



SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

# Annual Report 2011







## A Letter from Our Founder

**W**ith another twelve months gone the tide of illegal killing of elephants is on the rise. This now threatens our resident trusting elephants in Samburu and our priorities have shifted accordingly. We are presently fully engaged in anti-poaching efforts in close collaboration with KWS, communities, the Northern Rangelands Trust and local government.

There has been a paradigm shift in conservation thinking that acknowledges demand for ivory is the key factor driving elephant poaching. China and the

Far East hold the key to the largest markets. In October 2010 we visited China's own elephants in Xishuangbanna, hosted by the China Wildlife Conservation Association and learnt that wild elephants there are highly valued and strictly protected. If China would respect elephants in Africa as well as her own, much of the problem would be solved. "If the buying stops the killing can too", a phrase borrowed from Wild Aid that has much truth.

More and more we realize the importance of education and conservation awareness, both internationally and at a local level. A return visit of our Chinese hosts in June 2011 allowed us to share the wonders of African wildlife. Developing these constructive lines of communication has given us hope for securing our elephants' future. That and the success of the local children we sponsor with our education scholarships were our highlights of 2011.

On the frontiers of research we progress with scientific publications for three regions of Africa (*page 26*). Our geo-alerts now warn us by a computer algorithm when one of our tracked animals is in trouble. The Mt. Kenya corridor has been a signal success and our tagged animal, Tony, was the first user. We joined with KWS to take part in another epic Tsavo Elephant Count that brought in invaluable population data. We launched new projects in Mara and the Chyulus.

It is through our donors that our work keeps going and we thank them for their extraordinary support. Wildlife Conservation Network and Charlie Knowles have been our anchor in the United States. Finally, we depend on loyal STE staff whom I thank.

*Iain Douglas Hamilton*

**Dr. Iain Douglas Hamilton**  
Founder and CEO

## Our Mission

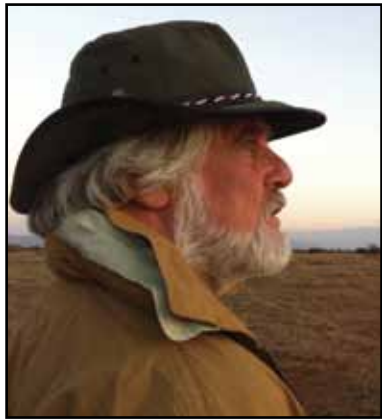
To secure a future for elephants and sustain the beauty and ecological integrity of the places they live, to promote man's delight in their intelligence and the diversity of their world, and to develop a tolerant relationship between the two species.



## Murembo - The Beautiful One

**O**n the front cover is Murembo, a great tusker from Tsavo, whose image was captured by Johan Marais in 2009. This magnificent old bull had an extraordinary capacity to evade elephant poachers. Eventually he died, presumably of natural causes at the age of 49 years (+ or - 2 years). His tusks, weighing over 140 lbs, and skull (*seen in the above picture*) were collected by KWS and will be preserved as a museum piece. Such great tuskers are extremely rare in Africa today as they are the greatest living targets for poachers. Their continued existence is a tribute to the protection they receive and their wily behaviour in staying out of trouble. We are grateful to Johan Marais for sharing both his images with us to inspire the world on what is worth saving.





## A Letter from Our Chairman

Dear Friends:

**W**hile Africa has lost none of its powerful charm, this last year has given us all another trying time.

The flood-ravaged camp has been rebuilt under Oria's expert guidance (and with your most generous donations) but a new drought has begun, with all its associated troubles and tribulations for both people and wildlife.

Congratulations to Lucy King, our Chief Operations Officer, on being awarded a doctorate of Philosophy in Zoology at Oxford University - an outstanding achievement backed up by an impressive list of publications. Lucy King rejoined STE full-time and started tackling many of the urgent issues in our programmes with her usual efficiency.

On another positive note I should mention that STE hosted, together with the Heritage Group and the Globe Foundation, a team of Chinese Conservationists on a safari tailored to explore the breadth of African Biodiversity and to imprint the importance of preserving it. This visit, too, built on Iain's tireless lobbying for elephant awareness, which this year once again was justly rewarded during his month-long visit to the US.

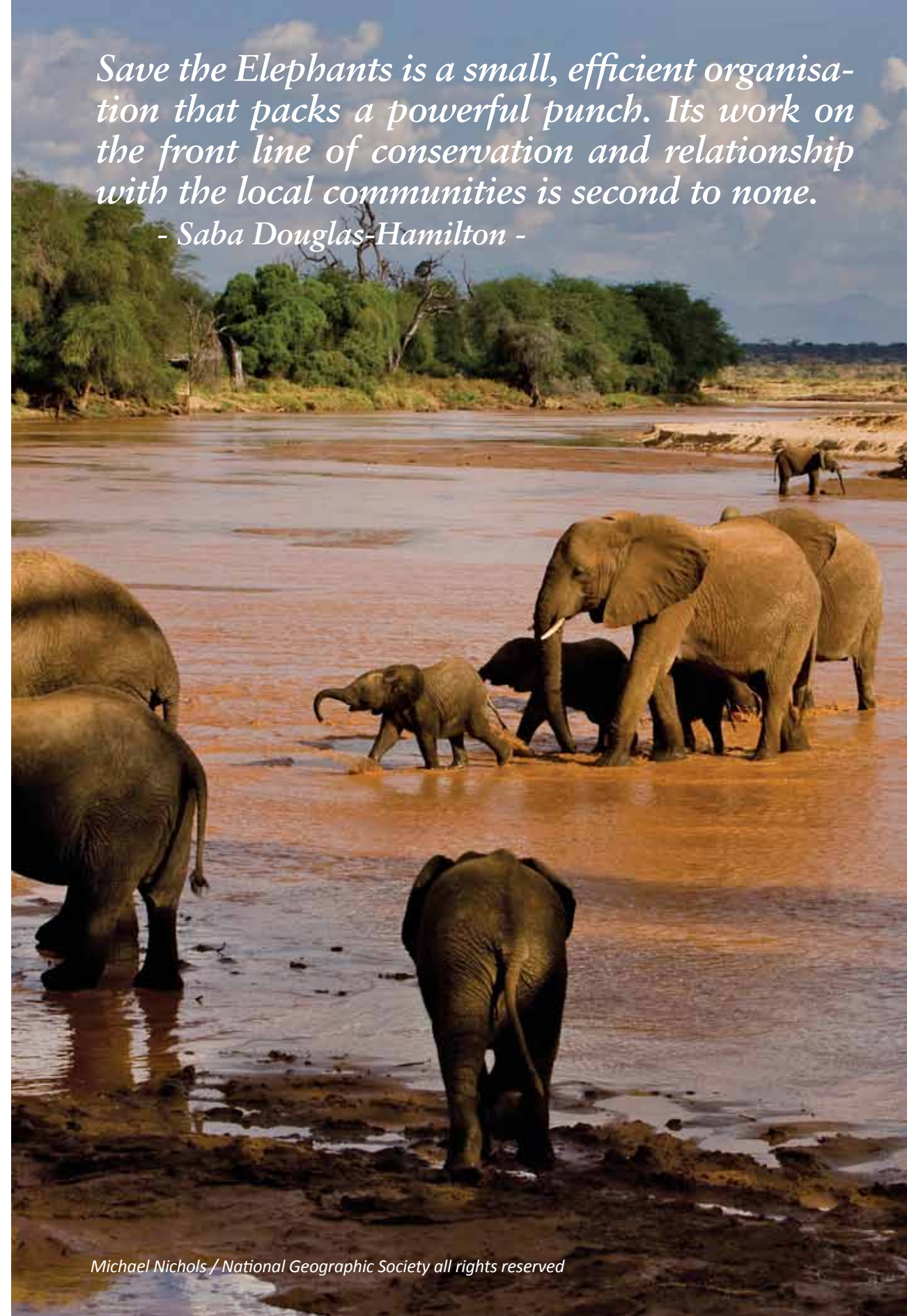
Alas, the drought is pressing our wildlife very hard, and poaching, even of our precious collared elephants is rocketing out of control. But the continued strong support by our generous donors is enabling STE to begin mounting stronger defenses in collaboration with KWS.

Importantly, we hope that our invaluable store of data and insights, many gained from a decade of tracking elephants in Samburu, will allow us to reverse the worrying trend of ever more sophisticated poachers and traders. Identifying the origin of ivory will be one weapon in our own arsenal; arming elephant collars with sensitive sensors will be another. On the bottom line, however, any lasting success will depend on the goodwill of the local people as well as enlightenment of national and international politicians. Fingers crossed.

Professor Fritz Vollrath  
Chairman

*Save the Elephants is a small, efficient organisation that packs a powerful punch. Its work on the front line of conservation and relationship with the local communities is second to none.*

*- Saba Douglas-Hamilton -*



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# PROTECTION

## Rising Ivory Prices Threaten Samburu

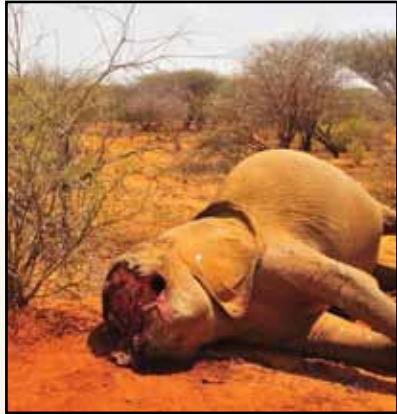
by Dr. George Wittemyer

**S**ave the Elephants has been individually monitoring the Samburu elephants for the last 14 years, making it one of the world's best-studied populations. For much of this period, Samburu has been a safe haven for elephants, but things have changed in the

the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Northern Rangeland Trust security team has identified that local black-market ivory prices around Samburu have more than doubled since 2007, and are over ten times higher than in 1990. This is a frightening change in the incentive to poach.



