lost, as have many humans over the years!

There was one morning in May when the Junior group were in such a hurry to leave their Night Stockades as soon as the Gates were opened that they never even paused to take on water from the trough before leaving, which was very unusual. Instead they hurried off rapidly to meet up with Yatta, Wendi and the Senior group who happened to be at the Imenti Waterhole, quite a long distance away from the Stockades. It was there that their Keepers found them some hours later, by which time they had settled down to feed as one large herd, and had been joined by some wild bulls who even walked back with them to the stockades in the evening, as the Keepers trailed behind the column. On that occasion, quite obviously, the youngsters were under instructions, for the Keepers could not begin to keep pace with them as they headed out and had to follow their spoor in order to trace them. There is a subtle change as the orphans at the Rehabilitation Centres grow up – instead of following their Keepers, the Keepers merely follow the elephants and it is the elephants who decide when and where to go to browse, yet usually still keeping time when it comes to the noon mudbath!

At the beginning of 2009, many wild elephants, mainly bulls, were in the habit of coming to drink at the Ithumba Stockade water trough, but only the occasional female unit with small calves was beginning to put in an appearance, usually under cover of darkness. As the rain-filled pools out in the bush dried up, so the numbers of visiting wild elephants increased, until the presence of wild elephants within the Stockade compound could almost be guaranteed throughout the day, putting a strain on the one borehole that serves the needs of both the orphans and the KWS staff based at the Northern Headquarters and which was beginning to be

drained several times a day by wild elephants. It was then that we had to make plans to initiate the tedious bureaucracy involved in getting permission to sink another borehole to alleviate what could turn into a serious water crisis as the dry season progressed.

One belligerent old wild bull who had obviously walked a long distance to enjoy the fresh water at the stockade trough, decided also to cool his front feet, lifting his legs over the rim of the trough. Because the Keepers didn't want the orphans' drinking water sullied, they hurriedly turned off the inlet which incensed the bull, who charged them, threatening even to barge into the Stockade after them! Hurriedly, the water was turned back on, and when the bull returned and found it flowing again, he calmed right down, having successfully made his needs known! Another, more polite visiting wild bull who was usually a late night visitor, and thus was quite used to finding the water trough drained, was content to wait patiently beside it until dawn when the Keepers turned the water back on. It is interesting that the wild elephants understand exactly who controls the water at the Ithumba stockades!

The Ithumba orphans have enjoyed wild company on an almost daily basis throughout the year, the Juniors regularly joined by wild friends and mingling confidently with visiting wild herds they regularly encounter within the Stockade compound. In March the orphans' first wild bull friend named "Rafiki" (the friend) reappeared having been absent for many moons. He was the first wild elephant to actually walk with the Junior orphans, perfectly tolerant of their Keepers' presence, so Rafiki enjoys special recognition and status amongst the visiting wild elephants. It was he who was responsible for introducing the stockade water supply to many of his wild bull friends, and true to form, on this occasion he brought some others with him. Rafiki also regularly seeks out Yatta's Seniors, amongst whom is now a wild recruit the Keepers have named "Mgeni" (meaning "the visitor"), obviously a wild orphan of approximately 10 years of age, who has become a permanent fixture within Yatta's Senior Group and even now responds to the commands of the Keepers!

An interesting stand-off took place one day in March between three lions who had also turned up to drink at the stockade trough when Yatta's group and a wild herd were monopolizing the water. Immediately Yatta and the older members of her group (Kinna, Nasalot and Mulika) shepherded the younger members into the narrow passage at the back of the stockades between the Staff quarters, leaving them there under the



Robert Carr-Hartley with Wendi



Wild elephants visit the Ithumba stockades



Sian at the mud bath



Napasha with two wild bulls



Ithumba Orphans



Ndomot and Kenze



Wild bulls visit the stockades



Wild dogs at the stockade water hole



supervision of Napasha who is the largest bull in their group. They then returned to reinforce the stand-off that was taking place between the wild elephants and the lions, something that continued all night. The lions made repeated attempts to dislodge the elephants, charging towards them, roaring and growling, and lashing their tails, witnessed by the Keepers in the moonlight, who also had a busy time trying to pacify the terrified Junior Elephants within the Stockades. However, the wild elephants, including Yatta's Seniors, stood their ground all night, denying the lions access to the water, and at dawn the lions had to accept defeat and take themselves off elsewhere to drink, perhaps even to the Tiva watercourse – a long walk of some 17 miles where there were just remaining stagnant pools of saline surface water.

On another occasion a leopard turned up to drink, but was better tolerated by the visiting elephants, who paid no attention to it as it crouched patiently nearby awaiting its turn. Although aware of its presence, the elephants also obviously understood that it posed no threat. Other regular drinkers at the Stockade water trough throughout the year have been the resident pack of wild African hunting dogs, who usually turn up in groups of 3 or 4, but towards the end of the year their numbers swelled to 10.

By mid year 16 of the Ithumba orphans were within Yatta's fully Keeper Independent group leaving 14 still Keeper Dependent who returned each evening to the Night Stockades. It is the choice of each and every orphan to decide when to make the transition from Keeper dependency to a wild life independent of human care but because elephants never forget, the Keepers have a unique opportunity to study and understand the intricacies of elephant behaviour and society in general, all coming to the conclusion that the Scientists have at last acknowledged – that elephants are, in fact, **just like us!**

Olmallo, a Laikipia orphan rescued in January 2003 when 4 months old, has from the start always been the chosen favourite and virtual shadow of Yatta, until quite recently when she began appearing back at the Stockades either alone, or in the company of wild elephants, usually bulls. More recently she has been accompanied by either Challa or Rapsu who are relatively recent members of Yatta's Seniors. There was an occasion when Olmallo had been missing from Yatta's unit for several days, and was escorted back and handed over to the Keepers by a single very large wild bull elephant, who, having done so, immediately again

left! Olmallo's behavior has long been a puzzle to us, especially as she has always been Yatta's special calf. Initially we felt that perhaps she was simply a very sociable elephant, more outgoing than the rest or that she had a special boyfriend amongst the bulls with whom she fraternized frequently; perhaps even that she was simply a rather lazy member of the group who did not like walking as far afield as the others. However, we now reflect on the fact that she has always been a somewhat slow elephant and in this respect mirrors another named Mweiga, now deceased from the Voi Unit.

As this very dry year has progressed Olmallo's physical condition has deteriorated noticeably and this is cause for serious concern, for like Mweiga, she could have a chronic heart defect that is becoming more evident the older she grows. Mweiga could never lead a wild life during her time for fear of being singled out as a weakling by the lions. However, during the 9 years that she was alive, and remained Stockade dependent at night, young bulls from Emily's unit took it in turns to undertake what was known as "Mweiga Duty", returning to be with her and the Keepers by day, and sleeping with her in the Stockades at night. However, on the day that Mweiga collapsed and died on the way back to the stockades one evening, Burra, who happened to be on duty that day, immediately ran to Natumi's group, who happened to be feeding nearby. They in turn ran to Emily's group, who were further afield, and thereafter not one of the orphans from either group returned to the Stockades for another 3 or 4 months, except Emily, who came alone one night to check that Mweiga was, in fact, no longer there.

