

Care for the Wild news

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New bear adoption launched

If whales could scream

CITES 2004 update



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Meet the animals



Burra

Burra is a calm and peaceful young bull elephant, who often mediates and discourages fights between others.

Species: African elephant

Age: 3 years

History: When only 8 months old, Burra became trapped in a poacher's snare in Kenya's Tsavo National Park. The steel cable cut into his neck and almost sliced his ear in two. Fortunately rangers found and rescued him so that he was able to receive emergency veterinary care. The snare had constricted his throat so severely that it took several hours before he was able to feed.

Home: Burra lives with other orphaned elephants at a rehabilitation centre run by The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Tsavo East National Park, Kenya.

Update: In the experienced hands of his keepers, Burra has recovered from his ordeal, but still requires daily attention and care. Several years down the line Burra will hopefully rejoin Tsavo's wild elephant herd.

Adoption pack: An exclusive CFTW adoption video or DVD, a personalised certificate with a colour picture of Burra, an elephant fact sheet, and an update with news of Burra after six months.

£24.95



Shida

Shida is an adorable little rhino just oozing with personality.

Species: Black rhino

Age: 1 year

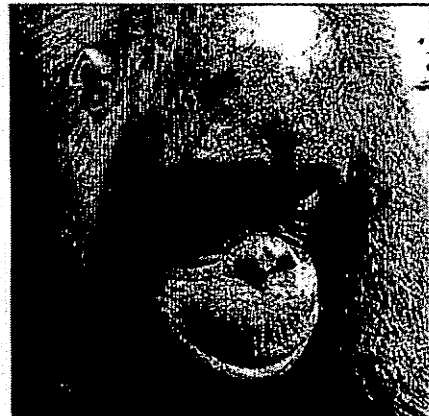
History: Shida's name means 'problem' in Kiswahili and reflects the immense hardship he has already experienced. Found in Kenya's Nairobi National Park in August 2003 desperately trying both to defend and suckle from his dying mother, he was saved from certain death by the Kenya Wildlife Service.

Home: Shida lives safely alongside other orphaned rhinos and elephants at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's rehabilitation centre in Nairobi National Park. Every day, Shida is accompanied into the Park by one of his devoted carers where he can run around to his heart's content.

Update: Shida recently began to show signs of his first horn, making him look even more like a perfect miniature replica of an adult rhino.

Adoption pack: An exclusive CFTW adoption video or DVD, a personalised certificate with a colour picture of Shida, a rhino fact sheet and an update with news of Shida after six months.

£24.95



David

David is a spirited and sociable orangutan, who very much likes to wrestle and play fight with another young male named Darwin.

Species: Orangutan

Age: 6 years

History: David was found in Borneo's Tanjung Puting National Park as an infant alone, covered in deep machete cuts and his arms and legs riddled with gun pellets. It is likely that his mother was killed by farmers, so he was lucky to escape alive.

Home: He lives with 200 other orangutans at a rehabilitation centre run by the Orangutan Foundation in Pasir Panjang village, south east Borneo.

Update: Now recovered from his wounds, David has settled in well at the centre, confidently socialising with the other apes. Hopefully David will eventually return to the forest, but until then his carers will continue to provide him with the essential backup support he needs.

Adoption pack: A personalised certificate with a colour picture of David, an orangutan fact sheet, a copy of the video or DVD 'Orangutan the Forest Apes' and a progress update after six months.

£24.95

Making the video

CFTWI's researcher, **Justine Pascoe** reports on her filming trip to Kenya.

To help film the perennial update for our elephant and rhino foster parents, I travelled to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Kenya. Accompanied by Paul Hodgeson-Hulton, our trusty wildlife cameraman and Jo Hastie, the organiser and general 'fixer' for the trip, I travelled out to Nairobi to begin our two-week filming trip. On arrival we were warmly greeted by our man on the ground, Asgar Pathan, the Director of Care for the Wild International in Kenya, before being swiftly whisked off by Landrover on a seemingly endless journey to Tsavo National Park's scenic plains. We soon settled into our lodgings near the Voi elephant sanctuary. Being surrounded by such an astounding variety and quantity of wildlife was absolutely incredible; rock hyraxes at the dinner table, dung beetles and lizards on the balcony and elephants and antelope at the water hole below.

