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Dear NCSG,

>From orphan rescues to transporting thousands of litres of water a day to our water holes, our field teams have been working non-stop to mitigate the effects of drought as it begins to bite hard in the Tsavo Conservation Area. It's through your donations that we can provide these lifelines; fuelling our vehicles that drive the water bowsers, providing nutritious supplements for the orphans and visiting wild elephants and, importantly, funding the many elephant rescues we've undertaken this month as a result of drought casualties.

With many starvation cases unfolding and infant elephants needing our help, milk, IV drips, supplements and Lucerne grass are in high demand across our Units. If you would like to help ensure we can be there for any orphan in need and provide the care they so desperately require, you can make a donation here: www.thedswt.org/donate

Below in our overview we briefly touch on the monthly goings-on at our Nursery and three Reintegration Units during September. 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

This month, five orphaned elephants arrived at our Nursery and it's been remarkable to watch Godoma, Mbegu, Malkia, Tamiyoi and Tagwa, who themselves come from different families from all corners of Kenya, welcome the new arrivals into the herd, having themselves experienced similar heartache. At one point, they were so desperate to greet the newcomers that Malkia, Tagwa and Tamiyoi all tried to squeeze through a stable door at once, frantic to be the first to say hello and give them a trunk hug!

One little bull that adores the attention lavished on him is Maktao, a rambunctious little boy who has been in our care since July, when he was rescued at just three-months-old. A suspected orphan of human-wildlife conflict, he's not afraid to speak his mind and is very vocal when he wants more milk or hugs! You can read his story so far at: www.thedswt.org/maktao

As well as Maktao, we also welcomed Emoli to our foster family, who has undergone a miraculous recovery. Rescued in a state of extreme starvation due to the drought gripping parts of Tsavo, he's been getting stronger day by day, sip by sip, as with starvation cases, milk needs to be introduced slowly to avoid stomach upsets. Watch his dramatic helicopter rescue here: www.thedswt.org/emoli

Despite new arrivals punctuating the month, the day-to-day routine remained the same, with a daily bright and early 6am start. As they wander through the bush during the day, they often come across a host of other wild animals and, last month, they even bumped into wild-living orphaned black rhino Solio which gave Kauro, Rapa, Sana Sana and Ngilai quite a fright. We rescued Solio seven years ago and her successful integration back into Nairobi

National Park's wild rhino population is great news for endangered black rhinos which number just 5,500 in the world. Read her success story here: www.thedswt.org/solio

Despite the fact that much of their day is spent browsing on roots, shoots and leaves and downing two milk bottles every three hours, Ndiwa, Mundusi and Mteto have become impatient of late for their next fill and have cottoned onto short cuts that enable them to reach their 11am milk feed and mud bath ahead of schedule. This trio are certainly keeping our Keepers on their toes and look to be stealing Esampu's crown of chief trouble maker!

After a long day in the forest, the orphans sprint back for their 5pm milk feed at our stockades. Each orphan sleeps in an individual 'bedroom', specially built to keep the infants warm and safe after dark. As well as allowing each infant to get dedicated Keeper care throughout the night, their design allows them to see and reach out to their neighbours if they want to. However, with so many rescues, the babies have been swapping bedrooms to accommodate the new arrivals, although not everyone has been happy with the switch.

To discover if your fostered orphan has had a bedroom-swap, to find out how non-elephant orphans Kiko and Maxwell have been getting on, or to read about the specific activities of your fostered orphan, visit: www.thedswt.org/keepers-diaries

Ithumba Reintegration Unit

At Ithumba, the dependent orphan elephants begin to learn the ways of the wild but, given that elephants eat up to 300kg a day, much of their day is actually spent browsing! When they aren't eating, the orphans can often be found interacting with wild elephants and, in September, we had wild visitors almost every day with up to 100 elephants converging on our water hole which we keep fully topped up. Standing aside for the bowser to fill up the trough, some even ingeniously drank directly from the spout as the water cascaded out!

Leading the dependent orphans is de-facto matriarch Shukuru, although we suspect her herd will soon become a couple of members fewer as Barsilinga and Garzi are showing increasing signs that they are ready to leave their human family and join their wild kin, wandering back much later to the stockade in the evenings. Unlike at our Nursery, the orphans at Ithumba sleep in one compound which can be split into four sections, which offers them a place of safety during the night. It was therefore an especially touching scene when Ex Orphan Kinna took her baby Kama on a tour of the stockade last month, showing her daughter where her home was all those years ago!

