



SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

# Annual Report 2009 - 2010



# A letter from our founder

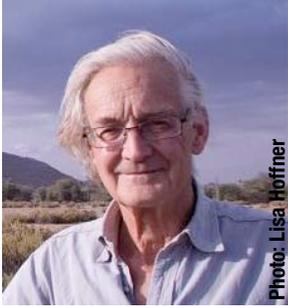


Photo: Lisa Hoffner

*“elephants are an indicator of the catastrophic trend in the tropics towards loss of biodiversity”*

These are dangerous times for elephants with the expanding planetary human footprint. Elephants indicate the catastrophic trend in the tropical forest, and elsewhere, towards loss of biodiversity. The Africa we knew in the 1960s has changed beyond belief in the reduction of wild places. In the sad game of triage there are some major necessary battles for the last natural places. One of these is to oppose a proposed veterinary fence, intended to increase beef production for the Middle East, that would ring the entire Laikipia District in Northern Kenya. If built it would cut all wildlife migration routes that are marked out so well by the elephants we track.

For elephants the ugly face of ivory trading is raising its head again, especially in Central Africa. One wonders what will get them first, over-use through direct take for ivory, or destruction of their habitats so they have no home left to live in, as is happening to the beleaguered elephants of Asia.

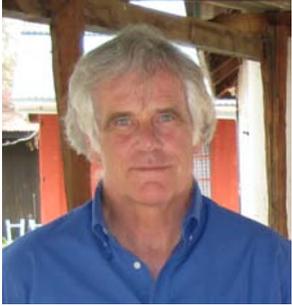
Yet there is hope, which I see in the people who work for STE and in the colleagues with whom we make common cause in the field, at CITES and abroad. From Kenya to South Africa and Mali, our data now move into a new plane of practicality, giving birth to analyses that can be used by the planners to secure a future for elephants and their environment.

During a difficult year my Indianapolis Prize award came out of the blue. It was a tremendous boost to all at STE, to be given such wonderful recognition for the labours of all the team, and is received with deep gratitude.

We have been ceaselessly busy in the last 12 months, with vicissitudes of drought, ivory poaching, livestock invasion of the reserves, insecurity, and floods. No sooner had we mopped up the mud than our team and allies had to do battle in CITES, but “how dull it is to pause to rust unburnished not to shine in use.” So I thank all our tireless staff, and our collaborators and supporters who kept us so active and made things happen.

Dr. Iain Douglas Hamilton  
Founder and CEO

# A message from our Chairman



*“STE was instrumental in helping to defeat the request for ivory sales by some African states”*

This year was a roller coaster of elephantine proportions. The final stages of 2+ years of drought was followed by a depressing washout of the Samburu camp. This disaster was, however, partly compensated by a political victory on the ivory battlefields of CITES. While the flood was bad, the drought wreaked long term harm upon the ecosystem. Many elephants were lost to starvation, or indirectly as victims of conflict with pastoralists and farmers.

Ivory poaching in Kenya, perhaps in anticipation of relaxed trading also increased. More elephants than at any time in this decade succumbed to poachers. Accordingly, the MIKE (Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephants) data-set that we collect with KWS is now delivering what it was set up to do - namely to measure the levels of the illegal killing of elephants and to point to causes and effects. Thus Onesmas Kahindi's path-breaking participatory monitoring is coming into its own with a string of scientific publications informing MIKE studies elsewhere.

The Doha decision, where STE was instrumental in helping to defeat the request for ivory sales by some African states, is bound to be challenged at the next CITES. By then, opponents will have honed their arguments to respond to what they consider was this year's temporary 'setback.' Be this as it may, together with many valiant and intrepid collaborators, Iain and his team made their convincing case for the elephant chiefly because of the power of scientific data. These data were collected in the field by STE and others, gleaned from the literature, carefully screened and vigorously discussed to ensure as scientifically balanced a presentation as possible. Clearly, I am not alone in thinking that they did this brilliantly.

However, one thing is clear: the dangers threatening the African elephant are again on the increase. Being an optimist, I feel that hard scientific data will be called to the elephants' rescue once again and we will be ready for the call.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "F. Vollrath". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dr. Fritz Vollrath  
Chairman

# Drought and its aftermath



Photo: Lisa Hoffner

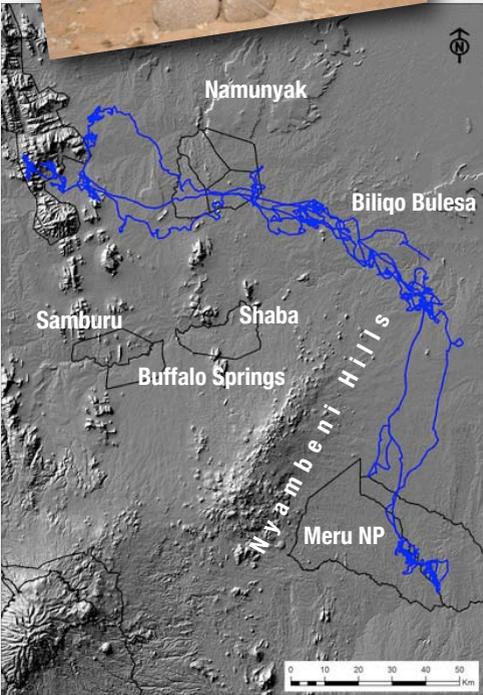
*In the wake of the disastrous drought which decimated Northern Kenya and led to the deaths of much of the area's wildlife, including many well known elephants, we were hit by a further calamity: flooding*



## Long Term Monitoring

David Daballen

The long, devastating drought in Northern Kenya saw the deaths of many of our oldest matriarchs. The April rains brought life to areas bare from drought and overgrazing. One of the goals of the Long Term Monitoring program, running for more than eleven years, is to monitor elephant population dynamics by recording births, deaths, associations and movements in the Samburu Laikipia area. The program will unravel the full effects of the drought on family units. The herds have trooped back into the Reserves with many of their members missing. Tragically, several were left with only one breeding adult female. Monsoon was followed back to the reserve by a line of orphaned calves. The loss of leading matriarchs will test the ability of families to cope without the survival knowledge which such matriarchs provide. George Wittemyer and I are currently compiling mortality data to document and better understand the impact.



**Kuroo's movement revealed for the first time the corridor east of Nyambeni Hills to Namunyak.**

## Collaring

In March, we deployed ten collars in the Samburu Laikipia area, including several on members of Harmattan's family, The Winds. They were featured BBC/ Animal Planet's *Secret Life of Elephants*. We then headed to the newly formed Biliqo Bulesa conservancy situated to the north east of Shaba Reserve 150kms away. We deployed two collars on elephants which have since marked a new corridor, through Biliqo Bulesa into the Matthew's Range.

# Flooding



## STE Camp Decimated by Flooding

*Natalia Mroz*

In the early hours of March 4th 2010, the STE research facility and Elephant Watch Safari Camp in Samburu National Reserve were destroyed by unexpected flooding of the Ewaso River, an all time high.



A wall of water akin to a tsunami surged both camps, catching tourists and staff unawares and sweeping away tents and facilities. Scenes of devastation saw beds, tents, and computers submerged in mud and strung up in the treetops. The relief process begun immediately, with blankets and water flown in by plane, as well as the assistance of the British army which airlifted people to safety and brought additional supplies.

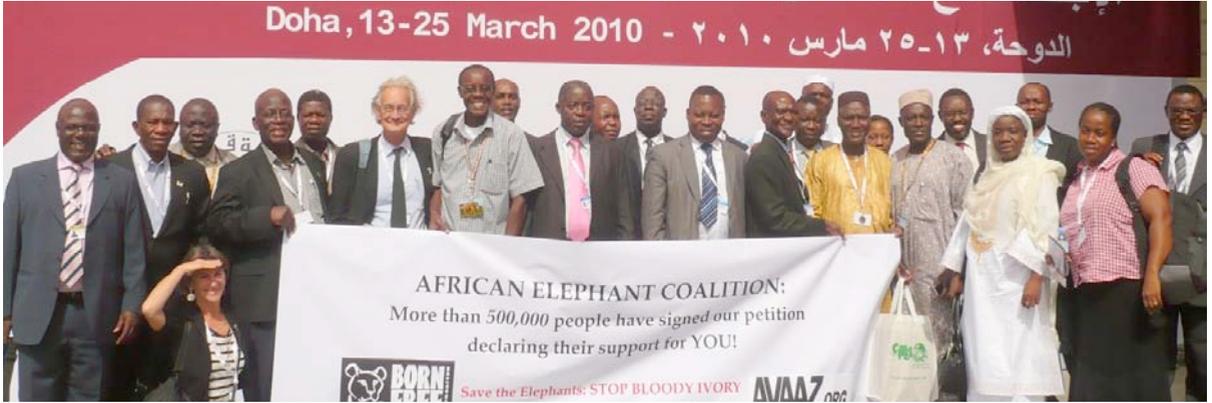
**STE Camp and Ewaso bridge under water. The British Army has generously pledged to rebuild the bridge upon the request of STE.**

Through the generosity of our donors and their overwhelming response, we have made great headway in rebuilding the camp and resuming our scientific work at the facility at pre-flood levels. We now have access to

clean water, solar power and temporary shelters, the fundamentals of life. Currently, we are clearing the land for our new dwellings to be located on the hill immediately above our camp, and way beyond reach of flood waters. These new living structures will combine an eco friendly approach with greater permanence, security and comfort for staff. All storage facilities are also being placed above the flood line.

