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Dear NCSG,

4

Please find the very lengthy April overview written by Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick. This is because the month of April was extremely busy with drama unfolding at all units, and we would like to share these stories with you. For details specific to your fostered orphan and to view recent photographs be sure to click the link to the Keepers Diary at the end this email.

6

If you have not already done so please join us on Facebook. Here we share news and photos from the Orphans' Project and our many other Projects throughout the month, this enables us to keep our supporters even more up to date with the very latest developments. www.facebook.com/thedswt

8

The Nursery:-

10 11

Heavy rain fell throughout the month, turning the Trust compound into a permanent mudbath, and often necessitating keeping the very young and fragile elephants indoors as a precaution against pneumonia.

13 14

Turkwel, Kainuk and Sities left for the Ithumba Rehabilitation Centre on the 3rd, the same day that we had to bury baby Bocha who died the previous night. Baby Bocha, orphaned last month at the Imenti Forest came in already compromised having been fed cow's milk when held overnight at the Meru Park H.Q. before being flown to the Nairobi Nursery.

15

And for more details about little Bocha please click on this link: http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?Rhino=&ID=514

17 18

There were 2 new arrivals during the month, newborn Ajabu abandoned near the Voi Park Airfield, whose name means "mystery" in Swahili, it being a mystery as to the reason for this calf being abandoned immediately after birth, no evidence having been found of a dead mother. Since she may not have had her mother's first colostrums milk containing the antibodies vital to survival, she received an intravenous infusion of elephant plasma soon after arrival in the Nursery on the 4th. The 8th brought

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the arrival of yearling "Tundani" from the Tundani area of the Tiva watercourse in Northern Tsavo East where 11 Elephants were recently gunned down by poachers. From the onset he was extremely trusting and friendly towards the Keepers - unheard of in a wild orphan of his age. The only explanation can be that he has fraternized with our Ithumba Ex Orphans now living wild, who frequent that area of the Park along with their wild friends — He could also have been amongst the many wild elephants who come to drink at the Ithumba Stockade water trough during the dry seasons, and there observed the relaxed interaction all the orphans, including those now living wild, have with their human family. Even visiting wild elephants behave the same way when within the Ithumba compound, recognizing that the Keepers are trusted and loved by their Elephant charges.

19

It was a struggle to save the life of Jasiri, the second ex Amboseli albino calf who came into the Nursery on the 27th March, and who kept on collapsing into hypoglycemic comas necessitating intravenous life support. Eventually, balls of cooked oatmeal porridge fed to him by hand saved the day, and he was soon sufficiently strong to be allowed out with the other Nursery orphans, forming a close bond with Faraja, the other Amboseli albino calf in our care. These two calves, obviously fathered by the same Amboseli Albino Bull could be half brothers and may even have known one another during their wild life prior to the poaching of their mothers.

21

Concern persisted over the health of Tano, whose anaemic condition did not improve despite our best efforts. Very tragically while Tano survived the month of April she has just passed away on the 11th of May. Of course this is extremely sad news. An in depth write up can be viewed: http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?ID=527

23

The dynamics of the Nursery Group was thrown into a state of flux following the departure of Turkwel, Kainuk and Sities, with up and coming females such as Naipoki, Kihari, Ishaq-B and even Sonje (who previously had always been somewhat pushy) vying for the now vacant Matriarchal slot to care take smaller babies such as Kithaka (till a miniature despite being a year old), Barsilinga, Lemoyian, and Ngasha. Of course newborn Ajabu was the prize, but was not sufficiently strong to be able to accompany the herd throughout the day until towards the end of the month, by which time Kihari and Ishaq-B were the main Matriarchs, over-shadowing

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Naipoki and Sonje who still occupy a lesser role whenever opportunity permits while Laragai is another promising would-be Matriarch. She paid a great deal of special attention to Jasiri during the time he was so frail along with Lima lima who is her special friend. Quanza is much more comfortable with the Keepers now, and has formed a close friendship with Narok who occupies the next door stockade at night. Murera, who, like Sonje, is compromised by having a stiff back leg, prefers to remain an independent and free spirit without having to worry about Junior encumbrances.

