

9/24/2017 11:07:18 PM

Dear NCSG,

Family is everything to elephants, which is why our ground teams work hard every day to keep wild herds together. Whether it's undertaking patrols to deter poachers, removing deadly snares or moving elephants out of harm's way, off farmers land and back into the protected Parks, there's little our teams won't do. Last month, our teams even got knee-deep in mud to help free a calf who had been stuck for hours and successfully reunited him with his worried mum! You can read this dramatic story with a happy ending here: www.thedswt.org/stuck-in-mud

Some calves, however, aren't quite so lucky but through the support of our foster family, we are currently offering 85 milk dependent orphaned elephants the love of a new family and a long and healthy future back in the wild through our Orphans' Project. It's a long journey, one that can span up to 10 years, and one we couldn't undertake without your help.

Below in our overview we briefly touch on the monthly goings-on at our Nursery and three Reintegration Units during August. To read about your specific FOSTERED ORPHAN in more detail and view their pictures, please click the link at the bottom of this email which will take you to our Keepers' Diaries, written by our Keepers at each Unit.

You can also keep up to date with more news and images from the DSWT throughout the month by following us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/thedswt, Instagram: www.instagram.com/dswt/ and Twitter: www.twitter.com/DSWT.

Nairobi Nursery

Friendships formed after hardships in life can make all the difference and, at our Nursery in Nairobi, orphaned elephants come together to heal, supported by their new human family. Little Musiara's blossoming bond with older Luggard is especially touching to watch, refusing to leave the stockades in the morning without his older friend, even knocking on Luggard's door to get his attention and let him know it's time to leave. Both are easy-going characters who prefer to play gentler games, especially Luggard who continues to walk with a slight limp after he was shot in the knee and foot in a case of human-wildlife conflict before his rescue in 2016.

Other friendships, on the other hand, are born out of a mutual love of creating mischief! Whilst Rapa and Sana Sana have mastered the art of digging for tasty roots, Murit, Tagwa and Malkia have discovered instead that it's easier to watch and wait, before diving in and taking the prize for themselves, much to the fury of others. The terrible twosome, Kuishi and Esampu, had great fun last month too, working together to spill all the water from the trough before kicking it about like a football. Their antics meant everyone else had to wait for their fun and games to end and for the trough to be refilled before they could have a drink.

One thing that is guaranteed to unite our diverse herd though is taking defensive action against the family of warthogs that have made the Nursery stockade area their home in an attempt to avoid falling prey to the Park's resident lions. Whilst interspecies friendships are fairly common at our Nursery, the elephant orphans rarely welcome the company of these wild pigs and like to chase them away at every given opportunity, especially when they try to eat the orphans precious Lucerne pellets. Even Mbegu, Kauro, Ndotto, Lasayen, Pare, Tagwa, Musiara, Rapa and tiny Sattao have each taken a turn at charging at them! Sattao,

who is generally a shy little boy, has been in our care since March, when he was rescued at a tender few weeks of age. Though he still has a long road ahead of him, we were delighted this month to welcome him to our foster rota. You can read his story so far at:

www.thedswt.org/sattao

Read about the specific activities of your fostered orphan here: www.thedswt.org/keepers-diaries

Ithumba Reintegration Unit

This month we welcomed Dupotto and Karisa back into the fold, both in good health and no worse for wear after their two month hiatus when they went walkabout in the Park. After a long and exhaustive search, Dupotto was rescued first and brought back to the Stockades, requiring a herculean effort by all concerned, whilst Karisa surprised us all a few days later when he marched right up to the Keepers while at the midday mudbath waterhole, escorted by the Ex Orphans, downed three bottles of milk and generally behaved like he had never left! With these two back with the herd, we are pleased to let you know that all three truants are now safe with Kelelari happy to remain with his wild friends for the time being, although we are half expecting him to arrive any day now too. To read the full story of our reunion with Dupotto and Karisa, visit: www.thedswt.org/reunion