We will also use this opportunity to improve our outreach activities at the camp by creating a world class, interactive visitors' centre and exhibit, to visually convey information on elephant movements and conservation. The number of visitors at the camp has greatly increased to include government officials, media, and local school children. Capturing hearts and minds, as well as inspiring people, is an essential element of conservation.

# Ivory Poaching



*STE's monitoring of the illegal killing of elephants program provides a scientific foundation for international elephant conservation and helps to maintain the ivory ban*



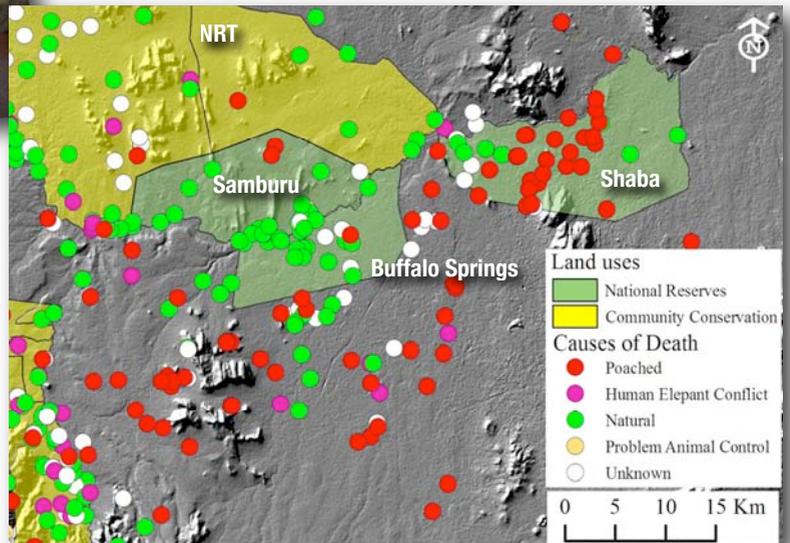
**Bullets extracted from the bones of a poached elephant in Samburu**

raw records for joint verification led by the STE team. The result was a list of 568 elephant deaths for the year 2009, an all-time high with peak levels both for poaching and natural mortality. In June 2010, a harmonization exercise for the first half of the year yielded an estimated 100 carcasses, a figure much lower in comparison to previous years. It appears that in 2010 there has been much less poaching and elephant deaths so far.

## Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)

*Festus Ithwagi*

The MIKE programme was approved by CITES in 1997 and ratified in 2000, to detect changes in the levels of illegally killed elephants. STE is actively involved in the Laikipia-Samburu MIKE program. A report summarizing all information from 1990 to 2002 was undertaken prior to inception to provide a base line against which future change could be measured. The estimated population size has risen from 5400 elephants in 2002 to the current 7500. With heartbreaking news of elephants succumbing to the drought on a daily basis in 2009, we eagerly looked forward to the rains as an end to their misery. In January 2010, a record verification exercise for the year 2009 was convened. Participants brought



**Contrast in causes of elephant death, shows illegal killing (red) concentrated in unprotected areas and Shaba, while mostly natural mortality (green) occurs in Samburu and Buffalo Springs and the Northern Rangelands Trust.**

## Elephants were on the Agenda again at CITES CoP15, Qatar

*Lucy King*



Three years ago, at CoP 14, a historical decision was made to allow Southern African range states to sell their ivory and to legally allow Japan and China to buy the stocks. In compensation, Kenya and Mali won a temporary 9 year ban to allow the impact of the sales to be assessed. We were all shocked to learn in October 2009 that Tanzania and Zambia were applying to downlist their elephant population from Appendix I to II and had applied to sell over 100 tonnes of ivory. It felt like the whole of Africa (and the world) was sighing with exhaustion at the thought of having to re-open the ivory debate. With the most comprehensive dataset of all 55 sites in Africa, STE was invited to prepare a paper for the 15th Conference of Parties meeting in March 2010. Iain and I headed off to the extraordinary city of Doha, Qatar, primarily to support Kenya with their opposition of the proposals and to offer specialized data from STE's study sites in Kenya. Key to this support was a well-attended presentation by Iain, Dr Joyce Poole and Dr Sam Wasser who scientifically explained the data problems behind the proposals, the consequence of poaching and the DNA proof that Zambia and Tanzania were heavily implicated in ivory seizures from around the world. This talk was an eye opener to many delegates who had not made up their mind on the vote. STE's presentation of years of data to the discussion within the largest international forum for the trade and conservation of African Elephants was a major contribution.



**Iain Douglas Hamilton, Joyce Poole and Sam Wasser at CITES CoP15 at the presentation of independent scientists**

### Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE)

*Festus Ithwagi*

STE tested a new measure of elephant deaths, the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE), and introduced it to the CoP. The PIKE index also shows a "risk landscape" from an elephant's perspective. An analysis of PIKE values in various parts of the Laikipia/Samburu ecosystem under Community Conservation, Forest Reserves, National Reserves, Government/Trust land and Settlements revealed that Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves are the "safe" areas for the elephants, with some forest reserves falling on the extreme "unsafe" end of the scale. This PIKE measure has been applied by CITES across two continents and shows where elephants are most at risk from the ivory trade.

Eventually both the Zambian and Tanzanian elephant proposals were defeated with support from many countries. The electric tension in the room was incredible and there were some upset delegates who believe it is their sovereign right to sell ivory. In the end however, the crucial vote determined it was

correct to wait to assess the first ivory sale before allowing another. The Kenya delegation led the 23 nation African Wildlife Forum, and worked hard for months to get this result and they all should be applauded for their efforts.

However, the debate is not over. The loophole in the wording means that more proposals will be forthcoming at the next CITES and the circus surrounding the African elephant looks set to continue. The need for scientific data rather than rhetoric will be ever more important.

# Tracking Animals for Conservation



*Core to our research is understanding how elephants make decisions and the impact this has on their habitat and the people living within their range. Many of our projects aim to understand elephant behaviour and movements across the landscape using the latest GSM and satellite tracking technologies and through unique Save the Elephants software.*

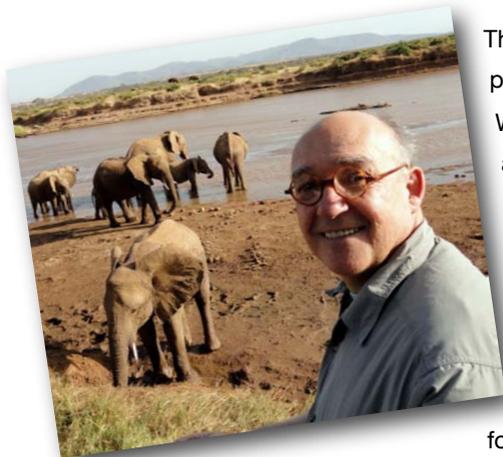
## **JRS Ewaso Tracking Project**

*Festus Ihwagi*



The collaborative JRS-funded Ewaso Tracking Project combines local studies on a range of key species into one analysis with the view of creating a comprehensive set of baseline data for wildlife conservation and biodiversity management of the Ewaso ecosystem.

The focus has been on studying animal movements in Laikipia and Samburu in order to keep vital wildlife corridors open and preserve biodiversity. The Ewaso ecosystem is under threat, and comprises a complex landscape of privately-owned ranches, pastoralist ‘group ranches,’ as well as Conservancies and Nature Reserves. Mary Wykstra, Shivani Bhalla, Dan Rubenstein and Rosie Woodroffe are our lead collaborators for tracking cheetahs, lions, Grevy’s Zebras and wild dogs respectively, and STE has added cattle and elephant collars onto the platform.



