



SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

celebrating
years

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



SAVE THE ELEPHANTS 2018

About

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Founded by zoologist Iain Douglas-Hamilton 25 years ago, Save the Elephants (STE) conducts pioneering research into the ecology and behaviour of elephants, providing hard data on the challenges affecting the future of wild elephants and suggesting solutions for a harmonious future between elephants and humans.

At STE's research station in Samburu National Reserve in Northern Kenya, a team of researchers studies wild elephants on a daily basis. Over 900 identified elephants have been recorded using the reserves along the Ewaso Ny'iro river over the last two decades, and our intimate knowledge of their family structures and history has opened a rare window onto the world of elephants. At a second research station in the Sagalla community in Tsavo, southeastern Kenya, our Human Elephant Coexistence team is investigating solutions to the long-term challenges that elephants face.

STE works with world-leading partners to develop new technology to track and analyse elephant movements. The resulting systems are helping scientists and protected area managers across the continent to protect elephants and plan for their future. To support the alliance of organisations that are engaged in the fight to end the poaching, the trafficking and demand for ivory, Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network co-founded the Elephant Crisis Fund.

Beyond the ivory crisis, STE works to incorporate elephant needs into infrastructure development planning to maintain protected areas and ecosystem connectivity, a critical concern in an increasingly populated and developed Africa. We pursue evidence-based conservation with grass-roots community engagement, and build broad collaborations to secure a future for the elephants in Kenya, and to create tools and techniques that can be applied elsewhere on the continent.

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

Our IMPACT OVER 25 YEARS

For the past 25 years, we've kept an eye on elephants - using science and research to monitor their behaviour and movements and working with local partners and communities to protect their future. Thanks to the generosity of all our supporters, we've been able to protect wild elephants, empower communities and create innovative solutions for conservation. We hope the next 25 years will be a positive one for elephants!

25 years

at the forefront of elephant conservation and research



Created world-leading **ELEPHANT TRACKING TECHNOLOGY** used in **12 countries**, collecting **13 million+** data points

4,000



number of children engaged in **STE'S EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES** in Northern Kenya

39% to an encouraging 61%

In 2016, we helped transform students' positive attitude towards elephants in Northern Kenya



more than 170



students awarded elephant **SCHOLARSHIPS**

18 schools

supported in Northern Kenya



400 wild elephants

currently **TRACKED ACROSS AFRICA** with our partners



a quarter of a million miles distance STE has flown for conservation in light aircraft ...that's *more than 10 times around Earth!*

13 africa & 4 asia

number of countries the **ELEPHANTS AND BEES PROJECT** has expanded into

82%



Effectiveness of **BEEHIVE FENCES** at keeping elephants away from crops

more than 4,000

elephant deterrent beehives adopted worldwide

more than 900

number of wild elephants investigated over 20 years in Northern Kenya, providing **INSIGHT INTO ELEPHANT BEHAVIOUR AND SOCIETY**

more than 160



PUBLISHED PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS IN HIGH IMPACT JOURNALS deepening the world's understanding of elephants and their future on the planet

5 yearssince STE co-founded the
ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND (ECF)**US\$18m**deployed so far for the best projects to stop
the poaching, trafficking and demand for ivoryTo date, the ECF's coalition has fuelled the
following**73+** organisations**230+** projects across**35** countries

**“A unique model to
jumpstart and scale-up
immediate strategic
interventions”**

- Wrote the EU Report *Larger Than Elephants***1.5 billion****SOCIAL MEDIA** accounts reached
in partnership with the campaign#**knotonmyplanet***more than* **8,500**

donations made toward our mission in 2018

an estimated **7,347**elephants in Northern Kenya, recovered to
where numbers were **BEFORE POACHING**
HIT THE AREA TEN YEARS AGO*launched the first***COMMUNITY-LED CORRIDORS
PROJECT** to define and protect major
livestock and wildlife migratory routes
in Northern Kenya

helped lift the lid on **illegal ivory
markets around the world**
through frontline research in **China,
Hong Kong, Vietnam, Laos &
Myanmar**