*After a failed poaching attempt Khadija suffered four bullet wounds, two of which can be seen here in her left shoulder. Image taken: 24th June 2011*



*Poachers struck for a second time and Khadija was killed, under a full moon, on the night of 12th July 2011 leaving eight orphans, and her calves to fend for themselves*

last two years. Save the Elephants long-term monitoring has registered a spike in the illegal killing of known elephants in the past 2.5 years which is backed up by the MIKE data. The highest poaching rates recorded were in the first five months of 2011. Poaching of males has resulted in a highly skewed population sex ratio, with more than double the number of females to males. Poachers are also now targeting adult females, resulting in the loss of one or more in most families and leaving roughly one in five groups with no mature females. The number of orphans in the population is increasing rapidly.

These changes correlate with a near tripling of the total number of seizures of illegal ivory in or coming from Kenya and with rising global ivory prices. Our work with

These events are forcing Save the Elephants to focus resources and effort on combating poaching and the illegal ivory trade, in addition to enhancing incentives for local communities to protect elephants. We are presently launching a multi-pronged programme where we will support anti-poaching efforts

on the ground and develop technology to serve as early warning indices of poaching pressure. In addition we continue our long-term efforts to stem global ivory trade regulated by CITES (the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species). These are endeavours for which we look to our donors, stakeholders and partners for support.

The pressure on the Samburu elephants is evidence that ivory demand and prices have reached a point where poachers are willing to target well-protected, closely monitored populations. We are seriously concerned that what we have recorded for the Samburu elephant population may be a harbinger of what is to come for Africa's protected areas.

## The Power of Partnerships

by Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton

**T**o combat elephant poaching we need to act on two fronts, to support anti-poaching in the field and to create awareness among the buyers of ivory that their action causes the killing of elephants.

A vital key to lowering poaching is to gain local community support. Our data show that in the community conservancies to the north of Samburu elephants have mainly natural mortality (*see map on page 7*). Illegal killing is mainly south of the Ewaso River where the ownership of the land has not yet been defined. Yet these southern communities

gives them great insight on where to organize protective patrols.

As we go to press a new grant from the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation has enabled us to buy two patrol vehicles and support for the community scouts to the South of Samburu National Reserve. Here, new conservancies are being formed. The communities are keen to be part of the Northern Rangelands Trust. We have attended meetings under thorn trees and heard their plans to stop the poaching. The new vehicles and our expanding level of



*Nasulu community meeting to discuss the formation of a new community conservancy as part of the NRT*

want to adopt the conservation option. We are supporting local volunteers who are furious that "their" elephants are being destroyed before they even had a chance to form a conservancy.

In all this we have good allies. First and foremost the Northern Rangelands Trust, supported by The Nature Conservancy have been forming numerous community conservancies in the elephants' northern range. We will be working with them on new projects. We have supplied software that allows our collaborators to look at the hourly position of tagged elephants, which

support are a critical boost to the morale and effectiveness of these local conservationists.

The other key to saving elephants lies across the world where we need to persuade the consumers of the Far East to understand and to care that their demand for ivory is causing elephants to die. Our trip to China was hosted by the China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA), and their return trip to Kenya, sponsored by the Heritage Group, is the beginning of a vital partnership with CWCA to tackle the demand that drives the illegal killing of elephants (*see page 22*).



# PROTECTION

## Long-Term Monitoring of Samburu Elephants

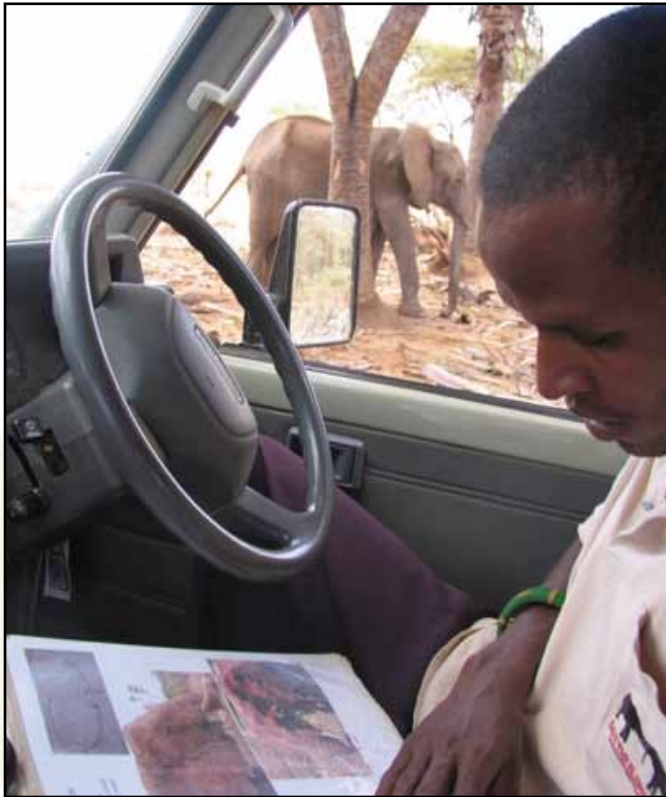
by Chris Leadismo

**S**ave the Elephants' Long-Term Monitoring programme has been in operation for more than 14 years in Samburu National Reserve currently supported by the Globe Foundation. The aim is to understand elephant's movements, social behaviour and population dynamics in Samburu and adjacent areas. I am part of the field research team, led by David Daballen, and every day we go out to sight the individuals we know and to record any new births, deaths or associations.

The process of collecting data on known animals requires a precise effort to ensure accurate scientific data collection. Whenever a family group is sighted, we record all the members who are present. If any family member is missing we note that this might be a mortality, but it can only be confirmed over time. In the dry season it becomes more difficult as many elephants move far away, out of our core area in search of food. But they come back with the rains.

So what findings did our long-term monitoring programme bring this year?

- Northern Kenya suffered another bout of drought, and Samburu has been affected. Sometimes the calves without enough food get weaker and can't keep up with their family. A number have been killed by lions and as in 2009 there has been an above average mortality of young elephants in the last 12 months.



Chris Leadismo, Research Assistant, at work in Samburu

- The other major challenge affecting our population growth is the dramatic increase in poaching all over the Samburu area. We have recorded the deaths of many matriarchs in individual groups, so now the field team is focusing its efforts to identify the orphan groups by updating their photo and ID files. We are interested to see how orphans react after they have lost their matriarchal leadership and if they associate with other families during this time of stress.

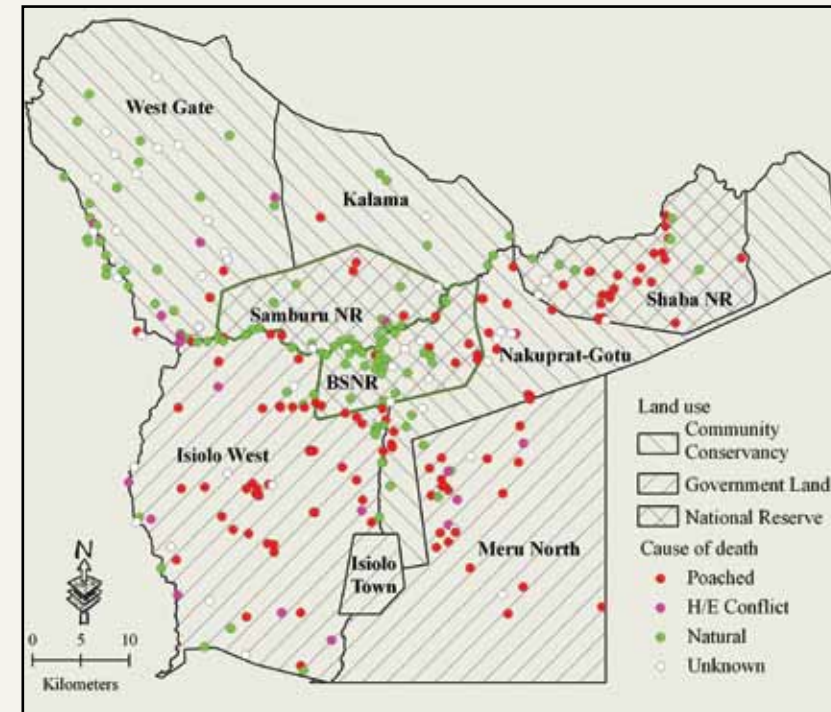
Knowing all our study elephants individually and by sight allows us to identify the early warning signs of any major changes in births and deaths and their causes.

## Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants

by Festus Ihwagi

**M**onitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) is a programme of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in the elephant range states. The Laikipia-Samburu MIKE site is one of 43 in Africa. Save the Elephants, supported by the Barrett Foundation, assists KWS and other local stakeholders to ensure

and whether tusks are present or not. Our team often has to trek and ride across rough terrain to record the particulars. My role is to assist in data cleaning mapping, calculating trends and ensuring timely delivery of a clean data set to KWS, the national management authority within the CITES treaty.



2002-2011; The greatest concentration of poached elephants (red) were found south of the Ewaso River, where there are no conservancies (STE / KWS data)

carcass records are documented correctly and reported scientifically. STE's work on MIKE in Samburu District was adopted as a case study at the most recent CITES Conference of the Parties in 2010.

Save the Elephants finds local communities of the northern rangelands a major source of data. A typical visit to a carcass identifies the cause of death, the age of carcass, the sex

This year has not been a good one as in the first seven months nearly 60% of the carcasses recorded in our MIKE site were of illegally killed elephants which is higher than normal. Four out of seven collared elephants, within the thick Mt. Kenya Forest, were also poached this year. Notably the proportion of "illegally killed", or PIKE value (Percentage of Illegal Killed Elephants), has risen to an all time high for the ecosystem. This level of illegal killing

raises an alarm. If conservation of elephants is threatened so is employment, security, and donor funding for the communities surrounding the conservancies. Illegal killing of elephants is a form of economic sabotage for the development agenda. Wildlife is intended to enhance livelihood options, meet real social needs, and address environmental priorities.