The JRS grant has positively affected STE’s data sharing practices. Data sharing with project participants, the Kenya Wildlife Service, NGOs and local authorities in Northern Kenya and internationally, as well as increased collaboration, has been a key success indicator of this project.

The grant has also allowed us to work at the core of elephant mortality data collation and to join others to contribute to the development of a national elephant management strategy. The grant is helping to restore Shaba National Reserve “to its former glory” after the extreme impacts of poaching, drought and

insecurity of the last two years came to an end. In June this year, we enjoyed hosting in Samburu the president of the JRS Biodiversity Foundation, Harry Cerino, and board member Richard Bagine who have helped so much in this programme.



## Cattle Tracking

*David Daballen*

Livestock are a critical factor affecting biodiversity. In the aftermath of the drought, we deployed five new VHF cattle collars in 2009, sponsored by the Globe Foundation, and, in partnership with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and Purdue University. Special thanks go to Susie Fehsenfeld for her support of the project, as well as to Dr Eran Raizman from Purdue University and Henrik Rasmussen who are dealing with the data analysis.

In the drought cattle invaded the Reserve and the animals also ranged away from the Reserve in a desperate search for grazing. After the the rains began, we finally had the

opportunity to chat with herders and gather information about their experience of the

drought first hand, building positive community relations at the same time as understanding their hardship in this period.

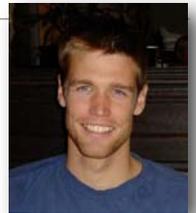
Once the data has been analysed, we hope to understand the ranging patterns of cattle, their interaction with other species, including the transmission of disease, and to provide this unique data to Samburu County Council for the National Reserve Management Plan, and to prepare for similar calamities in the future.

## Geofencing

*Jake Wall*

STE's Geofencing project, supported by Safaricom Foundation and the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, has focused on elephants moving between the Imenti forest reserve on Mt.

Kenya and the Ngare Ndare forest reserve. An estimated 20 elephants that move between the two



regions. Fencing, human settlements and commercial development are challenges the elephants are now facing. This high profile corridor should help establish a greater priority for the principle of keeping critical corridors intact.

The first elephant to be monitored in this area was Mountain Bull who was fitted with a VHF collar in 2002, and we have since watched him streak an amazing 28 times between the Borana and Imenti forests.

Little is known about his motivations or patterns of movements.



**Real fence breakage can be simulated by Geofencing. Photo: Richard Lesowapir**

### Safaricom Foundation

Safaricom Foundation has been our life line, for long term generous support and innovation. We have pioneered the most advanced tracking animals for conservation project in Africa, which has now come of age. Our server, housed in Safaricom's Nairobi offices, now shares instant access to animal movements in near real-time with stakeholders and researchers.



Partly motivated by Mountain Bull's streaks, a fenced-corridor between the Imenti and Ngare Ndare reserves was proposed to allow safe passage of elephants. The corridor runs through two farming areas, Kisima and Marania, and is scheduled for completion by 2011. STE will study the ecology of the elephants moving between the two areas. In early August, in collaboration with Lewa Downs and the Bill Woodley Trust, four bulls, including Mountain Bull, were fitted with new GPS-GSM collars to study their movement patterns in detail. The high-resolution data, when combined with environmental factors such as temperature and rainfall should give us an understanding of the motivations behind the migration between the mountain and the low-land areas.

The Google Earth tracking system is now displaying the real-time movements of these animals and the geofencing alert system will send notifications within the hour, if any of these animals leaves either forest for the journey up or down the mountain. The geofencing alerts will play a role in actively persuading the elephants to use the corridor. Land managers and conservationists will benefit from the up-to-date information provided by the system. STE will also analyze the GPS data once the corridor is open to look for changes in spatial behavior.

### **Tracking News: Mountain Bull, Mt.Kenya's best known elephant, is recollared by the STE team**

*David Daballen*



On August 5th STE joined Ian Craig and his team to re-collar Mountain Bull, one of Kenya's most elusive and well known elephants. Mountain Bull featured in the recent documentary series *The Secret Life of Elephants*. The operation was highly complex and took six months of planning.

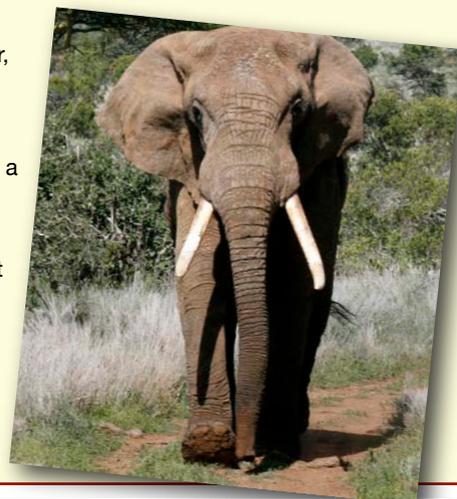
After picking up Mountain Bull's signal, we tracked him on foot since most of the forest is inaccessible by car, but were unable to find him. The following morning he moved deeper into the forest. It appeared that the bulls were raiding crops at night, before returning to the forest in the morning, almost as if they knew they had done something wrong. We were led on a long chase of weak and strong radio signals until we finally found Mountain Bull. In that section of the forest human activities such

#### **The team replace Mt. Bull's collar, an operation made difficult by the size of his neck**

as firewood collection are common, and therefore elephants seem to tolerate people.

Once Ian Craig arrived, we immediately started the operation. The chopper found the target and the dart went in. Since visibility was poor, we were dependent on the chopper to update us on what was happening. At one point, we were warned to be careful as he was coming towards us. He came out into a clearing where we saw him for a minute before he disappeared.

We ran after him through the forest which was difficult considering that none of us could see him, but luckily I was able to follow his signal on the receiver. Finally we found him down, but on his chest. We tried to push him over onto his side to attach the collar, but he was too heavy and his neck was just too big. We finally managed to get the collar on with the help of a car.



# Human Footprint

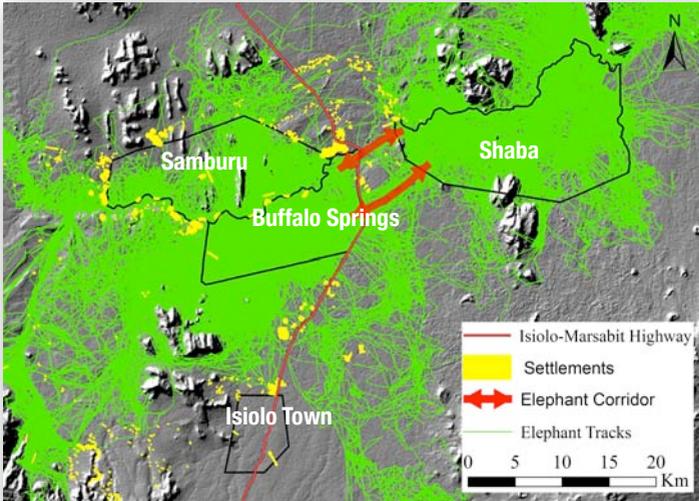
*The encroachment of human settlements into elephant territory is one of the greatest threats to their survival. Mapping the human footprint allows us to better manage this process.*

## Mapping the Human Footprint

Barnerd Lesowapir



Starting in 2004, an extensive mapping exercise was undertaken by STE along the Ewaso River watershed in northern Kenya to identify, catalogue and quantify human settlement change. Termed the 'Human Footprint' (HF), we believe it to be the number one factor



affected the long-term survival of African Elephants.

There has been a big increase in human settlements around the reserves and hotels within. When combined with our extensive records of elephant movements, the findings from the study will be used to quantify the impact of human settlements on surrounding elephant populations, can be used to devise strategies to reduce human elephant conflict (HEC). Our work is being used to help Governments in formulating management plans for human land use in sensitive areas, and will provide a methodology for mapping the HF in other wilderness areas.