25

Mischievous boys and best friends, Kwale and Balguda, took to ganging up to taunt Faraja during the month, rushing to engage him each morning as soon as being let out with one shoving him from behind while the other occupied him at the front. Faraja's bellowed complaint about such an unfair contest always brings the Big Girls to the rescue, whereupon the two pranksters hurriedly made good their escape! However, by month end Faraja was stronger and began to settle the score. Since ŒElephants Never Forget', he will do so in style once he feels up to it and he will probably also be able to count on the backing of his bigger half brother Jasiri when he has fully recovered!

27 28

Bomani and Teleki are the main Pushing Partners for Orwa, now the biggest and strongest Nursery Boy, who obviously enjoys the elephant male feeling of independence, since he prefers to walk alone and "tall" behind all the others on their way to and from the noon mudbath. He has also become extremely mischievous and not very well behaved these days! Lima Lima is a particularly gentle and friendly Nursery orphan, and Quanza, although still wary of all strange humans, is gradually also becoming more friendly towards the Keepers.

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The Rhinos:-

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Blind Maxwell was involved in an uncomfortable adventure during the early hours of one morning this month, when somehow his Stockade door came ajar during the night, and he walked out finding himself in unfamiliar territory. Having heard something large crashing around during the night, we suspected that it was just Solio up to her usual tricks again, destroying the Plant Pots on Angela's verandah, but as daylight dawned,

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there was blind Maxwell, obviously disoriented and very scared. with a bottle of milk and a handout of Bananas, we were able to lead him back home, and he was so relieved to be again on familiar territory, that he raced confidently round and round his Stockade! Meanwhile, Solio has demonstrated clearly to her Human Family that she would like the door to her Stockade to be left ajar at all times so that she can come and go at Rhinos are becoming nocturnal now, so although Solio likes to come back for a handout of supplements, she wants to be out and about at night now that she is confident of having been "accepted" by wild rhino friends as belonging within their exclusive Nairobi Park community (introduced during 3 years of depositing her visiting cards at the communal Rhino dunapiles and urinals). Finally we took the hint, and since then she readily returns now that she does not find herself locked in for the night. To read up in more detail about Maxwell's Houdini act please click on this link:

http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?Rhino=&ID=515

35 36

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Ithumba Unit:-

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The arrival of Turkwel, Kainuk and Sities brought the number of Keeper Dependent Orphans at Ithumba to 24 and caused immense joy for them as well as others that had shared Nursery time with them. Recognition was instant so it was a reunion of loved ones they probably believed had disappeared forever as did their original Elephant family. expression of Elephant Joy and humbling for the human spectators. usual all Yatta's Ex Orphan group turned up as they always manage to do whenever Nursery newcomers are on the way, but on this occasion the Juniors were already in their Stockades for the night. However, the Ex Orphans were back at first light the next morning when they were able to get to know the three newcomers more intimately just as soon as their Stockade gages were opened. All were welcomed warmly into the extended Ithumba family - a smooth transition for the three Ex Nursery elephants, who merely followed the lead of Mutara, Shukuru and others, just like Old Times. By month end Sities was sufficiently at home to begin leading the Dependent unit, sprinting ahead to be first at the milk venues, earning her the Keepers' title of "Olympic Runner"!

41

To read in dept about Turkwel, Kainuk and Sities translocation to Tsavo

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42... please click on this link:

http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?Rhino=&ID=519

43

The rescue of yearling Tundani on the 8th on the Tiva was a dramatic event, taking place as it did during a heavy downpour. Added to this a swathe had to be cut by hand through dense undergrowth in order for the rescue vehicle to access the calf who had been captured earlier by a ground team. With the elephant on board, the vehicle then kept getting hopelessly bogged in mud, delaying the departure of the Rescue Plane that was waiting at the Ithumba airfield, so it was already late when the new orphan (named Tundani) arrived at the Nursery.

