



International awareness of the plight of elephants reached new heights in 2017, with bold government pledges against the ivory trade and grim reminders of the nature of the crime syndicates that profit from it.

With China's ivory ban in place and Hong Kong committed to closing the trade in five years, we are now focused on helping these governments enforce their new regulations, and on building pressure to close down secondary markets in neighbouring nations.

The price of ivory in China has fallen by two thirds since 2014, but the pressure on the elephants living in Africa's savannahs and forests has yet to ease in response. Mobile militias have raided across the borders of Cameroon, Chad and Sudan, while Gabon's forest elephant populations dwindle. Investigations into the ivory trafficking networks have revealed them to be far more extensive and interconnected than we had previously thought. Criminals from West Africa collaborate with others in East and Southern Africa and attempt to avoid efforts to thwart the trafficking of ivory. The reality is that they are ruthless and dangerous and will not stop short of murder.

Smart investments by our Elephant Crisis Fund are helping to bring about results in some key areas. Last year Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo halved the number of elephants lost to poachers, thanks to African Parks' efforts. In Mali the elephant crisis appears to have been slowed, with no dead elephants reported. Meanwhile, some new collaborations between African officials and western law enforcement agencies give hope that high-level traffickers will at last face justice.

Back in Kenya, raising awareness is a key priority as the struggle to save Kenya's pastoralist rangelands continues. Cycles of drought and flood, and the spectre of climate change, sweep across landscapes afflicted by overgrazing. Building and communicating the case for conservation among local people is of vital importance.

We continue to recruit, train and support the people who will decide the future of Kenya's wildlife, giving them the opportunity to work with some of the world's best-known tech firms and academic institutions. We leverage technology to pioneer new ways of monitoring wildlife populations, distinguish between individual elephants and decipher the movement data that we have collected.

The support of the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation and now Tiffany & Co have been a huge boost for the Elephant Crisis Fund, a project only made possible by the extraordinary network of donors and partners who support Save The Elephants. At the centre remains the Wildlife Conservation Network whose efficiency, reliability and innovation are the invaluable springboard for our work.

We thank you all for your commitment to helping elephants.

Iain Douglas-Hamilton

Iain Douglas-Hamilton, Founder



Frank Pope

Frank Pope, CEO



COVER PHOTO BY JANE WYVARD

MISSION

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.



TRUSTEES

Fritz Vollrath (Chairman)

Marlene McCay

Pete Henderson

Ambrose Carey

Miles Geldard

PHOTO BY FRANK AT PETERSENS



Photo By Robbie Liebowitz

It seems that, finally, the elephants would be hearing some good news if their big ears could tune into our conversations. The ivory ban is being discussed seriously everywhere and implemented ever more widely even if there is some pushback such as discussions on trophy imports. Overall, ivory prices and markets are in retreat. In consequence, poaching should decrease and elephant numbers stabilise and rise. If this trend continues, as we all hope, then the prospects are improved for the survival of the elephant. Whether such a future is a healthy and solid one or a reduced and uncertain one will depend on the next steps in the saga. The new focus will shift away from an ivory crisis to a HEC crisis i.e. the critical issue of Human Elephant Coexistence. More often it is called Human Elephant Conflict but let us be positive in the new Battle for the Elephants and aim to seek coexistence rather than having to mitigate conflict.

In this, our challenge will be the guarding and protection of existing safe zones and elephant refugia, so crucial as humans desperately seek land to settle, to cultivate, to farm, to ranch or to graze. But existing and established conservation areas may not be enough: ideally Save The Elephants can also help to define and create new protection areas. As importantly, we need to identify and secure the corridors that link these sanctuaries. Elephants need space, and as keystone species can provide the perfect frame for conservation efforts that also benefit a wide host of other wildlife and plant-life.

Key to success will be better fundamental insights in the needs and wants of elephants in their ecosystems – and also of their fears and concerns. How do elephants perceive invasions into their safe zones (which they

tend to know very well indeed)? How do they exchange their knowledge of threats and opportunities? How do they react, both short and long-term, to human efforts to corral them into safe elephant zones or away from no-go farm-crop zones? Last but not least, how can we reinforce and change hearts and minds to appreciate elephants as positive and contributing to part of the local culture and economy rather than a conflict issue? STE has a wonderful team to tackle all of these questions, and more. Led by Iain and Frank, superbly supported by Chris, Ben, David, Lucy, Festus and George and buoyed by Saba, the team is in a position to make a difference also in this new challenge, as we did during the ivory crisis – which, while waning, is far from done and dusted and still needs to be monitored closely.

And in that spirit, with all best wishes and fingers crossed for the elephants,

Professor Fritz Vollrath
Chairman



STATUS

THE CURRENT THREAT TO ELEPHANTS

By Iain Douglas-Hamilton, Founder



Save The Elephants keeps a continuous watch on the status of Africa's elephant populations. The painstaking census work conducted over savannahs and within the forests are the principal barometer by which the change to elephant numbers can be judged.

Over the last year in Kenya, we took part in and part-funded aerial counts in Tsavo and the Samburu/Laikipia ecosystem.

We also commissioned a new trial of counting animals from high resolution images taken automatically from an aircraft. In Tsavo the resulting 183,000 images took a team of twelve professionals more than 6 months to process, but we believe this technique will give more accurate results.

Kenya's elephant populations have been recovering from the devastating poaching of 2009 to 2013, but the situation in the central African forests seems as bad as ever.

Surveys in the forested areas of Central Africa show substantial declines in elephant numbers. In Cameroon, poachers continue to hit the few surviving savannah elephants while unprecedented amounts of forest elephant ivory are still coming out of Gabon. In the Northern part of the Central African Republic, formerly home to tens of thousands of elephants, there are no traces of once plentiful populations.