**Elephant tracks (green) highlight elephant use outside the reserves, ringed with increasing settlement (yellow). Corridors between Buffalo Springs and Shaba national reserves provide a vital link.**

## Mammal Census

Jerenimo Lepirei



**Bare land with wild and domestic animals grazing together. Samburu is one of the few areas in the world where they can coexist**

Since 2006, STE has been conducting sample transects across Samburu and Buffalo Springs to monitor the numbers of domestic animals in the Reserves, as well as population changes of wild species. It has been a tough year with the terrible drought of 2009 and I have been monitoring five routes at least twice a month, in addition to a lot of data entry. Analysis has shown a massive change in the number of livestock. When the drought was on we saw very large herds of cattle sheep and goats in the reserve, but as soon as the rains came these returned to infrequent sightings. The same was true of the endangered Grevy's zebra. In the drought we saw on average 100 individuals per patrol, but this dropped to two per patrol as soon as the rains came and the zebras left. The terrible flood drowned many Dik Diks and we came across groups of up to six



individuals which had died together, but with better grazing most animal numbers are increasing. Buffalo sightings have also decreased. Less than an average of two per patrol have been observed since the end of the drought. We suspect this is the result of natural mortality rather than movement away from the reserves.

# Research Projects

## Elephants and Bees Project

Lucy King



We have two major goals in our investigation of the potential of African honeybees as a natural deterrent for elephants. Our paper in the African Journal of Ecology showed that elephants run from the sound of disturbed bees (King et al., 2007). Using sensitive microphones to record infrasonic rumbles (below human hearing), we have discovered a unique rumble that the Samburu elephants emit when fleeing from bee sounds. This has been a major discovery in elephant behaviour made in collaboration Disney's bioacoustic team at the Animal Kingdom in Florida. We are grateful for their financial support.



Our second goal has been to test our unique beehive fence to keep elephants away from farmers' crops, which we have been constructing and monitoring for the past two years. The drought in our study areas emphasise the need to work with communities to diversity their income and food security, and increase tolerance for elephants.

Thankfully, the rains brought our first crop-growing season. We monitored crop-raiding and found only one farm invasion through a beehive fence so far. This data is being compiled in a detailed analysis for wildlife managers and farmers all over Africa. In addition to the success of the beehive fences in deterring elephants from farms, the beehives have quietly produced 106 kilograms of honey! This is a huge bonus, and provides an income for farmers. We have named this exciting product "Elephant-Friendly Honey." All published papers and the Beehive Fence Construction Manual are available on our websites: [www.elephantsandbees.com](http://www.elephantsandbees.com) and [www.savetheelephants.org](http://www.savetheelephants.org).

## Ewaso Lions: An update from the field

Shivani Bhalla

The aim of the project is to enhance the conservation of Kenya's lions by gaining a better understanding of the factors threatening their survival in and around protected areas. We examine lion movements between protected areas and community lands, since lion home ranges extend far beyond the Reserves. We successfully collared Lguret, the maneless male in January 2009, in Samburu National Reserve. Sadly, after three weeks we were unable to get further data from his collar due to battery failure. It took us months to locate the lion again and we finally managed to collar him in February 2010. He is an elusive individual and very wary of vehicles. A few days after we collared him, devastating floods hit Samburu and we were unable to find Lguret for weeks. The area began to dry up in April and we were able to



locate Lguret only to find that he had been in a fight with another lion (most likely his aggressive brother Loirish) who had ripped off the GPS unit from the collar! We made quick plans to remove the collar, a successful and easy operation completed in July.

We also attempted to collar some of the lions in Westgate Community Conservancy. After weeks of setting up a trap, we managed to get a striped hyena in the trap but no lions ventured near. We hope to try collaring again in 2011. Many thanks to the JRS Biodiversity Foundation for funding the collars.

# Continental Research



*STE continues to track and work towards conserving the last of the Sahelian elephants in a fragile ecosystem*

## **Mali: One year on**

*Jake Wall*

Following our positive response to the Mali water crisis in 2009, which saw the last Sahelian elephants severely threatened by devastating drought, STE has kept a close monitoring program in place in the region to ensure the survival of this vulnerable population. We continue to work closely with the Mali government, the World Bank, and other NGO's to assure a future for Mali's elephants.



We are eagerly awaiting the release of the National Geographic film: *Great Migrations* this fall, in which STE played a key role by providing access to the live-tracking data and scientific information on the migration. This ensured the vital shots of the elephant migration passing through “La Porte des Elephants.” The film follows the migrations of 20 species around the globe in four hours of stunning videography. The Mali elephants were one of the species chosen for filming and it took 2 years and 3 trips to Mali to get all the footage.

## **An elephant collared by STE in Mali Above: Sandstorm in elephant territory approaches**

As we go to press we have learned that the World Bank and the National Geographic Society are hosting a one hour event to pre-screen the series to raise awareness among Ministers of Finance and other global policy leaders about biodiversity conservation, before the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit on October 18-29. The event will feature a five minute address by Robert Zoellick, World Bank President, on the Bank's role in biodiversity preservation. Since the World Bank project in the Gourma is vital for survival of the Mali elephants this is good news. For more information on the film, please visit: [http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/great-migrations?source=redir\\_sub\\_migrations](http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/great-migrations?source=redir_sub_migrations)

# Continental Research



*In an increasingly fragmented elephant range, the Kruger ecosystem is one of Africa's largest elephant strongholds. The aim of our research is to ensure the survival of Southern Africa's elephants by understanding their movements and contributing to planning which safeguards their environment.*

## **Transboundary Elephant Research Program, Southern Africa**

*Steve and Michelle Henley*



STE Southern Africa investigates elephant movements across the complex political and environmental landscapes that make up the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP), to understand their ecological and social motivations. We can now truly claim to be “Southern African” as our tagged animals cross out of the Kruger ecosystem into neighbouring Zimbabwe to Mocambique. The Kruger ecosystem is one of Africa's largest elephant strongholds. The aim of our research is to ensure their survival by understanding their movements.

### **Western study site: APNR**

We now know most of the individual elephants in the Associated Private Nature Reserves (APNR), west of Kruger National Park (KNP) roaming over approximately 1 800 km<sup>2</sup>. We have also fitted 45 collars since 1998. Breeding herds restrict most of their movements to the APNR even though the fences between these reserves and the KNP have been removed for more than a decade. Bulls, however, range widely into the neighbouring Kruger National Park, especially when they are reproductively active.

We are also recording the life histories of over 3000 large trees. Almost half of these trees have been protected from elephants to understand what influences their long term survival.

We have collaborated with Wageningen University's TEMBO project under leadership of Prof. Herbert Prince to further understand elephant movements and impact levels. Publications on some of these aspects are in Press.

### **Eastern study site: KNP**

In the east of Kruger we followed seven bulls with the cooperation of SANParks. Four left permanently for Mocambique and have not returned. Furthermore, the eastern bulls which remained within KNP appear to be separated from those tagged in the west in a way that mirrors the underlying geology.

We also collaborated with Dr. Andre Ganswindt from the University of Pretoria, giving him access to tagged animals for an African Elephant Musth Research Project, and another study on glucocorticoids. Publications on this are in Press. We will use this data to provide detailed information on how musth drives bull movement patterns.



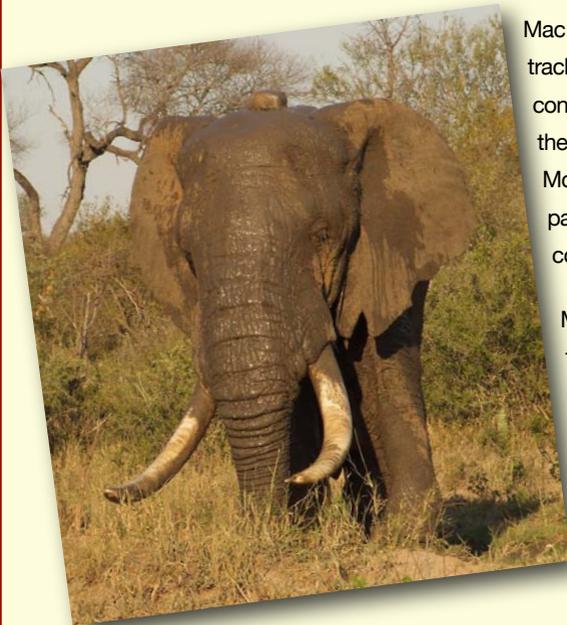
**Map showing a gradation of elephant responses to the approach of a research car. Red = avoidance, Green = calm, with Yellow half way between. This technique is experimental, but in time with enough data will plot “risk” from an elephants point of view in relation to humans. This preliminary data from APNR suggests a core of calm elephants in the Centre and East with more alarmed reactions to the West and South. The same technique is now being used in Kenya.**

### **Northern study site: KNP**

The Makuleke Contractual Area of the far northern KNP (know as the Pafuri region) is unusual from an elephant perspective. While it is well used by family groups and bulls in the dry season, in the summer rains these animals disperse, returning only with the next dry season. These elephants are also unusually nervous. It is of greatest interest to know where they move in the summer months beyond Park borders.