45

He is, indeed, quite unique in that he was totally trusting of the human Keepers from the onset, which is unheard of in a wild caught calf of his age (over l year). The only explanation has to be that he has fraternized with the Ex Orphans who, along with wild friends, frequent the area where he was found. He had probably also visited the Stockades to drink with his wild elephant family and there observed the rapport that exists between the Keepers and all the Keeper Dependent Orphans and Ex Orphans alike. Moreover even visiting wild Elephants who come in numbers to drink from the Stockade water trough during the dry seasons, take their cue from the Orphans and Ex Orphans and are not aggressive towards the Keepers as they go about their business as usual within the Stockade compound.

47

We have not shared Tundani's remarkable detailed story and film yet with our foster parents so please view the film both by clicking on this link, where you will also find the ability to foster him should you choose to do so: http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/orphan_profile.asp?N=289

49

To foster Tundani a shortcut is to click this link: https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/foster.asp?nn=1&G=&LP=5142013459-pic7a.jpg&addn=289&N=289&FN=TUNDANI

51 52

Ex Orphan Lualeni is exceedingly fond of Ololoo, and has long been the go-between he has much more contact with the Keeper Dependent Juniors than others within Yatta's main Ex Orphan unit. (The Ex Orphans usually have wild Elephant friends in their midst who would not be overly keen to fraternize closely with the human "family"). Yatta's two teenaged male attachments (Mgeni and Kijana) have morphed into part of the Orphan

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family, and are often with the Ex Orphans when they visit the Stockade compound. This month there have only been five days that Lualeni has not met up with the Juniors, either meeting them at the Stockade compound first thing in the morning, or out in the bush wherever they happen to be browsing at the time, escorting them to and from the noon mudbath, overseeing Ololoo as he takes his milk, is with them as they browse during the afternoon, and leads them back to their Night Stockades at dusk. Soon after the arrival of Turkwel, Kainuk and Sities, she understood that they felt the heat and took them to a rain-filled murram pit ahead of the mudbath hour so that they could cool themselves down. Often Lualeni turns up with Ex Orphan bulls such as her best friend Kora, or Rapsu, Kamboyo, Taita and Buchuma who quite obviously play an important escorting role to females who peel off from the main herd. Αt other times she is with female peers such as Sunyei, Galana or Naserian who act as Mini Matriarchs when leading Splinter groups. What has become quite obvious is that the Elephants know the location of one another at all times through sophisticated communicative capabilities - low frequency infrasound, or perhaps the mysterious telepathy that we are sure they possess, or even other means that we humans may never fathom.

53

The oldest Ex Orphan bull in Yatta's Ex Orphan unit, Napasha, has been absent from the unit for the last three weeks of April, triggering concern about his safety, although an intense aerial search has not found any evidence that he is not still alive. Now 11 years old, he could be choosing to spend more time with older male role models further afield, which is normal for growing Elephant Boys. We take comfort in the fact that he has done this before joining wild bulls for extended periods of time. Challa was another who was absent for several days during the month, but he popped up again at the Stockades in the company of another wild Bull.

55

The very first wild Bull to expose himself at the Stockades in daylight when the Ithumba Rehabilitation facility was first establish who goes by the name "Rafiki" (the friend) turned up alone on the 9th and again on the 23rd when he was with Yatta, her baby Yetu, Wendi, Kinna, Sidai, Naserian, Ithumbah and bulls Kenze, Orok, Taita, Zurura, Rapsu, Madiba, Meibai, Tomboi and Challa. Having all enjoyed a drink at the Stockade trough, he then escorted the Ex Orphans to join the Juniors' mudbath where they all wallowed together. Afterwards Rafiki and the Ex Orphans accompanied the Juniors to browse the slopes of Ithumba hill until it was

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time to return in the evening, when they walked the Juniors home and saw them safely in their Stockades for the night before leaving. Rafiki is, indeed, a remarkable wild friend of the Orphans and Ex Orphans, who had the courage to persuade his wild peers that the Keepers were different to the poachers that persecuted his kind.