In most of Southern Africa, levels of poaching are relatively low, although they seem to be increasing in South Africa and Botswana and are still worryingly high in Zambia. One of the worst hit areas has been Niassa in northern Mozambique where the killing accelerated towards the end of the year. Through our Elephant Crisis Fund, we are concentrating our efforts on poaching hot spots like Niassa and Cameroon by continuing to provide emergency funding to local field partners battling the ivory crisis.



Photo By FRANK at PETERSENS

ABOUT SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Founded by elephant expert and zoologist Iain Douglas-Hamilton, Save The Elephants conducts research into the ecology and behaviour of wild elephants, providing deep insights into the challenges they face and suggesting solutions for a harmonious future between elephants and humans.

At the heart of the organisation is STE's research station in Samburu National Reserve, Northern Kenya where a team of researchers study wild elephants on a daily basis. Over 900 identified elephants have been recorded using the reserves along the Ewaso river over the last two decades, and our knowledge of their family structures and history have opened a rare window into their world.

STE works with engineers at Google Earth, Vulcan and elsewhere to develop new technology to understand and protect elephants. The resulting tracking and analysis

systems have been assisting elephants across the continent.

To support the alliance of organisations fighting to end the poaching, the trafficking and demand for ivory, STE co-founded the Elephant Crisis Fund with our partner, the Wildlife Conservation Network, launched in partnership with the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation.

Beyond the ivory crisis, STE is working to guide infrastructure development to incorporate wildlife needs and allow for continued connectivity, a critical concern in an increasingly crowded and rapidly developing Africa. Through focused research, grass-roots community engagement and a broad collaborative approach, we aim to secure a future for the elephants in the North of Kenya, and to create tools and techniques that can be applied elsewhere on the continent.

AIMS

- Secure a future for elephants
- Protect elephants from threats such as ivory poaching and human-elephant conflict
- Secure wildlife migratory routes and corridors
- Promote a harmonious relationship between humans and elephants
- Educate and create future wildlife ambassadors
- Support and promote the ban of ivory in markets worldwide

Photo By FRANK at PETERSENS

PROTECTION

SAVING ELEPHANTS TOGETHER

By Chris Thouless
STE Strategic Advisor and ECF Director

THE ECF
178 PROJECTS
FUNDED
58 PARTNERS
31 COUNTRIES

The Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) began in 2013 with a \$1m legacy that was left to Save The Elephants.

The ECF funds the best people and organisations working to end the ivory crisis. It fuels their efforts, encourages collaboration and delivers rapid impact on the ground.

The ECF has a 100% donation model. Every dollar raised is directly deployed to elephant conservation.

It was founded by Save The Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network and launched in partnership with the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation. The ECF had disbursed over \$12M by the end of 2017, funding 178 projects by 58 different grantees in 31 countries. In 2017 Tiffany & Co. came on board donating 100% of profits from the 'Save The



Wild' line of elephant-themed jewellery to the ECF.

Notable achievements in which ECF partners have played a key role, have been the ban on ivory sales in China, the decision to ban sales in Hong Kong, the arrests of a large number of high level ivory traffickers, improvement of legal processes, and the reduction in poaching in a number of key elephant strongholds.

Challenges remain. Ivory sales are being driven underground and into countries neighbouring China, traffickers are finding new routes, and there are many countries where poaching is still out of control.

In 2018 we will build on the successes of 2017 to ensure that wild elephant populations can persist across as much of Africa as possible.

PHOTO BY CAIRE LEWIS



Above, rangers on patrol in the Gourma, Mali. The ECF has continued to provide support to the most vulnerable elephant populations in Africa by funding new approaches to law enforcement.

ANTI-POACHING

In some places our field partners are succeeding in controlling poaching through the use of intelligence-driven law enforcement. Amidst the massive insecurity in the Gourma region of Mali, where nearly half of the 300 strong elephant population was wiped out in the previous four years, a new army-led anti-poaching force, set up by the Mali Elephant Project and supported by the Elephant Crisis Fund, has ensured that no elephants have been poached since February 2017.

Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo was losing many elephants

and rangers to heavily armed poachers. Thanks to smart law enforcement and the use of satellite tracking for security, the number of elephants killed by poachers halved between 2016 and 2017. Nigeria's only significant surviving elephant population – in Yankari National Park – has not lost any elephants to poaching for almost three years.

Our partners have also had some success in limiting poaching in the forest areas of central Africa, particularly in Nouabale-Ndoki in Congo, but the situation is still catastrophic in many areas. We have increased our support

to African Parks Network in Odzala National Park, which holds the other major elephant population in Congo, but this is a difficult environment and poaching is still a major problem. Niassa Game Reserve in Mozambique is also under severe attack and we have assisted with helicopter support and an upgrade to the radio system in the hope that this may help to turn the tide.



TOP: PHOTO BY NIGEL KUHN FOR CHANGING WILDLIFE | BOTTOM: PHOTO BY ROBBIE LABANOVSKI

ANTI-TRAFFICKING

By Chris Thouless

This year our anti-trafficking partners have had significant successes in disrupting major ivory trafficking networks, particularly in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Gabon and Zambia. We were proud to support investigations, carried out by the Environmental Investigation Agency and published in their report *The Shuidong Connection*, which identified a major Chinese ivory trafficking syndicate based in Guangdong Province exporting ivory principally from Mozambique: exposure of this network has led to effective law enforcement action by the Chinese authorities.

The trade is far from defeated however. Many tonnes of ivory are still moving around the continent and flows of ivory are being diverted to new routes, particularly towards West Africa and the traffickers are fighting back. In August Elephant Crisis Fund grantee Wayne Lotter was assassinated in Tanzania. His death a terrible blow to the conservation world.

Our strategy this year has been to provide support to those at the sharp end who are penetrating trafficking networks. This strategy will allow for multiple simultaneous arrests leading to dismantling rather than just disruption.

