

1 9/16/2013 11:21:30 AM

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3 Dear NCSG,

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5 Please find the August overview of the Orphans' Project written by Dr.
... Dame Daphne Sheldrick . 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.

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7 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, enabling us to keep our supporters current
... www.facebook.com/thedswt

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10 THE NAIROBI NURSERY

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12 With the marked escalation of poaching, (probably due to the delay in
... imposing much publicized stricter deterrent punishments), August has been
... a particularly tragic month with numerous rescues, mainly of older
... orphans still milk dependent, who, having lost their mother have
... remained with the remainder of the family until too weak to be able to
... keep up. Such victims come to us almost dead at the best of times, and
... those we have been able to retrieve through Life Supporting intravenous
... drips have been few, namely Nelion from Mt. Kenya, Vuria from the Tsavo
... Conservation Area and Mashariki and Mudanda from Tsavo East National Park
... itself. We were not able to retrieve four others who came to the
... Nursery - Olkishi, Kieni, Saruni and Matopeh. But the death of our
... precious Nursery baby Ajabu at the age of 4 months, orphaned brand
... newborn and as such a recipient of Plasma to trigger her immune system,
... has been a particularly cruel blow.

13

14 The read more about Ajabu's tragic passing please click on this link:
... <http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?Rhino=&ID=561>

15

16 The health of Kwale continues to be of ongoing concern. Although his
... blood analysis show a drop in palette count, we continue to be baffled,
... having tried everything. He is feeding better than previous months, but
... is body condition remains poor.

17

18 All new arrivals in the Nursery are warmly welcomed and embraced by all
... the resident Orphans, particularly Big Girls Kihari, Naipoki, Ishaq-B,
... Laragai and Lima Lima who are first at a newcomers's Stockade Gate
... whenever opportunity permits, extending their trunks through to calm and
... caress. Nursery bulls come as well, but more out of curiosity, although
... Orwa, our oldest boy, has always been a particularly compassionate member
... of the group, having himself been almost dead upon arrival in 2011.

19
20 Kwale tends to hang out with fragile newcomers Nelion, Vuria and Garzi
... who separate themselves from the more established group who are inclined
... to be a bit boisterous. Lima Lima took a shine to little Mashariki from
... the start. Like Tundani, she is a very gentle and affectionate yearling
... from the moment she arrived. Lima Lima, along with Kwale and Tundani
... were there for Vuria as well, when he collapsed again out in the bush and
... had to be returned to his Stable for an infusion of more Life Support.

21
22 Lemoyian, Barsilinga and Kithaka comprise a mischievous coalition, who
... enjoy Play Pushing one another and also playing pranks on the visiting
... public, sometimes joined by Balguda and Ngasha, whilst Orwa and Bomani
... are more Senior Pushing Partners. "Albino" half Brothers from Amboseli,
... Faraja and Jasiri although close, are also competitive and somewhat wary
... of their human Attendants as is Teleki. Arruba and Narok are good
... friends who are seldom apart, while Big Girl Murera and her night
... neighbour and best friend Sonje are very independent, Murera often
... heading off on her own irrespective of whether or not Sonje cares to come
... along too. Sonje is often torn between going with Murera or remaining
... with Kihari, Naipoki, Ishaq-B, and Lima Lima, her inherent motherly
... instincts now coming into play.

23
24 August has been an action-packed month for the Nairobi Nursery Staff, but
... for none more so than Angela, (Daphne's daughter) who now runs the day to
... day activities of the Trust. It is she who organizes the rescue of
... orphan elephants from many parts of the country, arranges for the
... treatment of a number of wounded wild others in remote corners working
... with KWS, which often involves the hiring of a plane or Helicopter to
... transport a KWS Vet to where he is needed as part of our new "Sky Vet"
... initiative. In this way dozens of wounded elephants have been saved,
... mostly needing poisoned arrows extracted and their wounds attended to,
... some with spear and gunshot wounds and also some with wire snares.