Olmallo's life seems to be duplicating that of Mweiga, differing only in that wild bulls have until very recently been keeping her company when she is away from the orphans. Now Challa and sometimes Rapsu seem to be sharing that responsibility for one or other of them is often seen with Olmallo who still enjoys the company of Yatta. There are times when she waits at the Stockade Compound and Yatta turns up to collect her and leaves with her, or else she is escorted to Yatta out in the bush by either Challa or Rapsu. Now, we very much fear that Olmallo, like Mweiga, will not be one who makes old bones. At the end of November she returned with a swelling on her abdomen which was inspected by David Ndeereh of our Mobile Veterinary Unit and diagnosed as a hernia. She has chosen to return to the Stockades at night, sharing it with Enesoit, Meibai and Naimina, who are the latest arrivals from the Nursery.

The first heavy rainstorm of the year fell at Ithumba on the 15th October, an event that is always celebrated with enormous joy by the orphans and all the wild elephants because the thickets turn green very rapidly. At last the pressure was off the Stockade water supply, and the permit to drill another borehole further afield had been approved. By the end of October, Naserian (current Junior Matriarch of the Keeper dependent orphans), along with Kora, Zurura and Kamboyo decided that the time had come for them to upgrade themselves to the Senior group, as had many others before them. One day, for the first time, they had to be literally coaxed into their Night Stockade, which was very unusual and the following night they flatly refused to go back in, instead hanging around the compound until Yatta turned up to escort them out. The Keepers caught up with them the next day happily ensconced as Seniors amongst all the others in Yatta's group! Their self promotion leaves Loijuk and Sian as the main Junior Matriarchs overseeing Makena, Lenana and Kenze, although Kenze was in the process of wondering whether or not to join his friends Rapsu and Challa rather than remain as the only little boy amongst the little girls! However, he was not alone for long, for on the 4th November Meibai, Enesoit from the Nairobi Nursery arrived to keep him company, along with Naimina, another girl for the Junior group.

The newcomers were welcomed very enthusiastically by the Junior set, and also by Yatta's group, who as usual mysteriously managed to anticipate their arrival and were already hurrying back when they met up with the Juniors and the new arrivals on their way out for an afternoon's browsing "orientation" session! The three newcomers, who were amongst the oldest of the Nursery inmates, and as such not the focus of attention, now find themselves the cosseted "babies" of Ithumba. Naimina is especially happy, having been "adopted" as Loijuk's favourite. It is very heart-warming to see these three relatively new drought orphans, all of whom arrived in a fragile state, happily ensconced again within a loving elephant family, in what at the moment, because of recent rain, is an elephant paradise!

Others:- This year the Ithumba Elephant Keepers managed to successfully hand-rear a baby duiker rescued and brought in by a member of the neighbouring Wakamba community, who had been amongst a school group bused in to see the orphaned elephants. The Wakamba community is notorious for being meat eaters who poach extensively both for bushmeat but also for ivory, so having the baby duiker brought into our care was a rewarding surprise. The little duiker is now grown and living wild at the Ithumba Camp,

surprising the visitors by being unusually friendly for a wild antelope! More recently the community have bought in a baby Dikdik for them to raise.

THANKS

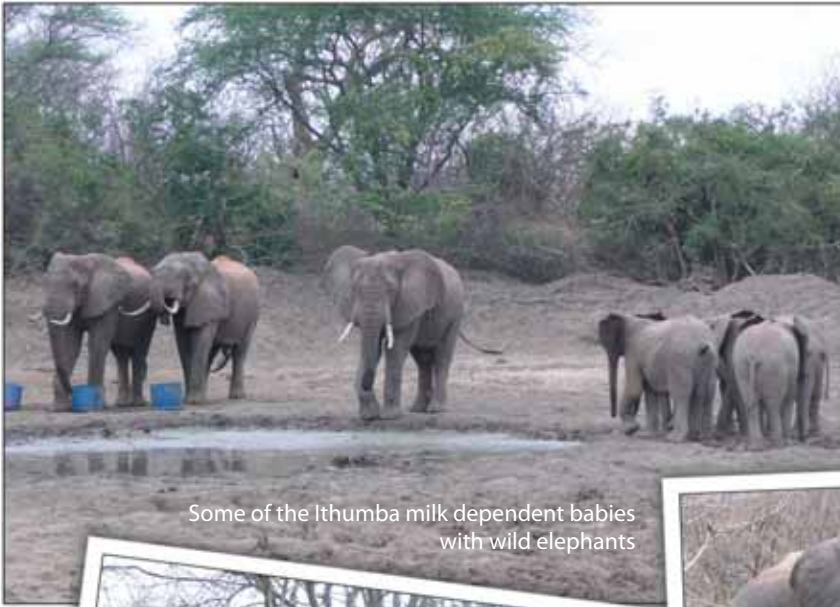
*The Orphans' Project is made possible by a **caring global public** whose generous support throughout the year through the Trust's digital fostering program has ensured we have stayed afloat. Many have dug deep into their pockets in support of our growing number of needy orphans. Words are a poor attempt to reflect our sincere gratitude but come with heartfelt sincerity.*

*We thank **Care for the Wild International, Rettet die Elefanten Afrikas Ev., Vrienden van de Olifant, Terre et Faune, Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA), The International Fund for Animals, the Eden Wildlife Trust, the Swedish Foreningen Forsvar Elefanterna ,and The Oak Foundation, for their generous Grants in support of the Orphans' Project without which we would be in trouble.***

*We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the **US Friends of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and our U.K. Charity** for sourcing the funds that have empowered us to continue with our many conservation projects this year, irrespective of the Global financial downturn which has affected so many conservation organizations.*

*We are deeply indebted to our **US President, Stephen Smith, his wife, Jan, and our US Board Members all of whom work so hard for us over and above their normal duties.** Their enthusiasm and support encourages and inspires us, especially when the going gets tough, as it has this year! Special thanks go to **Kathryn Fenley** who handles most of the paperwork at that end, also over and above her normal commitments as Stephen's Personal Assistant. **All who serve on the US Friends Board do so entirely voluntarily, guided by Stephen Smith, to whom we are particularly indebted, but we thank them all most profusely for being there for us when most needed..** Stephen Smith's law firm **Kreig de Vault LLP** most kindly continues to allow the US Friends office space on their premises and for that we are, indeed, most deeply grateful.*

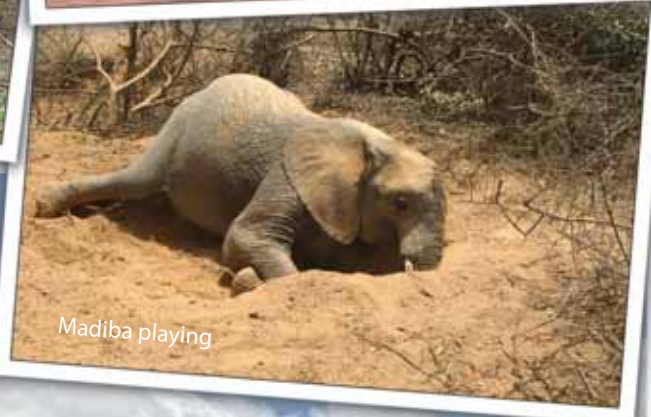
*We owe special thanks to the **Annenberg Foundation, the Cullman Conservation Foundation, the John & Wendy Neu Family Foundation, the Bohemian Foundation, and the Sager Family Foundation** for substantial Grants made through our US Friends which have contributed substantially towards the*



Some of the Ithumba milk dependent babies with wild elephants



Challa and Chyulu leading



Madiba playing



The Ithumba unit orphans

success of our various conservation initiatives. We are deeply grateful to some specific American donors who have been more than generous in their personal support such as **Anne Pattee, the Baumbaugh family and Robert and Martha Falkenberg as well as Kirsten Anderson**. However, no Trust Newsletter would ever be complete without a very special "Thank You" to one very special person - **Pete Fullerton** who is the orphans' most generous and wonderful God Father. He covers the charter costs of the aerial rescues, rewards the Project financially to mark each and every important National celebration and is also extremely generous towards many of our elephants, and particularly of "Rapsu" whom he calls his "Elephant Son" and whom he supports substantially. Even the dead are not forgotten by Pete who donates as an expression of his sorrow in memory of them and he phones us regularly to commiserate with the losses and praises us for the successes. Bless you Pete, for being a veritable Angel on Earth to our orphaned elephants.