**5 senior staff**from STE in the **AFRICAN ELEPHANT
SPECIALIST GROUP** - the world's leading
authority on elephants

helped to secure Northern Kenya's
**first dedicated Kenya
Wildlife Service vet** *with two*
local conservation partners

3 new Masters qualifications &**2 PhDs in 2018**helping deepen local and global capacity in
ELEPHANT RESEARCH at our camps in
SAMBURU AND TSAVO**52**number of calves born last year to the
families studied by STE**60+** staff

working to secure a future for elephants

Our **HERD**

Meet some of our dedicated team working in the field to keep elephants safe



David Daballen



Chris Leadismo



Lucy King

David Daballen

Point to any elephant in Samburu National Reserve and David, our Head of Field Operations, will most likely tell you that individual's name, age, family history and favourite place to sleep. With a diploma in wildlife management, David has worked at Save the Elephants for nearly two decades and knows more than 600 elephants by name.

He's travelled extensively around the world for STE sharing his insights into elephant society, appeared in numerous films and documentaries and transformed many globally influential people into ambassadors for elephants. On any given day you'll find David out in the field monitoring elephants, tracking elephants on foot or by aircraft, or in deep conversation with community members and politicians seeking solutions to the challenges that elephants face. David has dedicated his life to saving and protecting elephants through understanding their world and the hopes and aspirations of local people.

"I've learnt so many things from elephants. The love and compassion they have for one another is so moving. They are so close, they really care for one another – better than humans in many ways. They are clever, intelligent creatures and a crucial part of the ecosystem. I just can't imagine elephants no longer being part of our world." - David Daballen

Photos by Sean Dundas, Jane Wynyard and Naiya Raja

Chris Leadismo

Chris Leadismo, our Head of Wildlife Security, works in tough conditions in Northern Kenya. When he's not on patrol deep in the bush looking for elephant carcasses or poachers, he's out among the local Samburu community helping keep peace in what can sometimes be a volatile landscape and coordinating on-the-ground security between our five different law enforcement partners.

For the past 14 years, he has devoted himself to protecting elephants in Northern Kenya often spending months away from his family conducting missions where his life is at stake. A front-line witness to the scale of the poaching onslaught that hit northern Kenya from 2009, Chris gathers critical information from elephant crime scenes, and trains others to do the same.

Chris was a finalist in the African Ranger Award and in 2017, delivered an effective speech to the Hong Kong legislative council on behalf of STE and rangers across Africa. His heartfelt testimony and words of wisdom were powerful and four months later, in January of 2018, Hong Kong followed China's lead by declaring their intention to ban their domestic ivory trade.

A Samburu, Chris describes his job as 'my life, not my livelihood'.

“For generations, the Samburu have loved and respected the elephants that we live among. That is why it's natural for me to devote my life to defending them.” - Chris Leadismo

Lucy King

Following a unique observation and field experiment by Professor Fritz Vollrath and Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton that proved elephants were avoiding trees with beehives in, Dr Lucy King joined the scientific team in 2006 as part of her DPhil research with Oxford University. The team discovered how elephants react and communicate their fear of bees and Lucy built this finding into an innovative and powerful solution to prevent elephants from raiding crops and increasing farmers incomes from sales of honey: beehive fences.

This ingenious, award-winning project has become a huge success. There are 400 beehives protecting the 30 front line farms in Sagalla, Tsavo where the Elephants and Bees Research Centre is based. Beehive fences there are 80% effective at deterring elephants, and Lucy's concept has since been adopted in 13 African and 4 Asian countries with over 7,000 hives now deployed as elephant deterrents. And the project never stands still. Last year, Lucy and her team launched their new Elephants and Bees Mobile Unit to target more high conflict communities and introduced innovative honey badger deterrents to protect the hives.

“If we can continue to work with communities, engaging them actively in solutions to human-elephant conflict, and educate the next generation on why wildlife is so critical to the long term survival of our planet, I think we have hope for elephants being in our future.” - Lucy King

(Read more about the Elephants and Bees Project on page 19)

Much has changed for elephants in the 25 years since Save the Elephants began. Ten years ago a surge of killing elephants struck, and then receded. More eyes were on the elephants' situation than in the 1980s and the alarm was raised earlier. We helped form a world coalition to stop poaching, trafficking and demand for ivory. China reversed her pro trade policy and banned all ivory commerce both within her borders, removing the world's largest market for ivory. China's support for elephants continues to build and it is possibly the most important single factor that has changed in favour of elephant survival.