Throughout the month, all the Ex Orphans also paid us a visit including Tomboi, Buchuma and Madiba, as well as Yatta's herd and Galana and Wendi with their respective calves. Everyone looked in good shape although Tumaren's return was cause for concern when she walked into the Stockades with a loose snare caught around her hind leg. Thankfully, the snare had not caused any damage and was immediately and easily removed by the Keepers. Brave Tumaren has come such a long way since her rescue in 2008 when she was just 10-months-old, after she was found with her dying mother who we suspect had been poisoned. You can read her story and journey here: www.thedswt.org/tumaren

Having recently taken the final step to becoming fully independent wild elephants, Orwa, Bomani, Vuria and Bongo also sought to recruit Barsilinga, Lemoyian and Laragai to their group in August, snatching the trio just before they were due to head home. As these three aren't yet ready to face a night out on their own, the Keepers brought them back to join their dependent friends; their first wild sleepover will have to wait a little longer!

To find out who's been trying to outwit the Keepers during feeding time, as well as the specific activities of your fostered orphan, visit: www.thedswt.org/keepers-diaries

Voi Reintegration Unit

Our Voi Reintegration Unit has seen some big changes over the past few months as we upgrade the Stockades and surrounding areas, all the while ensuring the work doesn't disrupt the orphans' daily routine. Last month, the dependent herd finally saw the fruits of our labour for the first time, visiting the new water hole and giving their new play area a big 'trunks' up!

With the mercury rising, the new water hole couldn't have been finished at a better time and has become the place to be with Ndi, Naipoki, Makareti, Ishaq-B and Embu often the last to leave, making the most of the cooling muddy water, which also serves to protect their skin and remove any insects. One day Araba was so hot she even sought shelter under matriarch Kenia's ear! To see pictures of the new water trough, and to find out what else our field teams have been busy getting up to over the past month, visit:

www.thedswt.org/week-in-tsavo

Our newly built troughs at the Stockade have also gone down well and are filled every day with supplements including lucerne grass and copra cake, which provide vital protein and fats during this very dry season. Voi and the southern area of the Tsavo East National Park in particular has seen much less rainfall than in other areas and the browse is fast drying out, making our Water Projects in this region more vital than ever. To find out how we're providing water in Tsavo, from our boreholes to our bowsers, visit:

www.thedswt.org/conservation

With 22 milk dependents in our care at Voi, plus plenty of visiting Ex Orphans, you can read about the specific activities of your fostered orphan, here: www.thedswt.org/keepers-diaries

Umani Springs Reintegration Unit

At our Umani Unit, our Keepers watch over the 11-strong herd with the help of older orphans Murera and Sonje who help ensure everyone feels happy, secure and comforted. As the first to graduate to the Unit back in 2014, Murera and Sonje are the oldest and biggest orphans at Umani and frequently lead the group to browse, offer rumbles of encouragement even helping to pull down branches so their younger friends can enjoy the tasty treats the trees have to offer.

Younger bulls Mwashoti and Alamaya meanwhile have called Umani Springs home for just over a year and in that time, it's been wonderful to watch them both grow in stature and personality. Alamaya in particular can now pick up his own milk bottle whilst, early in the month, Mwashoti felt brave enough to take on a troop of baboons, trumpeting away as he chased them. One day, these two boys could reach the dizzying heights of some of the huge wild bulls that have been visiting recently - in fact, one was so big that the orphans didn't dare share the mud bath with him for fear of being knocked over.

Older bull Ziwa, in the meantime, has decided he's old enough to test the boundaries in behaviour typical of young bulls, although older girls Zongoloni, Quanza, Murera or Sonje are quick to remind him when he goes too far. Despite thinking he's a big boy however, Ziwa is only five years old and still needs the security of his human family - a fact that was perfectly demonstrated when a monitor lizard ran across his feet and gave him such a fright he screamed for help and needed reassurance from the Keepers! To see how far Ziwa's come since his heart breaking rescue back in 2014, when he was found bravely protecting his dying mother who had collapsed in a water hole, visit: www.thedswt.org/ziwa

To catch up with the orphans' recent interactions with wild elephants and read about the specific activities of your fostered orphan, visit: www.thedswt.org/keepers-diaries

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

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

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

We thank you for your valued support.

If you wish to renew or add an additional donation to your fostering of (TURKWEL), please

use this link below:

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

Most Sincerely,

Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick D.B.E.

<http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org>

—Watercolour by Angela Sheldrick August 2017.jpg