# GRASSROOT EDUCATION

## Mobile Education Unit Kicks Off

by Resson Kantai



*The new vehicle for our Education Programme, courtesy of SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund*

After the long wait for a vehicle for the Education Programme, the arrival of a brand new Suzuki, purchased courtesy of SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, has truly put the Mobile Education Unit on the road!

Since the beginning of the year, the education team has been able to go far and wide to visit several high schools to see our sponsored students dotted around the country. Most importantly we've managed to put the unit's core function back on course: Conservation Education Outreach. In areas that are the hardest hit by poaching, and others flailing under the grip of deforestation and drought, our conservation education school programmes have been welcomed like cool water soaked up by the thirsty ground.

This year we have focused our efforts on five schools bordering Samburu National Reserve: Girgir Primary, Ngare Mara School, Attan Primary, West Gate Lpus Leluai and Chumviyeri Primary Schools. We've collaborated directly with the teachers to

show films and give talks on elephants and the environment which includes teaching them about the best techniques to live peacefully with elephants and other wildlife.

In some places we've received overwhelmingly positive responses, with the children easily grasping the concepts. In other schools tribal language barriers have made detailed communication more challenging. From each experience we've learned how to tackle numerous issues, sometimes having to plan for infrastructural and social development- for which funding is desperately needed- before beginning our programme. One child at a time, we hope to help build communities of environmentally conscious individuals; the future custodians of the incredible lands in which they live.

Our plans for next year comprise game drives for school children as well as reintroducing inter-school sports and art competitions with conservation as their main theme.

## Shifting Focus and Climbing Ladders

by Resson Kantai

In a bid to improve the quality of education our students are receiving, we've zeroed-in on an important but largely neglected area. We have found that to give the brightest young minds from hardship areas the best possible chance to succeed, we had to get them to better schools. This year we've been successful in putting the largest number of students into National and Provincial schools since the programme began with two girls at Bahati Girls' Secondary, the 3rd best school in the entire country, one in Mary Hill Girls and another in Maseno School- two of the foremost National Schools in Kenya. This formula worked with Benjamin Loloju, our bright star who went to a good school, Lenana Boys School, got straight As and was among the top 100 students out of 250,000 that sat the exam in the country in 2009. More recently, all the girls that graduated in 2010 from good Provincial schools finished with Bs and above.

We congratulate the girls for their great success! Now we have every cause to hope for similar results in the coming years.

As for our graduates, we're moving into new frontiers with the internship programme. In 2011, we designed a merry-go-round schedule that would see the 2010 graduates teach in a local school, complete a conservation internship at STE and undertake a hospitality training course at Olerai in Naivasha. This new programme has been a win-win venture - the students, Rose Lempate, Sally Lenaimalda, Sabina Lesopiroi and Stella

Lengewat gained vital skills in all the sectors they worked in - children got new teachers, while the teachers and staff benefitted from much needed relief from many of the tasks with which they were laden.

Although there have been great leaps forward, it pains me that out of the 40 children I interviewed last year, only five got sponsorship, leaving dozens of qualified candidates out in the cold. And as our dream



*Resson Kantai teaching children at West Gate School*

to see more bright children gain access to better education grows, so then does the funding gap. Of equal importance is the need for our bright stars to gain access to higher education, without which their determined efforts in high school will come to naught. With the untiring support of our sponsors, we press on, working with what we've got and making it count for the future of these children.

Scholarships are supported by individuals whom we thank deeply.



# GRASSROOT EDUCATION

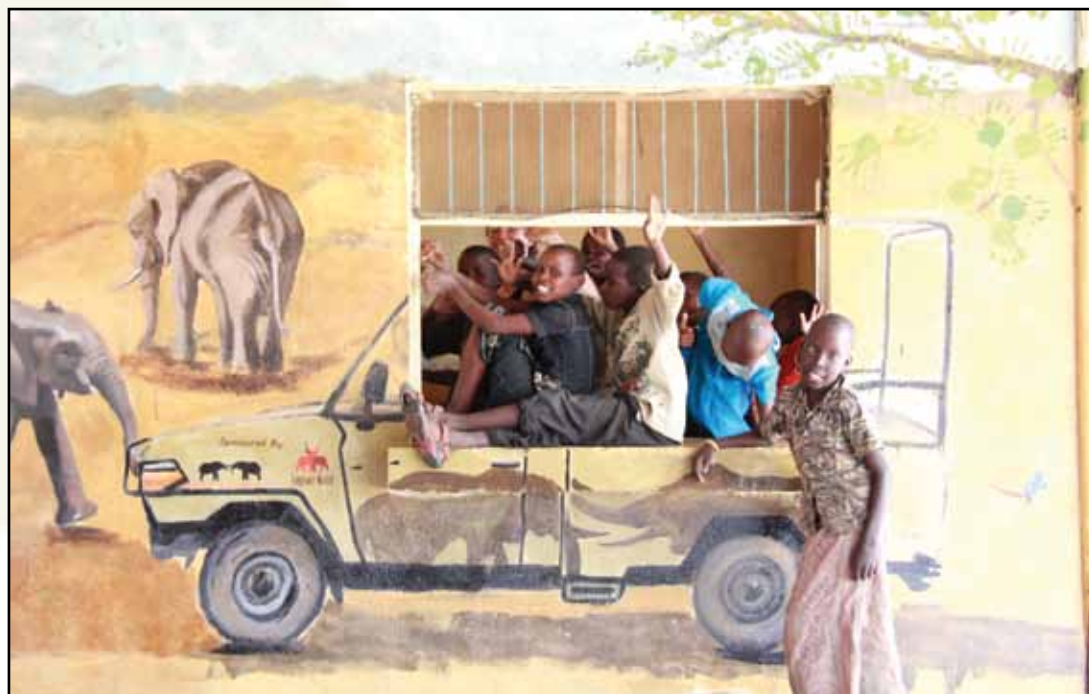
## West Gate School Moves Forward

by Resson Kantai

We continue to direct our efforts towards infrastructural development at West Gate School. The girls are enjoying the comfort of their new dormitory, a home away from home, where they are assured of three meals a day which is a rare blessing in the drought-stricken North. Being enrolled at school, they are also protected from the perils of early marriage

mural on the wall of the kitchen/cafeteria built by STE last year. We also managed to give a welcome donation of sports equipment and activity books to each of the five schools we have been working with, courtesy of Shirley Minassian, another valued STE intern.

Now that we've adopted another four schools into our programme, an abundance



*The mural painted by artist Fran Sanders at West Gate School*

and female genital mutilation.

The funds generously donated by Disney's Coins for Change Program will be used to build the headmaster a house in West Gate, a project that should commence in September. This will move him from his rather squalid housing into much more conducive quarters. In the meantime, STE volunteer and artist, Fran Sanders, painted a beautiful elephant

of work awaits us. Each new school comes with its own challenges, whether it be a derelict food store in West Gate, the sheer lack of desks and chairs in Attan Primary, or dangerously wind-tossed roofing in Chumviyeri. Our next step is to integrate all of these schools, which is both exciting in terms of reaching more kids, and challenging because of all the materials and equipment necessary to better each one.

## Farewell and Good Luck to Resson

by Oria Douglas-Hamilton

Resson is a young lady who encompasses the perfect Ps - petite, pretty, professional, passionate, and playful - when needed. From the moment she slipped into my office last year to take over the Education Programme, I knew she would be perfect to pick up the lead and bring the Education Programme to a new level of excellence. It has been a constant pleasure to work with Resson and to know that each student would receive the necessary encouragement and follow up towards a successful academic career.



*Resson Kantai*

Ten years ago, in 2001, I started our Education Programme with only two students. This year at our 10th Anniversary Celebration, we were proud to announce that 70 students had passed through our Secondary Education Programme. Though we are sad to lose her temporarily, Resson is off for a year to tackle an MSc at Oxford University and we are immensely proud of her achievements and her strengths. All of us at Save the Elephants and Elephant Watch wish her success, and know that she will excel at whatever she sets her mind to do. Good luck Resson and come back soon.

## STE's Internship Programme

by Gemma Francis

At STE, we offer internships for national and overseas young people, usually students studying conservation or science, to work with us at our research station in Samburu.



*Shifra Goldenberg intern with Save the Elephants in January 2011*

From sampling elephant scat and collecting tail hairs, to monitoring and experiencing elephant behaviour with some of the world's renowned elephant researchers, the charity gives unique opportunities and valuable experiences to a number of selected individuals every year.

Officially launched three years ago, the programme continues to be a great success. Interns gain a life-changing experience and make useful contributions to our research. They are exposed from the start to a remarkable environment and experience first hand what it is like to be part of a research station. The food at camp is pretty simple and the long hours in the bush can be tough at times, but the sense of joy and wonder from intense immersion in the world of elephants lasts a lifetime.

For more information on the programme and past experiences please visit us at [www.savetheelephants.org/internships](http://www.savetheelephants.org/internships).