The Elephant Crisis Fund that we operate with the Wildlife Conservation Network continues to be a powerful positive force for elephants across Africa. 100% of all donations go to the front line. We had no need to invent a new NGO while there are already so many effective in the field, and by the end of 2018 the ECF had supported 73 partner organisations to carry out 238 projects across 35 countries.

In Kenya and Uganda recent counts point to elephant populations recovering. Prosecutions of high level traffickers in Tanzania suggest new political will to end the problem. Fresh losses of elephants in Mali have been reported, and the future of these last Sahelian elephants hangs in the balance, with their range submerged in an Islamist uprising.

Elsewhere some areas have seen intense poaching reduced, including Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zakouma National Park in Chad, North Luangwa National Park in Zambia, and in much of East Africa and Zimbabwe. The ivory trade still remains the biggest threat to elephant populations across large swathes of their range, and most importantly the forest elephants of central Africa.

The elephants' rangeland is contracting and fragmenting as Africa becomes more populated and developed. But we have increased our understanding of elephants and found new ways of conserving habitat and allowing humans and elephants to live in harmony. Africa is changing and developing fast, with more educated citizens concerned about the environment, including elephants and their survival.

We celebrated a fascinating crop of new scientific publications by STE authors and close colleagues in 2018 (see page 29). These include papers on how honey bees cause elephants to flee in Sri Lanka; a new elephant crisis in Myanmar where poachers hunt for skin and medicine; and how animal movements in the Anthropocene are declining globally in response to the increasing human footprint. We published papers on how elephants move in a risky landscape, adapt to the high speed railway cutting across their range in Tsavo; behave in relation to seismic vibrations; how orphaned elephants adapt to life without their mothers; and the demography of forest elephants.

Our local team grows ever stronger. We have new talent at PHD and Masters level and others sharing their skills and knowledge with international organisations, along with 20 new elephant scholars. Back home in Kenya our team is focused on human elephant coexistence. We are working on the challenges of connectivity whilst also helping farmers to live alongside elephants using beehive fences and other practical techniques. Ultimately, through education, how people think and feel about elephants is going to determine whether or not they can co-exist with human beings. We believe they can.



IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON
FOUNDER



FRANK POPE
CEO



An elephant calf in Samburu National Reserve.
©Frank af Petersens

CHAIRMANS' LETTER

Save the Elephants is a unique organisation in the field of elephant conservation in that we not only aim to secure a future for these magnificent creatures but also always aim to base our efforts on fundamental research and science.

Typically we collect key data ourselves in our Kenya heartlands, often with invited researcher collaborators from top universities worldwide. But we also fund projects away from home. As you can imagine, it can get complex sharing our huge data set of by now over 13 million+ data points collected from more than 900 elephants over 21 years.

So, during our big annual meeting, in the glorious setting of the Shaba conservancy, we decided to revisit our scientific collaborations and research approaches to facilitate even more and even deeper data sharing and exchange.

With Iain, as always, at the helm of our academic outreach, Chris Thouless now manages the many practical as well as intellectual aspects of the hugely diverse collaboration agreements while Lydia Tiller oversees the combined and typically rather complex efforts to publish the findings to achieve best impact.

A veritable explosion of new technology in animal tracking and the analysis of elephant decisions are opening up new areas of insights on their behaviour. But new technology is opening up more than 'just' behaviour. Fundamental research informs us on elephant ageing and the many diseases we share, some more hazardous to elephants than to us, others less so. For example, the herpes virus can kill elephants easily while they apparently have superb anti-cancer protection, which is something I am studying myself.

Iain has always maintained that for best effect all conservation efforts should be informed by fundamental research. This is especially true for elephants where margins for error are small because ellies are so long lived, socially complex and ideally have boundless space to roam.