In 2007 we started an elephant movement study to provide data on linking corridors between reserves that straddle international boundaries. The study aims to understand the importance to elephants of key resources within the greater ecosystem. This will also establish for the first time the links between elephants in northern KNP and the Gonarezhou National Park (GNP) in Zimbabwe. As we go to press, one bull, Gila, has made a return journey from KNP to GNP, confirming a transboundary corridor that before was only suspected.

### **Recollaring STE's longest continually monitored and largest tracked tusker in Africa**

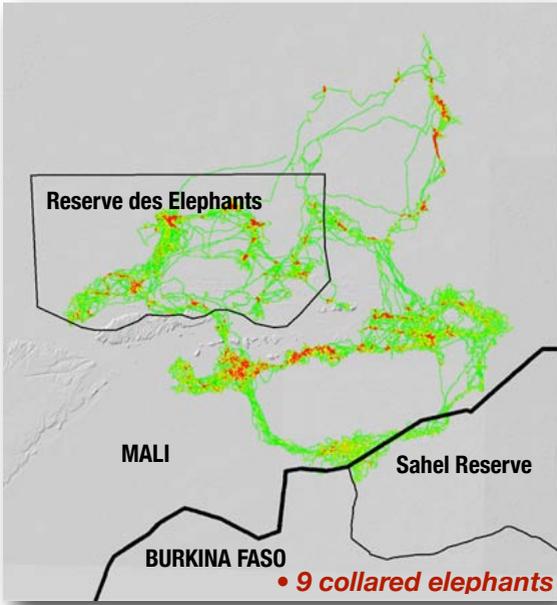


Mac to our knowledge is Africa's largest collared bull and has been tracked without a break for longer than any other elephant on the continent. He was first collared in May 2002 during a Green Hunt in the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, and named after Tony McClellan who sponsored his collar. In Green Hunting, hunters pay to dart the animal, contributing towards conservation and collar deployment costs.

Mac's home range spans over 5000 km<sup>2</sup>. Every year he migrates from the north of Kruger National Park to the Private Nature Reserves during his musth cycle. We have watched his tusks thicken and lengthen year by year until their present splendour (with weight estimates of 113lbs a side). He is even thought to have had his life spared on one occasion on account of his collar which a hunter spotted, after Mac had entered a hunting area. The hunter refrained from shooting him.

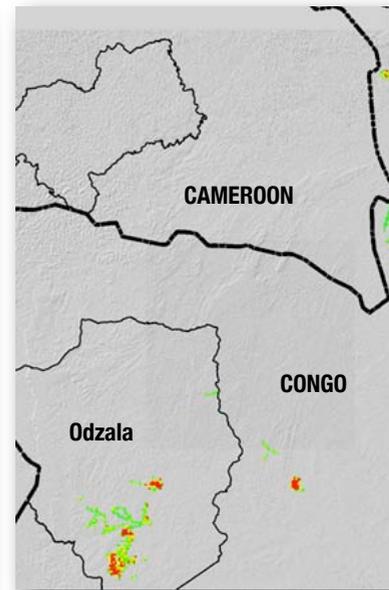
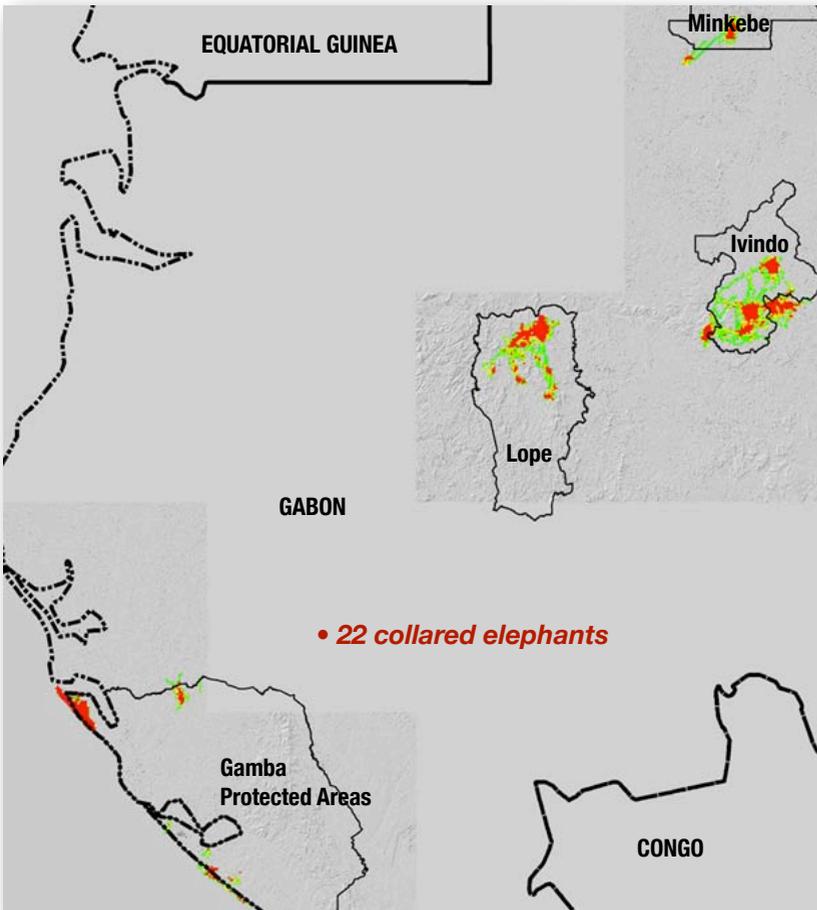
We recollared Mac in August, 2010, with the assistance of Markus Hofmeyr, Rodney Lendela and Charles Thompson, sponsored by WESSA. It was a wonderful experience to meet this gracious old gentleman, and the operation went smoothly. We took tooth molds to age him for the first time, placing him in the 55±4 year category. This iconic animal has taught us much about the ranging behaviour of senior bulls. We feel privileged to follow him in his twilight years. Mac is like a living museum piece from a bygone era, before poachers and hunters eliminated all but very few of the large tuskers of Africa.

# Continental Tracking



This is our first cut at presenting an overview of the elephant tracking results all at the same scale in four different regions. The tagged animals were 9 in the semi-desert of Mali and Burkina Faso, 32 in the forests of Central Africa spanning Gabon, Congo and Cameroun (done in collaboration with WCS), 88 in the savannah of Northern Kenya, and 45 in Southern Africa traversing South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mocambique.

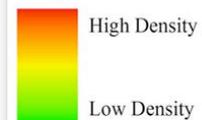
These maps depict “time density,” and the relative amounts of time our tagged elephants spent is represented by a colour ramp where by red equals high and green equals low, with yellow intermediate.