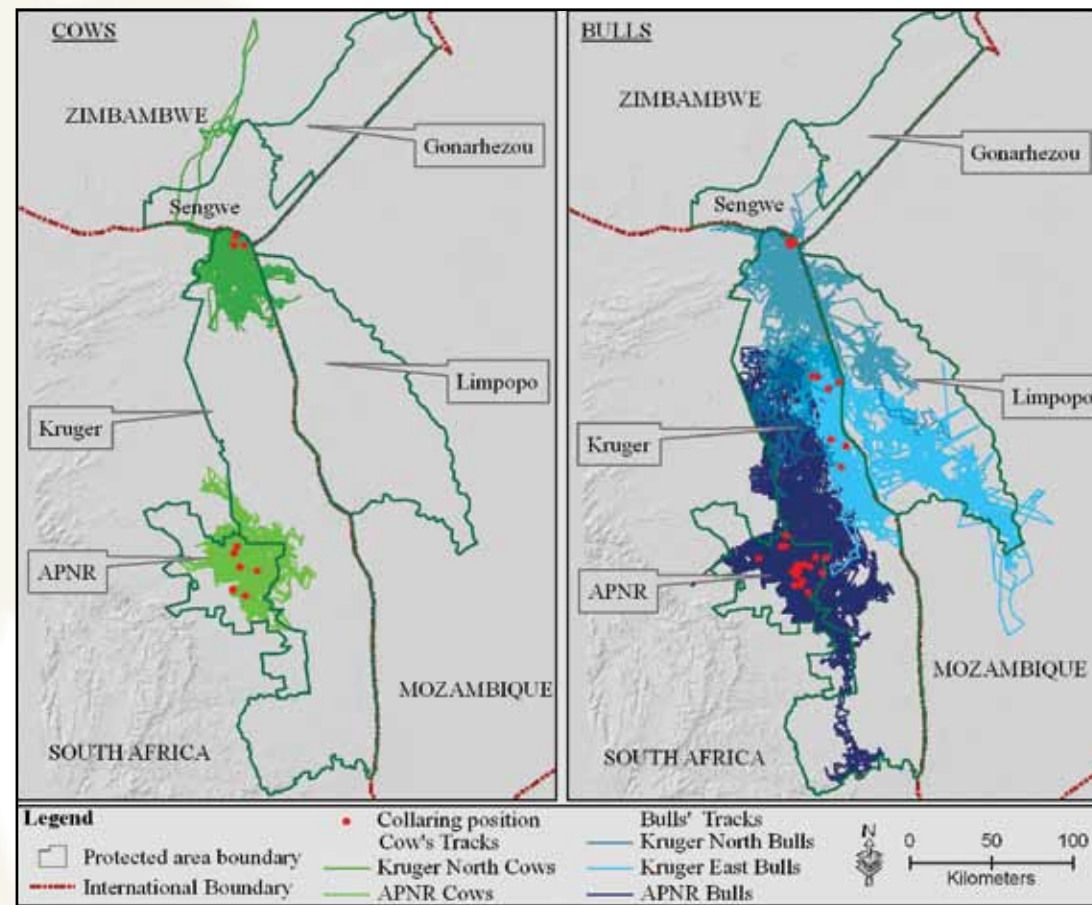
# RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

## Save the Elephants - South Africa

by Dr. Michelle Henley

The Transboundary Elephant Research Programme represents the South African branch of Save the Elephants. The project started officially in 2003 but draws on data collected for over a decade thereby representing a long-term study focused on understanding the motivation behind

West (Associated Private Nature Reserves). Collectively this complex of protected areas is known as the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. A number of Great Tuskers still reside within this extensive conservation area. These large tusked bulls carry ivory over 100lbs a side and are usually the first to be



**2002-2011: Our females largely restrict their movements to the Associated Private Nature Reserves or the Pafuri region on the western and northern boundary of the KNP. Bulls roam more widely across neighbouring KNP and into Limpopo National Park. They tend to take greater risks. This makes them more susceptible to hunters, poachers and human-elephant conflict**

elephant movements from core conservation areas such as the Kruger National Park (KNP) to the North (Zimbabwe), the East (Limpopo National Park in Mozambique) and the

targeted when the demand for ivory escalates. The Great Tuskers are sentinels of bygone eras, representing benchmarks of successful conservation endeavours in protected core

areas, like the KNP, where they can still be found.

For the past eight years while based within the Associated Private Nature Reserves (APNR), we have only experienced one elephant poaching incident ( $< 0.01\%$ ) and these low poaching frequencies are probably mirrored within the KNP. Nevertheless, as the demand for ivory is increasing daily, large tusked bulls will always represent prized trophies to the hunting fraternity who operate in protected areas adjacent to the KNP. Hunting in the past has been biased towards trophy sized bulls which has necessitated protocols outlining tusk weight limits to protect older animals which also represent the prime breeders in elephant society. Bulls are particularly susceptible to the risk of poaching and hunting as elephant tusks grow at a constant rate in length throughout life but for the bulls the rate at which the tusks increase in weight accelerates as the pulp cavity fills and this does not occur until old age. Sport hunters should be made aware that even their demand can skew the distribution of elephant sex ratios when removing a proportion of old bulls, unless there are very strict quotas by size imposed that prevent overexploitation of 'old' age classes.

Bulls are less averse to risk when compared to cows who not only move slower across the landscape with young ones at foot but who also need to consider the safety of the entire family unit. Bulls are therefore inclined to explore new areas and range more widely than cows. Our data clearly shows that bulls move further from their original collaring site than cows. At our northern study site where 12 animals were collared, one bull moved between the KNP and Gonarezhou in Zimbabwe, moving fast between protected areas but with the entire round-trip lasting just over a month at the height of the dry season. On another

occasion a cow also went from South Africa into Zimbabwe over a two month period and during the wet season when water would be widely available which would decrease possible competition with man over limited resources outside of the protected areas (Figure 1). With the help of Transfrontier Africa we have recently extended our elephant identification study into the Balule Private Nature Reserve, a protected area which was incorporated into the existing APNR on the far western boundary of the KNP in 2006. Here we have identified a disproportionate amount of young bulls thereby indicating that young bulls function as scouts and are



**Mac, Save the Elephants' iconic bull. Of all the radio-tagged elephants in Africa, he's been the most continuously tracked (2002-2011) and has the largest tusks (115 lbs)**

usually the first to explore new areas.

With the rising demand for ivory our bulls and Great Tuskers will only be kept alive if well protected. At this stage the KNP are to be commended for their vision and dedication to the protection of these magnificent individuals. It will however take our continued effort and concern to enable potential big tusked elephants and our existing Great Tuskers to grace our protected areas with their presence in the face of man's increasing greed.



# RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

## Elephants and Bees

by Dr. Joseph Soltis and Dr. Lucy King

We have two major goals in our investigation of the interaction between African elephants and African honeybees: To find out how elephants communicate about bees and other threats; and to see if bee-hives can be used as natural elephant deterrents.

Second, we are using our unique beehive fence to keep elephants away from farmers' crops which we have been constructing and monitoring for the past several years. The droughts in our study areas emphasize the need to work with communities to diversify their income and food security, and



First we are discovering how elephants communicate about threats in their environment by playing different sounds to elephants from hidden speakers. We have shown that elephant run from bees (King et al., 2007), but also that they make a distinctive alarm call that warns other elephants about the bee threat (King et al., 2010).

We are now exploring how elephants react to human threats by playing the voices of various local tribes. These are first time discoveries in elephants and have been made in collaboration with the bio-acoustic team at Disney's Animal Kingdom® in Florida. We are also hugely grateful for their financial support.



increase tolerance for elephants. We have been extensively monitoring crop-raiding in 17 farms protected by beehive fences and another 17 "protected" by thorny bushes. Of 32 successful farm invasions, only one occurred in the bee-hive protected farms, showing that bee-hive fences can be an effective, non-violent elephant deterrent (King et al., 2011). In addition, the beehives have quietly produced hundreds of kilograms of honey! This is a huge bonus, and provides an income for farmers. We have named this exciting product "Elephant-Friendly Honey."

All 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).

## Automated Behaviour Monitoring

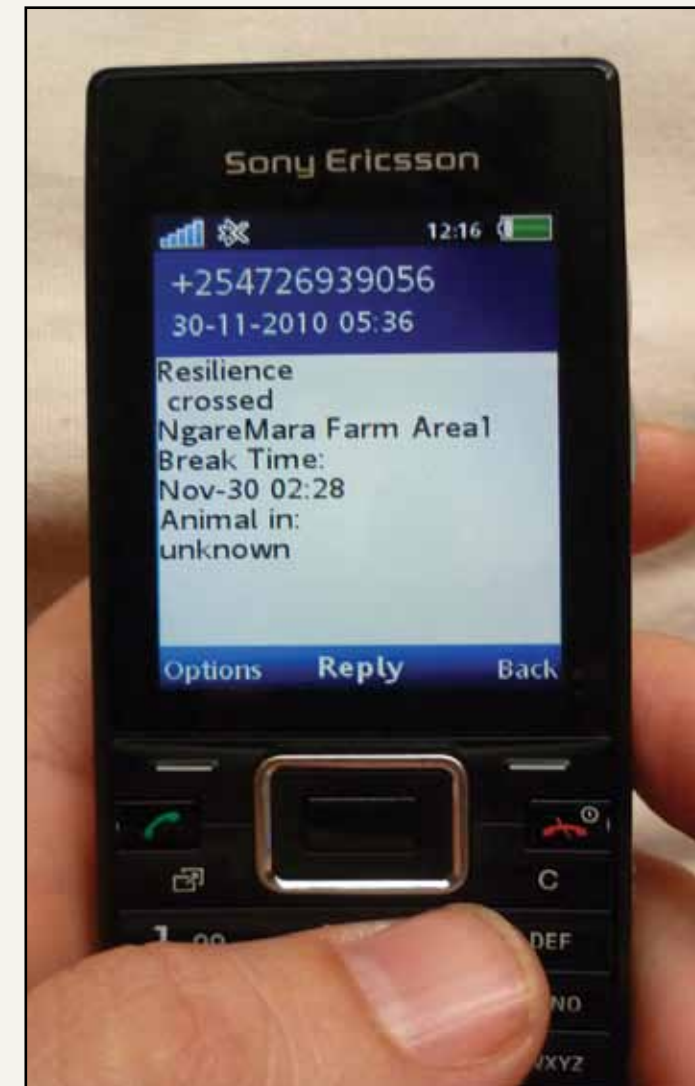
by Jake Wall

In addition to the Save the Elephants 'Geofencing' system that works as a monitor of elephant spatial behaviour, we are now breaking new ground with software built on the ESRI ArcGIS platform that works as a movement monitoring system. Using custom built algorithms we have been able to programme our tracking server to look for certain behavioural conditions. When such a condition occurs, the system can send an alert

either via text message or email.