Thanks also to **Lush Cosmetics LLC Canada**, who, have given generous support through the sale of a special range of products. But by no means least we thank the many kind folk who through their generosity and support of our work through the US Friends have helped us make a positive impact during what has been a very difficult year.

We also greatly value the hard work of **The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust UK Charity and especially of Rob Brandford and his assistant Gemma Holt**, who has also undertaken a number of sponsored runs, joined en route by many of the Trust's Supporters. Through this she raised a useful sum of money for the Trust and we thank her for doing so.

We are deeply grateful for the support given to our U.K. Charity by all the following organizations and people - **SetFire Media** who have continued to maintain and update the Elephant Diaries website in 2009, **Tony Mustoe**, a valued donor and valued volunteer. **Metage Capital, The Waves Charitable Trust, Treasure Charitable Trust, and The Scott Charitable Trust** all of whom have supported our conservation work through Grants during 2009. We thank **Cartridge Save** for past support which spanned 4 years. **Pet Vaccination Clinics** promote the Orphans' Project in 5 of their Clinics, solicit donations and sell small items to help raise funding whilst **Heather Webb, via her Bumpy Beads Company** has kindly created special jewellery items themed on the orphans.

We and the UK Charity are especially indebted to **British Airways** for their continued assistance of **The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust**, support that has steadfastly spanned many years, by way of a number of work related flights free of charge. Most grateful thanks are due also to all the **BA crew members and management** who bring milk and blankets to the elephants whenever they can. **BA also kindly orchestrates annual community exchange events** from time to time. Thanks to **Jacqui McAleer** whose guidance and experience has helped in the coordination of fundraising events planned for 2010 in the UK.

Through sales of a special bath product created in memory of one of their valued Customers **Lush Cosmetics UK** gave substantial support to the UK Charity. **Miranda Curtis** did the same to celebrate the life of her father, the former editor of the Daily Nation. We are deeply grateful to both these kind people who, during times of grief, still find time to demonstrate and express their concern for wildlife. We are equally grateful to all who have donated generously throughout the year through the UK Charity. **Our gratitude, however is no less to the many ordinary folk who give what they can when they can and if they can either through Gift Aid or modest direct donations. All have contributed towards the substantial support the UK Charity has been able to give the Trust during 2009.**

James Clark continues to satisfy the paperwork demands of the U.K. Charities Commission and offer wise guidance to Rob Brandford on financial issues whenever needed. We thank him most sincerely for his voluntary contribution.

At this end The David Sheldrick Trust is most deeply grateful to many organizations for their support of our conservation projects. Many of those who support the desnaring, water initiatives and mobile veterinary units have been thanked within the relevant pages of the Newsletter, but we would like to again thank **Safari-com, the Cullman Foundation and the Serengeti Foundation, IFAW and the Eden Trust** for generous grants that have empowered us to continue our crucially important anti-poaching De-Snaring work. Thanks to the **Austrain NGO Vier Pforten (Four Paws)** and **Rex Dobie's Minara Foundation** for our two fully equipped and highly successful Mobile Veterinary Units. All these conservation projects have truly made a significant difference to the suffering of thousands of wild animals. We are deeply grateful to **The Markham family and the Rose Family** who, during times of unspeakable grief, have considered the work of the



The Trust's new Top cub Aircraft



Saa Nane House



Kaluku Staff Quarters



Our team helping a weak Hippo



Kaluku Tree Nursery



Feeding the Hippos



The Kaluku Vegetable Garden



Dame Daphne Sheldrick



The Peregrine Conservation area





Umani Springs and the Kibwezi Forest Concession

Trust and contributed towards our work in memory of their lost loved ones.

*Special mention must be made to **Wyeth Laboratories** and particularly to **Sarah Marsh** for continued bulk donations of SMA milk formula for our elephants and also for the deliveries of damaged tins which are brought out by **British Airways crew**.*

*Equally, we are most sincerely indebted to **MK Holdings and all at the Imports Department of Flamingo Holdings in England** for getting the milk to us free of charge via their Flower Planes, but especially to **James Bartington, Martin Hudson, Thomas Frankum, Andrew Jones, and all at the U.K. end of Flamingo Holdings** who ensure that our donations of milk are at the right place at the right time. Likewise we profusely thank **Neil Wilshire and the Directors of Homegrown/Finlays Swire Group Kenya** for clearing the milk at this end for us, something that is always fraught and which **Mary Muthara, Judy Kinadiali, Ben Omolo and all at Skytrain Imports, Nairobi** grapple with, sparing us an enormous headache.*

*We thank **Agriner and McNaughton Ltd.** for sourcing an additional supply of much needed milk for us. **Carrie and Ronnie Wilkie** continue to donate Tincture of Calendula and Thuya, always much needed and greatly appreciated.*

*We thank **Natasha Weld Dixon** for ongoing donations of hay for the orphans' bedding, and are deeply grateful to **Graham Vetch** for responding promptly to pleas for Lucerne whenever needed and which, during a drought year, is like gold!*

*We thank **Manchester Outfitters** for their discounted rates for our staff uniforms. **Chris Everard of Ultimate Security** kindly allows the Trust a generous discount on the cost of Night Security to keep our establishment safe, backed up by two armed **KWS Rangers** who help do the same. We thank **Ultimate** and also **KWS** for this service. We thank **Dr. Peter Schwendemann**, the Nairobi based Eye Specialist, who gladly offers his help and advice free of charge to keep the orphans' eyes in good order, something that is enormously appreciated. We thank **GNLD** through **Cathy Gichuru** who kindly donate on a monthly basis Vitamin Supplements, Washing Powder and anything else we need from their wide range of excellent products, collected from their Warehouse and delivered to us courtesy of **Bridget Hewett**.*

Many kind supporters contribute generously towards

***The Staff Canteen.** The Keepers deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness which allows them some luxuries they normally would do without.*

*Grateful thanks are due to **Carol Petersen and her Oakland Zoo clients** who most kindly bring us Elephant Feeding bottles, teats, and an assortment of smaller sized feeding bottles for other species, and who also very generous in their financial donations whenever here.*

Finally, we thank the many kind folk, too numerous to mention here, who have supported our projects in so many different ways. Every gift or kind gesture is enormously appreciated.