Our support to local NGOs trying to secure prosecutions and convictions for wildlife crime has continued with success. In addition to the work being done in Kenya by WildlifeDirect, there have been major successes in Malawi, where courtroom monitoring and prosecution support by the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust means that custodial sentences for elephant-related wildlife crimes have increased from less than 1% to more than 84%.



PHOTO BY R.J. WALTER

DEMAND REDUCTION

By Chris Thouless

The closure of the Chinese domestic ivory market took full effect at the end of the year. Elephant Crisis Fund grantee, the Natural Resources Defense Council, liaising with the Chinese government on the practical steps required to implement the ban.

A report published by Save The Elephants in February 2017 showed the price of ivory in markets across China had dropped by 2/3rds from \$2,100 per kg in early 2014 to \$730 per kg in February 2017, an encouraging sign that demand declined over this period.

We expect that sales of ivory may shift to neighbouring countries, particularly Hong Kong, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar, where sales of ivory are already increasing. The ECF has supported a campaign by WildAid affiliate, Change, to encourage the Vietnamese

government to control its ivory markets, and we are planning to support similar activities in these other south-east Asian countries in 2018.

Just this year, in 2018 the Hong Kong Legislative Assembly voted to close down its domestic market but this will not take place for five years. ECF grantees WWF-Hong Kong and WildAid successfully lobbied the legislators to ensure the smooth passage of the bill against a strong rear-guard action by ivory traders.

STE has provided valuable ammunition to the campaign to close down ivory markets through the meticulous surveys carried out by Lucy Vigne and Esmond Bradley Martin. Tragically, Esmond was murdered in Nairobi in early 2018 while working on a report on Myanmar. The report will be published later in 2018.

In 2013 very few shops in Laos displayed ivory items for sale. Today there is rapid growth of Chinese shops in the country openly selling mass produced ivory items from poached African elephants to Chinese visitors.



PHOTO BY ALEX HOFFORD

TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FUTURE By Jake Wall Geospatial Science Advisor

Through our joint venture with Vulcan Inc, we are improving our response to injured or immobile animals and providing better security.

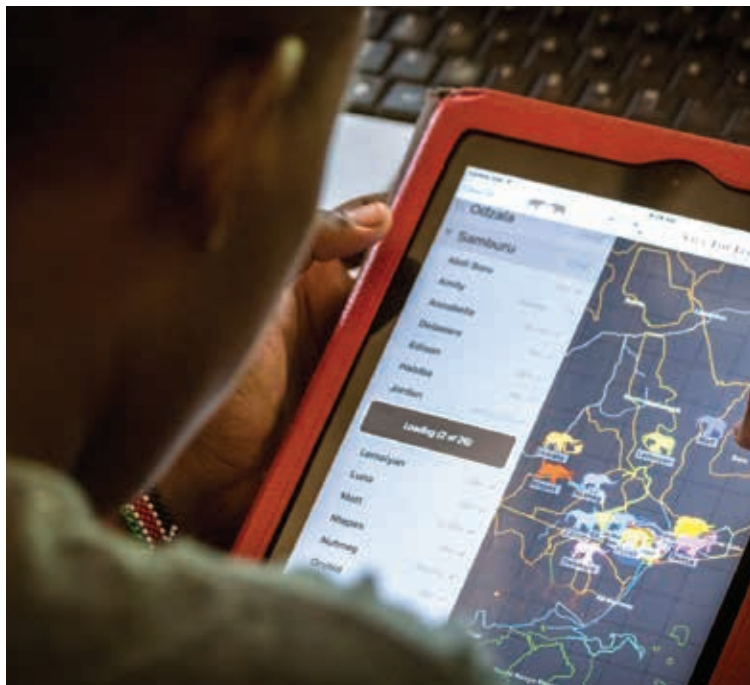
Few areas of conservation technology are moving as fast as the tracking of wildlife. Iain Douglas-Hamilton pioneered the tracking of elephants in 1969, and today Save The Elephants remains at the forefront of understanding elephant movements. In 2017 the reach of our tracking software stretched across Africa and into Asia, and began being used on several other wildlife species.

Our cloud-based system — first developed in 2006 — is undergoing an overhaul with the help of Vulcan Inc. in Seattle. Incorporating the latest programming technology, Vulcan's new 'Domain Awareness System' supported by Paul Allen, builds on these foundations to provide a solid platform for an increasingly data-rich future.

Through this joint venture we are also continuing to improve the algorithms that run on the data flowing through our servers, improving our response to injured or immobile animals. Another new analyser we've developed can leverage Google's Earth Engine platform to run large-scale spatial analyses in real-time.

The STE Tracking App on iOS, powered by Vulcan, has become a vital tool for monitoring tracked animals around the world. The sophisticated visualisation tools provide a continuous lens for observing behaviour and responding to events in real-time.

Other wildlife are also benefiting from these systems, which are being used to track scimitar-horned oryx in Chad, Asian elephants in Myanmar and lions in Kenya. From Gabon to Mozambique to the Congo, some 463 animal tracking devices are deployed, of which 358 are on elephants.



In 2017, the reach of our tracking software stretched across Africa and into Asia.



Photo By Robbe Labanowski

RESEARCH

PIONEERING ELEPHANT SCIENCE

“The GPS technique can be a very useful tool for wildlife management, an exciting new application for modern technology. It’s fascinating research and a stroke of genius.”

Newsweek June 2017

MONITORING SAMBURU ELEPHANTS

By George Wittemyer, Chairman,
STE Scientific Board

The level of illegal killings in Northern Kenya has returned to baseline levels last seen before 2008, giving us cause for optimism for Samburu’s elephants. For the fourth year running we’ve had more births than deaths in Samburu National Reserve, with the current baby boom thanks to some strong rains in November 2015.

The killing of elephants for ivory may have dropped substantially but new threats to Samburu’s elephants are emerging. Steadily degrading grassland is bringing livestock herders and elephants into conflict, and we’re seeing an increase in ‘conflict’ killing of elephants. Stopping this behaviour is an increasing focus of our outreach efforts.