Fundamental research at STE allows us to properly defend our views and recommendations for conservation management; we have the knowledge, because we have done the research and due diligence both in-house and through our network of collaborators.

And if there are open questions we have the people and tools in place and are ready to find the answers.

Our fundraising is based on this premise, and our partners in the US, foremost Charlie Knowles' Wildlife Conservation Network and its partner investors are in full support of this view.

Slowly the focus of elephant conservation will be shifting, we hope and anticipate, from fighting the bloody ivory trade to developing best-practice tools for peaceful human-elephant coexistence. STE is ready for this when the moment comes. In the meantime we also continue our efforts to stem poaching and the trade of ivory.



FRITZ VOLLRATH
Chairman

Introducing **THE ROYALS**

Why this high-ranking family is one of the most loved herds in Samburu



Annabelle, a collared elephant, leads the Royals to the Ewaso river in Samburu National Reserve.
©Jane Wynyard

It's easy to see why researchers with Save the Elephants are so fond of the Royals - the largest and highest-ranking elephant family in Samburu National Reserve.

As well as possessing a trusting nature and strong family bond, the Royals remain patient and calm during operations to fit tracking collars. Other elephants often get agitated when family members are collared, but the Royals appear more relaxed and will wait patiently for the operation to finish before rushing to the waking individual to greet and fuss over him or her.

The Royals have also learnt how to survive. During the poaching crisis of 2008-2013, many elephant families lost all their older females. The Royals however defied the odds and stayed largely intact, losing only a few members. It seems their wise matriarch at the time, Victoria (who died of natural causes in 2013), knew the danger zones and kept her family safe within the reserve, only venturing out with careful timing. Her intelligent decisions appear to have saved the herd.

We began tracking the Royals - a 30-40 strong herd currently led by the matriarch Anastasia - 21 years ago. Since then we've gained invaluable data on their family history, their behaviour and how human pressure has impacted their movements. This research has helped us identify important wildlife passageways that local communities are helping to secure.

While there is still so much to learn about these iconic giants, we are lucky to have this in-depth, and privileged insight into the world of this particular elephant family, and look forward to what they will teach us in the years to come.

Status of AFRICA'S ELEPHANTS

Beacons of hope amid a shifting storm for elephants

Monitoring the status of Africa's elephants, contributing to the African Elephant Specialist Group and collaborating with CITES' Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme are core priorities for Save the Elephants. The data is important for making decisions on where support is needed and how best to provide it. The leading metric of poaching intensity, the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE), declined through 2017. Figures for 2018 have not yet been released but crucial challenges remain, and through our Elephant Crisis Fund we are helping a continental network of partners to address them.

Forest elephants remain under heavy pressure from poachers, with dense forests making law enforcement tough even where the will and capacity exists. Gabon, the main stronghold for the continent's remaining forest elephants, has strong commitment from the government but data from border seizures still show alarming quantities of ivory coming from the area. In Nouabale-Ndoki, in the Republic of Congo, our partners - the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) - are trying to leverage new technology to give them the edge they need to get the upper hand.

In Chinko, a large area in civil-war ravaged Central African Republic, a remnant population of perhaps 50 elephants has new hope thanks to an inspiring project by African Parks. Under their management in nearby Garamba, one of Africa's oldest national parks, poaching fell from 100 elephants in 2016 to 50 in 2017 and about 3 in 2018.

In East Africa, Kenya and Uganda are success stories, with a reasonable level of law enforcement and elephant populations that are stable or increasing. Northern Mozambique's iconic Niassa National Park lost 70% of its elephants between 2004 and 2016. In 2018, high-level political intervention gave Niassa a welcome reprieve, and WCS report that there have been no recorded elephant losses to poaching since May 2018.

New challenges have begun to emerge in southern Africa. The KAZA elephant population is Africa's largest, numbering perhaps 200,000 individuals that live between Namibia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Botswana. Survey data has showed mortality in Botswana's population increasing over the last few years, news of which hit the headlines in 2018. The new Botswana government is seeking to resume ivory trading and is seeking to change the CITES ruling to this effect. This threatens to reverse the world's movement towards outlawing all ivory trade both domestic and international of recent years.



