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3 Dear NCSG,

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5 Please find the May 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.

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

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10 The Nursery

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12 The death of 4 year old Tano on the 11th was a bitter blow for us all,
... elephants included, for she was a well loved family member whose slow
... deterioration had been painful to witness. Despite our best efforts,
... including those of a full time Veterinarian, all we did to try and help
... her proved to no avail. The posts-mortem after death revealed that
... there was nothing we could have done to save her for she had a bone
... marrow malfunction. The only possible cure would have been bone marrow
... transplant which, of course, is not possible for an elephant.

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14 To read about Tano in more detail please click this link:
... <http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?Rhino=&ID=527>

15

16 The 29th brought us the 23rd member of the Nursery herd, a yearling
... female orphan from the Aruba area of Tsavo East National Park. Named
... "Arruba" she arrived in reasonable shape, but proved fiercely aggressive,
... and difficult to calm. It would take the next five days to persuade her
... to accept milk, let alone tolerate the presence of a Keeper. Thankfully
... by the end of the first week of June she had settled sufficiently to be
... allowed out and about with the others.

17

18 Although Murera, is the oldest female in the Nursery herd, she has been
... reluctant to assume the Matriarchal mantle, probably because she has been
... left compromised with a stiff back leg - the legacy of the evil Ivory
... Trade that left her crippled in Meru National Park, alone and simply

18... awaiting death. However, she nurtured her natural elephant caring by
... spending quality time loving baby Ajabu this month. Sonje has likewise
... been left compromised by Poachers, also with a stiff back leg due to a
... knee injury, a suspected bullet wounds, but she assists Kihari with the
... younger orphans, Kihari now being the main Matriarch of the Nursery herd.
... Although Murera and Sonje are best friends, who shared the Stockade
... recently vacated by Turkwel and Kainuk, they have had to be separated
... again because Murera becomes "pushy" and gives Sonje a hard time at milk
... feeding times. Therefore Sonje and Murera have returned to their
... original night quarters abutting Maxwell's enclosure, a move that was
... welcomed by Max who had obviously missed an elephant neighbour.

19
20 Kihari, enjoys the support of Ishaq-B as well as Sonje in overseeing the
... smaller members of the herd, something that has put Naipoki's nose out of
... joint, since she also harboured aspirations for the Matriarchal role!
... Her resentment has resulted in impatience towards the babies, which is
... uncharacteristic! Rivalry over leadership in the Nursery is not quite
... as straightforward as it would be in a natural situation where 5 years
... differentiate the age of siblings.

21
22 It has been extremely rewarding to watch the recovery of "albino" Jasiri
... who has been regaining strength on an almost daily basis having been
... literally snatched from the jaws of death. He and Faraja are best
... friends, and possibly even half brothers who could have known one
... another when living wild. Both are still somewhat wary of human company
... but not so miracle "Tundani" who was accepting and loving towards the
... Keepers from the moment he was rescued, suckling their fingers
... trustingly! He was quite obviously familiar with both the Ex Orphans
... and those Keeper Dependent and been a previous visitor to the Ithumba
... Stockade water trough with his mother and wild family before being
... orphaned. There he would have observed the love all the orphans have
... for their human family. Even at the Nursery his affection for the human
... Keepers surpasses even that for the other elephants! The behaviour of
... this yearling orphan is unique, evidence again of the superior intellect
... of a one year old elephant as compared to its human counterpart of the
... same age!

23
24 Small boys Kithaka, Lemoyian and Barsilinga are seldom apart, often
... sneaking off from the females to indulge their favourite pastime of
... Strength Testing without interruption with Bomani assuming the role of

24... mentor and tutor of Pushing tactics. Little Lemoyian, although the
... youngest of the three usually emerges the winner and is no push-over!
... Big Boys Orwa and Teleki regularly take on each other, but enjoy a close
... friendship and deep respect of one another as well. Orwa enjoys the
... role of "Protector" and "Escort" choosing to walk well behind the others
... as they head back home in the evenings.

25
26 Kithaka is now over a year old, but still minute for his age. He
... displayed touching male compassion by spending an entire morning with the
... Nursery's smallest baby, two month old Ajabu. We dread the onset of
... teething which always causes upsets! Quanza and Narok who are night
... neighbours, are close friends, both still wary of human contact, while
... Larigai and Limalima, also close friends, are rowdily greedy. They yell
... when rushing for milk feeds and yell when the bottles have been drained!
... Not so Kwale who has become "choosey" over some of his milk feeds this
... month, triggering anxiety and the need for blood tests. He, Balguda
... and Ngasha are the trio who ganged up to tease Jasiri when he was weak,
... but are now thinking twice about it! So they should, because Jasiri
... will undoubtedly soon be able to settle the score with interest, because
... Elephants Never Forget! The unfolding dynamics of the Nursery elephants
... are a source of enduring interest and illustrate time and again the very
... "human" nature of elephants.