Kinna wasn't the only mum to return in September - in fact, all our Ex Orphan mums and their babies (Galana and Gawa, Mulika and Mwende, Yatta and Yetu and Wendi and Wiva), stopped by along with their nannies. Many of these mums were rescued at just weeks of age and hand raised by our Keepers, so its touching to see things have come full circle and that they are now back in the wild, yet choosing to share their new family with us by visiting often.

Mutara, Olare and Narok's Ex Orphan herds also paid us a visit, with wild living Olare celebrating her ninth birthday last month! She's come such a long way since her rescue eight years ago when she was found next to her paralysed and dying mother, who had been shot. Now living wild and leading her own herd, you can read Olare's story and journey here: www.thedswt.org/olare

To find out how former truants Dupotto and Karisa are getting on since their return and

read all of the adventures of the Ithumba orphans, visit: www.thedswt.org/keepers-diaries

Voi Reintegration Unit

Located in the Southern part of Tsavo, our Voi Reintegration Unit is in the thick of the drought conditions and our Keepers were called nearly every other day in September to rescue orphans found wandering alone or collapsed. Several of these desperate babies were too far gone to retrieve, having been without their mother's milk for so long, but those that did pull through have been warmly welcomed into the fold by Suswa, Lentili, Mashakiri, Rorogoi and Mudanda.

With such dry conditions, we have been working hard to ensure the water hole and mud bath are fully topped up at all time so that visiting wild herds can have their fill and Ex Orphans Kivuko, Lempaute, Layoni and Dabassa who remained closer to home this dry season were among those that turned up nearly every day to eat the supplements we have put out or take a cooling dip in the water hole. Ex Orphan Ndara and Lesanju's herd, for the time being, have been staying further afield and as, Ndara is still nursing her calf, Neptune, we delivered lucerne to the area they are in to ensure they remain in a healthy condition. To remind yourself of Neptune's birth, visit: www.thedswt.org/neptune-birth

Meanwhile, it seems the large baobab tree by our new water hole has been deemed the perfect scratching post by the orphans. Almost everyone has enjoyed covering themselves in mud and having a good old scratch on the tree, although poor Rorogoi has taken to being a little cautious around the mud bath area after she was nearly bitten on the tail by Ndoria and, later, was sat on by Ishaq-B whilst frolicking in the water!

To find out who innovatively made their own mud pool this month, as well as the goings-on of your fostered orphan, visit: www.thedswt.org/keepers-diaries

Umani Springs Reintegration Unit

Every morning, the Umani orphans begin their day by devouring their favourite snack, the acacia pods that have fallen to the floor overnight, before leaving the compound for their day's explorations. Though Sonje typically leads the group, with Murera bringing up the rear, this month Mwashoti and Zongoloni took turns to guide the orphans into the lush forest which has plenty of water sources and food.

The forest is also home to lots of other wild animals, most of which aren't too happy to see the orphans! For the orphans' part, sometimes the encounters give them a fright too and it's a reminder that, though they might be growing up, most of them are still babies at heart and need the safety and security of their orphan-human family. As benevolent animals, elephants will always offer a helping trunk to their distressed friends and our older matriarchs will invariably offer comfort to their younger friends whenever they are scared by a falling tree or even a small terapin!

After a few hours of browsing, one of the highlights of the day is the mud bath and Zongoloni, Quanza and Mwashoti all showed off their swimming skills this month, vigorously splashing about and removing all the insects from their skin. It's especially heart-warming to see Zongoloni looking so happy considering the heartache she experienced at such a young age when her mother was fatally shot by ivory poachers. Read her story here: www.thedswt.org/zongoloni

Quanza is an orphan of ivory poaching too and she is increasingly proving that she is her own elephant, intent on treading her own path. She's also a clever little girl and often will separate herself from the group knowing that if she finds a fresh pile of Lucerne pellets or acacia pods, she'll have them all to herself!

With lots of wild elephant interactions throughout the month, find out who needs to work on their elephant-manners as well as the adventures of your specific fostered orphan here: www.thedswt.org/keepers-diaries

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

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

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=beaeaeubjbedde>

Most Sincerely,

Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick D.B.E.

<http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org>

—Watercolour by Angela Sheldrick September 2017.jpg—