NEW TRUST INITIATIVES

Peregrine Land:- Thanks to our US Friends fundraising efforts, the Trust has been able to add to the Peregrine land on the boundary of Tsavo East National Park. Over the years this land has been purchased as a very important buffer zone between two sensitive Park river boundaries. It is on this land that the Trust's Kaluku Field Headquarters is situated, from which all our field projects are coordinated, incorporating the Saa Nane House, where management and donors are able to stay. The Field Headquarters incorporates a Central Workshop, Stores, Water Storage facilities, Staff accommodation and Canteen, as well as a flourishing Tree Nursery and vegetable garden, from which the local community can purchase fresh vegetables for a modest subsidized fee. At the nearby Trust Airfield, an Aircraft Hangar identical in design to that built by David Sheldrick in the 60's at Tsavo's Voi Headquarters, has also recently been completed. This is where the Trust's new Top Cub aircraft is based when on field operations. A house for the Top Cub's pilot is almost nearing completion, but this and the vegetable garden both had to be put on hold for a couple of months during the drought when the Athi river dried up completely. The Peregrine land harbours an array of birds and wildlife and the conservation and community work of the Trust on this otherwise sensitive boundary has been important for alleviating human/wildlife conflict and controlling the poaching of bush-meat species.

The Top Cub:- The new Top Cub Supercub aircraft funded by both our US Friends and the Trust's UK Charity was shipped to Kenya, cleared and ready to operate by late July. It has not been idle, taking to the skies to assist with our many field projects and aerial surveillance over Private Land and Wildlife



Animal traps



Snare Store



Wire snare



Poisoned arrows and snares



Bushmeat and tools for lamping



Bird trap



Cable snare for big game hunting



Poachers and snares



Poisoned nails for elephant trails



Poacher's Hideout



Wrapped poisoned arrows



Cable snare around a buffalo's leg



A poacher's shooting platform



Poachers and arrows



Shooting deck



Animal trap



Animal traps set on well worn animal paths



Bird trap



Roasted baboon



Poached dikdiks



Arrested poachers with bushmeat



Snared giraffe



Poached elephant



Snared zebra



Snared buffalo



The devastating result of lamping



Snared buffalo



Rescued dikdik



Camouflaged poached elephant



Poached waterbuck



Elephants killed by a train being hacked up by the community for bushmeat



Snared giraffe

Conservancies. It was also very useful in locating runaway elephant orphan Enesoit who escaped from the Nairobi Nursery Keepers soon after arrival and who, without eyes in the sky, would have been difficult to locate. During this flight, the fresh carcass of a dead rhino (minus its horns) was also found in the Park which we were able to report to KWS.

The Cub has flown Trust V.I.P. donors and US Friends Board Members to view the assorted projects they have helped fund. We hope that it will also prove a useful tool to help KWS with aerial surveillance in Tsavo in the future.

Kibwezi Forest and Umani Springs:- The Umani Springs, surrounded by a beautiful patch of emergent indigenous forest which is home to endemic species, is fed by heavy morning dews and mists filtered through the lava ash of the forested Chyulu Hills, a range that is of fairly recent origin. Not unlike the famous Mzima Springs of Tsavo West in aspect, the crystal clear waters of Umani provide the only ground water for the wildlife that inhabits the area of the hills. However, besides being both faunally and florally important, the Springs are also vital to the survival of all life of the area, including the human residents of Kibwezi town.

Thanks to an unexpected legacy left to the Trust, we were able to purchase a lease on Umani Springs. The Forest Department, which has been exceedingly cooperative, has also extended the terms of our concession to incorporate the protection and management of the entire Kibwezi Forest so the Trust will work towards restoring the forest, which in the past has suffered from uncontrolled illegal logging, and charcoal burning. We will, of course, also protect and nurture all the wildlife as well as the Springs, and raise revenue that will benefit the neighboring community who have already been very cooperative with the De-Snaring team that is based there.

Currently under construction is what promises to be a beautiful and well appointed Self-Help and Self Catering facility not unlike the very popular Ithumba Camp that the Trust built and manages in Northern Tsavo. Situated just 14 kms from Kibwezi town on the main Nairobi – Mombasa highway, the Umani Springs Camp promises to be popular, being accessible and offering a spectacular and unique wildlife experience. Already the wildlife is returning in numbers to drink at the waterhole and swamp which is fed by piped water taken from the headwaters a short distance away, with over 60 resident elephants now sheltering within the forest. Water birds gather there in numbers, and arboreal

wildlife is prolific, such as monkeys, Giant Galago “bushbabies”, genets, and some enormous pythons which are often visible. We hope that the Camp will be operational by September 2010, and we are confident of its success as a fundraising initiative to benefit both the forest and the neighboring community.

ANTIPOACHING PROJECTS

The Trust's six anti-poaching De-Snaring teams have not been idle and have continued to make a marked difference in the areas in which they have been operational. The Ithumba Team, based in the Northern Area of Tsavo East have, since April, been operating beyond the boundaries of the Park, while the Burra team which is based at Voi have concentrated along the Park boundary and adjoining Ranch Lands which act as dispersal areas for much of Tsavo East's wildlife. Elephants, in particular, during this extremely dry year, have been outside the Park in large numbers, the presence of domestic cattle within the Park itself proving a deterrent. The Mtito Team which is based on the Peregrine land operates along the boundaries of both Tsavo East and West and within the community lands of that area. The Ziwani team, based at Maktau, covers the southern boundaries of Tsavo West National Park and the surrounding ranch lands of that particular area whereas our Chyulu Desnaring team concentrates on the boundaries of Chyulu National Park, and the community lands. In September 2008 the Umani Springs De-Snaring team was created which is based at the Umani springs and who patrol the Kibwezi Forest daily, protecting it from further illegal logging, charcoal burning and the snaring of wild animals.

This year the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has taken over the funding of the Friends of Chyulu (FOC) Community Scouts as another important conservation initiative to try and at least save a core of wild animal species that will be able to regenerate in numbers when, and if, legislation is enacted to bring the unsustainable bushmeat scourge to an end. The Chyulu Hills National Park, established in 1983, is an important refuge for wildlife currently under grave threat of elimination in all adjacent community land. The Friends of Chyulu (FOC) is a community based initiative whose members recognize the value of the area's natural resources. Richard Bonham of the Masai Preservation Trust manages their daily operations similar in nature to those of our own six Anti-Poaching De-Snaring teams, the main purpose being to assist the Kenya Wildlife Service control the illegal activities taking place, since all wildlife falls within their jurisdiction. The FOC Scouts are also actively involved in information gathering and

surveillance as well as acting as Rhino Scouts in an effort to ensure the protection of the few rhinos that still exist in the area.