An example of the operation of the new monitoring system happened with the elephant 'Ngelesha', a bull elephant located on Ol Ari Nyiro in western Laikipia. On January 16 the algorithm running on the server identified that the movements of Ngelesha had dropped below the average for a normal elephant and it triggered an alarm. By January 17, Kuki Gallmann had located the bull using the GPS coordinates sent by the server and determined that the bull had sustained a serious injury to his hind left-leg. The news was then forwarded to KWS and on February 4, Dr. Mathew Mutinda led a team to treat Ngelesha's leg. They found it was seriously swollen and infected as the result of a spear wound but were able to help it with massive doses of antibiotic. We are happy to say that Ngelesha has made a full recovery. Thanks to the new system, his on-going movements are being constantly watched by the server in Nairobi.

Our system is also trained to look for 'immobility' such as when an elephant is poached and the collar remains in one position beyond a certain amount of time. We are improving the movement algorithms which are already helping in the fight against poaching. Long-term support of Safaricom Foundation in cash and kind is bearing fruit in this project.





## RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

### The Increasing Human Footprint

by Bernard Lesowapir

While much is known and recorded about Samburu's ecosystem and wildlife populations, significant information gaps exist regarding the distribution of human settlements and other socio-economic infrastructure that impact mobility for both wildlife and pastoralists. It is therefore crucial to understand the spatial and temporal interactions between human settlements and activities with wildlife movement patterns

A Total Station and a Garmin GPS were used in obtaining topographical data of every house in a boma. Data collected consist of human settlements, roads, schools, rivers and water points, lodges and shops.

Certain significant changes were apparent from the preliminary results of our fieldwork. These are:

- The habitat has seen rapid development of unplanned permanent and semi permanent settlements around the reserve boundaries
- The number of human settlements is increasing around the reserve boundaries. In 2008 new permanent and semi permanent villages/settlements appeared around the four areas



in order to develop sustainable land use plans and devise strategies to reduce human elephant conflict (HEC).

With this in mind, STE has continued to monitor the development of settlements and the spread of human habitations around the Samburu National Reserve boundaries. The spatial data from 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008 has been collected into a central database which will form the base for looking at changes in future years. From the high resolution images that cover the study area, all the human settlements were first plotted as Keyhole Mark-up Language (KML) files and then converted into ESRI shape files where other attributes were added.

in the reserve. These developments are attributed to tourism activities.

- In 2005, when the project started, there were five permanent lodges and one under construction then. Currently there are ten permanent lodges fully operational in the reserves, and two outside the reserve making a total of 12.

In conclusion, wildlife dispersal zones and migratory routes are gradually decreasing due to expansion of semi-permanent and permanent human settlement. In addition environmental degradation is caused by over-exploitation of wood for fuel, grazing for livestock and the building of livestock fences.

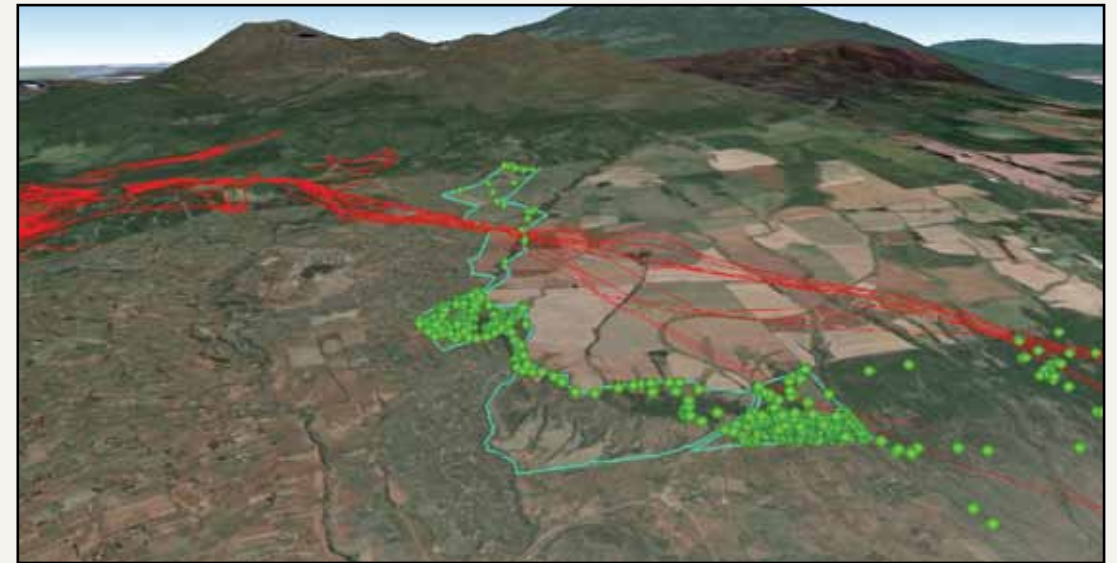
Thanks for support from National Geographic, ESRI and Google.

### Mount Kenya Corridor

by Jake Wall

Save the Elephants tracking programme is to quantify landscape connectivity from an elephant's perspective. One of the best examples of this is a corridor first seen in use by a large bull called Mountain Bull on the slopes of Mount Kenya. Although it was believed that other elephants also moved between the mountain and the Lewa/Borana region to the north, the first quantitative

built with money raised by The Bill Woodley Mount Kenya Trust and fencing of the upper section connecting to the Mt. Kenya Forest Reserve was completed in December 2010. In some places the corridor is narrow, only 100 meters across, but the most challenging aspect for elephants navigating the corridor is the highway underpass that routes elephants straight under the busy Isiolo/Meru highway.



*The red line shows Mountain Bull's traditional migration up Mt. Kenya. The new corridor, outlined in blue, was used first by a young bull called Tony and is now increasingly being adopted by all these migratory elephants*

evidence was found when Mountain Bull was fitted with a VHF tracking collar in the late 1990's. In 2004, when the VHF was switched for a GPS collar we could show the exact route taken by Mountain Bull each time he moved from the lush forests of the mountain to the dry savannah.

His movements triggered the idea of establishing an elephant corridor that would allow passage of all elephants, not just risk-taking bulls. The corridor was built along the margins of land owned by Marania and Kisima farms and is adjacent to a local community to the east. The corridor was

Save the Elephants has provided a total of 8 GPS collars for monitoring the elephant movements up and down the corridor. So far the data has shown how quickly elephants can adapt to changes in the landscape and they navigate the new route. Within 24 hrs of the corridor being opened, our collared elephant named Tony made his way into the lower section on January 2, 2011. He has since navigated the entire length of the 10 km corridor and started exploring the forests of Mount Kenya, a place he may never have actually been before!



# CONSERVATION TOURISM

## Elephant Watch - Tourism for Conservation

by Oria Douglas-Hamilton



© Tom Gruber

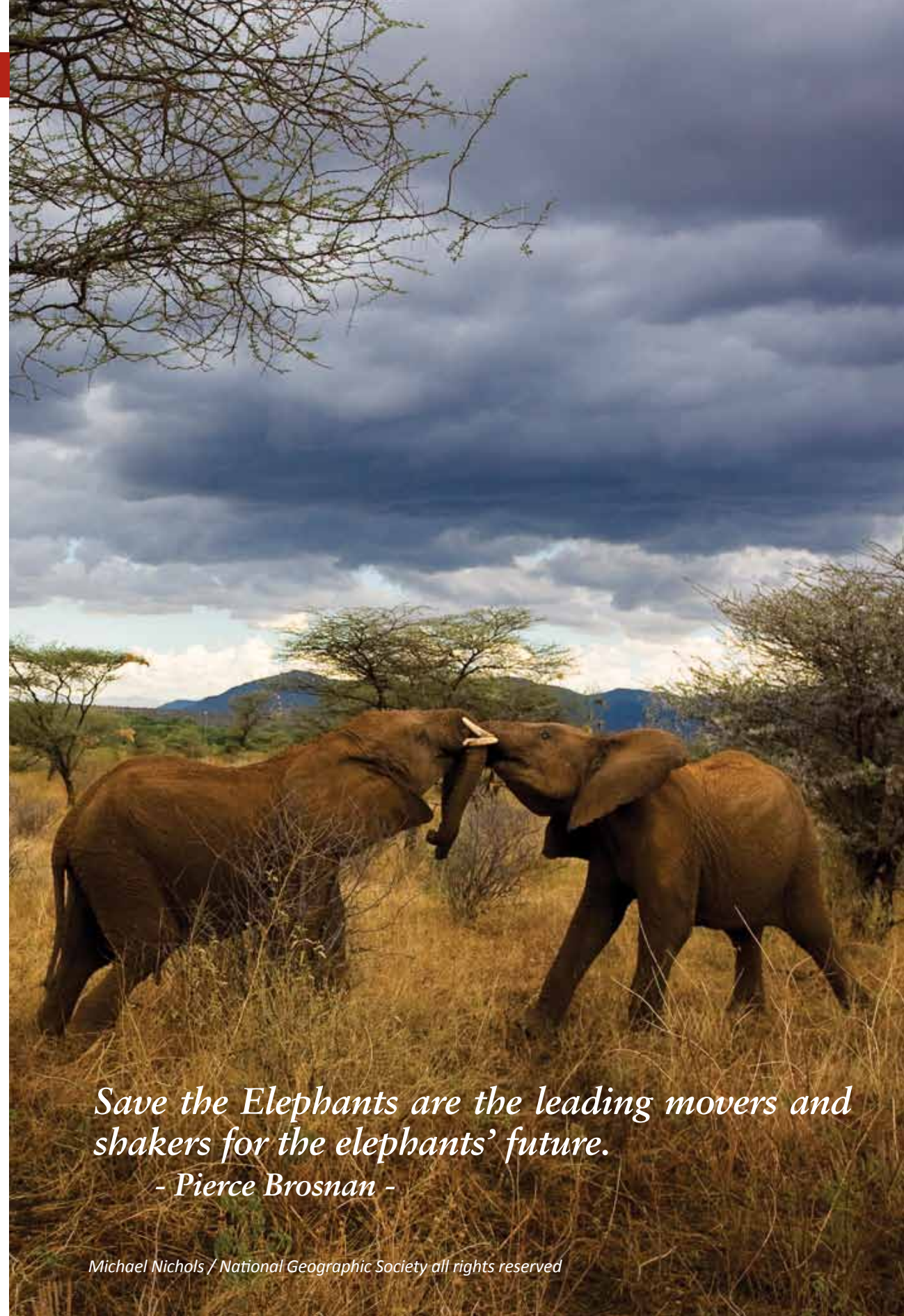
In 2001 Elephant Watch was born - starting as a small 'eco-camp' separate from the research camp where some of STE's donors could spend days among the elephants.