57 58

The next day the Stockade compound was filled with fun when the Ex Orphans came with Yatta's wild recruit Kijana to spend quality time playing with the Juniors engaging in Pushing Matches and Mounting Games.

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On the 25th Lualeni was with Kora when she met up with the Juniors out in the bush, and spent the entire day with them, peeling off only when it was time for the Youngsters to begin the journey back in the evening. However, by the time the Juniors arrived back, Lualeni was already there with Mulika and her baby, Mwende, as well as Nasalot, Sunyei, Galana and seven Ex Orphan bulls (Madiba, Tomboi, Taita, Buchuma, Rapsu, Zurura, Meibai and 2 wild male friends). On this occasion Lualeni obviously got the message that Mulika and the others wanted to join the Juniors at the Stockades before they were put in for the night and went to collect them! The next day Lualeni and Kora joined the Juniors at their mudbath accompanied by the same group as well as Mgeni and 3 wild male friends and later, whilst browsing the slopes of Ithumba hill, and un-noticed by the Keepers, she and Kora managed to sneak off with Ololoo! The Keepers only noticed his absence at the Stockades, and just as they were about to mount a search, Lualeni brought him back, this time without Kora but accompanied by Wendi!

61

A huge commotion aroused the Keepers before dawn on the 27th - Elephant trumpeting, screaming, bellowing, and rumbling and at first light Wendi came tearing past pursued by two male suitors! Whether or not they succeeded in mating her is not known but the Keepers believe that one of the suitors could be Rafiki. If so, he obviously gave up on her, because he turned up at the mudbath later on that day! Whether or not Wendi became pregnant on that day ^ 27th April 2013, time will tell, but we will have to wait 2 years before knowing! Assuming that she fell pregnant, hers will be a special baby, because she was rescued brand newborn herself, still enshrouded in foetal material. The Trust is proud to have been able to rear from day one and will be even prouder to be a grandparent to her first calf! Wendi is now in her eleventh year, which means that she would be 13 when her baby was ready to be born, if

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62... indeed she has become pregnant.

63

On the 28th Sidai, one of the Nannies to baby Yetu, came with little Yetu to drink at the Stockade with no sign of Yatta, the baby's mother. This alarmed the Keepers, but thankfully Yatta plus Mulika and her little Mwende, Kinna, Nasalot, Galana, Buchuma, Taita, Rapsu and Orok turned up later, and the Keepers noticed that Wendi, Ithumbah, Lenana, Sunyei, Chyulu, Makena, Lualeni, Loijuk, Naserian, Challa, Kora, Kamboyo, Kenze, Zurura, Madiba, Tomboi and Meibai were not far away browsing close by. The only absentee was Big Boy Naserian, but at least all the other Ex ... Orphans were still intact.

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The Voi Unit:-

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A very dramatic event for the Voi Orphans this month took place on the 6th, when Emily's Unit of Ex Orphans joined the Juniors out in the bush and accompanied them to the Red Waterhole for a wallow. After the Ex Orphans separated from the Juniors, it began to rain, and this so excited the Youngsters that they ran around trumpeting happily and in the process met up with a friendly wild herd. The rain soon turned into a veritable downpour with claps of loud thunder and terrifying bolts of lightening, scaring all the Elephants and leaving the Keepers drenched to the skin. The Orphans panicked and fled in amongst all the wild elephants, so the Keepers were left with no option other than returning to the Stockades without some of their charges, the rain still bucketing down. That night the Stockade doors were left ajar, hoping that the Orphans would return and that they would be there in the morning.

