

1 8/16/2013 1:21:33 AM

2

3 Dear NCSG,

4

5 Please find the July overview 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.

6

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, this enables us to keep our supporters up to date
... with the very latest stories. www.facebook.com/thedswt

8

9 'The DSWT International March for Elephants' On World Animal Day (Friday
... 4th October) we will be marching in 15 cities across the globe to make a
... stand for elephants. One elephant is being killed every 15 minutes for
... its ivory and at that rate the African Elephant could face extinction in
... the wild by 2025. We urge you to visit <http://www.iworry.org> today to
... find out if there is an official March near you and the other ways in you
... can get involved and join this global movement on Friday 4th October.

10

11 The month of July has seen an unprecedented upsurge in Poisoned Arrow
... poaching, which is a very disturbing trend that is taking a devastating
... toll of Elephants throughout the Tsavo ecosystem. THE KWS/DSWT Mobile
... Veterinary Unit has been kept fully occupied on a daily basis, at times
... treating more than 3 cases every single day, immobilizing the victims in
... order to remove poisoned arrowhead and treat the resulting wounds, and
... before reviving them, administering a long-acting antibiotic injection to
... aid recovery. Many others have had to have tough thick cable snares cut
... out from a limb, which unless removed, ultimately render the victim
... immobile facing a cruel and agonizing death from septicaemia, starvation
... and thirst.

12

13 We believe that this Poaching frenzy is a result of the publicity
... surrounding the proposed imposition of more deterrent punishments for
... poaching offences by the newly elected Kenyatta/Ruto Government - namely
... 15 years jail and/or a fine of 10 million K. Shs. It is almost as
... though this has triggered a furious poaching frenzy with tribesmen
... picking up bows and arrows in order to try and get as much ivory as

13... possible before deterrent punishments are passed into law! Up until now
... the sentences imposed on offenders in no way fit the crime.

14
15 As Richard Leakey so rightly said recently, while the demand for ivory,
... and the rise in the price for illicit ivory has been fuelled by a
... burgeoning demand from China and the Far East generally, it is not the
... Chinese who are killing Kenya's priceless irreplaceable heritage of
... Elephants and Rhinos, but local Kenyans driven by greed and corruption
... with little thought given to the consequences of their cruelty i.e. the
... death of the lucrative Tourism Industry which creates employment and a
... livelihood for millions of Kenyans and has set Kenya apart from all other
... African countries as a leader in the field of wildlife conservation.
... The new Kenyatta government needs to walk their talk urgently and sooner
... rather than later if Kenya's elephants are to be spared for the benefit
... of future generations and humankind generally. At the same time the
... International community needs to bring pressure to bear on the Leaders of
... China, Thailand, Vietnam and other Far Eastern Nations who are culpable
... and shame them into taking measures at their end of the trade to stem the
... demand for ivory and rhino horn. Time is not on the side of the
... Elephants, who are dying on a daily basis. The one bit of good news
... about Poisoned Arrow Poaching is the fact that many such victims can if
... identified in time, and have been saved.

16
17 To help our anti-poaching efforts please click on this on this link:
... https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/is/donate_now_desnaring.asp

18
19

20 THE NAIROBI NURSERY ORPHANS

21
22 The Nursery Elephant Keepers have been involved in the rescue of 3
... orphaned elephant babies this month, one of whom died soon after arrival
... having come in too far gone for us to be able to retrieve, even with life
... supporting intravenous intervention. The other two, namely, "Garzi"
... originated from the Gazi area of Northern Tsavo East and "Vuria" from the
... Lualeni Ranch abutting the Voi/Taveta Road. Laragai played a vital role
... in comforting and calming Garzi, occupying the next door Stockade. He
... settled in very rapidly and within a couple of days was out and about
... with the others. Laragai and Lima Lima are firm friends who remain
... close to Garzi as he browses out in the forest, while Quanza and her
... night neighbour, Narok, also firm friends, remain somewhat wary of all

22... humans.