The Camp is run commercially and pays its dues to the Samburu County Council who own the national reserve. It has a very low footprint on the environment and is constructed from logs picked up from river debris and trees long pushed over by elephants. At Elephant Watch guests mix with the Samburu people, discussing everything from elephants and lions to pasta recipes, herbal medicine, University degrees, fire-making, marriage and circumcision, and finally how to conserve our precious environment for the future.

Education, training and employment are central to Elephant Watch. We endeavour to enthuse and train a new generation of young local conservationists who will be able to put their hands and hearts into implementing responsible tourism. After 10 years the results have been positive, creative, and economically viable.

Bordering the river's edge we protect *Acacia elatior* and other trees from elephants' tusks by the simple method of wrapping their trunks with chicken wire. We now have one of the few healthy forests along a 2 km riverfront with abundant greenery. Trying to keep livestock out of the protected area is a big problem, but with more emphasis on conservation, as a supplementary way of life for the nomadic people, the wild animals can return and reproduce. This is one of our priorities for the next decade.

With new plans germinating to make Nasuulu (the whole area on the southern side of the Ewaso River opposite Elephant Watch Camp) into a protected Conservation Area, we are encouraging the use of camels as an important part of the nomadic life (while trying to decrease the use of "shoats" and cattle) and pushing for the possible reintroduction of kudu, oryx and eland which were previously in this area. Our aim is to provide a viable self-sustaining ecotourism camp that will foster community participation in conservation and education.



*Save the Elephants are the leading movers and shakers for the elephants' future.*

*- Pierce Brosnan -*

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## RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

### Monitoring Samburu's Wildlife

by *Jerenimo Lepirei*

In 2006, Save the Elephants introduced a mammal census for both Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves. The aim of this project is to monitor the trend for population of wild animals and to document any invasions of livestock into the Reserves.

So far in 2011 there have been less sightings of livestock in Samburu National Reserve compared to 2010. Grevy's zebra numbers seem to have increased in both Reserves. Lesser kudu numbers are highly localized around the STE Research Camp but appear to be on the increase. Greater kudu have also occasionally been seen. Beisa

oryx, impala and Grant's gazelle are sighted frequently and in large numbers. Wild dogs have returned to Samburu and different packs have been frequently sighted during 2011. Other predators such as lion, cheetah and leopard seem to be surviving well in Samburu.

These records show the effects of drought. Livestock invaded in large number in the severe drought of 2009. When the rains came the livestock left, but buffalo were revealed to have nearly died out. Other grazers recovered and continue to give a good spectacle for the tourists and food for the lions.



### Ewaso Lion Project Update

A close partner of Save the Elephants, Shivani Bhalla of the Ewaso Lion Project, has continued to work towards her PhD under the supervision of STE Chairman, Professor Fritz Vollrath from Oxford University. Her thesis looks at the factors affecting lion sociality within the Samburu/Buffalo Springs ecosystem and the Westgate Community Conservancy.

Africa's lion population has declined 30-50% in the past 20 years and have been extirpated from at least 83% of their historical range. According to current estimates, only 23,000 lions remain on the continent. In Kenya, approximately only 1,970 remain in the country.

The decline in lion numbers is mainly due to habitat loss and wild prey depletion, and retaliatory killing of lions as a result of them preying on livestock. Parks and reserves are often too small to contain lions. Lions often occupy community lands outside protected areas and this substantially increases the likelihood that lions and people will compete over the same resources and come into conflict. Through her thesis, Shivani and the Ewaso Lion Project work closely with local people to increase awareness of lions and their importance. She hopes to complete her thesis by early 2012.



### New Ventures

We have two exciting new projects that are extending our expertise in radio tracking into new areas with new partners. We are partnering with Richard's Camps in the Mara, sponsored by the Globe Foundation, to deploy a new rapid response field team to deal with twin challenges of lowering human elephant conflict and dealing with rising elephant poaching. Richard Roberts and Marc Goss are organizing the training and deployment of community scouts. A second phase, sponsored by Heritage Group, will attach radio collars to 10 elephants that will not only improve security but will also give insights into the cross border movements of elephants into the Serengeti National Park.



In the Chyulu Hills with Richard Bonham we attached radio collars to three large bulls near his ecotourism camp. Richard for years has worked with KWS to improve wildlife security. As a result some large bull elephants still thrive in the conservancy he has initiated. This project is supported by Branham and Betsy Searle who personally participated in the darting. Willy Roberts provided all the logistics, and KWS experienced veterinarians.



# GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

## Our Chinese Initiative

by Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton

There is strong evidence that China is the largest importer of illegal ivory from Africa, fuelled by a soaring demand from the affluent middle classes, and this surprisingly could be the key to lowering illegal killing of elephants. We have long wanted to build contacts and understand Chinese views about elephants. The chance came when I met the Fehsenfeld family, in

buyers in China were unaware that elephants had to die for ivory to be available.

In June 2011 a return visit of the CWCA, organised by Xishun and sponsored by the Heritage Group, took place. We were able to show them free roaming African elephants at close quarters, and regrettably some orphan babies whose mothers were illegally killed for



Suzie Fehsenfeld sharing experiences with some of our Chinese hosts - October 2010.

Indianapolis, whose company The Heritage Group works in China. In October 2010, our team, including Suzie and Courtney Fehsenfeld, Xishun Zhang from Heritage China, Paul Grayson from Indianapolis Zoo, Oria and I, went to China and were received with great hospitality by the China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA). We visited the last 200 wild elephants in the forest at Xishuangbanna, where they are treasured and thrive in the forest. Elephants are strictly protected and anyone caught with ivory is severely punished.

This was a revelation. If China treated Africa's elephants as nicely as they treat their own, perhaps there wouldn't be such a severe poaching problem. It seemed that most

ivory. We shared our hopes and fears for the species in the setting of beautiful parks and reserves of Kenya and Tanzania. It was an unprecedented wildlife experience for all, and a deeper level of understanding was achieved. Our guests were shocked by poaching, but the living elephants thrilled them.

A new awareness laid the ground for further cooperation to use China's influence in Africa to foster better protection. Since then the CWCA has organized an awareness campaign in China to warn travelers to Africa against buying illegal ivory. With support from Heritage we look forward to developing further plans to stop the decimation of Africa's elephants.

## Spreading the News About Elephants

by Melissa Groo

I am honoured to have been working with Save the Elephants for over a decade now, supported by the International Elephant Foundation. Through the listservs, I share daily the up-to-the-minute news of how elephants in the wild are faring; this allows people the world over, that work with and for elephants, to make sound decisions based on the latest news and research. The most significant feature of the last 12 months has been the increase in reports of illegal killing for ivory and seizures of illegal ivory in African and importing countries.



The listservs continue to grow. There are now 950 African elephant listserv subscribers (up from 864 a year ago), and 672 Asian elephant listserv subscribers (up from 606).

387 news stories were circulated on the African elephant listserv, and 463 on the Asian elephant listserv from August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011 (unique news stories; occasionally, stories were circulated to both listservs, which means subscribers received a greater number than those quoted here). The STE website is updated regularly with the latest news stories, so that any visitor to the website can also have access.

Over 111 scientific papers published on elephant biology, behavior, and circumstances, in scientific, peer-reviewed journals were announced over this period, and made available in full to all subscribers. There is a separate subscriber list for people who want to receive the papers automatically: at this time, there are 289 people (up from 256 a year ago) on this list who receive each and every one of these papers as they are announced. Many more ask for papers on an individual basis, depending on their interest

The appreciation I frequently receive via email from subscribers is a testament to the critical role this service provides.

## What's Next for CITES

by Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton

If we accept that demand for ivory is the key factor driving elephant poaching, and that this is unsustainable, then logically this knowledge should be used at CITES for united world action to lower the demand. It is known that China and the Far East hold the key to the largest markets. If this logic is accepted then proposals for one off sales of ivory or ivory quotas should be judged solely in relation to whether or not they will lower demand. Between now and the next CITES meeting in 2013 there is an urgent need for the facts to be consolidated and disseminated, so that the relationship between ivory supply and demand is understood by all parties to the CITES treaty. For this to happen it will be necessary for more data to be collected and shared with the wider scientific community and with the general public. STE is exploring how to do this with the African Elephant Specialist Group.