A forest elephant in Odzala National Park, Congo, where the ECF has funded various projects.
©Scott Ramsay



A forest elephant in Odzala National Park, Congo.
©Frank af Petersens

A close-up photograph of an elephant's head, showing its thick, wrinkled skin and a large, curved tusk. The tusk is light-colored with some darker spots and is positioned diagonally across the frame.

The **BATTLE TO END WILDLIFE CRIME**



Despite China closing its domestic ivory market, the demand for ivory still remains.

Top Photo: ©Becky Walter

Bottom Photo: ©Kristian Schmidt

The BATTLE TO END WILDLIFE CRIME

Helping tackle illegal ivory markets

When the Chinese Government banned the sale of ivory at the end of 2017, it was a significant step but unfortunately not the end of the demand nor the illegal killing of elephants for ivory. The illegal ivory trade is like a hydra, with new heads of the beast springing up on China's border, particularly in Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. Much of the border region, including the Golden Triangle, can be lawless and porous, and it is easy for smugglers to move ivory through this area.

Commercial traffickers move large consignments in trucks while small-scale dealers carry smaller loads in their luggage and individuals buy single ivory items on impulse or as a pre-planned component of their tour. Machines now carve crude trinkets such as beads and bracelets, replacing the hand-carvers and their more elaborate pieces.

Our long term associates, Lucy Vigne and the late Esmond Bradley Martin, carried out investigations on behalf of the Elephant Crisis Fund into ivory sales in these south-east Asian countries and brought the increase in the ivory trade to public notice. We have since made several new grants to address this emerging problem.

Our partners working to tackle the illegal ivory trade have had to develop new approaches. Unlike in Africa, law enforcement agencies are not used to working with NGOs, or to taking wildlife crime seriously. Often there is no agency tasked with dealing with wildlife crime and if there is one, it may not have the authority or capacity to carry out serious investigations, arrests and prosecutions. Our partners have to identify the best government allies, work with them to develop capacity, help them to build relationships with other countries on the trafficking routes and provide resources to allow them to carry out operations.

The increasing ivory markets in South-East Asia have created new challenges for the coalition we support who are fighting against the ivory trade, but with innovation, enterprise and collaboration we believe that success is possible. Our plans for 2019 include focusing on the following areas: helping the Chinese government to close loopholes in its domestic ivory ban, pursuing ivory trafficking investigations from Africa to Asia, extending the use of financial investigations to address wildlife crime and conducting more frequent ivory market monitoring in Asia.



Carved ivory and raw tusks on display in Yangon and Mandalay.
©Lucy Vigne

NEW WILDLIFE VET

for Northern Kenya

Dr Njoroge and team hit the ground running



Northern Kenya's first dedicated wildlife vet, Dr Michael Njoroge (front) with his team in Samburu National Reserve
©Jane Wynyard

The first Kenya Wildlife Service vet to be based in Samburu, Dr Michael Njoroge, is now firmly established.

Since arriving in September 2018, Dr Njoroge and his team have hit the ground running, collaring lions, treating sick and injured elephants, Grevy's zebra, giraffe and numerous other wildlife species. Save the Elephants partnered with Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust and found support from a generous group of supporters which allowed us to enter an agreement with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to assign a vet to our area.

Dr Njoroge, who comes from Nyeri County, has a bachelor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Nairobi and long experience treating wildlife. Prior to arriving in Northern Kenya, he was Chief Veterinarian of the Kenya Police Dog Unit and Anti-Stock Theft Unit before joining KWS as Field Veterinary Officer. From 2014, Dr Njoroge started and led the Amboseli Mobile Veterinary Unit for KWS.