71 72

After a sleepless night, the Keepers awoke to the morning of the 7th to find the Stockades still empty, so at first light they set off on foot in search of the missing orphans, only to happen upon Shimba who had been mauled by a lion during the night and who was in a sorry way. However, he had obviously given a good account of himself, because there was blood and lion fur around where the encounter had obviously taken place. One ear and the side of Shimba's face was in a mess, and he had other deep gashes on his back and hindquarters. Two Keepers then peeled off from the search party to walk wounded Shimba slowly back to the Stockades while the rest continued their search, very shaken by what they had seen,

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and fearing the worst for all the others! 72...

73

Three hours later they came across Lesanju, Wasessa, Sinya, Lempaute and Kivuko, young bulls Mzima, Tassia, Taveta, and Rombo, nine in all. were visibly fearful and still missing were the younger ones, Kenia, Ndii, Dabassa and Emsaya.

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76 At that point the Trust's Supercub aircraft arrived been dispatched from the Trust's Kaluku Field Headquarters on the Athi/Tsavo boundary to collect an orphaned baby gerenuk that had turned up at the Manyani Prison Camp amongst the goats, and which had been left at the Voi Stockades. The arrival of the plane was timely, since it was now able to participate in the search. With a Keeper aboard, Nick Trent took off and circled the area, identifying three more lone elephant calves which turned out to be Kenia, Ndii and Dabassa. Having been alerted as to their whereabouts, the ground patrol caught up with them and rounded them up to escort back home. Still absent, however, was Emsaya who was identified trailing a small herd of wild elephants amongst whom were several calves of her age. At that stage the Mobile Veterinary Unit vehicle was called in, and guided from the air, caught up with the wild herd and Emsaya. Using the vehicle, repeated attempts to isolate Emsaya from the rest of the herd failed, the wild Matriarch objecting strongly to the intrusion aggressive and charging. Several Keepers then attempted to sneak closer on foot, calling Emsaya by name, and waving a bottle of milk to tempt her, but although she heard and saw the milk, she still flatly refused to return, determined to remain with the wild herd, who could perhaps have been members of her original family. next few days the Keepers managed to keep in touch with Emsaya and the wild herd, but eventually gave up since she seemed comfortable amongst She is now 4 years old, and with vegetation lush and water plentiful just now, she should be able to survive living as a wild elephant again, at least until the dry season takes hold. sufficiently old to bypass the Nursery stage when first orphaned, Emsaya went directly to the Voi Stockades where she became Wasessa's chosen favourite.

77

78 For about a week after Emsaya's departure, Wasessa was upset and irritable towards the others. However, she has since settled down and is paying little Panda a lot of attention, often walking Panda to her favourite browsing spot near the Malaika house just behind the Stockades, untitled text 3 Page 10 of 12

and only when she is sure that the baby is settled there, rejoining the others in their normal daily routine.

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Meanwhile, back at the Stockades on that fateful day, the Keepers cleaned Shimba's wounds as best they could, applying antibiotic ointment and green clay pending the return of Dr. Poghon, the KWS Vet attached to the Trust's Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit who was away at the time. Upon his return, Shimba was immobilized so that his wounds could be more thoroughly cleaned before applying the green clay and giving him an antibiotic injection.

81

Initially wounded Shimba occupied Emily's previous spacious Enclosure where Solango and Ndara recuperated and which is situated a short distance from the main Stockades, but he was so obviously nervous on his own that the Keepers moved him back into an empty Stockade amidst those Shimba has always been a very popular member of of all the others. Lesanju's unit, so all the Orphans fully empathized with his misfortune, rumbling reassurance and encouragement and laying trunks lovingly and gently across his back whenever they were with him, thereby definitely contributing to the healing process. His best friends, Taveta, Tassia and Mzima, spend more time with him whenever they can. Likewise Emily's Ex Orphans illustrated very clearly that they, too, were concerned for him, all going to take a closer look whenever at the compound. confident that Shimba will recover fully in the fullness of time, left only with one tattered ear and scars as a memento of his unfortunate encounter with a Tsavo lion. He is now sufficiently well to be able to leave his hospital Stockade, and spend time with little Panda who browses close by, often accompanied by the little orphaned zebra foal also named "Lualeni" who, like the Ithumba Unit's Elephant Lualeni, was rescued from the Lualeni Ranch abutting Tsavo.