23

24 To read more about Garzi's rescue please click on this link:

... <https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?ID=557>

25

26 The advent of newcomers always means a shift in the Nursery sleeping
... arrangements, which is never popular, with those having to be moved
... having to be physically pushed into their new quarters amidst loud
... protesting bellows! The Nursery elephants enjoy a fixed routine, and do
... not take kindly to any changes in that routine!

27

28 Concern over the health of Kwale continued until the latter part of the
... month, when his appetite appeared more normal and he was livelier.
... Meanwhile, Balguda who according to a blood test, had a bacterial
... infection, made a full recovery after treatment. There has also been
... concern over Ajabu, who managed to push out a second molar, though not
... without the usual teething problems that seem to beset our Nursery infant
... elephants during the teething process. Sonje loves little Ajabu,
... remaining close to her when she is not quite herself, obviously
... empathizing with her situation.

29

30 Cold and cloudy conditions have prevailed, which has not been conducive
... to wallowing during the Open Mudbath Hour, but the odd sunny day is
... always celebrated by the orphans, who mark it by exuberantly rushing
... around trumpeting and knocking down small shrubs. Bush-bashing is also
... used as a display of threat to unwanted intruders, which, this month,
... happened to be a bushbuck who ran through the herd, triggering mass
... panic.

31

32 July coincides with the Mara wildebeest migration when people come from
... all corners of the world come to witness this amazing spectacle, most of
... whom also schedule a visit to the Orphaned Elephants between 11 a.m. and
... 12 noon when the orphans come back to the compound for their midday milk
... feed and a mudbath, weather permitting. At such times mischievous
... little boys such as Kithaka, Barsilinga, Balguda and Lemoyian (led by
... Kithaka) can be counted upon to entertain the crowd, either through a
... game of football, or else running along the cordon that separates the
... visitors from the elephants, playfully bumping humans as they go and
... smearing a muddy trunk in passing. The laughter of the crowd excites
... the babies, who enjoy all the attention this creates! Meanwhile Senior

32... girls such as Kihari, Ishaq-B, Naipoki, Sonje and Murera have their work
... cut out keeping order amongst pushy and greedy newcomers who tend to try
... and hijack one another's milk ration. This always triggers rowdy
... protesting bellows, and some such as Ngasha even begin protesting before
... reaching their milk ration!

33
34 Orwa, the biggest Nursery boy, enjoys wrestling with Bomani, Faraja and
... Jasiri and sometimes Teleki, all of whom are older than Kithaka's Junior
... Boys' gang. Kithaka is at last growing apace, catching up with his
... peers, having remained a miniature for a long time. However, according
... to the Keepers, because he has been so much smaller than the others, he
... has the "Little Man" pushy attention seeking syndrome and when grown is
... bound to be a force to be reckoned with.

35
36 Murera is a very independent character, who often takes to travelling on
... her own, sometimes with Sonje in tow. This month she has been bringing
... herself back to the Stockades ahead of time to ensure that she is first
... to get her milk.

37

38

39 THE RHINOS

40

41 Solio is also becoming much more independent, obviously now comfortable
... that she has been accepted by the wild rhino community through scent as
... an integral member of their population. On three occasions she has been
... absent for several days at a time, but we take our cue from Maxwell, who
... accurately anticipates each return by rushing around his Stockade
... excitedly, eager for the invariable Pushing tussle through the separating
... poles of their two Stockades. Solio always indulges Maxwell, something
... he relishes and eagerly anticipates. We are convinced that should
... misfortune befall her, Max;'s reaction would alert us, since he went into
... a decline when Shida was moved to the Tsavo West Sanctuary. Like
... elephants, rhinos have incredible perceptive abilities that defy human
... explanation!

42

43

44 THE ITHUMBA UNIT

45

46 At Ithumba the advancing dry season meant that increasing numbers of wild
... elephants returned to drink at both the Stockade water trough and also at

46... the mudbath trough in droves on a daily basis, among them the Ex Orphans,
... usually accompanied by wild friends. Old friends such as - "Mshale",
... (whose life the KWS/DSWT Mobile Veterinary Unit has saved on two
... occasions by extracting several poisoned arrows from his body); the
... Orphans first Big Wild Bull friend named "Rafiki", and others so familiar
... that they have been given names - "Half Trunk", "Pembe Moja" and
... Yatta's wild recruits, "Mgeni" and "Kijana".