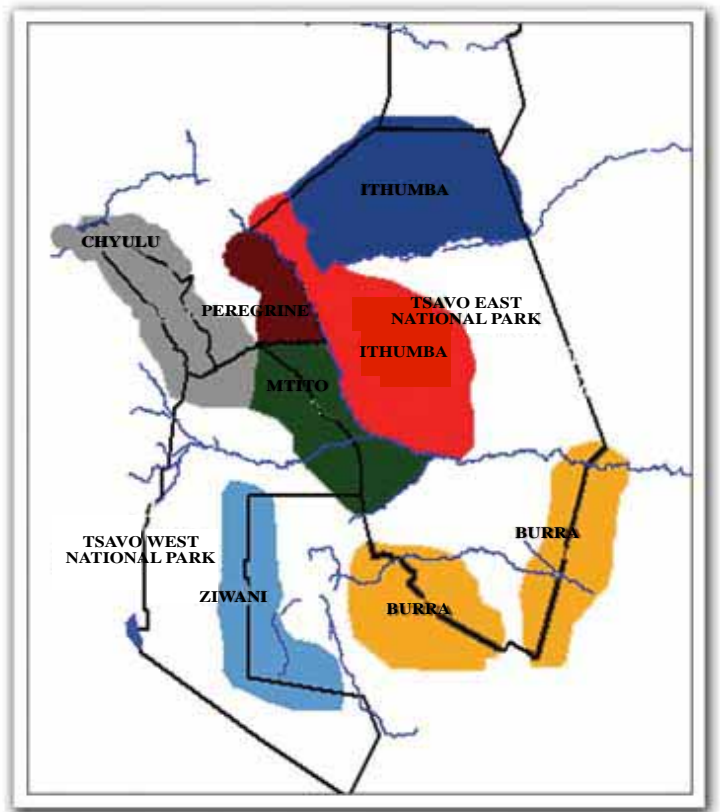
Bushmeat poaching is a countrywide epidemic of extremely grave proportions, exacting an enormous and unsustainable toll of wild animals that the country can ill afford, particularly in view of toll taken by drought this year. Bushmeat poaching encompasses long snare lines which trap huge numbers of wild animals, wire snares planted on game trails and around water sources, and lamping which has become an ever more popular trend because the yields are so high and the risk of being caught far less. On moonless dark nights herd animals are dazzled by strong torch-light and confused by the shrill ringing of bells. They stand rooted to the spot in fear as the killers creep in behind to hamstring and paralyze as many as possible, moving back later to actually kill their hapless victims and cart off sack-loads of meat, some of which is sold locally and even in up-market butcheries of Nairobi posing as beef or mutton, but much is exported to West Africa and the Middle East. Another recent trend which is becoming more common is a particularly cruel method of poaching - blocks of wood to which are attached poisoned spikes and which are then buried under leaf litter or loose soil on game trails. This targets elephants, incapacitating their movement and subjecting them to a slow and agonizing death, since the Akokanthera poison used has no known antidote. The same home-brewed poison is also used on poisoned arrows whilst sharp arrowheads devoid of poison are commonly used to kill smaller antelopes such as dikdik.

Bushmeat poaching is literally eliminating Kenya's wildlife and is an evil that the Government ought to be taking much more seriously than it does, for it threatens the wildlife based Tourist Industry which is the country's main source of revenue. Since 2005 our De-Snaring Teams have retrieved 89,501 wire snares - 8,737 this year alone up until the end of October 2009, as opposed to the 6,760 retrieved during the whole of last year. They have apprehended 137 poachers as opposed to 166 last year, figures that speak for themselves even though our teams have had to operate beyond the Park boundaries ever since April 2009.

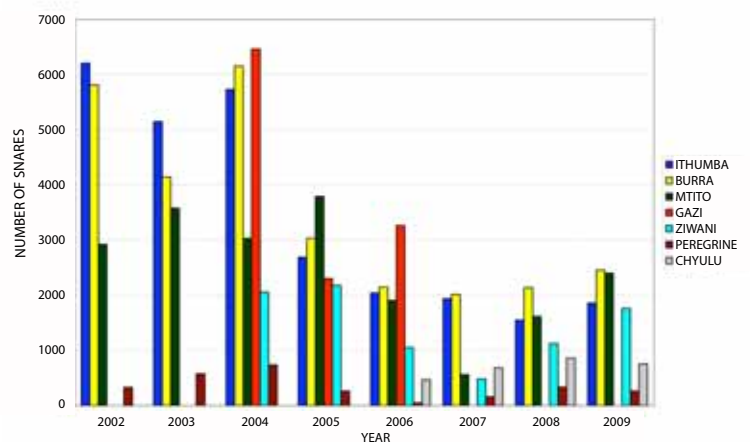
The presence of Chinese in the country has not only triggered the demand for Ivory and Rhino horn, which threatens the survival of elephants and rhinos, but now puts Kenya's Big Cats on the endangered species list as well. Body parts, claws and teeth of the Big Cats are in great demand for medicinal purposes in the Far East. Toxic agricultural products banned in Europe are still

readily available locally and have been used to poison snared carcasses on which the predators come to feed, as do vultures, eagles and other small carnivores, all then dying from consuming the contaminated meat. This was a subject highlighted on the prestigious American CBS 60 Minutes programme recently which enjoys a vast viewer-ship. Since then we understand that pressure has mounted on the manufacturers of such products to remove them from the market instantly but the Third World is often the dumping ground for products banned by the rich countries of the First World.

Our Anti-poaching initiatives are made possible through generous Grants from **The Safaricom Foundation, The Serengeti Foundation, The Cullman Foundation, The International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Eden Wildlife Trust.**



SNARES PER YEAR



WATER PROJECTS

During this drought year, water has become a primary focus, the lack of it having been graphically illustrated. Therefore, water has been one of the Trust's main preoccupations throughout 2009. Our original Water Bowser has been kept extremely busy, based at Ithumba to serve the needs of the orphans, the Ithumba Camp and the KWS Northern Area Headquarters, especially when the yield from the only borehole began to falter. As the country's rivers began drying, the need for water in other areas also became crucial, so two more Water Bowsers were purchased thanks to **Grants from our US Friends organization and Vier Pfofen (Four Paws who also fund our Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit)**. All three Bowsers were working non-stop supporting the Ithumba orphans and their Keepers (plus visiting wild elephants), but also the Trust's field headquarters on the Peregrine Land. The resident pod of hippos in the Athi river abutting our Peregrine land were left high and dry when the Athi river ceased to flow in August, so both drinking water and food had to be provided for them and the other resident wildlife of the area. The closest water supply was the Tsavo river over 60 kms. away, (the flow of which is boosted by Mzima Springs), so we had to bowser water in on a daily basis to help the 42 hippos and other wild animals to survive until the river flowed again. (KWS have recorded the death in Tsavo West of over 800 hippos). Thankfully we were also able to keep nurturing and watering our indigenous Tree Nursery at the Trust's Field Headquarters in which we have invested at least five years of care, and which we could not just allow to die.

Over the years the Trust has been responsible for funding and maintaining no less than eight boreholes within the Tsavo ecosystem as well as maintaining one in The Nairobi National Park. This year the boreholes, their pipes and pumps and the four Windmills installed by the Trust (Aruba, Ndara, Dida Harea, and Ndiandaza) have all required regular and urgent attention, being the only sources of permanent water in a waterless region once the silted Aruba Dam turned to mud early on in the year. We predict that Aruba Dam will eventually be transformed into a productive swamp grassland which will help sustain the large buffalo herds that now exist in the Southern Section of Tsavo East. Buffaloes are now the dominant grazing species of that area, something that was predicted by Dr. Vezey Fitzgerald many years ago during the time of the late David Sheldrick.

Large Mammals maintain vegetation openness and in

wooded landscapes create mosaics of different vegetation with a high diversity of plant species. The extinction of Megafauna changes landscapes very quickly. They become dense and uniform – (which is exactly what Tsavo was before the elephants did their work)

It was the elephants that opened up the dense Commiphora thickets in Southern Tsavo East and now that elephants have reoccupied the Northern Area, no doubt they will be performing the same task there!