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27 THE RHINOS

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29 Solio has made it quite clear that she no longer wants to be encumbered
... by a human attendant and is spending many days further afield. There
... was massive relief when she reappeared on the 15th at 5 a.m. after
... several day's absence, engaging Maxwell as usual in a vigorous sparring
... games through the poles that separate their two Stockades. She was back
... again that afternoon at 3 p.m. which was a special treat for blind Max
... whose contentment and happiness revolves around visits from Solio, and
... also the odd wild visitors under cover of darkness. After another
... protracted absence Solio was back again on the 26th and made her presence
... felt by feasting on decorative potted palms and the ruthless pruning of
... garden shrubs! Her next appearance was at month end, when she spent the
... entire day relaxing in her Stockade, enjoying the Lucerne in between
... interacting with Max and that was a very special treat for him! Maxwell
... has been enjoying daily fruit treats that only his is allowed. This he
... loves, drooling and smacking his lips while he makes short work of pips
... and all of anything sweet that comes his way. Mangos are a great
... favourite.

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33 THE ITHUMBA UNIT

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35 Among the hordes of wild elephants who come daily to drink either at the
... Ithumba Stockade water trough or at the Mudbath venue, there are some
... longstanding bull friends who have been named by the Keepers. There is
... "Rafiki" (the first wild bull to show himself in daylight); the Big Bull
... who fathered both Mwende and Yetu, (wild-born calves of Mulika and Yatta
... respectively), the magnificent Tusker called "Mshale" (whose life we have
... saved on two previous occasions); Pembe Moja (who has just one tusk) and
... Half Trunk, who lost half his trunk to a Poacher's snare. Having taken
... their cue from the Ex Orphans now living wild, these wild Bulls have
... become so trusting of the Ithumba Elephant Keepers as well as
... Foster-Parent Visitors who support the Project that at Ithumba one can
... sometimes be surrounded by as many as 90 adult Elephants - a uniquely
... magic experience.

36

37 There has been a radical escalation of poison arrow poaching within Tsavo

37... and its environs ever since the Government expelled Somali cattle
... illegally grazing the Park, and neither our Orphans, nor the wild
... inhabitants of the Northern Area have been immune. Ex Orphans Mulika
... and Challa were victims in July who had to have arrowheads extracted from
... their bodies, and this month Mulika developed a huge swelling beneath
... her belly as a result of the arrow poison, and this obviously needed
... attention. She was not alone, for Ex Orphan Galana returned with a
... poisoned arrow in her side while wild elephants Pembe Moja, Big Tusker
... Mshale came to drink, also with arrows wounds, so our KWS/DSWT Mobile
... Veterinary Unit was sent to Ithumba to deal with all these cases. Pembe
... Moja and the other wounded bull were treated on the 10th and Galana,
... Mulika and Mshale on the 15th when we as a family were there to help.

38
39 Mulika was amongst Yatta's Ex Orphans when they attended the Mudbath on
... that day and when she was darted with the immobilizing drug, it was
... humbling to witness the reaction of her Ex Orphan peers, who, although
... clearly exceedingly alarmed to see her collapse, were nevertheless so
... trusting of their erstwhile human family (the Keepers) to do as they were
... told and move away to enable the Vet to do his work. As Mulika succumbed
... to the drug and collapsed to the ground, there was a distressed elephant
... scream as all her peers rushed forward to try and help her. Instead
... they obeyed the command of their Keepers and simply moved away, milling
... around as concerned spectators as the Vet got to work, confident that
... what was happening to a beloved family member, had to be, for their
... trusted human family would never do her harm. Meanwhile Yatta took
... charge of Mulika's confused baby, little Mwende removing her and her own
... calf, Yetu, from the distressing scene. What unfolded was, indeed,
... exceedingly touching.

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41 To read about this in more details please click this link:
... <http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?Rhino=&ID=567>

42
43 We were worried that perhaps the trauma would affect Mulika's milk yield,
... putting little Mwende at risk, so thereafter whenever the Ex Orphans came
... to drink, she and her calf were ushered into a Stockade and given extra
... supplements of Lucerne, Dairy Cubes and Copra Cake to boost the milk bar.
... This worked, as it had once before, and by month end all signs were that
... Mwende was fine and Mulika and Galana healed. Likewise wild Bulls
... Mshale, Pembe Moja were also all healed. Meanwhile KWS and our Ithumba
... Anti-Poaching Team undertook a huge campaign and several arrests were

43... made, which we hope will put them out of action for a very long time!