47
48 On the 27th Mulika, accompanied by some of the Ex Orphans and 2 wild
... friends arrived in a rush to snatch a quick drink. All were visibly
... nervous, and soon left again but the Keepers noticed that Mulika had what
... looked liked a shallow nick on her belly which they thought could have
... been caused either by a stick or an arrow that missed its mark.
... However, the unusual behavior of the elephants plus the fact that no wild
... elephants turned up to join the Juniors at the mudbath that day,
... indicated that all was not well. The matter was reported to us (who
... were in Tsavo at the time) and thereafter relayed to the KWS authorities,
... with a request that more Rangers be assigned to Ithumba to try and root
... out any poisoned arrow poachers that might have infiltrated the area. An
... anti poaching campaign is taking place there at this time working hard to
... flush out the poisoned arrow poachers who target the drying watering
... points throughout this vast landscape.

49
50 The very next day Among the Ex Orphans that came to drink at the
... Stockades was Challa with a poisoned arrow sticking out of his face.
... The Keepers were able to extract the shaft, but the arrow head remained
... imbedded. The KWS Vet attached to the Trust's Mobile Veterinary Unit,
... who was busy removing snares and arrows from other injured elephants
... around Sala and Satao Tourist Camp in southern Tsavo, was summoned, in
... the meantime the Keepers having enclosed both Challa and Mulika in one of
... the Stockades so that they would be at hand when the Vet arrived. Both
... elephants were then immobilized and the arrowhead extracted from Challa's
... face, before the Vet turned his attention to the wound on Mulika's belly.
... On closer inspection, this proved far more problematical, since an arrow,
... obviously fired from close quarters, had penetrated deep inside her body,
... and was still embedded having bounced off a rib.. After the wounds of
... both elephants had been thoroughly cleaned and dressed, both were revived
... after injectible long acting antibiotic to aid healing. They left to
... rejoin their Ex Orphan peers and were seen amongst the main group
... subsequently, Mulika with a swelling underneath her stomach which the Vet

50... feels might have to be drained at a later date. In the meantime she,
... and her 8 month old calf, Mwende, again enjoying extra supplements
... provided for them whenever they return to drink at the Stockade compound
... so that the condition of the calf can be monitored in case the milk bar
... has been compromised, and the swelling on Mulika's body monitored.

51
52 With the Ex Orphans and wild elephants coming to drink at the Stockade
... compound and at the mudbath daily, the Keeper Dependent Juniors have had
... a great deal of exposure to their wild kin, and have many friends among
... them, including the big Bulls whose company the Junior Boys thoroughly
... enjoy. This month members of the Keeper Dependent Juniors have been
... "snatched" by the Ex Orphans to experience a trial wild "outing". Melia,
... Suguta, Sabachi, Kitirua, Tumaren, Chaimu and Olare were hijacked on
... their way to the mudbath venue on the 19th, leaving Shukuru to assume
... leadership of the Junior Group who met up with Mshale and his friends
... upon arrival at the mudbath. The hijacked Juniors were brought back to
... the Stockades that evening by the Ex Orphans to rejoin their peers.
... Next it was the turn of Kandechea, followed by Kilaguni, both of whom
... enjoyed wild time out, and who likewise were returned to the Stockades in
... the late afternoon! Lualeni has, as usual, often peeled off from
... Yatta's main group in order to join the Juniors either out in the bush,
... or at their mudbath, often sometimes spending the entire day with them,
... and even on one occasion, accompanied by Kamboyo spending the night
... sleeping close to the Stockades in order to be with the Youngsters as
... soon as they emerged the next morning. Big Ex Orphan boys such as
... Napasha and Buchuma have been fraternizing with the Big Wild Bulls,
... Napasha definitely at an age when he feels it is time to leave the female
... unit and become a real wild Bull Elephant. It has certainly been an
... action-packed month for the Ithumba Orphans and their Keepers, and an
... anxious one at that in view of what is now going on in Tsavo.