As part of our Samburu orphan study, funded by Singleton Rankin’s WorldWomenWork, we know that orphaned elephants tend to step into their mother’s social position in the population, meaning they strengthen connections with their mother’s friends. In some cases this can take the form of an orphan joining the family of their mother’s friends, analogous to their being ‘adopted’.



Orphaned elephants remain socially marginalised for years after they lose their mothers.

However, these relations are not normal. In 2017 we published a paper showing orphaned elephants remain socially marginalised for years after they lose their mothers. They interact much less with adults than age mates in normal families and receive much lower rates of friendly interactions and more aggressive interactions. These insights are raising our understanding of the long term costs for elephants orphaned by poaching.

Photo By JANE WHITWARD

HOW ELEPHANTS CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOUR WHEN AT RISK

By Festus Ihwagi
Senior Research Scientist

Last year research conducted by Save The Elephants and the University of Twente, in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service, revealed that elephants move more at night in areas that suffer high levels of poaching.

Two years ago we watched a collared elephant named Morgan as he moved purposefully towards the insecure Kenya-Somali border. The detail of his movement was intriguing – he travelled only by night, while by day he stayed in thick cover despite being in an area that wasn’t predominantly inhabited by humans.

We were curious to know whether this was common behavior amongst elephants in risky landscapes and began analyzing the movement of elephants in the Samburu-Laikipia ecosystem, where we have tracked them for many years.

Our study, which I led as part of my PhD project at the University of Twente in the Netherlands, revealed that elephants do indeed travel more at night in places and times where the risk (as measured from mortality data) is higher.

The GPS-based assessment of the Night/Day Speed ratio provides a valuable indicator of when elephants are feeling threatened and is a good addition to field-based monitoring. With only around 40% of Africa’s elephants living in sites where mortality is regularly monitored, the Night/Day metric could in future be used as a proxy to help guide the deployment of anti-poaching resources.

The study was published in a high impact peer reviewed journal, Ecological Indicators, as both a new method of assessing poaching levels indirectly, and as a new finding on the response of elephants to poaching risk.

HUMAN ELEPHANT CO-EXISTENCE

LIVING IN HARMONY WITH ELEPHANTS

BEEHIVE FENCES GO GLOBAL!

By Lucy King,
Head of Human-Elephant Co-Existence Program

2017 was a year of global growth for our Elephants and Bees (E&B) Project in Tsavo, Kenya.

We trained more than 250 people on how beehive fences can reduce human-elephant conflict and produce valuable honey as well as pollination services for rural farming communities. Our idea has now spread to 11 African and four Asian countries.

Our latest paper published in *Conservation Biology* showed that beehive fences are 80% effective at deterring elephants from farms.

In Sri Lanka — home to 6,000 elephants and some of the highest human-elephant conflict in Asia — four of our beehive fence training workshops succeeded in boosting hive occupation and honey production on fenced farms.

Farmers in our new project in Central Nepal harvested 90kgs of honey. With such positive results, they plan to expand into Western Nepal.

In Mozambique beehive fences are being trialled in the buffer zone of Gorongosa National Park where chillies and beehives have been combined into a 'spicy beehive fence'. Feedback from farmers has been positive so far.

Elephants Alive and University of Witswatersrand collaborated with us to test if beehives could reduce elephant damage to

Farmer Karunadasa and his family celebrates the bounty of a harvest from their hives in Sri Lanka

PHOTO BY ZAMEB AVABABALLY



Elephant & Bee project trainee Roshan Thakur with a beehive in Central Nepal

iconic Marula trees in South Africa's Greater Kruger National Park. Elephant impact was 54% on control trees, 28% on wire-netted trees, and only 2% on beehive-protected trees. These exciting results were published in the journal *Biological Conservation*.

The April-May rains did not fall in Tsavo East, leaving the land bone dry as the impact of climate change hits hard. Bees need water and nectar or pollen to produce honey, so none was harvested in the Tsavo farms this year.

In 2018 we are fundraising to establish an Elephants and Bees Mobile Unit that will consist of a hardy vehicle to transport our staff and the equipment needed to construct beehive fences in new high conflict communities.

Intern Ramona Stephen and Supun Herath with combs from our Sri Lankan beehive fences

TOP: PHOTO BY ROSHAN THAKUR | BELOW: PHOTO BY BRIANNA STOLLE



HUMAN ELEPHANT CO-EXISTENCE

CONNECTING WILDLIFE

By Ben Okita
Head of Monitoring

Linking parks, reserves and conservancies through corridors and integrating them into a wider landscape is a critical lifeline to wildlife. Kenya's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources launched a national wildlife corridor and dispersal area report in July 2017. The conservation fraternity will now have a "masterplan" to use at national planning level. Wildlife organisations are already working closely with local communities on landscape planning and management, offering a key access point to engage with county and national governments. Save The Elephants co-authored this national report and will continue supporting its implementation.

TSAVO, WEST POKOT, SAMBURU

We continued to monitor, with the Kenya Wildlife Service, the movements of elephants fitted with GPS satellite radio collars in relation to the Standard Gauge Railway in the Tsavo ecosystem. Some elephants used the official wildlife passages, while others preferred to use the culverts and bridges that go under the railway. We pro-actively engaged relevant authorities with our findings to improve on ecosystem connectivity and safety. In January 2018, with support from Disney Conservation Fund's "Reverse the Decline" initiative and other donors, we fitted 20 additional elephants with GPS collars in the



Collaring elephants like this one in Tsavo helps us understand elephant behavior, guide ranger deployment and planned landscapes to avoid human elephant conflict.

Tsavo Ecosystem to mitigate human elephant conflicts and to improve security of elephants.