44

45 During August, the Junior Keeper Dependent orphans have enjoyed a great
... deal of interaction both with the Ex Orphan herd, who only missed being
... with them on two days throughout the month, and also the wild elephants
... who have been coming in numbers to drink at both the Stockades and at the
... mudbath, included amongst whom have been the usual old friends as well as
... a female family. One of the two cows was tuskless, as was her daughter.
... On the 2nd eight of the Juniors (Kanjoro, Murka, Makireti, Kandeche,
... Sities, Kainuk, Kilaguni and Kilabasi) were "snatched" out in the bush by
... some of the Ex Orphans for a "wild" outing, leaving faithful Lualeni
... behind to oversee those that remained. (Lualeni has long been the main
... go-between between the Keeper Dependent Juniors and the Ex Orphan Unit
... now living wild). The missing eight returned to join their Junior peers
... later that afternoon, and on the 26th Suguta, Chemi Chemi, Melia and
... Sabachi managed to sneak away for a wild outing, returning back to the
... Stockades after dark that day.

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49 THE VOI UNIT

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51 Whereas at one time Tsavo National Park held the largest population of
... black rhinos in the world (some 8,000) today those that remain in Tsavo
... East can be counted on the fingers of one hand having been all but wiped
... out through poaching. It was therefore an enormous surprise when a cow
... with a calf at heel was spotted during a routine aerial surveillance by
... our Supercub. Sadly, however, the calf was later left seriously wounded
... and unable to follow its mother, having been mauled by lions and since it
... was at risk whenever the rhino mother had to leave it in order to drink,
... KWS decided that if it was to survive it had to be rescued and raised as
... an orphan. It was captured on the 2nd by a team of our Keepers and KWS
... Rhino Unit ranges and taken to the Voi Stockades, occupying the Stockade
... next door to Mbirikani, who was still recovering from having almost lost
... her foot to a cable snare. The baby rhino was aged about 4 - 5 months,
... and was given the name "Sobo". As expected, this strange newcomer who
... huffed and snorted and made mewing calling noises all night caused quite
... a stir amongst the resident orphans, not least Mudanda and Mbirikani in
... the next door Stockades, who got roundly rebuffed. All the other
... elephants couldn't wait to rush and inspect the latest arrival the

51... moment they were let out the next morning.

52

53 Although the little rhino responded rapidly to kindness, as baby rhinos
... do, unhappily his wounds proved fatal and he died a few days later. The
... autopsy revealed a punctured esophagus and a fractured back leg as well
... as other serious injuries, so sadly there was no chance of being able to
... save her.

54

55 This story can be read in more detail:

... <http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?Rhino=&ID=554>

56

57 The 6th brought another tragic newcomer to the Voi Stockades, this time
... an injured yearling female elephant rescued from a village named Kajire
... near Voi. Blows to the head left her only able to revolve in circles,
... while internal damage proved too much (Sadly, this orphan, named
... "Kajire" also later died, which, perhaps for her, was a merciful
... release).

58

59 The 27th brought the rescue of the baby elephant named Matopeh by our Voi
... elephant Keepers. He was found bogged in the black cotton mud of the
... leaking Mzima- Mombasa pipeline below Voi Safari Lodge and was rescued by
... the Voi Keepers together with KWS and flown to the Nairobi Nursery that
... same afternoon where, he too, sadly died soon after arrival.

60

61 By midmonth Mbirikani's injured foot had healed sufficiently for her to
... be able to walk, so she was able to join Shimba and Panda, who browse
... nearer to home. Although still not entirely comfortable with the
... Keepers, Mudanda was soon allowed out to join them. She and Mbirikani
... are a challenge at milk feeding times, Mbirikani because she often cannot
... get to grips with the nipple and tries to swallow the entire bottle,
... emitting gurgled screams whenever one of the others approaches, and
... Mudanda because she usually charges the Keeper having downed the contents
... of her bottle! Shimba who lost a great deal of condition following the
... lion attack, is now thankfully gradually gaining weight and has taken
... little Mudanda under his wing, whom the Big Girls have been slow to
... embrace. Possibly this is because they know she is not yet up to
... climbing the hill and will only hold them up! Shimba, Panda, Mbirikani
... and Mudanda are therefore known as "The Hospital Group" and feed around
... the Stockades and within the KWS Compound fence, not yet up to walking
... further afield with the others.