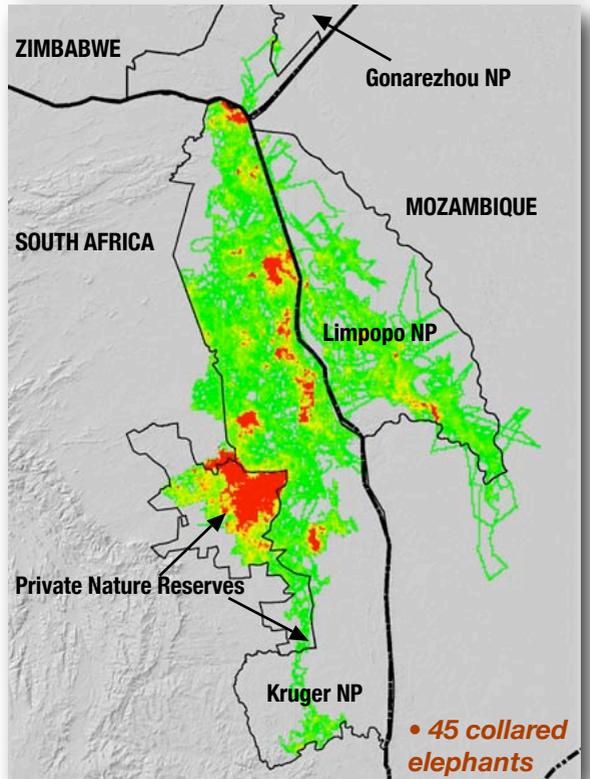
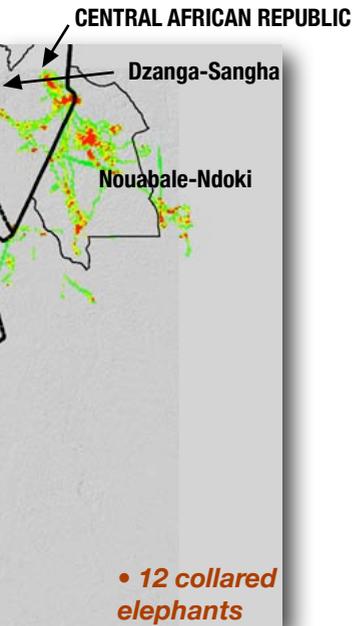
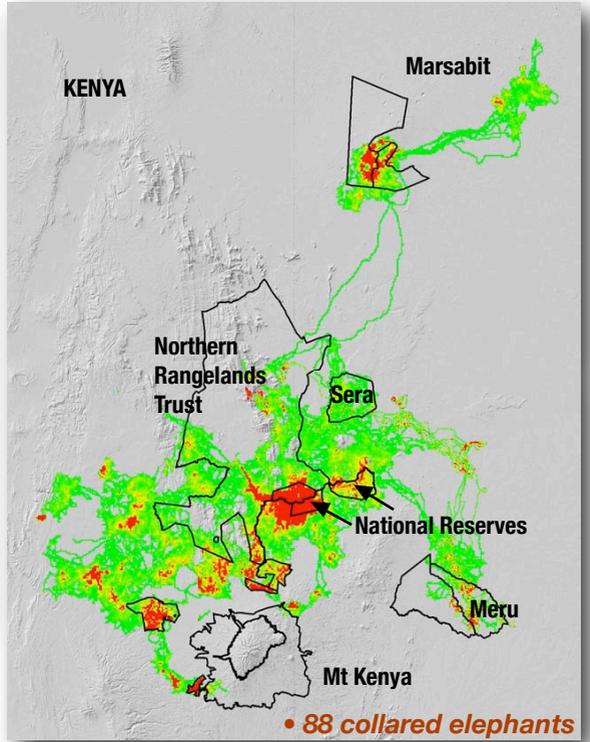
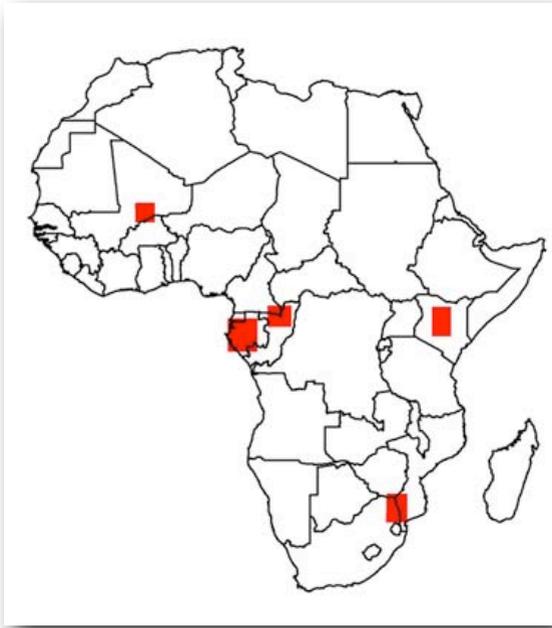


## Legend

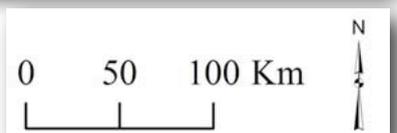
- Protected Areas
- International Boudaries

## Elephant Tracks Density





The background is a digital elevation model with only protected areas and international boundaries marked. Elephant concentrations were mainly in protected areas, but where unconfined by fences, in every case they crossed into unprotected areas, and in many cases across international boundaries.



# Education and Scholarship Program



*In Kenya, only 76 out of 100 girls go to Primary School and 42 out of 100 get into Secondary School. Only 13 will make it to the end. Since our involvement, there has been a big improvement in the academic performance and education standards.*

*Oria Douglas-Hamilton*

For the first time since we started our Education Programme 9 years ago, we have more girls than boys! This is a major achievement and they are all performing really well. Six of our students graduated last year. Three of our girls with Bs and Benjamin with As. WELL DONE all. This year, we enrolled six new students; four of them girls, all doing extremely well.



Benjamin has been offered an internship with Prof Fritz Vollrath's Research Department at Oxford University. What a leap in life from OI Donyiro to Oxford! We are so proud of him. Thank you Fritz. Zeituna graduated from Kenya High School with a very respectable grade B. She has been accepted by Nairobi University, and will be sponsored by Veronica Bidwell. Meanwhile, she worked at STE as an intern and took an English language course, while Litus was a trainee guide at EW Camp during his holidays.

The West Gate School has added three class rooms and we built 80 desks for them. Both the new kitchen with 'Oria's stove' and the Pre School class room are equipped and working. We hope that the boys' dormitory and teachers rooms will be built in the coming year. I would like to thank all the Sponsors and everyone working on this project for making it into such a success.



*Benjamin Loloju:* My journey to the Europe was one I will never forget. Climates and generations will change but the experience I got in this particular safari will never fade away. Traveling in a big plane was so exciting. I got a window seat and looked in amazement at the layer of clouds. London is particularly beautiful and the environment so clean; I want our people to be this responsible in caring for their surroundings. I am in Magdalen College and feed the spiders and do experiments. My very special thanks to all for your unflinching support throughout my education.

*Antony Lekoitip:* I am a medical student at the University of Nairobi. I was sponsored by STE since secondary school (2002-2004). I had the best result in my district, and was admitted to university to study medicine and surgery which will prepare me to be a doctor. This is huge achievement for me facilitated by my sponsor Chip Owen through STE's and EW's Education Program. It will allow me to provide medical care to the people of Samburu and Northern Kenya most of whom have no access to the most basic of medical care. I am really grateful to STE. They are my heroes and heroines.

# Internship Program

*An internship at STE's Samburu camp provides international and Kenyan students with unique, hands on exposure to elephant field research*

*Gemma Francis*

There has been an enormous response to STE's vibrant internship programme and we are fortunate to have had nine exceptional interns join in our research from around the globe and Africa.

Individuals spent between four and twelve weeks at our research camp in Samburu National

Reserve, and have proven invaluable and a great help to us. If you are interested in an internship with STE please visit our website at [www.savetheelephants.org/internships](http://www.savetheelephants.org/internships)



*Heather Gurd, international intern*

In August I was lucky enough to be an intern with STE. Having recently graduated from the University of Exeter, where I studied conservation biology and ecology, I saw this as the perfect opportunity to gain practical skills and haven't been disappointed!

From 2005 the STE team has compiled an impressive mammal census in Samburu and Buffalo Springs. I collected and cleaned data and ensured it was suitable for analysis. I then produced graphs showing how the numbers of different species fluctuated. I was particularly keen to see the

effects the drought and recent flooding on animal numbers. I also worked alongside Shivani Bhalla, who has conducted similar censuses in the Westgate Conservation Area.

There have been many highlights but I will never forget when we drove within metres of a bull elephant called Yeager.

He shook the acacia tree above our car, showering us with pods and

demonstrating his strength. Breathtaking. It is impossible to understand why

someone would want to kill these majestic creatures for ivory, however, that is something else I witnessed (in all its grim reality) during my time in Samburu.

An overpowering reminder as to why STE conducts its invaluable work. I would

like to thank STE who have made my time here truly special. I hope I have

given something back in return. I am more encouraged than ever to pursue a career in conservation, so thank you!



*Zeituna Mustafa, Kenyan intern*

My name is Zeituna Mustafa. I come from a small town called Isiolo in northern Kenya. My area is an elephant corridor. In 2005 I finished my primary education and emerged the best girl in the district in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education. I feel so happy now, as I was sure I could not have gone to school without the support of STE and managed to obtain a B in my finals from the Kenya High School, one of the top schools in Kenya. I would like to thank Veronica Bidwell for supporting me in my education as my sponsor. She has made me see the light in the tunnel. I want to make her proud and thank everyone at STE who has contributed to my success.