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30 The Rhinos

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32 Solio is becoming ever more independent. It is now not unusual for her
... to spend several consecutive nights out but there was concern when
... several turned into five full nights away this month. Eventually she
... came back in the dead of night, early warning of her approach given by
... Max who began rushing excitedly around his Enclosure with tail aloft!
... On this occasion Solio was too tired to indulge him with their usual
... sparring game until the morning, after which she hung around his Stockade
... for a while before heading out again. Solio has been spotted late at
... night lieing up close to Maxwell's stockade against one of his side
... doors, far from her own stockade, just to be close and to keep him
... company.

33

34 Max flourishes, and because, being blind, he can never be a free agent,

34... he is indulged by being allowed human treats on a daily basis. These
... include fruits, some treats from the kitchen and of course the favourite
... sugar-cane. A tap on his gate, brings him close, when he opens his
... mouth so that the treat can be tossed in and savoured for as long as
... possible!

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38 The Ithumba Orphans

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40 It was a great relief when Big Ex Orphan Boy, "Napasha" turned up again
... with Yatta's entire herd and 7 wild male friends to join the Juniors at
... their noon mudbath, after having not been seen for over a month. That
... afternoon he and all his peers spent time browsing amongst the Juniors on
... the slopes of Ithumba Hill. He came with his Bull friends to the
... Stockades again the next day, having again separated from Yatta's group.
... He has continued to visit the stockade in the company of his big wild
... bull companions ever since.

41

42 We have all been feeling very sorry for poor Wendi, who has been pursued
... relentlessly by wild suitors this month, something she has obviously not
... enjoyed, because she has proved most uncooperative. In fact, she was
... so visibly exhausted after a hectic night that she took the opportunity
... of a quick nap beside the vehicle, with faithful Lualeni and Rapsu by her
... side. Thereafter she was spotted several times on subsequent days being
... pursued by different wild Bulls, including the Orphans first Wild Big
... Bull friend named "Rafiki". On each occasion Wendi was bent only on
... escape in what the Keepers describe as an endless game of Hide and Seek,
... doing her best to off-load the Boyfriends! She was at the Stockade
... Gates awaiting the emergence of the Juniors on the 16th, when brave
... little Kanjoro picked up the fact that her Pursuer of the day was not
... welcome. The moment he was let out he charged the wild bull several
... times until warned off with a ferocious stare, a gruff rumble and
... outspread ears! Wisely he then thought better of it and embarked on a
... Bush-Bashing and trumpeting session instead to vent disapproval of the
... visitor, while Wendi did her best to hide behind the Keepers and other
... Orphans. When Wendi came in amongst the entire Ex Orphan herd on the
... 23rd, things seemed to have returned to normal, for she was more relaxed!
... Whether or not she has been successfully mated is not known so we will
... simply have to wait and see!

43
44 The Keeper Dependent Juniors have seen a lot of Yatta's Ex Orphan herd
... this month, sometimes together as one big herd, and at other times in
... Splinter Units. Ex Orphan Bulls, are becoming more independent of the
... female herd, especially Rapsu who often acts as the escort for Lualeni
... who joins the Juniors more often than others. It would appear normal
... for one or several of the Ex Orphan Bulls to act as an escort for the
... females when they choose to peel off from the main herd, but what is also
... evident is that they all meet up again later at a predetermined point out
... in the bush. Rapsu, Buchuma, Challa and Kamboyo all act as male
... escorts when needed. The Juniors have also enjoyed the company of many
... wild elephants who come to drink from the Stockade trough now that the
... natural waterholes are beginning to dry up. Friendly Wild Bulls
... familiar with the Stockade routine even sometimes meet the Youngsters out
... in the bush, and spend time browsing in amongst them, or join them at
... their noon mudbath. The Keepers were heartened to see the huge tailless
... Bull the have named "Big Kilaguni" again when he visited the Stockades
... this month, since he had not been seen for over a year. Rafiki has
... been a more frequent visitor, either coming with wild male friends, or in
... amongst Yatta's Ex Orphan herd.

45
46 The most recent additions to the Ithumba Keeper Dependent unit, namely
... Makireti, Kilabasi, Kanjoro, Mutara, Shukuru, Turkwel, Kainuk and Sities
... are all happily settled at Ithumbal, Mutara, Shukuru and even Sities
... sufficiently familiar to lead the way out to browse, or to and from the
... noon mudbath, as well as back to the Stockades in the evening. Suguta
... is the main Junior Matriarch, ably assisted by Chaimu, Tumaren, Murka,
... Naisula, Olare, Melia, Kitirua and Ishanga, so she has no shortage of
... Helpers. Junior boys indulge their favourite pastime of Strength
... Testing, Kilaguni often engaging either Kandecha, Sabachi or Ololoo,
... while Chemi Chemi has been trying his luck on some of the big girls.
... It has been an action packed month for the Ithumba Orphans, those still
... Keeper Dependent now numbering 24 out of which about 8 are still milk
... dependent. Living wild as Yatta's unit are a further 25 Ex Orphans,
... Yatta and Mulika with their own first wild-born baby, "Yetu" and
... "Mwende".