We gave assistance in elephant tracking in Masol and Pellow Community Conservancies following a request by the West Pokot county government. The county seeks to use the tracking information to mitigate elephant poaching and human-wildlife conflict through better land-use planning. In Samburu, we enlisted local women, the Mama Tembos, to patrol corridors for elephant movements with the aim of allowing only conservation-compatible activities within them. The interest of the county governments in conservation is increasingly becoming an important endeavor for Kenya's wildlife and requires support and development.

Photo By Nawa Rana



The Mama Tembos were chosen by their communities in Samburu as ambassadors for the corridors project.

CORRIDORS PROJECT OFF TO GREAT START

By David Daballen, Head of Field Operations

A community project supported by Save The Elephants to define and protect wildlife and livestock corridors in Northern Kenya, has received its first unofficial 'blessing' from a wild collared elephant called Kiir.

Kiir is the first elephant wearing a tracking collar to be tracked traversing one of the newly-created corridors linking Samburu and Shaba National Reserves in northern Kenya. Connectivity between these two small reserves and Buffalo Springs National Reserve to the south is critical for their future, but is threatened by the spread of unplanned development.

Over twenty years' worth of STE's elephant movement data went into identifying the corridor, and three others like it, that cross the main highway to Ethiopia. Four years ago we began tracking an additional 40 elephants across the wider Samburu-Laikipia landscape, in partnership with the Northern Rangelands Trust and funded by The Nature Conservancy. This project was designed to deepen our

understanding of how elephants use this landscape, and to define what linkages need to be protected.

The tracking data has been the centre of discussions between local communities to agree which areas could be set aside and kept free of development in perpetuity. These corridors are now marked with pillars and patrolled by teams of local women, named the Mama Tembos (meaning Elephant Mothers, after the famous Mama Simbas of our local conservation partners Ewaso Lions).

Supported by Singleton Rankin's WorldWomen-Work and Ivory Ella, the Mama Tembos record all animal movements, and give early warning of attempts to create settlements.

We hope that these corridors will be the first of many to be put in place by communities in northern Kenya to ensure that livestock and wildlife — including elephants like Kiir — will be able to move freely in search of food and water even as Kenya develops.

Photo By Jane Wynward

AWARENESS & EDUCATION

FLYING THE FLAG FOR ELEPHANTS

A GROWING LOVE FOR ELEPHANTS

By Nancy Odweyo
Assistant Conservation Education Officer

Students in the rural conservation areas in Northern Kenya are showing an increased appreciation and love of elephants thanks to lessons they've received from Save The Elephants' education team.

In 2016, we conducted four lessons in five schools within the Samburu and Isiolo Conservation area. This year we analysed the students' attitude, behaviour and knowledge of elephants and were pleased with the results.

There was significant difference in pre- and post-lesson questionnaires administered across all five schools. Positive attitudes towards elephants rose from 39% to an encouraging 61%. The percentage of students appreciating the role elephants play in shaping the savannah increased by 8%, while 53% of students



successfully identified safety methods and actions that deter human-wildlife conflict.

Cultivating positive attitudes and behaviours towards wildlife plays a key role in creating a harmonious relationship between man and animal. By using classrooms as platforms to enhance and reinforce peaceful coexistence between students we are eliciting a love and respect for wildlife by giving children their first experience in life to see elephants at close quarters.

As we transform learning and conservation awareness in Northern Kenya, we hope to reach an even greater number of students. We will continue to apply mixed methods such as experiential learning and citizen science to shape young people's views of conservation and instil a love for science. Ultimately, we hope to create future wildlife ambassadors, one child at a time.

PHOTO BY RESSON KANTAI-DUFF

LEARNING ABOUT SQUALL

In 2017 students of Chicago's Lake Forest Country Day school were introduced to STE's tracking tool to learn about the movements of 'Squall' a collared elephant in Kenya. The tracking technology, powered by Vulcan, is now incorporated into the school's curriculum. Huge thanks to the Fisher and Kovas Families for making this possible.



Former elephant scholar, Vivian Alina, chatting to one of the women she works with in Samburu.

NURTURING CONSERVATION LEADERS IN NORTHERN KENYA

By Consolata Kithinji, Education Officer

As Save The Elephants works towards building a tolerant relationship between man and elephants, our Elephant Scholarship Programme is furthering this mission by providing students with an opportunity to change their lives.

Since its inception almost 18 years ago, the programme has grown from strength to strength and recently celebrated its highest number of scholars (16) for its 2018 intake.

Educating bright children living on the fringes of poverty within conservation areas in Northern Kenya is part of our goal to create future conservation ambassadors. We believe they will one day serve as future community leaders and influence decision making.

One such student is Vivian Alinta, who joined our

Elephant Scholarship Program in high school. Thanks to the Fred B. Snite Foundation Vivian completed her Diploma course in Community Development in late 2017 and has since joined a grassroots organisation, Samburu Youth Education Fund, helping manage community projects and mentor students sponsored by the organisation.

Born and raised in Isiolo County in Northern Kenya, Vivian wanted to give back to her community in recognition of the support she had received from the Elephant Scholarship Program while at school. Vivian praised the programme saying it gave her "the chance to pursue a course that not only helped me, but the entire community."

Thanks to the support of donors, the STE/Elephant

Watch Safaris Elephant Scholarship programme is not only changing lives but also creating eco-conscious students and leaders, just like Vivian, who are willing to offer their skills to change the lives of others.

EWASO LIONS APPOINTS FORMER STE STAFFER

Congratulations to Resson Kantai-Duff on being appointed Deputy Director with our partners in conservation, Ewaso Lions. Resson left Save The Elephants in 2017 after seven glorious years working with us and we wish her huge success in her new role.

AWARENESS & EDUCATION

FLYING THE SAMBURU FLAG FOR ELEPHANTS

Jane Wynyard, Head of Communications

Samburu ambassadors from Northern Kenya made their first ever journeys to New York, Hong Kong and London in 2017 to raise awareness for elephants in need and to share their own unique personal stories of living amongst the world's largest land mammal.