53
54
55 THE VOI UNIT
56
57 "Mbirikani", the Chyulu orphan who was brought in at the end of last
... month with a hugely swollen front leg due to a cable snare that had cut
... through to the bone. This was removed in situ before the calf was
... brought in. She would have stood no chance so severely compromised in a
... wild situation, besides which the injury was so severe that it would need
... further attention from time to time for the baby to have any chance of a

57... full recovery. She responded well to captivity, and was soon taking
... milk and allowing treatment of the foot. Within just a few days the
... swelling had reduced and she could put a little weight on the foot, so we
... are hopeful of a full recovery in due course.

58
59 The Voi Elephant Keepers were involved in two further rescues during
... July, one a yearling calf from the Taita Ranch abutting the Park, who was
... already too far gone to be able to retrieve, and who died soon after
... arrival, and the other from Lualeni Ranch abutting the Voi - Taveta road
... who was flown to the Nairobi Nursery from the Salt Lick Lodge airfield
... the same day. This female calf, has been named "Vuria" after the
... highest point of the nearby Taita Hills.

60
61 To read more about Vuria's rescue please click on this link:
... https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/orphan_profile.asp?N=295

62
63 We remain extremely concerned about the condition of Shimba. Although
... his lion mauls have now all healed, long months of pain and the
... psychological trauma he endured have taken a heavy toll of his health.
... One ear has been compromised by the skin having grown over the ear hole.
... This ear received severe wounds, since initially the milk he was given
... came out of the ear! During his long convalescence, he had had little
... Panda as a permanent companion, who used to be a sickly elephant, but who
... has now blossomed into a picture of elephant health. Both browse closer
... to home, and due to the proximity of lions this month, have had to be
... overseen by a Keeper in case Shimba, in his weakened condition, again
... becomes a target for the lions. When Lesanju and the older orphans
... browse the lower slopes of Mazinga Hill, Shimba and Panda sometimes join
... them, but as the dry season tightened its grip as the month progressed,
... the older orphans have had to seek fodder further afield, often to the
... west and east of the hill, and sometimes even up it where succulents grow
... from the runoff from rocks. Junior boys such as Tassia, Mzima and Taveta
... often choose to climb to the top of the hill, and on one occasion did not
... come down until the late evening. On other occasions Lesanju waits at
... the base to collect them, and escort them to join the others at the
... mudbath venue.

64
65 Most of the wild herds who were in the area last month, have now moved
... further afield in search of pasture, so this month the Voi Juniors have
... only fraternized with one friendly wild herd they encountered on the way

65... to the Big Waterhole mudbath venue this month. Sinya was obsessed by a
... tiny wild calf with whom she played, unhindered by the mother. The
... Juniors were within sight of another wild herd on another occasion this
... month, but none decided to make contact with them, which was unusual for
... the Junior boys who are always first to introduce themselves to wild
... neighbours, ever eager to engage wild age-mates in boys' wrestling bouts.

66

67 The Trust tractor and water bowser have had to bring water to the main
... mudbath waterhole this month, as well as to the other two artificial mud
... wallows the orphans sometimes utilize out in the main Park. At noon the
... drinking bins are also filled, something to which the wild elephants have
... become accustomed, so a Keeper has to keep vigil to ensure that the
... orphans enjoy a drink at noon as soon as they arrive, otherwise the bins
... are rapidly emptied by waiting wild elephants who home in as soon as the
... tractor leaves! As water becomes scarce, so the wild elephants become
... possessive of what little is left, so the presence of the Keepers keeps
... them at bay until our elephants have had their fill.

68

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

70

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

72

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

74

75 We thank you for your valued support.

76

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

78 [https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/foster.asp?xgin=hjhfcuajfdbce-](https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/foster.asp?xgin=hjhfcuajfdbce-ab)
... [ab](https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/foster.asp?xgin=hjhfcuajfdbce-ab)

79

80 Most Sincerely,

81

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

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

84