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50 The Voi Unit

51
52 It has also been an action-packed month for the Voi Unit Keeper Dependent
... Orphans who have enjoyed a great deal of attention from Emily's Ex Orphan
... herd. They have been turning up almost every day, either all together
... or in Sprinter Groups, often to partake of the Juniors' supplementary
... morning hand-out. Back amongst them is Ndara, now healed from the
... poisoned arrow wounds that left her an invalid at the Stockades for many
... months. Shimba is still convalescing from his lion mauling, but his
... wounds are clean and healing well, although it would appear that the
... earhole on the damaged ear has closed, something that may need surgical
... intervention later. Ex Orphan Big Boy Lolokwe, as well as females
... Icholta, Mweya, Thoma, and Sweet Sally have all been diligent about
... coming to check on Shimba regularly, seeking him and Panda out straight
... after arrival. Panda, the "baby" of the Keeper Dependent Orphans, who
... has never been a robust calf, normally feeds around the compound in the
... company of "Lualeni" her little zebra orphan friend, rather than
... accompany the others further afield. Since Shimba's lion encounter, she
... has formed a close bond of friendship with him, and along with him is
... also sought out for "loving" and attempted "snatching" by the Ex Orphan
... females. Shimba and Panda, along with the smaller elephants of the
... Junior Group are fed their supplements apart from the older members of
... the herd, who tend to become "pushy" at such times. It is impressive
... that a frail human can control a bunch of greedy elephants just with tone
... of voice and by wagging a finger!

53
54 To view a film update on Shimba click this link:
... <http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?ID=531>

55
56 Lesanju is never happy to "share" her Junior family with either the Ex
... Orphans, or visiting wild elephants, eager always to try and steer her
... group away if she possibly can. When other wild herds are browsing
... around Mazinga Hill, she takes her herd high up the hill to feed, and
... when she spots the approach of the Ex Orphans, she employs evasive
... tactics as well, fearful that she may lose one of her group to them.
... That said the Juniors enjoyed the company of a friendly wild herd on
... several occasions this month, so much so that they were reluctant to
... return even for their evening milk, until darkness set in.

57
58 Of all the Ex Orphans, Icholta enjoys being with the Juniors most,
... peeling off from Emily's unit ahead of the others to spend quality time

58... alone with them. The Ex Orphans are often accompanied by wild Bulls,
... some of whom are familiar with the goings on, and others who are not.
... One visiting wild Bull paid particular attention to Edie's calf, laying
... his huge trunk lovingly across little Ella's back while Sweet Sally
... brought a Boyfriend along one day, who paced up and down at a safe
... distance from the Keepers awaiting her return. However, he was
... nevertheless visibly fascinated and puzzled by the friendship and trust
... offered to the human "Enemy" by his Ex Orphan friends! All Bull
... elephants are also extremely caring of the young, Irima, like a female
... "Nannie" helping Sweet Sally as she tried to prevent Emily's baby Eve
... from again jumping into the Stockade waterhole, something she did the day
... she was first brought back as a newborn to meet the Keepers!

59
60 Whilst Lesanju is the main Junior Matriarch, she is ably assisted by the
... other Big Girls, Lempaute and Sinya, and, of course, Wasessa who is the
... largest of the females and a respected Player. Originally Tassia was
... Wasessa's chosen favourite but became eclipsed by Emsaya, who joined the
... wild herd with whom the orphans fled during the scary thunderstorm a
... month or two ago. Tassia is now back in the fold as Wasessa's special
... calf, and obviously enjoying being so as well! Voi Unit Junior boys
... often choose to Strength Test away from the females who are intolerant of
... rough play, so on the 15th Rombo and Dabassa engaged one another
... sheltering behind a huge Boulder. However, their match was interrupted,
... not by the females, but by a piercing elephant scream that sent them
... fleeing in fear until they understood the origin ^ Taveta being pursued
... by Wasessa having "pushed" her favourite, Tassia! The biggest Boy of the
... Junior Group is Mzima, who has been restless this month missing the
... competition of his best friend Shimba, who with head wounds is in no mood
... for a Pushing Contest! Therefore Mzima has to try and source wild
... age-mates against whom to wrestle, and that is not popular with Lesanju
... and the other Big Girls.

61
62 To view a recent film about the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Voi Unit
... please click this link:
... <http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/updates/updates.asp?ID=532>

63
64 With the onset of the dry season, and the natural waterholes drying up,
... once again the Voi Orphans will be faced with the challenge of finding
... sufficient fodder within range of the Stockades. And the Ex Orphans
... will go further afield with their wild friends, where they too will face

64... challenges of a different nature. No elephant, or rhino, is safe these
... days, irrespective of location, due to the appetite for ivory in China
... and the Far East.

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

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

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

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72 We thank you for your valued support.

73

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

75 <https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/foster.asp?xgin=hjhfcuhabchgj>

76

77 Most Sincerely,

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

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

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