The Trust is currently in the process of funding and hopefully installing a further two boreholes in the Tsavo Conservation Area which will help alleviate water problems in 2010. Global Climate change predictions are that Africa is going to become dryer, so what took place this year is just a precursor to what we can expect in the future. Funding assistance for these additional water sources has been provided by **Harry and Joanne McPike together with Tobin and Sally Prior, James Wilson and the Serengeti Foundation**, all of whom we thank most profusely for such crucial assistance. We would also like to thank **Drillcon** for their borehole input and **Kijito** for their service support of our Windmills during this and past years, which we hope we can count on in the future as well.

THE MOBILE VETERINARY PROJECT

During 2009 when pressure on both water and food resources has been extreme, human/wildlife conflict has increased, as has poaching for ivory, rhino horn and bushmeat, so our Mobile Veterinary teams have been extremely busy and their input more vital than ever before. They have been able to save numerous animal lives by responding rapidly whenever called. The Trust has two Mobile Veterinary Units. The Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, headed by Dr. David Ndeereh, has been operational since 2003. This Unit covers the Tsavo Conservation Area Tsavo East National Park, Tsavo West National Park, Amboseli National Park, the Shimba Hills National Reserve and neighbouring ranch and community lands. David Ndeereh must surely now be one of the most experienced wildlife Vets in the country, and probably within Africa as a whole! This unit since inception has been loyally funded by the Austrian based **NGO Vier Pfofen or Four Paws**.

The Central Rift Mobile Veterinary Unit is now three years old and is funded by the Minara Foundation. This Unit covers the Masai Mara, Naivasha, Nakuru and neighbouring ranchlands and operates as far west as Ruma National Park near Lake Victoria. The KWS



A cable snare embedded in an elephant's foot



Poisoned arrow wound



Dr. Dominic Mjele treating a lion

Removing an arrow from an elephant



Removing a snare from a buffalo



A snared lion



Trying to save an elephant calf



Treating a sick hunting dog



A snare is removed from a zebra

Summary of Treatment and Rescue Cases for Tsavo Vet Unit

Species	Reasons for intervention					Totals
	Snares	Arrows/Spear injuries	Rescue	Bullet injuries	Others	
Elephant	36	84	27	12	38	197
Giraffe	15	-	-	-	-	15
Buffalo	10	-	4	-	4	18
Lion	4	-	2	-	9	15
Impala	11	-	-	-	2	13
Zebra	7	-	2	-	9	18
Leopard	-	-	-	-	1	1
Grant Gazelle	-	-	-	-	4	4
Cheetah	-	-	-	-	2	2
Baboon	-	-	-	-	1	1
Waterbuck	10	-	2	-	2	14
Hyena	-	-	-	-	1	1
Caracal	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hippo	-	-	-	-	1	1
Vervet Monkey	-	-	-	-	1	1
African Wild Dog	2	-	-	-	-	2
Common Duiker	1	-	-	-	-	1
Eland	2	-	-	-	-	2
Totals	88	71	32	12	72	308

Summary of Treatment and Rescue Cases for Mara Vet Unit

Species	Reasons for intervention					Totals
	Snares	Arrows/Spear injuries	Rescue	Bullet injuries	Others	
Elephant	3	15	4	1	10	33
Giraffe	16	7	-	-	2	25
Buffalo	4	2	1	-	1	8
Lion	1	8	3	-	7	19
Impala	-	-	1	-	1	2
Zebra	27	23	1	-	1	52
Leopard	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cheetah	-	1	1 cub	-	4	6
Waterbuck	4	-	-	-	1	5
Hyena	-	-	-	-	1	1
Jackal	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hippo	-	-	-	-	1	1
Colobus Monkey	-	-	-	-	1	1
African Wild Dog	-	-	-	-	1	1
Wildebeest	-	-	-	-	5	5
Topi	-	1	-	-	-	1
Eland	2	1	-	-	1	4
Black Rhino	1	4	-	-	2	7
White Rhino	-	5	-	-	4	9
Harlebeest	-	-	-	-	2	2
Roan Antelope	1	-	-	-	-	1
Vultures	-	-	-	-	36	36
Totals	59	67	12	1	82	221

Vet kindly seconded to this unit is Dr. Dominic Mijele who has also provided the wild elephant plasma needed to save the lives of our very newborn orphans in the Nursery.

Once more we reiterate our deep gratitude to **Mrs. Dobie of the Minara Foundation** and to **Vier Pfoten Four Paws** for enabling us to field and operate this very important and much needed Mobile Veterinary Project. The contribution of these two Units in terms of alleviating animal suffering has been inspirational and something of which the two donors can be very proud. The graphs above indicate just how many animals they have been able to save. 230 elephants alone have been saved by these two units.



Darting an injured elephant



Treating a black Rhino



Removing a snare from a zebra



Removing a snare from a zebra



Treating a rhino



A darted mother and calf to remove a snare from the elephant calf



A cable snare injury



Treating a giraffe



Removing a snare from an elephant

We owe yet another debt of thanks to **Vier Pforten** for an extremely generous donation of Veterinary drugs this year for the Nairobi Nursery elephants.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO KWS

Ever since its inception the Trust has identified the Tsavo Conservation Area as the main focus for its financial support, and that support over the past 35 years has been substantial, superceding that of any other NGO. Our strength has always been that we can rise to an emergency rapidly unencumbered by bureaucratic restraints. The Trust prides itself for being capable of operating in this way, headed by practical Trustees all of whom keep themselves well informed on all conservation issues and benefit from years of practical field management. At the administrative management level The Trust believes in leading by example and it is in that way that employees give their best. Support this past year to KWS has included:-

- Continued regular donations of security fuel, made to the Northern Area of Tsavo East National Park as well as the Southern Section.
- Donations of aviation fuel to assist with aerial surveillance, for both Tsavo East and West National Parks.
- We cover the increased and substantial monthly outlay for the maintenance of Tsavo East National Park's Northern boundary fence which entails an outlay of over K. Shs. 2 million per year. This boundary fence was funded in its entirety by the Trust and runs 64 kms along an extremely sensitive and important Park boundary. Maintenance of the Boundary fence is undertaken by the same Contractor who erected it in the first place and who employs members of the local community for the purpose, thereby providing a livelihood for many impoverished people, and also keeping the Wakamba community on side. Care for the Wild and Rettet die Elephanten helped fund the fence with grants to DSWT, and Rettet die Elephanten helps fund the yearly maintenance bill.
- We provide ongoing financial support to keep the 8 boreholes and their pumps and pipes functional, also covering the maintenance costs of the three Windmills funded by the Trust in the Southern Section of Tsavo East, plus the one at Ndiandaza in the North. Without the water provided by these facilities, Tsavo would have been in even more dire straits during the drought of 2009.
- We continue to ensure a steady water supply for the Nairobi National Park Staff Quarters, Officers' houses and, of course, the orphaned elephants in our care, over and above the needs of our own establishment. Included in this is the cost of a regular Service Contract with Davis & Shirtcliffe, the Water Specialists, replacing failed pumps, ongoing repairs to the electrical wiring at the borehole which constantly burns out due to power outages and surges over which we have no control. The Trust has had to install a Stand-by Generator at the borehole which, this year, has had to run at our expense all day for at least three days a week due to power rationing.
- The Trust undertakes responsibility for the De-Salinating equipment at the Ithumba borehole which provides the drinking water needs of KWS personnel based at the Ithumba Headquarters, as well as the Ithumba Camp and the needs of our own Staff working with the elephants at the Orphans' Stockades. This year the yield of the one borehole has faltered, and this has involved having to bring water in by Bowser from far afield.
- We continue to cover the cost of repairs to KWS vehicles, plant and heavy machinery based at Ithumba.
- During the first 3 months of this year when we operated within the Tsavo Park boundaries, our De-snaring teams were very successful in helping to curb the slaughter of wild animals for bushmeat. Since then they have been equally as active on the boundaries and beyond on private land and independent Wildlife Conservancies.
- The maintenance of the Northern Area of Tsavo's roads is a longstanding commitment undertaken by the Trust, a Professional Contractor employed to undertake this work, thereby ensuring that the roads are kept in good order.
- Through our Mobile Veterinary Units, we facilitate and extend the conservation commitment of KWS through the provision of the customized vehicles, covering their running costs, paying for all the Veterinary equipment and drugs needed and providing a Driver/Assistant for the Units' Vets.
- The Ithumba Camp, built and run by the Trust, has proved even more popular this year, providing an ongoing source of revenue for KWS. The Trust manages the camp and retains a small portion of the bed night fee to cover maintenance and running costs, but the rest is goes to KWS as a donation from the Trust,