# STE News and Events



## Iain Douglas Hamilton wins the Indianapolis Prize for Conservation

Natalia Mroz

STE founder Iain Douglas-Hamilton was named the 2010 recipient of the Indianapolis Prize for animal conservation. In recognition for his lifetime achievement, Iain receives \$100,000 and the Lilly Medal at a gala ceremony on September 25, 2010, in Indianapolis.

According to the organizers, “the Prize is designed to inspire the public to care about conservation, and to place conservation heroes, who live in remote locations in danger of both wild animals and poachers, on the pedestal we usually reserve for entertainment stars.”

Iain was selected from a pool of 29 nominees, representing the heroes of animal conservation around the world. The Prize was first awarded in 2006 to Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation and one of the world’s great field biologists. In 2008, the Prize went to Dr. George Schaller, the world’s preeminent field biologist and vice president of Panthera and senior conservationist for the Wildlife Conservation Society. The Eli Lilly and Company Foundation has funded the Indianapolis Prize since 2006.

### Media and Publicity

STE has continued its upward trend in media coverage, hitting local and international headlines. The media is an essential tool in achieving our mission, to create a tolerant relationship between elephants and people, by bringing elephants into the hearts and minds of the public. In March 2010, our flood calamity was well reported in the media, thanks to Natalia Mroz. We thank our friends in the media for their support in this difficult time, which greatly helped to raise funds for rebuilding.



Our film series, *The Secret Life of Elephants* screened in the US on Animal Planet, bringing Samburu’s elephant families into the hearts of the American public for two consecutive weeks. A whirlwind of publicity surrounded the film, including an extensive interview with STE Trustee Saba Dougals-Hamilton on “Nightline,” which was broadcast around the country. Saba also appeared in an extensive photographic feature in Hello magazine (UK) with daughter Selkie.

The German public was introduced to STE following a visit from ZDF, the second German public television channel. The documentary was shown country-wide as a special feature within ZDF’s regular scientific program, airing for an extended time. This is reaching a new country with our aims and objectives.

It seems the public can never get enough of our elephants and bees project. Project leader Lucy King was interviewed on the BBC (UK), featured in the Telegraph (UK), and scores of news websites, after the publication of the paper she led in the journal PLoS ONE. The paper revealed that elephants produce an alarm call associated with the threat of bees, and retreat when a recording of the call is played. We are confident that STE will continue to capture international headlines in the coming months.

## Melissa Groo's News Serve

Melissa Groo

The African and Asian elephant listservs now celebrate a decade of service and continue to grow in influence and popularity. At the beginning of the year, I was approached by the Smithsonian Institution to help with press information for a paper analyzing Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) in Asia. The paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Gajah*; I am listed as second author.

There was much coverage this year concerning the CITES CoP. In many cases the new listserve is the first and sometimes only source of information on poaching incidents that reaches the conservation community. This was important in the lead up to the CITES conference in Doha to keep participants informed on increases in poaching.

I continue to circulate abstracts of scientific papers, and send the full paper to individuals who request it. I have had many letters of appreciation for this service. It helps to keep even the most remote field workers stay of the latest research.

I also put people in touch with others in the field of elephant research and conservation. In a typical day I may pass on the email address of a scientist to another, send out a paper announced months prior, look up papers on a certain subject through the Cornell University library, advise someone on how to pursue volunteering in elephant conservation, and explain or interpret something mentioned in a news story.

I will continue as the administrator of this listserv, and remain as committed as ever to disseminating information to conservationists that will help them to improve the well-being and survival of elephants in the wild.

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## STE Website

Njoki Kibanya

One of the ways in which STE promotes elephant conservation is through our website, which continues to improve as a platform to voice our mission to secure a future for elephants. The site details STE projects and elephant conservation issues and is regularly updated with news articles from around the world and blogs from the field by our interns. Our new 'Interns' Blogs' page gives a fresh impression of life in the field and has proved to be a huge favourite! Our fan base on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube has grown steadily in the last year. Please visit the STE website to join us!



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## The African Elephant Library

The African Elephant Library, a joint project of Save the Elephants and the African Elephants Specialist Group, is a collection of scientific reprints and reports on the biology, status and management of the African elephant. It now contains over 5,100 annotated references in hard copy located in Nairobi, and can be searched and accessed through our website. It is a valuable tool for researchers, conservationists and interested individuals.

# STE News and Events



## **Africa GIS 2009**

*Barnard Lesovapir*

In November 2009 Google Earth sponsored STE's GIS team to attend the Africa GIS conference in Kampala, a showcase and training session on Google Earth and other GIS products. I was lucky to meet the Google team and to show off some of our ESRI maps with other GIS professionals. Patrick Kabatha and I were then chosen to attend a training session at ILRI with the Kenya Google trainer, alongside additional training at the STE camp in Samburu.

The ESRI programmes have enabled us to digitize and map human settlement impact, and create a baseline against which future land use can be measured. Google Earth is a perfect visualization tool, on which we can plot live elephant movements. The two tools combined enable us to compare current and historic imagery and to identify land use changes including deforestation. Finally, our GIS findings have formed the basis of conservation planning strategies and land management plans with stakeholders and local authorities.

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## **STE welcomes new staff**

STE would like to welcome new staff members to the organisation: Natalia Mroz (acting Chief Operations Officer), Gemma Francis (PA to Iain Douglas-Hamilton), and Resson Kantai (Education Programme Manager). Karibu!

*"Together we will continue to campaign and secure a future for the elephants ... we make a good team" - Gemma Francis*

---

## **Dr. George Wittemyer appointed Chairman of STE's Scientific Advisory Board**

STE welcomes Dr. George Wittemyer as the new Chairman of STE's Scientific Advisory Board, after many years of fruitful collaboration. Dr. Wittemyer developed STE's long term monitoring program, and has been a mentor and data quality controller for STE research staff in Samburu.

Dr. Wittemyer is Assistant Professor at the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at Colorado State University, and a technical expert on the African Elephant Specialist Group.

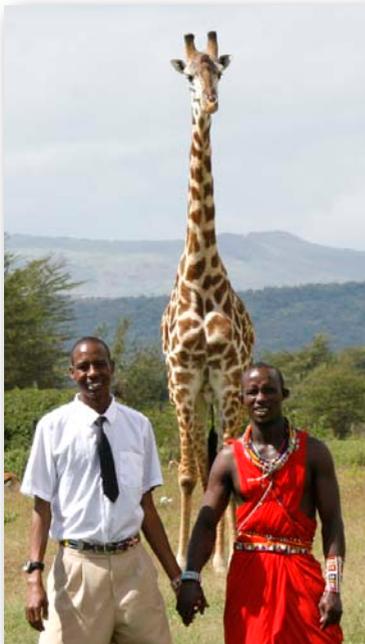


He has published extensively on his areas of interest, being the population structure and demography of animal species, primarily elephants, and the application of ecological research to the management and protection of endangered mammals and their ecosystems. For a full list of Dr. Wittemyer's publications, please visit the publications page at [www.savetheelephants.org](http://www.savetheelephants.org) or <https://sites.google.com/a/rams.colostate.edu/gwittemyer/>

## 2010 - 2011 Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders Class

David Daballen

As part of my ongoing Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders class, I was delighted to return to the White Oaks Conservation Centre in Yulee, Florida. As an exercise, I helped design a campaign for the conservation of the cotton-top tamarin, an endangered monkey from Northern Colombia, to sensitize local communities to conservation needs. We also hosted a well-attended fund-raising dinner in Washington, D.C. Thanks to contributions from friends, I helped to raise over six hundred pounds for cotton-top tamarins in Colombia. It was a great experience to meet colleagues from all over the world and to be trained in fund-raising campaign skills, networking and leadership.



### STE team joins community ceremony as guests of honor, Amboseli area

Gemma Francis

Thirteen years ago, two small Maasai boys, Tuarari and Lekoko, (pictured left, now) were charged by an elephant, resulting in not one, but two pairs of mangled and broken legs. Save the Elephants took care of the boys in hospital, covered their fees, looked after their recovery and sent them to school. This year a small group of us represented STE at a Maasai ceremony, to celebrate the election of Tuarari's elder brother as an Amboseli Councillor.

The festivities enlivened the senses: by torch light and fire, the aroma of burning acacia wood, the hustle of groups of men out in the bush boiling goat and women in the manyatta

preparing food. The singing and dancing of women of all generations was haunting in the open moon-lit space. The happiness of the village was contagious. It was an experience none of us will forget. Thank you Daniel and family for hosting us and turning a near elephant tragedy into a long term relationship with people who share the land with elephants.