In London, Save The Elephant's Head of Field Operations David Daballen and Elephant Watch Camp Ambassador and Chief Guide, Bernard Lesirin, attended a star-studded dinner party by PORTER magazine in June. Held in partnership with Tiffany & Co, the event raised vital funds for the Elephant Crisis Fund.

Our Head of Security, Chris Leadismo, spoke at a parliamentary debate urging the Hong Kong legislative council to support the ivory ban. Chris won hearts and minds with his emotive speech during which he talked about how one of his closest friends, a KWS ranger, had been shot dead while on duty protecting elephants in June.

In October, Bernard Lesirin travelled to the US with STE to give a colourful introduction to the world of Samburu culture at the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo. Bernard also spent a week on a speaking tour of schools, universities and zoos in Rhode Island with one of STE's top donors, Ivory Ella.

Finally, Benjamin Loloju from STE and Letoie Serenoy from Elephant Watch Camp joined Professor George Wittemyer, Chair of our Scientific Board to participate in a 10k run in New York in aid of STE, and spoke passionately about the Samburu's special relationship with elephants.

Spreading the word about elephants and our work to defend them is an important part of our mission, and is critical to supporting our work. Thanks to everyone who helped support our Samburu brothers!

Left to right: Bernard Lesirin from Elephant Watch Camp, Jean Campbell, Caroline Weinberg, Arizona Muse, Natalia Vodianova, Lucy Yeomans, Cara Delevingne, Doutzen Kroes and David Daballen at the PORTER event held in London.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES



Elephant Watch Camp is an intimate eco-camp hosting elephant enthusiasts and keen conservationists from around the world.

CONSERVATION TOURISM AN INTIMATE INTRODUCTION TO ELEPHANTS

The most effective way to create support for elephants is to meet them in person. Save The Elephants' life-long partner, Elephant Watch Camp, specialises in opening hearts and minds to all things elephant, enchanting guests from around the world with elephant encounters and forging an alternative livelihood for the local communities through conservation tourism.

Elephant Watch Camp (EWC) is an intimate eco-camp hosting elephant enthusiasts and keen conservationists from around the world. At the heart of EWC's mission is to pass on

their love for elephants and reinforce the conservation ethic of traditional cultures to protect and preserve wild animals and places.

Their specialist guides are key advocates of Save The Elephants' work. Eco-tourism plays a vital role in helping to preserve wildlife for future generations. EWC has joined hands with local partners to seek to restore Samburu's precious resources. Leading by example, we aim to show how people can live in harmony with wildlife and nature and act as stewards of the land.

COLLARING JUMBOS

Twenty elephants in the Tsavo region have been collared in an epic operation that covered nearly 1300km. The joint operation by the Kenya Wildlife Service, Save The Elephants and the Tsavo Trust was run with military precision. Completed in under five days, it involved twenty five personnel, four ground vehicles, two airplanes and a helicopter. Ten bulls and ten female elephants were fitted with advanced satellite radio tracking collars. The data from the collars will help protect elephants from poaching, assist in understanding crop-raiding behaviour and reveal how elephants are affected by the new railway and planned superhighway. During the collaring operation the team also made some worrying discoveries about the state of elephants in Tsavo.

Nine of the twenty elephants that were fitted with collars had serious spear or arrow wounds, due to human-elephant conflict in the area. The wounded elephants were treated by KWS veterinarians on the scene. Thanks to Disney Conservation Fund's "Reverse the Decline" initiative and other donors for their valuable support with this operation.



MORE EYES IN THE SKIES

Our new six-seater 206 Cessna, revived, resprayed and refitted from its recent life as a commercial aircraft serving coastal Kenya, is finally airborne! 5Y-LOX (for Loxodonta, the genus of the African elephant) is a 1973 model now fitted out with

long-range tanks, a new engine and rugged landing gear. She's going to be an important help with what's shaping up to be an important focus this year, working to pioneer a new era in wildlife aerial surveys. The 206 is already becoming well accustomed to STE's more

routine aerial operations, conducting aerial patrols to check up on collared elephants and responding to alerts generated by our tracking systems. Thanks to the donors who helped fund the plane!

PEOPLE-POWERED RESEARCH (CITIZEN SCIENCE)

In 2017 Save The Elephants teamed up with crowdsourcing platform Zooniverse to invite elephant-friendly citizens of the world to count wildlife photographed from the air. The initiative came after STE commissioned survey specialist Richard Lamprey to conduct a new type of aerial survey. STE has been counting elephants for more than 40 years and wanted to compare what those on board the plane could see through the naked eye as opposed to what could be seen by looking at aerial photos of the ground. The only hitch? Someone had to count the wildlife in all the photos. Zooniverse to the rescue! Conservation enthusiasts took to the project like ducks to water and the numbers are now being crunched. Stay tuned for the results!

PREVIOUS PAGE PHOTO BY NAWA RANA | TOP PHOTO BY SUSAN MOLLOY | BELOW PHOTO BY NICK TRENT



AT A GLANCE

IMPACTS

Elephant Crisis Fund raises \$15M and disperses nearly \$12M to 58 grantees with 178 projects in 31 countries



**BEEHIVES FROM
SAVE THE ELEPHANTS
ELEPHANT AND BEEHIVES
EXPAND INTO 11 AFRICAN
AND 4 ASIAN COUNTRIES**

(full story pages 15 and 16)



STE publishes 11 research papers deepening ours and the world's understanding of elephants and their future on this planet (read one of the studies, page 14)

Positive attitude towards elephants by students in Northern Kenya increases from 39% to an encouraging 61% (full story, page 19)



39%
61%



China shuts down its commercial processing and sales of ivory. One month later, Hong Kong makes historic decision to ban ivory (full story page 10)

CHALLENGES

Elephant populations in Mozambique and the DRC are under siege from poachers. Elephant Crisis fund has provided emergency funding to try to turn the tide