specifically to help support the remote but extremely important Northern Area of Tsavo East which tends to be a forgotten corner.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Every year the Trust's De-Snaring Team Leaders identify four different schools outside the Tsavo Park boundaries which benefit from the Trust's support. This includes donations of school desks, teaching aids and stationery, as well as sporting equipment. Each school also enjoys regular educational Cinema shows thanks to the De-Snarers' mobile Cinema Units as well as several Field Trips into Tsavo National Park. Hence every year, 28 different schools enjoy the support of the Trust, made possible through the generosity of many of our supporters who not only donate financially for the purpose but also provide items of stationery for those schools covered by our Community Programme. The Trust's community input has yielded positive results in terms of awareness, cooperation and support from a growing number of local people from many far flung communities which has been encouraging. About 2,500 school children from the environs of Tsavo enjoy field trips into the National Parks throughout the year in the bus kindly donated to the Trust by **The Dulverton Trust**. These excursions have proved exceedingly popular, and provide a powerful educational and public relations tool aimed at the country's youth, helping them to appreciate the value of their wildlife heritage. The Community Outreach Programme is led by our De-Snaring team leaders, all of whom are university graduates, and this helps generate goodwill between our De-Snaring Teams and the community areas in which they operate. As a result we have enjoyed positive cooperation from the communities, who also provide information about poaching activities.

On several occasions The Trust has arranged for community members who have helped with elephant rescues to travel to the Nairobi Elephant Nursery and the Rehabilitation facilities in Tsavo to see for themselves the care "their" particular elephant receives and how it is faring. At such times they have an opportunity to spend time with both the elephants and their Keepers and in this way many rural tribesmen from remote corners of the country, and from places that have not always been considerate of elephants, come to view them differently. The word gradually spreads, bearing in mind that every Kenyan has an extended family. It is this growing awareness amongst the younger generation that gives us most **hope** for the future of wildlife in Kenya.

And last but not least the Nursery Orphans are visited on average by 280 Kenyan school children a day during our Public Visiting Hour. Therefore approximately 100,000 school children of all ages access the orphaned elephants to learn more about elephants and the challenges they face every year.

CITES AND ELEPHANTS

Fewer than 140,000 elephants remain in Africa today, from a one-time population of 3 ½ million in the early 1900's. To quote WWF, there will be no elephants left in Central Africa's Congo Basin within the next decade if poaching is not stopped. According to a very recent Agence France Press Release, poachers have already wiped out the last remaining elephant herd in Sierra Leone's only wildlife Park. Illegal poaching for ivory is fuelled by conflict in Africa, of that there is no doubt, since ivory is exchanged for weaponry. With so many conflicts ongoing in Africa, the prospects of halting poaching seem remote unless CITES (The International Convention for Trade in Endangered Species) wakes up and considers the plight of Africa's elephants above that of Trade.

That Africa's elephants are still in decline cannot be disputed. When speaking about elephants, CITES has to think Africa-wide and not just consider the few populations contained in isolated pockets in Southern Africa, which seems to have been the case to date. Flawed decisions have emerged which have further jeopardized the survival of Africa's elephants as a whole. This year an authoritative American study warned that poaching was now on a par with that of the late 1980's and that if this trend continued elephants could become extinct in the wild by 2020. Yet, aggressive lobbying by Southern African States has resulted in Southern African elephants being given far greater priority in CITES policy making than the declining populations of the rest of Africa.

Conservationists warned that the one-off sale of Southern African Stockpiles would open the market again to the laundering of illegal ivory and fuel an escalation in poaching, particularly in Central and East African elephant range states. All were therefore astounded (but not surprised) that CITES included China as a legal buyer of the Southern African stockpiles, although China is without question the main destination for illegal ivory and a country whose growing demand from a wealthier huge population drives the illegal trade. By opening up the world's largest ivory market, (China), CITES has given trade the biggest



boost possible and in so doing surely the consequence would be predictable!

Yet, even the British Government supported the controversial sale of the Southern African stockpiles contrary to the advice of many authoritative N.G.O.'s who are better informed about elephant issues than the Politicians. However, all today's Nations, including Britain, consider trade with China more important than the survival of elephants so the elephants are nothing more than a mere pawn in a game of world trade which is a shocking indictment of the human species. British people were deeply ashamed of their country's decision in this respect, and rightly so. Kenya's stand was summed up in a quote from Dr. Richard Leakey, previous Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, who said, *"I categorically denounce this auction and call on CITES to rethink how they run Endangered Species affairs. It should not be lost to CITES that they exist to protect the endangered species against trade malpractices, not to serve partisan interests that work against the species."*

Notwithstanding, CITES authorized Namibia to auction 9 tons of ivory raising \$1.2 million. Zimbabwe and Botswana sold theirs exclusively to Chinese and Japanese buyers making \$480,000 and \$1.1 million respectively and South Africa sold the largest cache, 51 tons in all. Of course, the funds so raised were supposed to be channeled into conservation projects, which sounds plausible, but about which everyone conversant with the endemic corruption in Africa is skeptical, especially when CITES Secretary General Willem Wijnstekers categorically asserted that the Southern African States had everything under control! This includes Zimbabwe where nothing is under control! No surprise about the skepticism then when reports are coming in on an almost daily basis about Rangers using automatic fire power to poach elephants, deliberately kneecapping them first and then pumping them full of bullets! Nor is South Africa immune from corruption and poaching – that also is now becoming common knowledge.

Tanzania is pressing to sell its ivory stockpile, despite the fact that poaching in its largest elephant area, the Selous National Reserve, is rife, some 50 elephants being lost to poachers every month, many allegedly killed by the very people paid to protect them! Zambia and Uganda want to do the same, and Uganda wants the luxury of opening up commercial elephant hunting again, even though their current elephant population is a mere shadow of what it once was. It is the same old story and it all centres around the market for ivory. As

long as there is a demand for ivory, and a legal market for it, that story will not end, but the existence of elephants will!