### A personal thank you note from Njoki Kibanya



I would like to contribute a personal note to all my friends and colleagues at STE. I wish to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to each and every one of them for the support and love they showed me early this June when I lost my Dad. After I sent an email around informing people of the sad news, this resulted in overwhelming responses from STE friends, colleagues, and trustees. It is impossible to express how much the kind and encouraging words meant to me.

# New Publications by STE Authors and Collaborators

*Only by communicating to others what we have discovered about elephants will our work have long-lasting effects*

---

## Scientific publications:

CITES 2010 Monitoring of Illegal Hunting in Elephant Range States. COP15 Doc. 44.2 (Rev. 1). Prepared by the Secretariat

Douglas-Hamilton, I., Wittemyer, G., Ihwagi, F. 2010. Monitoring of Illegal Trade in Ivory and other Elephant Specimens. CITES Secretariat, CoP15 Doc. 40.1 (Rev.1); <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/15/doc/E15-40-01.pdf>

Kahindi, O., Wittemyer, G., King, J., Ihwagi, F., Omondi, P., Douglas-Hamilton, I. 2009. Employing participatory surveys to monitor the illegal killing of elephants across diverse land uses in Laikipia-Samburu, Kenya. *Afr. J. Ecol.* Doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2028.2009.01200.x

King, L.E., Soltis, J., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Savage, A. and Vollrath, F. (2010) Bee threat elicits alarm call in African Elephants. *PLoS One* 5(4), e10346. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0010346

Litoroh, M., Ihwagi, F.W., Mayienda, R., Bernard, J. and Douglas-Hamilton, I. 2010. Total Aerial Count of Elephants in Samburu-Laikipia Ecosystem in November 2008. A report for Kenya Wildlife Service.

Ngene, S., 2010. Why Elephants Roam, ITC dissertation number 171

Ngene, S. M., Van Gils, H., Van Wieren, S. E., Rasmussen, H., Skidmore, A. K., Prins, H. H. T., Toxopeus, A. G., Omondi, P. and Douglas-Hamilton, I. 2010. The ranging patterns of elephants in Marsabit protected area, Kenya: the use of satellite-linked GPS collars. *African Journal of Ecology*, 48: 386–400. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2028.2009.01125.x

Wasser, S., Poole, J., Lee, P., Lindsay, K., Dobson, A., Hart, J., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Wittemyer, G., Granli, P., Morgan, Bethan., Gunn, J., Alberts, S., Beyers, R., Chiyo, P., Croze, H., Estes, R., Gobush, K., Joram, P., Kikoti. A., Kingdon, J., King, L., Macdonald, D., Moss, C., Mutayoba, B., Njumbi, S., Omondi, P., Nowak, K.. 2010. Elephants, Ivory, and Trade. *Science* Vol 327

Wittemyer, G., Cerling, T.E, Douglas-Hamilton, I. 2009. Establishing chronologies from isotopic profiles in serially collected animal tissues: An example using tail hairs from African elephants. *Chemical Geology* 267, 3-11

## Note Circulated to Parties of the CITES COP15 Before the Elephant Debate:

Douglas-Hamilton, I. and Poole, J., 2010. *Loxodonta africana*: Does the species, population, satisfy the biological criteria for Appendix I in Annex I of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP 14)? Save the Elephants & ElephantVoices

## In Press

De Knegt, H.J., Van Langevelde, A.K., Delsink, A., Slotow, R., Henley, S.R., Bucini, G., De Boer, W.F., Coughnour, M., and Grant, R.C. 2010. The scale of habitat selection by African elephants. *Journal of Animal Ecology*. In Press

Ganswindt, A., Munscher, S., Henley, M.D., Henley, S.R., Heistermann, M., Palme, R., Thompson, P., & Bertschinger, H. 2010. Endocrine correlates of musth and the impact of ecological and social factors in free-ranging African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). *Hormones and Behavior* (2010), doi: 10.1016/j.yhbeh.2010.02.009. In Press

Ganswindt, A., Munscher, S., Henley, M.D., Heistermann, M., Palme, R., Thompson, P., & Bertschinger, H. 2010. Faecal glucocorticoid metabolite concentrations in physically injured free-ranging African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). *Wildlife Biology*. In Press

Henley, M.D., Woolnough, A.P., Stock, W.P., Tolleson D.R. 2010. Elephant Ecology and the application of near infrared spectroscopy in ecological research in Africa. *Proceedings of the International Elephant Foundation Symposium*, 25 - 29 January 2010, Kwalata Game Ranch, South Africa. In Press

# Donations

*Without the outstanding support and generosity of our donors, STE would not be able to continue securing a future for elephants. It is with this in mind that all of us at STE extend a heartfelt thank you to anyone who has ever contributed to our projects. We are truly indebted to you and applaud your kindness during difficult times.*

---

## **Lifetime Donations - Founders' Circle: \$100,000 and above**

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JRS Biodiversity Foundation	Vodafone Foundation
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## **Donations Received from September 1st 2009 to August 3rd 2010**

### **Conservation Visionaries \$20,000 and above**

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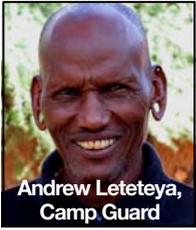
Photo: Natalia Mroz

We also take this opportunity to thank the following donors for setting up and raising funds on their fundraising pages through JustGiving in support of Save the Elephants:

Tara Jackson  
Julie Keylock  
Bradley Powell  
Abbey Shuttle

We would like to thank all our anonymous donors and all those who have sent further smaller donations for which we are forever grateful but are not able to thank individually. Special thanks go to Oria Douglas-Hamilton who continues to provide a huge amount of support to Save the Elephants through advice, fundraising and continuous involvement in our work. Thanks to the Wildlife Conservation Network, whose endless support in America has always been a vital standby to STE. To everyone at Ambrose Appelbe office in the UK we give our thanks for all their help with our accounts and UK donations.

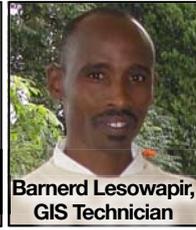
# STE Staff and Associates



**Andrew Leteteya,**  
Camp Guard



**Barako Hassan,**  
Groundman



**Barnerd Lesowapir,**  
GIS Technician



**Chris Leadismo,**  
Research Assistant



**David Daballen,**  
Head of LTM



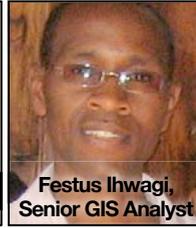
**El Mehdi Doumbia,**  
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**Felix Appelbe,**  
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**Festus Ihwagi,**  
Senior GIS Analyst



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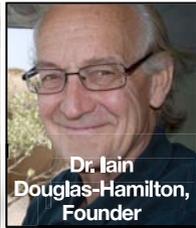
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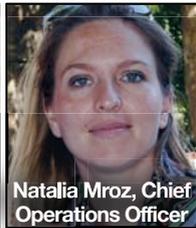
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Elephant News  
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**Michael Omokoto,**  
Camp Cook



**Dr. Michelle Henley,**  
STE-SA



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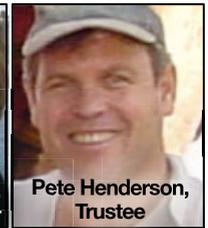
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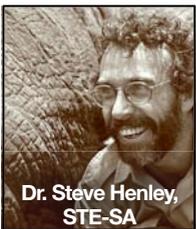
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**Wainaina Kimani,**  
Cpa (K) Accountant



**Wilson Lelukumani,**  
Research Assistant

# Contact and Donations

## **STE Main Office:**

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P.O. Box 54667  
Nairobi 00200  
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Office Mobile: +254 720 441 178  
Fax: +254 20 890441  
Email: [info@savetheelephants.org](mailto:info@savetheelephants.org)

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## **How to donate:**

You can support our work by making a tax deductible donation by cheque or credit card as below:

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Bank: Standard Bank  
Account name : Save the Elephants (SA)  
Account number: 331632284  
Branch code (Hoedspruit): 05 27 52 42  
Swift Code: SBZA ZA JJ  
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[www.savetheelephants.org](http://www.savetheelephants.org)







## **To secure a future for elephants**

*and sustain the beauty and ecological integrity of the places they live, to promote man's delight in their intelligence and the diversity of their world, and to develop a tolerant relationship between the two species.*