Generosity, the gentle 35-year-old matriarch of the Virtues sub-family, is killed as human-wildlife conflict increases in Samburu

A paper in the journal *Science* with more than 100 authors shows elephants are being squeezed into smaller places due to the growing human population. The race is on to defend their territories and corridors (full story page 18)



Floods in Samburu highlight overgrazing and land degradation in the region. (full story page 28)



NEXT STEPS FOR 2018



DEDICATED VET FOR SAMBURU

Thanks to the efforts of Kristan and Peter Norvig, the Prince Charitable Trust / Meredith and Patrick Wood-Prince and a dedicated group of donors, Samburu is to have its own vet. Emergency veterinary care is crucial to conservation work in Samburu – a large region almost the size of New Jersey. For too long this was the responsibility of only one vet, based in neighbouring Lewa. Now Ewaso Lions,

the Grevy Zebra Trust and Save The Elephants have teamed up to organise a vet for the north who can assist with treating all sick and injured wildlife in the region, as well as assisting with other operations such as those needed to fit tracking devices. The vet, employed under the Kenya Wildlife Service, will be based in Samburu National Reserve and is expected to start operations in mid-2018.

Photo By Nawa Basa



FORGING A FUTURE

The full impact of land degradation in Samburu was felt in 2017 when the Ewaso Nyiro river burst its banks in a flash flood that hit nearly every camp along the river. Fortunately staff at our research camp were given an early morning warning call and evacuated tents and valuable equipment to high ground before the floods hit. A sudden storm upstream hit barren ground, with no

grass to absorb and slow the rainwater. The deluge is a stark reminder of the overgrazing of cattle and goats in the reserve that has left large parts of Samburu eroding rapidly. Save The Elephants alongside other organisations is working closely with local communities and government to try to find a solution to the serious problem of overgrazing and desertification of Northern Kenya.

DREAM COME TRUE FOR PILOT

A young Kenyan who dreamt of flying planes for Save The Elephants as a child has had his wish come true! Paul Koriko (aged 21) was born in Turkana and was orphaned aged four. His adopted home was close to a landing strip used frequently by STE founder Iain Douglas-Hamilton, and an obsession with planes and burning desire to learn to fly began. His dream came true at the end of 2017, when we needed to recruit a new pilot. Paul is part way through his Aviation Engineering degree, but will now add flying to his studies. He has begun his flight training in South Africa, after which he will start his induction into bush flying.

Top Photo By JANE WYNWARD



Paul Koriko photographed during his training in South Africa

IN TRIBUTE

In the past 12 months, the world has lost two of its finest defenders against wildlife traffickers: Wayne Lotter and Esmond Bradley Martin.



WAYNE LOTTER | 1965 – 2017

In August 2017, the conservation world was shocked by the brutal murder of conservationist Wayne Lotter, gunned down in Tanzania on his way home from the airport. Wayne had received numerous death threats while battling international ivory-trafficking networks through his work as director and co-founder of the PAMS Foundation. His apparent assassination is a grim reflection of his success in threatening the traffickers.

Just six months later, ivory investigator and one of Save The Elephants' greatest allies,

Esmond Bradley Martin, was found murdered in his home in Nairobi in February 2018. Esmond had worked for STE for nearly 18 years, researching the legal and illegal wildlife trade across Africa, South-East Asia and the US. His tragic death is not thought to have been connected with his work on the ivory trade.

The loss of Wayne and Esmond, who both dedicated their lives to protecting wildlife, is a blow to the conservation world. Both were leaders in the conservation world, and we condemn their killers. Now is the time for all of us in the conservation community to rally around Wayne and Esmond's legacies. Their work will live on in the work of conservation organisations everywhere fighting for a better world for wildlife.

From all of us at Save The Elephants, we honour Esmond and Wayne for their commitment to conservation and the protection of elephants and the environment. We offer our heartfelt condolences to their families. We will not forget these two great elephant champions.



ESMOND BRADLEY MARTIN | 1942 – 2018

NEW PUBLICATIONS

By Save The Elephants' authors and associates.

Cook, R.M., Parrinia, F., King, L.E., Witkowskia, E.T.F., Henley, M.D. 2017. African Honeybees as a Mitigation Method for Elephant Impact on Trees. Elsevier. *Biological Conservation*. Volume 217, January 2018, Pages 329-336.

Environmental Investigation Agency. 2017. The Shuidong Connection: Exposing The Global Hub of the Illegal Ivory Trade. *Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)*.

Goldenberg, S. Z., Wittemyer, G. 2017. Orphaned Female Elephant Social Bonds Reflect Lack of Access to Mature Adults. *SCIENTIFIC Reports* | 7: 14408 | DOI:10.1038/s41598-017-14712-2

Ojwang, G.O., Wargute, P.W., Said, M.Y., Worden, J.S., Davidson, Z., Muruthi, P., Kanga, E., Ihwagi, F., Okita-Ouma, B. 2017. Wildlife Migratory Corridors and Dispersal Areas: Kenya Rangelands and Coastal Terrestrial Ecosystems. Copyright © 2017 Government of the Republic of Kenya

Ihwagi, F.W., Thouless, C., Wang, T., Skidmore, A.K., Omondi, P., Douglas-Hamilton, I. 2017. Night-Day Speed Ratio of Elephants as Indicator of Poaching Levels. *Ecological Indicators*. Volume 84, January 2018, Pages 38-44 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2017.08.039>

King, L., Pardo, M., Weerathunga, S., Kumara, T.V., Jayasena, N., Soltis, J. and de Silva, S. 2018. Wild Sri Lankan Elephants Retreat from the Sound of Disturbed Asian Honey Bees. *Current Biology* 28, R51-R65, January 22. DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2017.12.018 [http://www.cell.com/current-biology/abstract/S0960-9822\(17\)31649-4](http://www.cell.com/current-biology/abstract/S0960-9822(17)31649-4)

King, L.E., Lala, F., Nzumu, H., Mwambingu, E., and Iain Douglas-Hamilton, I. 2017. Beehive Fences as a Multidimensional Conflict-Mitigation Tool for Farmers Coexisting with Elephants. *Conservation Biology*, Volume 00, No. 0, 1-10 DOI: 10.1111/cobi.12898

Muntifer J.R., Linklater, W.L., Clark, S.G., Uri-#Khob, S., Kasaona, J.K., /Uiseb, K., Du Preez, P., Kasaona, K., Beytell, P., Ketji, J., Hambo, B., Brown, M.A., Thouless, C., Jacobs, S., Knight, A.T. (2017). Harnessing Values to Save The Rhinoceros: Insights from Namibia. *Oryx* 51(1):98-105.