Although the filming schedule was intense and exhausting, at the same time it was an absolute joy. I felt incredibly privileged to be able to meet and interact with the 28 elephant orphans at the sanctuary, which I had been writing about for so long. As camera assistants, Jo and I kept a record of what was being filmed and when (with a great deal of help from Joseph, the head keeper, who told us who we were filming), as well as keep an eye on the whole herd and look for the next interesting shot. I will never forget filming the orphans enjoying their midday mudbath. Despite having us running around, the elephants were incredibly content and carried on slapping mud on themselves and playing with their friends, oblivious to the strange humans around them.

Another personal highlight of the trip was meeting all the dedicated people involved in elephant rehabilitation and conservation. Dr Daphne Sheldrick graciously welcomed us to her home in the heart of the elephant orphanage in Nairobi National Park and it was a pleasure to meet Dr Samuel Kasiki of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) who facilitated memorable meetings with KWS rangers and de-snaring teams. Seeing the finished product was the icing on the cake, and the film will be a constant reminder of my amazing experience. Thanks to everyone who helped us make the video, including Jamal, our driver, for giving us impromptu Kiswahili lessons, and a special thank you to Rolf Harris for donating his time and expertise to record the voice-over.

If you would like to adopt an elephant or rhino and receive a copy of the video or DVD 'Jambo' (meaning 'Hello' in Kiswahili), please contact us by calling 01306 627900, e-mailing info@careforthewild.com or by visiting our website www.careforthewild.com



rhinonews



Safety for rhinos

An investigation into rhino poaching in Nepal, funded by CFTWI, has revealed this illegal activity has virtually stopped due to recently implemented anti-poaching strategies.

The resultant report, by international rhino trade expert Dr Esmond Bradley-Martin, states that only one rhino was poached in Nepal's Chitwan Valley Park in the period from July to December 2003. Prior to this - from January 2000 - a total of 91 rhinos had been slaughtered. Previously, Nepal's rhino conservation programme had been one of the most successful in the world - numbers increased from just 95 in the late 1960's to 612 in 2000.

However, in 2000, Maoist insurgents contributed to a breakdown in Nepalese law and order. The Royal Nepalese Army, responsible for rhino protection had to divert their resources elsewhere. In addition, funding problems and faulty communication equipment within parks further increased the rhinos' vulnerability to the poachers' guns.

The new strategies put in place include: strong and defined leadership; more funds for intelligence work; increased staffing; new patrol systems; improved telecommunications and work with local communities to identify potential poachers.

Double first for Shida

Shida, an orphaned black rhino adopted by many CFTWI supporters, has just celebrated his first birthday, which coincided with the arrival of his first horn.

Shida was found next to his dying mother last year at just two months old. The young rhino narrowly escaped being picked off by circling hyenas when he was rescued by the Kenya Wildlife Service and delivered into the capable hands of staff at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Nairobi, Kenya. Shida now depends on various 'surrogate mothers' to look after him and ensure he gets all the care and attention he needs. His name means 'problem' in Kiswahili, but he is doing so well that staff at the centre think Hakuna Shida - 'no problem' - might now be better!

Shida's day starts at 6am with a bottle of milk. He then strolls off to the midden - a communal rhino toilet - to spread his scent and check on those who have been in the area since his last visit, just as he would in the wild. Without fail, Shida follows this with an energetic race around that always ends with a series of joyous jumps in the air before he finally trots back to his keeper so that he can be led away to his daily mudbath.

One of Shida's admirers is CFTWI chief executive Dr Barbara Maas who met him for the first time earlier this year. "The impression his determined little personality made is still with me. Following a brief introduction, Shida simply dropped his head in my lap and I was sold forever."

To take part in CFTWI wildlife adoption schemes turn to page 18, phone us on 01306 627900, or visit our website www.careforthewild.com