83

Following the rainstorm scare, and Shimba's mauling, the Orphans were reluctant to leave the Stockade compound, avoiding the eastern side of Mazinga hill which held sinister connotations, and heading westwards instead. Once in the field they also remained close to their Keepers whilst feeding. But as the month wore on confidence returned and by mid month they were again venturing to their previous eastern haunts.

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To read more about Shimba and to view the pictures please click this link:

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http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?Rhino=&ID=516

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86... 87

> Emily's Ex Orphans have been Stockade visitors on several occasions the 9th and again on the 20th and the 23rd when they then met up with the Juniors out in the bush to an exuberant reunion. On the 25th Edie came to the Stockades with her calf, Ella, and a Splinter group comprised of Mweya, Icholta, Seraa and a few other Ex Orphans. The Ex Orphans returned to the Stockade compound very early on the 27th, determined to monopolize the morning Supplements which was a deterrent to the Juniors whom Lesanju rapidly moved off rather than have to compete, knowing that there could be a great deal of pushing and shoving by much bigger Elephants. Icholta noticed the Juniors walking off, she joined them and led them to the slopes of Mazinga hill. Meanwhile Shimba limped out of his pen and as he past by the Ex Orphans, Laikipia, Ndara and Mweya watched him Mweya then ran to join Icholta and the babies at Mazinga Hill, intently. and instantly Icholta returned to also take a look at Shimba, leaving Mweya overseeing the Juniors in her stead. It would appear that Mweya told Icholta that Shimba was now sufficiently well to be out and about again!

89

On the 29th Icholta came alone to the Stockades only to find the all the She walked over to Mzima and encouraged him to supplements finished. join in a Pushing Contest, but when he failed to make much headway, she lay down so that he could climb over her and have the upper hand. This left him happy since his self esteem had been restored!

91

Emily's Ex Orphans returned to the Stockade Compound at 9.45 a.m. a day or two later and then joined the Juniors at their noon mudbath but were frustrated to find all the drinking water in the bins already finished. Icholta made her displeasure clear by kicking all the empty drinking bins around, which did them no good at all!

93

The Junior Group has enjoyed limited contact with wild herds this month, aside from the herd that led them all astray during the thunderstorm. They hoped to fraternize with a wild herd on the 24th, but were warned off by the Matriarch who confronted them with outspread ears and a low Two wild adult elephant Cows joined them rumble, forcing an about turn. in their noon mudbath on another occasion, and on the 25th they mingled freely with a friendly wild herd whom they obviously knew well.

96 Aside from all the drama of the month, the dynamics between the various individuals within the Junior set has been played out as usual on a daily basis ^ Test Strength Pushing Exercises for the boys, responsible nurturing, and caring amongst the girls who keep the peace and settle All is recorded in the daily entries of the April Diary. arguments. 97 98 Do Elephants have a sense of aesthetics? Why else would Kenia, Ndii and Tassia pause to admire an unusual Flower blooming on the slopes of Mazinga Hill and which held their undivided attention long enough for the Keepers to make mention of this in the Diary! 99 Please find a link to the The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's April 100 Keeper's Diary should you want to keep abreast with your fostered elephant Turkwel 101 http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/monthly.asp?o=Turkwel&month=Apr 102 103 Also you will find attached a water colour painted by Angela Sheldrick 104 for you to print off and keep. 105 We thank you for your valued support. 106 107 If you wish to renew or add an additional donation to your fostering of 108 (Turkwel), please use this link below: https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/foster.asp?xgin=hjhfcucafecbf 109 110 111 Most Sincerely, 112 113 Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick D.B.E. http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org 115