## Congratulations Lucy

**C**ongratulations to Lucy King, our Chief Operations Officer, on being awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy in Zoology on the 18th June 2011 from the University of Oxford. An outstanding achievement!

Lucy first became known to the organisation in early 2006 when she spent 6 weeks as an intern conducting a short MSc project in Samburu for her zoology degree at Oxford University. Her hard work and lateral thinking won the respect of Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton and Professor Fritz Vollrath, who later took on the role of Lucy's DPhil supervisor.



Lucy's thesis "*The interaction between the African elephant (Loxodonta africana) and the African honey bee (Apis mellifera scutellata) and its potential application as an elephant deterrent*" gained much publicity worldwide and can be downloaded from the website at [www.savetheelephants.org/publications](http://www.savetheelephants.org/publications). Her "*Beehive Fence Construction Manual*" - A step by step guide to building a protective fence for your farm to deter crop-raiding elephants can also be freely downloaded, and her technique is being used in many sites in Africa and Asia.

## Tsavo Elephant Census

**I**n February 2011, a total aerial count of elephants in the 48,319 km<sup>2</sup> Tsavo-Mkomazi Ecosystem was carried out in a week-long exercise, organised by KWS. The conservation area hosts Kenya's largest elephant population, which is trans-boundary spanning across Kenya and Tanzania. A total of 12,573 elephants were counted, up from approximately 11,733 in 2008. The team comprised representatives of wildlife management authorities in the neighbouring republics of South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania courtesy of MIKE funding. Save the Elephants supported the exercise by sending a team of six staff and its plane, 5Y-STE, for the entire period.



The census was conducted after a severe drought affected the region and the poaching crisis had put immense additional pressure on the elephants. Livestock encroachment into the formally protected areas was noted especially towards the southern limits of both Tsavo East and West National Parks. During the census a pair of the largest tusks weighing 54 and 56 kg was spotted from the air and recovered by KWS. Some 567 carcasses were recorded most of which are believed to be of elephants that succumbed to the drought or poaching. The long-term recovery of the population from the 6,399 recorded in 1988 is appreciated.

## 10th Annual Education Party

**T**he 10th annual education party was an auspicious event and a chance to take stock of all the achievements and challenges of the programme over the past 10 years. It was also an opportunity for everyone, including over 30 students, wardens, hotel tour guides, headmasters and staff to get together for masses of music, food and fun. Poems, songs and speeches by students ranged from the topic of women in development to peer pressure in schools, while headmasters and wardens didn't shy away from imparting advice about facing the harsh realities of the world. Oria



Douglas-Hamilton, the guest of honour and the founder of the education programme was full of words of wisdom for the students and made it a point to share her vision for the future of the programme. Selected students received prizes for their hard work so this was a fitting occasion to launch the new STE student library. After chewing down platefuls of nyama choma and the rest of the sumptuous meal, students set off on their traditional game drive with the day culminating happily in reflections on conservation.

## Lifetime Achievement Award for Conservation

**T**he International Wildlife Film Festival (IWFF) in Missoula, Montana, has been honoring conservationists since 1977. It annually recognises individuals the fields of Media and Conservation for their significant contributions, exemplary service, knowledge, and impact on wildlife filmmaking and wildlife or marine conservation.



This year IWFF celebrated its 34th anniversary "Hope In a Changing World, the Role and Impact of Wildlife Film on Global Conservation" and receiving this years 'Lifetime Achievement Award for Conservation', the film festivals highest individual honor, was our very own Iain Douglas-Hamilton!

Iain graciously received the award with "*gratitude and humility and in recognition of all those who have campaigned to retain what is natural, free and beautiful on this planet*". A Gala celebrated by conservation and filmmaking veterans, passionate individuals and students from various parts of the world who all believe a significant impact can be made towards saving the planet through film and media programming.



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY STE AUTHORS

### Scientific Publications

Boetiger, A., Wittemyer, G., Starfield, R., Vollrath, F., Douglas-Hamilton, I., and Getz, W.M. (2011) Inferring ecological and behavioral drivers of African elephant movement using a linear filtering approach. *Ecology* 92:1648-1657.

Bouché, P., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Wittemyer, G., Nianogo, A.J., Doucet, J., Lejeune, P., and Vermeulen, C. (2011) Will elephants soon disappear from West African savannahs? *PLoS One* 6(6): e20619.

De Knegt, H. J., Van Langevelde, F., Skidmore, A. K., Delsink, A., Slotow, R., Henley, S., Bucini, G., De Boer, W. F., Coughenour, M. B., Grant, C. C., Heitkönig, I. M., Henley, M., Knox, N. M., Kohi, E. M., Mwakiwa, E., Page, B. R., Peel, M., Pretorius, Y., Van Wieren, S. E. and Prins, H. H. (2010) The spatial scaling of habitat selection by African elephants. *Journal of Animal Ecology*. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2656.2010.01764.x

Ganswindt, A., Muensch, S., Henley, M., Henley, S., Heistermann, M., Palme, R., and 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, Volume 57, Issues 4-5, April 2010, Pages 506-514. doi:10.1016/j.yhbeh.2010.02.009

Ganswindt, A., Münscher, S., Henley, M., Palme, R., Thompson, P., and Bertschinger, H. (2010) Concentrations of faecal glucocorticoid metabolites in physically injured free-ranging African elephants *Loxodonta africana*. *Wildlife Biology* 16(3):323-332. doi: 10.2981/09-081

King, L.E. (2010) The interaction between the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and the African honey bee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) and its potential application as an elephant deterrent. A thesis submitted to the University of Oxford for the degree of Doctor of

Philosophy in Zoology, Balliol College

King, L.E., Douglas-Hamilton, I., and Vollrath, F. (2011) Beehive fences as effective deterrents for crop-raiding elephants: field trials in northern Kenya. *African Journal of Ecology*. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2028.2011.01275.x

Polansky, L. and Wittemyer, G. (2011) A framework for understanding the architecture of collective movements using pair-wise analyses of animal movement data. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface* 8:323-333

Rajah, A., Marshal, J.P., Parrini, F., Erasmus, B., Henley, M.D. and Henley, S.R. (2010) Scale-dependent selection of greenness by African elephants in the Transboundary region, South Africa. *European Journal of Wildlife Research*. doi:10.1007/s10344-010-0462-1

Wittemyer, G. (2011) Effects of Economic Downturns on Mortality of Wild African Elephants. *Conservation Biology*. doi:10.1111/j.1523-1739.2011.01713.x

Wittemyer, G., Daballen, D. and Douglas-Hamilton, I. (2011) Rising ivory prices threaten elephants *Nature* 476, 282-283 (18 August 2011). doi:10.1038/476282c.

### Popular Article

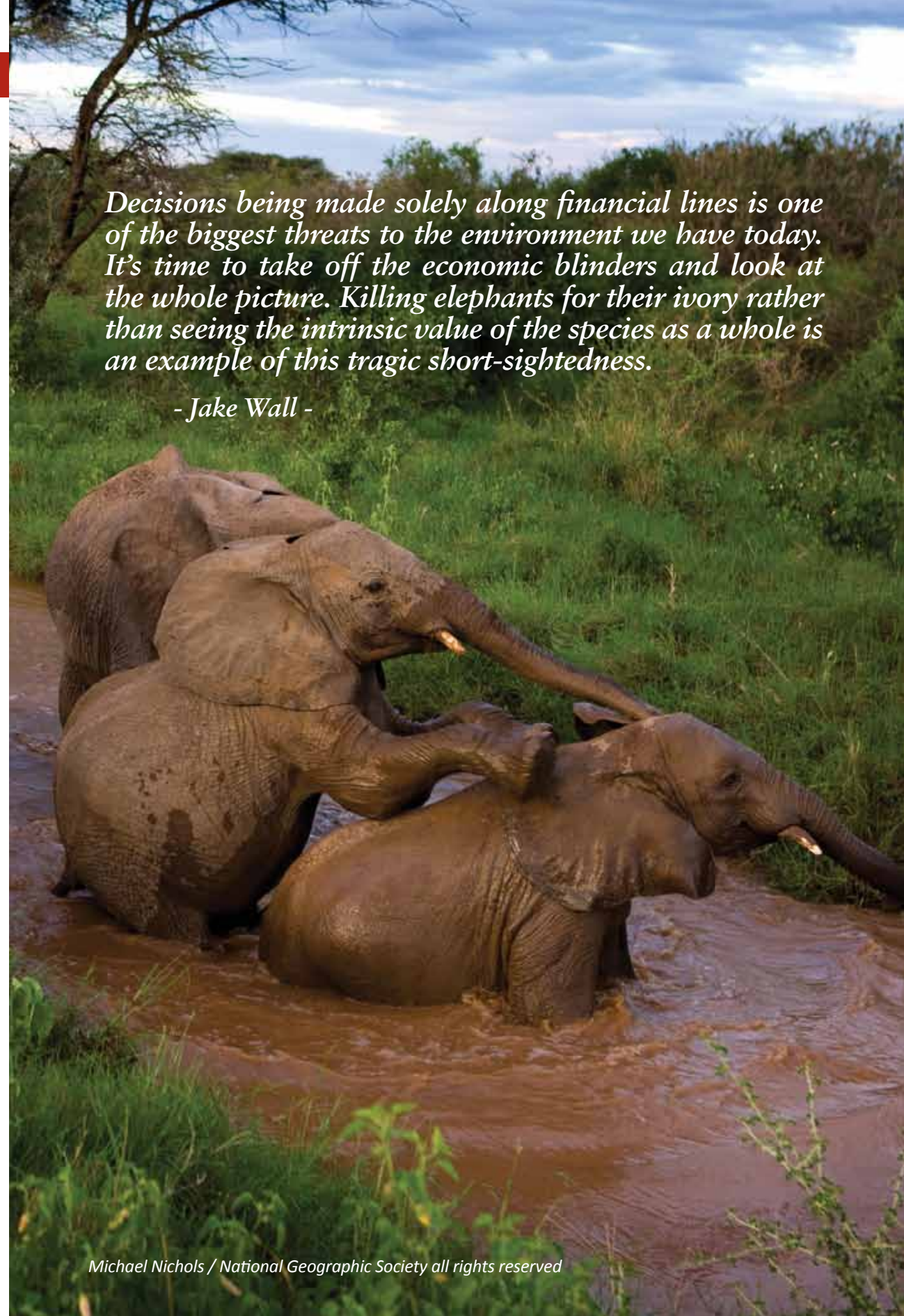
King, L.E. (2011) Beehive Fence Construction Manual Save the Elephants

### In Press

Ihwagi, F.W., Chira, R.M., Kironchi, G., Vollrath, F. and Douglas-Hamilton, I. (2011) Rainfall pattern and nutrient content influence on debarking behavior by the African elephants, *Loxodonta africana*, in Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves, Kenya. *African Journal of Ecology*.

