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2 Dear NCSG,

3
4 On Tuesday 28th May 2013 a young female elephant calf was sighted by a
... maintenance team of the Kenya Wildlife Service who were erecting a new
... electric fence within the vicinity of Aruba Dam in Tsavo East. The
... elephant calf was reported as being clearly alone and desperate and due
... to the new fence, the baby was trapped and confused. The new fence has
... only one single gate entry into the fenced off area, which has been
... designated by the KWS for research purposes, located 2kms from the
... central Aruba Dam.

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6 The period the calf had been trapped within the fenced area is unknown as
... is the fate of the calf's mother and herd. It is suspected that the calf
... and it's mother might have strayed into the new fenced area and the
... mother somehow lost the calf on exiting the enclosure and was unable to
... find her way back in to rescue her baby. Another possibility is that the
... calf is an ivory-orphan, as eight elephants were brutally poached near
... Ndara recently.

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8 The presence of the calf was reported to the David Sheldrick Wildlife
... Trust's Voi Stockades in Tsavo East on the afternoon of the 28th of May
... by the Kenya Wildlife Service. The head Keeper of the Voi Stockades
... contacted the DSWT Nairobi HQ that afternoon to make the arrangements for
... a rescue plane from Nairobi the following morning as darkness was already
... setting in.

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10 So the new calf, who has been estimated at eight months of age, put up a
... huge fight when the Voi Keepers arrived at the scene at Aruba, escaping
... their attempts at rescuing her and reacting extremely aggressively to
... their presence. Yet the Keepers eventually succeeded in capturing her
... and loaded her into the waiting vehicle to be transported back to the Voi
... Stockades.

11
12 On arrival at the Voi Stockades, the calf began to settle down and
... thankfully drank from a bottle of milk, being very dehydrated, as there
... was no access to water within the fenced area where she was found. Apart
... from a few bruises and minor abrasions the calf was in very good
... condition, strong with a very healthy weight.

13

14 The presence of the other orphans at the Voi Stockades was a huge comfort
... to the new arrival who desperately needed love and reassurance. Shimba,
... who is recovering remarkably from his lion attack, was a great help in
... getting the calf settled down, stretching his trunk through the stockade
... fence to offer affection and encouragement.

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16 In Nairobi on the morning of the 29th the Rescue team and plane were
... ready to depart on their mission having been briefed the previous
... evening. Three of the Nairobi Keepers set off to Nairobi's domestic
... airport at 9am to catch the rescue plane to Voi in Tsavo East where the
... Voi Keepers were preparing the calf for her plane journey to Kenya's
... capital city.

17
18 After a smooth flight revealing clear views of Mount Kilimanjaro, the
... Chyulu Hills and the great expanse of Tsavo, the plane landed on Voi's
... airstrip, which is located only a few kilometres from the Voi Stockades.
... On arrival at the stockades it was obvious that the orphan was going to
... be a handful to capture as she was still reacting aggressively towards
... everyone, possibly she had become more agitated as the other Voi orphans
... had left the stockades for the day to browse in the surrounding bush.
... Those who were still present to keep a careful eye on the new baby
... included some of Voi's big ex-orphans including Emily, Lolokwe and
... Icholta.

19
20 The entire stockade's workforce and the Nairobi Keepers were all needed
... to help to get the new arrival down to the ground in order to brace her
... legs and keep her safe and secure during the flight. With all hands on
... deck the calf showed huge amounts of strength in managing to evade being
... taken down, yet after a few minutes she tired and succumbed to her
... keepers , whilst ex-orphan Emily bellowed and stomped around the
... stockades trying to get close to help the baby, worrying what was
... happening to her.

21
22 At an estimated year old the calf was quite a weight and again all hands
... were needed to lift her into the waiting vehicle and to get her to the
... airstrip. The transfer went smoothly and within half an hour the calf
... was being lifted into the plane, strapped securely inside with a drip to
... ensure she stayed hydrated during the flight.

23
24 Saying farewell to all of the Voi staff the Nairobi Keepers climbed into

24... the plane alongside the calf, keeping her reassured and making sure she
... was as comfortable as possible during the journey. The orphan gave into
... exhaustion during the flight and fell into a peaceful sleep, awoken when
... the plane arrived back in Nairobi.

25

26 A DSWT vehicle was waiting at the airstrip and the calf was soon on her
... way to the DSWT Nairobi Nursery in Nairobi National Park. At 2.30pm the
... calf had finally reached her final destination and was carried into her
... stockade. After untying her, the Nairobi Keepers carefully lifted off
... the blanket covering her face, which was keeping her quiet and calm, and
... helped her up. Unsteady on her feet she dazedly stood in the shade of
... her stockade eyeing the humans surrounding her warily yet being too tired
... to fight them off, hopefully she knew she was in a safe place with caring
... people to look after her.

27

28 This calf was lucky to have been found alive and well as the area in
... which she was sighted is a favourite place for the lions of Tsavo who
... prowl the area at night, she would have also have faced the dangerous
... challenge of water as she couldn't have had any way to access it during
... the time she spent trapped by the fence.

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31 To view the film and more photographs from Arruba's rescue please click
... this link: www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/orphan_profile.asp?N=292

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33 To foster Arruba please click this link:
... [www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/foster.asp?nn=1&G=&LP=6122013516-pic7a
... .jpg&addn=292&N=292&FN=ARRUBA](http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/foster.asp?nn=1&G=&LP=6122013516-pic7a.jpg&addn=292&N=292&FN=ARRUBA)

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35 To make a donation to The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust please click
... this link: www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/is/donate_now.asp

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39 Most Sincerely,

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

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

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