Okita-Ouma B., Lala F., Koskei M., Mwazo A., Kibara D., King L., & Douglas-Hamilton I. 2017. Tracking and Monitoring of Elephant Movements along The Standard Gauge Railway and Highways in The Tsavo Ecosystem, Kenya (March 2016 – June 2017) *Save The Elephants and Kenya Wildlife Service*. Typescript 28 pages

Tucker, M. A., et al. 2018. Moving in The Anthropocene: Global Reductions in Terrestrial Mammalian Movements. *Science*. 2018 Jan 26;359(6374):466-469. doi: 10.1126/science.aam9712.

Vigne, L., & Martin, E. 2017. The Ivory Trade of Laos: Now the Fastest Growing in the World. *Save The Elephants*. ISBN 978-9966-107-83-1

NEWSPAPER OP-EDS

Okita-Ouma, B. 2017. SGR Great but Let Wildlife Thrive Too. *Daily Nation Newspaper*. Page 18 June 17

Okita-Ouma, B. and Kantai-Duff, R. 2017. Migratory Routes a Lifeline for Wildlife. *Daily Nation Newspaper*. Pg 18 July 17.

MATRIARCHS

As we prepare to mark our 25th anniversary in 2018, we have added a new page to our report to honour the men and women — our Tuskers and Matriarchs — who have devoted great energy to elephants but whose vital work is often behind the scenes. We launch this series with our inaugural Matriarchs, Oria and Saba Douglas-Hamilton, who

have both done so much and over such an extended period. They are connectors, advocates, educators and above all warriors for the elephants and their environment. Their passion has brought a blaze of colour to our work. For their lifetime of support, we salute Oria and Saba for all they have done for STE, and for elephants!

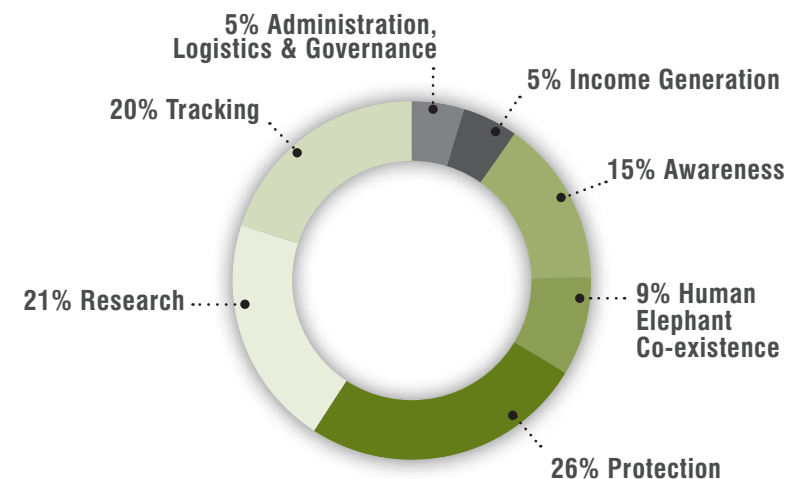
Pictured: Matriarch Elif from The Turks in Samburu.

PHOTO BY RYAN WILKIE

FINANCES

Save The Elephants relies on donations and grants to run our operations. As a registered UK Charity (no. 1118804) we operate under strict financial controls and with transparent financial operations. All grants and earmarked donations are used 100% on the intended projects.

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE 2017



STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES 2017 (USD)

REVENUE

Donations, Grants, Royalties	3,822,041
Interest Earned	183

TOTAL REVENUE	3,822,224
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EXPENSES

Programme Grants & Services	2,532,957
Administration, Logistics & Governance	137,956
Income Generation	135,293

TOTAL EXPENSES	2,806,206
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Audited accounts converted at a rate of £1=\$1.33

Unaudited figures for 2017 are presented here. Variations may result from the auditor's recommendations. At the end of 2017 STE held \$1.01m in reserves, equivalent to 5 months of operating expenditure. We aim to increase this reserve to cover 6 months by the end of 2018.



BUILD A FUTURE FOR ELEPHANTS


Elephants are among the most intelligent creatures on the planet and have complex emotions. They are being lost to the ivory trade and accelerating habitat and range destruction. You can help put a stop to this and ensure Africa's elephants are protected for generations to come.


PHOTO BY FRANK AT PETERSENS

NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL _____ BUT THE STAKES FOR THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT ARE HIGH

DONATE

CHEQUE Please include your address for the mailing of tax information.

 Payable to:
Wildlife Conservation Network,
209 Mississippi St, San Francisco,
CA 94107 marked for
Save The Elephants.
Tax Exempt ID #30-0108469
Tel: +1 415 202 6380

 Payable to:
Save The Elephants,
c/o Gerald Edelman, 73
Cornhill, London EC3V 3QQ
HMRC No: XT11693
Tel: +44 (0)20 7299 1400

ONLINE

A quick and safe way to make a difference in elephant conservation. Give a single or monthly donation
at: savetheelephants.org/donate

A LASTING GIFT

Leaving a gift in your will is a powerful way to make a lasting impact for elephants. After taking care of your loved ones, please consider remembering Save The Elephants.

Contact us at:
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