The moment word was out that the Southern African stockpiles were sold, poaching increased throughout all elephant Range States, as predicted, and even those of Southern Africa were not immune. A rise in the price of ivory followed as did proliferation of illegal uncontrolled markets, frequently associated with Chinese commercial activities. Here in Kenya, poaching losses exacerbated the devastating toll due to drought, the incursion of cattle into the Protected Areas transmitting stomach parasites and disease and elephants being driven out of Protected Areas because of livestock monopolizing scarce water resources. The demands of an expanding human population (now standing at over 40 million, and growing) adds yet another nail in the coffin – all factors that work against the country's remaining elephants, estimated pre-drought to number 38,000. That number will now be considerably lower. Climate change poses yet another future threat and so when the signatories to the CITES Convention meet again in March 2010, the future of elephants will depend upon their decision. That decision should be to ban trade in ivory completely, and not just for a few years, but for time to allow elephant numbers to recover, otherwise elephants might well be extinct in the wild by 2020 as predicted. If that happens it will be because of the thoughtless greed of humankind and flawed decisions taken by the signatories to the CITES Convention.

Senegal has only about 10 elephants left and the number of elephants in Chad, which used to be 400,000 is declining rapidly. By 1996 their numbers had dwindled to just 13,800 and in 2008 conservationists who surveyed the Zakouma National Park led by Michael Fay reported that Chad's elephants were now on the brink of extinction due to the Ivory Trade, numbering no more than 600.

In February the Amboseli population of elephants was also falling victim to the Ivory Trade, and for the first time. The Amboseli population is unique in that up until now it had been immune from commercial poaching for ivory, the only population of elephants on the entire African Continent where intact families still exist, led by Matriarch's with the wisdom of a lifetime, and where magnificent huge bulls still carry awesome tusks. That was until two Chinese road camps were established in the general area, one near Emali and the other on the Namanga road and the Chinese took to

buying ivory as well as bushmeat and dogs. Suddenly the Amboseli elephants were being killed by spearing, by poisoned arrows and bullets and at an alarming rate, 44 having been wounded or killed early in the year, ranging in age from a baby of just 4 months old, speared dozens of times during a brutal attack on her Matriarch mother who died. For the first time tusks were being removed by unknown persons, reported to have been sold for \$38 per kilo (K. Shs. 3,000/-) and ferried across the border into Tanzania. A cache of tusks was seized in a car traveling from Tanzania back into Kenya, alleged to belong to a Politician. Those tusks were probably those of the Amboseli elephants. Human wildlife conflict also increased in the Eastern range of the Amboseli elephants where the Masai had leased land to agriculturalists farming around the Kimana and Namalog swamps, their crops fed by irrigation from these traditional elephant sources of water. And then the drought took a further devastating toll of this famous elephant population, who have graced the Television screens of the world for many years.

In 1979, 77% of the Continent's elephants were to be found in East and Central Africa, with only 22% in Southern Africa and just 2% remaining in West Africa. Today, 50% of the Continent's remaining elephants are to be found in Southern Africa, which begs the question - what happened to those of East and Central Africa? They were, of course, poached for their ivory, and yet CITES still asserts that the status of the African Elephant has improved! It would seem that only the populations of Southern Africa count, and the few that survive north of the Zambezi are no longer even part of the elephant equation in their thinking. It is naïve to think that the Southern African populations are going to be spared when elephants are wiped out elsewhere.

The tusks of thousands of elephants have been confiscated this year en route to the Far East, those unearthed believed to be no more than about 10% of what has actually slipped through the net, un-noticed. Just a few of the ivory hauls are listed below to outline the extent of the illegal trade:-

March 6 tons confiscated by Vietnamese Customs Officials hidden in a Container shipped from Tanzania.

April illegal ivory worth \$20 million discovered in S.E Asia – the teeth of 900 elephants of Tanzanian origin.

May 3.5 tonnes intercepted in the Phillipines worth \$1 million – of Tanzanian and Mozambiquan origin, (*yet CITES authorized Mozambique to legally offer 60 elephants for sport hunting, instead of 40*).

June Japanese authorities refused DNA testing on a haul of 260 tusks. seized in Osaka.

July 16 poached elephant tusks seized at Jomo Kenyatta airport, Nairobi. Destined for China via Vietnam.

August - 500 whole tusks and thousands of individual pieces traced to Zambia.

Another huge cache unearthed in Vietnam originating from Uganda and Kenya .

In Sudan five elephant massacre sites seen from the air near Darfur littered with carcasses.

Illegal ivory worth 7 million Rands found in a South African Cape Art Shop.

100 kgs found in the boot of a car heading for Hanoi. (*Most ivory seized in Vietnam is en route to China, but Thailand is also becoming an important illegal ivory hub at large*)

September - 2,000 kg cache seized in Thailand.

DRC rebels massacred elephants for their ivory, in Virunga National Park DRC (a world heritage site).

Zimbabwe - 400 individually known “Presidential Elephants of Zimbabwe” protected since 1990, targeted by hunters

October - 11 elephants poached in Zimbabwe's Chizarira National Park (supposedly by Zambians).

684 kilos seized at Jomo Kenyatta Airport in Nairobi, destined for Thailand.

157 pieces weighing more than 200 kgs. Seized in the Central African Republic – originating from Zimbabwe.

November – 3,800 lbs (1,768 kgs) of illegal ivory seized in Kenya during raids on shops, intercepting vehicles at checkpoints and by using sniffer dogs. 65 people were arrested, including Chinese, Tanzanians and Kenyans.

Despite all these grim statistics, which by November were becoming so commonplace that they were enough to make one begin to lose **hope**, a South Africa spokesman (Edward Mbewe) claimed that Zimbabwe's elephants were growing between 5% and 7% a year and that the populations of **South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia** were so healthy that these countries will press CITES to have their elephants down-listed from the fully protected Status of **Appendix I to Appendix II** in order to legalize hunting and culling. Seven other African countries, namely **Kenya, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Togo and Congo Brazzaville, will call for a return to a complete Ivory Ban.** It is with trepidation that the decision of CITES next March is awaited, because on that will hinge the future survival of elephants in Africa.

Obituaries

We were deeply saddened to hear of the death this year of someone to whom we owe so much, Don Barrett, who, as the Managing Director of Wyeth Laboratories in England, sanctioned the reworked SMA formula milk sweepings from the Factory Floor to be allowed free of charge for our orphaned elephants, touched by the fact that our first orphan, "Olmeg" originated in a place very close to his heart where he served time as an Administrative Officer - Maralal. Since then Don has consistently supported us and our work, putting in a good word for us with subsequent Wyeth top personnel over the 30 years that the Trust has been rearing the

orphaned elephants. His passing is a great loss and is deeply mourned by us as well as his family and his many friends both in England and elsewhere. The death of Edward Berry is a tragic loss for the Elephant Cause. Former Moderator of the Elephant Commentator, Edward Berry campaigned tirelessly against the abuse of captive Elephants worldwide, promoting dialogue and discussion over welfare issues, always with empathy and understanding. His intercession on behalf of elephants will be sadly missed. The Trust extends heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the above two very important elephant supporters.



THE DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST

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

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

Email: rc-h@africaonline.co.ke

Website: www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org



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.

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

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

Unit 19, Brook Willow Farm,

Woodlands Road, Leatherhead,

KT22 0AN, United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1372 844 608

Email: infouk@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

IN KENYA

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

P.O. Box 15555,

Mbagathi 00503,

Nairobi, Kenya.

Telephone: +25 420 891996/020 230 1396

Fax: + 25 420 890053

Email: rc-h@africaonline.co.ke