*Decisions being made solely along financial lines is one of the biggest threats to the environment we have today. It's time to take off the economic blinders and look at the whole picture. Killing elephants for their ivory rather than seeing the intrinsic value of the species as a whole is an example of this tragic short-sightedness.*

- Jake Wall -



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# OUR DONORS

**S**ave the Elephants is deeply grateful for the support it receives. We are thankful for every gift, each of which is an investment in the future of Africa's elephants.

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

Alexander Abraham Foundation	International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
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The Late Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands	Sanjay Kumar
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Suzie Fehsenfeld	Vodafone Foundation
Globe Foundation	WILD Foundation
International Elephant Fund	Wildlife Conservation Network

**T**he following individuals and organisations contributed financially to the mission of STE from September 1st, 2010 to August 31st, 2011.

## Conservation Visionaries - \$20,000 and Above

Alexander Abraham Foundation	Namecheap, Inc.
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Betsy Searle and Michael Branham	The Argus Fund
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*We thank all our anonymous donors and those that have donated through our JustGiving page, or have created and raised funds for us through their own JustGiving page(s). We thank Oria Douglas-Hamilton and Elephant Watch for continuing to provide a huge support to STE through advice, fundraising, and involvement in our work.*



**S**ave the Elephants totally relies on donations and grants to run our operations successfully. For this reason we operate to high standards and strict financial controls. In 2010, 83% of the funds raised went to support our programmes in the field. 17% of the funds went to Fundraising and Administration. All grants and earmarked donations are used 100% on the intended projects.

## Statement of Revenue and Expenses US \$

Calendar Year Ending 2010

### REVENUE

Donations, Grants, Royalties	\$866,091
Interest Earned	\$176
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$866,267</b>

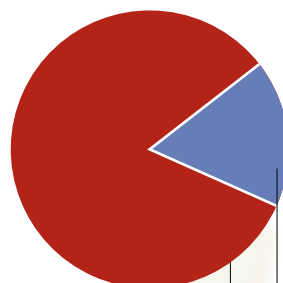
### EXPENSES

Programme Grants & Services	\$615,543
Fundraising and Administration	\$129,221
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$744,764</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$121,503</b>

Complete financial reports are available upon request.

Converted from UK audited accounts at a rate of 1.546 Pound = \$

## 2010 Analysis of Expenditure



Programme Grants & Services 83%

Fundraising & Administration 17%



## How You Can Help

**T**here are tough times ahead for elephants. Under renewed threat from the ivory trade, and with rising costs of living in developing countries, human-elephant conflict is increasing with competition for land. There is an urgent need to understand how elephants 'vote with their feet'. Our approach of viewing conservation from an elephant's point of view is done through our extensive radio tracking programme with multiple collaboration with stakeholders on the ground.

Save the Elephants (STE) is a small NGO with passion and flexibility to respond rapidly to crises. With 15 years of applied operational experience we need support for our field activities and developing partnerships. We have also developed educational and community projects as vital pillars of our programme. We are uniquely placed to make a difference with our intensive training of people from local communities, strong connections to government wildlife authorities, and collaboration with similar minded NGOs.

**We urgently need your support, while there is still time. Please look at our four programmes below and choose where you would like to donate to secure a future for elephants. If you can't donate then please help to raise consciousness on the elephant's plight or lobby to lower demand for ivory**

### RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

We support vital research on elephant behaviour and ecology and have pioneered GPS radio tracking in Africa to provide fresh insight into elephant ways of life. By understanding elephant needs and movements, we can approach conservation from an elephant's perspective.



### PROTECTION

We assist wildlife departments in their fight against ivory traders and poachers. We protect and monitor elephants with aerial surveillance and early warning systems for poaching and believe that a renewed ivory trade remains the greatest potential threat to elephants.



### GRASSROOT EDUCATION

We involve local people in research and education to develop a conservation ethic based on local knowledge and elephant needs, and recognize that the best potential ambassadors for elephants are the people with whom they share their land.



### GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

Elephants are intelligent creatures with complex levels of consciousness and we intend to bring this to the world's attention. We disseminate this locally and internationally through films, publications, a computerised elephant library, a news service and our website.





## Why Choose Save the Elephants

**W**e believe that Save the Elephants' continued presence at the forefront of research into the ecology and behaviour of our Samburu elephant population represents a crucial building block for the conservation and well-being of elephants across Africa and the world over. Guided by the exceptional track record and experience of Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton, Save the Elephants' voice and participation in the wider scientific community is crucial for achieving all aspects of our mission.

## How to Donate

### IN THE UNITED STATES

Cheque donations (tax deductible) may be sent to:  
Wildlife Conservation Network / Save the Elephants Project  
25745 Bassett Lane  
Los Altos, CA 94022  
Tax Exempt ID #30-0108469  
*Please remember to specify the donation is for 'Elephants' in the 'Designation' field.*

### IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Cheque donations may be sent to:  
Save the Elephants c/o Ambrose Appelbe  
7 New Square Lincoln's Inn  
London WC2A 3RA  
Reg. Charity No 1118804  
*If you give through the Gift Aid Scheme we receive an extra amount deducted from your taxes at no extra cost to you (UK tax payers only).*

### IN SOUTH AFRICA

Cheque donations may be sent to:  
Save the Elephants – South Africa (STE-SA)  
Account number: 331632284  
Standard Bank branch code: 052752  
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## Ivory Burning Ceremony

by Njoki Kibanya

**O**n July 20, 2011, 300 confiscated tusks and pieces of worked ivory were burnt at the KWS training school in Manyani, Tsavo. This was a consignment seized in Singapore that originated from Zambia, Tanzania, and Malawi. Despite all the differences of opinion on the rights and wrongs of selling ivory stocks, the nations from which this ivory emanated all agreed that it was illegal and should be publicly destroyed.

Save the Elephants staff came in force to witness this event. For some of the young ones it was their first visit to Tsavo. We met veteran defenders of elephants, the KWS wardens and rangers, and old friends from NGOs, like the Amboseli Elephant Trust, the Sheldrick Foundation, and the Kenya Elephant Forum. It felt festive with the KWS and police mass bands playing rousing tunes.

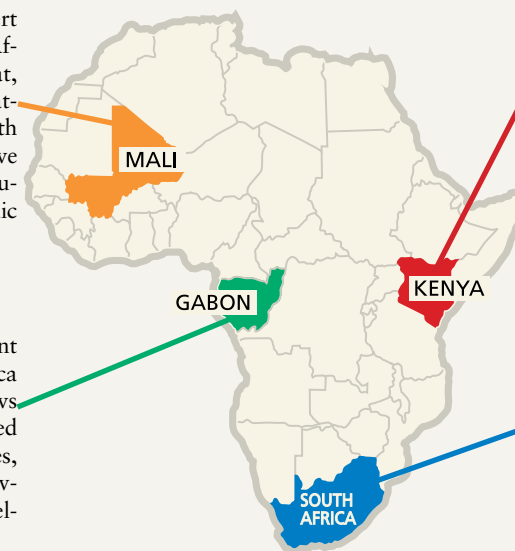
The ivory was burnt at the order of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force. The pile was set on fire by Kenya President, Hon. Mwai Kibaki. He said "We wish to firmly demonstrate to the world our determination to eliminate all forms of illegal trade in ivory. Poachers and illegal traders in ivory must know that their days are numbered." I was proud to hear the speeches from Kenya and other African countries decrying the illegal killing of elephants, caused by the huge demand for ivory. The speakers showed solidarity with wildlife law enforcers as they strive to fight elephant poaching and trade in illegal ivory, and other wildlife products.



*Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton being interviewed by China Central Television in front of 6.5 tons of burning, poached ivory. © Sean Dundas*

## Where We Work

We study rare surviving desert elephants in Mali, in West Africa, who live in extreme heat, where the Sahara meets a scattering of trees and shrubs. With government and NGO's we seek ways to secure their future with the resident nomadic people.



Understanding forest elephant movements in Central Africa while there is still time, allows our partners to plot detailed elephant needs and strategies, and is used at the highest government levels to promote elephant survival.

Kenya is the centre of our East African elephant research, protection, and community outreach. Understanding elephant dispersal and vital corridors will improve wise land use and elephant management strategies.

Adjoining the greater Kruger ecosystem in Southern Africa our scientists track elephants across international boundaries. We identify individual elephants, examine the effects of elephants on key tree species and provide scientific knowledge to all stakeholders.