62
63 The baboon troupe resident on nearby Mazinga hill plagued the Orphans
... every morning as they enjoy their dry season supplement of Lucerne, Copra
... Cake and Dairy Cubes. Trying to keep them at bay is usually a task
... shouldered by the young bulls (Rombo, Mzima, Taveta, Tassia, Dabassa, and
... Layoni)) involving ingenuity, Rombo remaining behind long after all the
... others have left, waiting for the baboons to start homing in on the
... leftovers before charging. At such times he has to play "catch-up" with
... the others, running trumpeting to persuade Lesanju to halt the column in
... order to wait for him which she usually does.

64
65 Tsavo's long dry seasons have always been testing, but these days they
... seem to be becoming more so, due to Global Warming. Forage for the
... Orphans within reach of their Night Stockades becomes ever more sparse
... and most of the wild herds as well as our Ex Orphans move further afield.
... The Keeper Dependent orphans were therefore surprised to come across a
... small wild herd at the top of Mazinga Hill where some green fodder grows
... amongst the rocks. Confident in the company of their human family, the
... Orphans held their ground despite being warned off by the wild Matriarch,
... the top of the hill being the preferred feeding place for the Orphans.
... There they often split into two groups, Lempaute taking one half round
... the other side of the hill, while Lesanju remains with the rest. On the
... 12th the orphans came late to the mudbath to find a friendly wild herd
... obviously already known to them whom Lempaute was first to greet warmly
... followed by all the others. One other herd was at the hill on the 15th,
... but on this occasion Lesanju adopted the usual avoiding tactics, steering
... clear of the wild Matriarch but on the 29th she was happy to socialize
... with another wild herd the orphans met on the Northern side of the hill,
... when a teenaged wild bull spent a long time actually in amongst them.

66
67 An acute water shortage at the KWS Headquarters bedevilled the first half
... of the month, impacting on the orphans' water requirements. KWS's
... ancient Lister Engine and Pump was on its last legs and ongoing water
... issues plagued the Headquarters. The Trust has donated a new one to
... alleviate that problem, and happily the water crisis at Voi Headquarters
... is a thing of the past! In addition the Orphans' Borehole (funded many
... years ago by the children of Bury Church of England High School) also
... began to fail, needing to be re-drilled and re-lined to become functional
... again, so this was done as well. Meanwhile the Red Waterhole which had
... provided the venue for the Orphans noon mudbath, dried out, so the

67... Keepers had to fall back on what is known as the Middle Mudbath, an
... artificial wallow that was kindly dug out again by the KWS Bulldozer.
... Water from the Orphans' Borehole has to be bowzered in on a daily basis
... to fill both the Orphans' Drinking Bins as well as the wallow, and the
... few wild herds that have remained in the area have become wise to this
... routine, often moving in as soon as they hear the tractor and emptying
... the drinking bins ahead of the orphans' arrival. Lesanju decided to
... solve this problem by bringing her unit in ahead of the tractor, and that
... way the wild elephants were deterred by the presence of the Keepers and
... have to await their turn!

68

69 On their way out to browse on the 17th the orphans happened upon a male
... Somali ostrich. Taveta and Layoni initiated a charge to drive the bird
... away, but when the ostrich flapped its wings, they retreated rapidly.
... Layoni had more luck with a group of waterbucks on the 28th.

70

71 The Keepers were happy to have a visit from their Ex Orphan kudu named
... "Mkuki", now a magnificent bull that they encountered again on Mazinga
... Hill when he was with two other kudu bulls, and obligingly stepped aside
... to allow the orphans to pass on a narrow trail.

72

73 Please find a link to the The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's August
... Keeper's Diary should you want to keep abreast with your fostered
... elephant Turkwel

74

75 <http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/monthly.asp?o=Turkwel&month=Aug>

76

77 Also you will find attached a water colour painted by Angela Sheldrick
... for you to print off and keep.

78

79 We thank you for your valued support.

80

81 If you wish to renew or add an additional donation to your fostering of
... (Turkwel), please use this link below:

82 <https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/foster.asp?xgin=hjhfcufejghdE-ab>

83

84 Most Sincerely,

85

86 Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick D.B.E.

87 <http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org>

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