Tracking MAGADO TO MERU

Trapped behind a fence, Magado and her herd struggled to reach safety

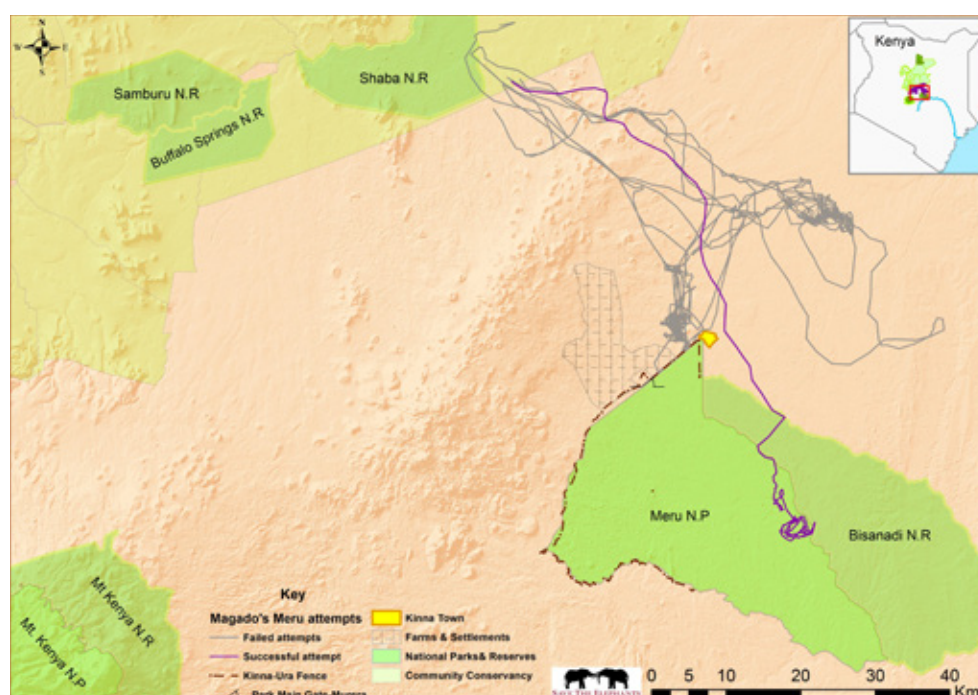
For the past two years we have been tracking a young elephant called Magado as part of a project to understand elephant movements and how to preserve connectivity in the face of future infrastructure development and landscape change.

We suspect all the elder females in Magado's herd were killed by ivory poachers. Since we began tracking Magado she has given us a stark illustration of how young elephants struggle when robbed of mature leadership as well as valuable data on how elephants adapt to new pathways.

For the first two years, Magado and her family would leave their habitual range in Shaba, Northern Kenya to travel towards Meru National Park, some 71 miles to the southeast across an open and dangerous landscape. Each time they neared the park, however, they came up against a fence that had been erected to separate farmland from the park. Other herds with more experienced matriarchs – such as Timurid from the Empires family – seemed to find their way around the fence with no problem, but Magado's family would search up and down the fence line for days before returning to Shaba, defeated.

The fence was installed to protect farmers from elephants within the park, but in Magado's case it was trapping elephants in farmland. A clear pathway existed, but she couldn't find it. Finally in March 2019, two years after her first recorded attempt, Magado and the herd eventually found their way into the park.

Linking Kenya's wildlife conservation areas with corridors is an important new focus for the country. STE is contributing expertise to the government's Wildlife Corridors & Dispersal Areas working group that has been charged with formalising this network and protecting it. In many cases, corridors may end up being narrow connections that will need to be learnt by the elephants. Magado is helping us to learn how this process works, and how we might make it simpler.



This map, created by our GIS team, shows Magado's repeated attempts to access Meru National Park over the past two years followed by her successful mission in March 2019.

Challenges

FOR ORPHANS

Research highlights how orphaned elephants try to rebuild their lives

During the past seven years, we have been studying the social ramifications of poaching, focusing primarily on how orphaned elephants rebuild their lives after their families have been disrupted.

Detailed study of the elephants in Samburu has helped us to understand how this traumatic event impacts orphans, as well as highlighting their resilience and their ability to rebuild their social lives even after the loss of their closest companions.

Orphaned elephants tend to step into their mother's social position, which leaves the population's social network largely intact even when a large proportion of adults have been removed. The orphans rebuild their social network by strengthening ties with their mother's companions or, more specifically, their age mates.

But even if 'adopted', life remains tough for orphans. After losing their mothers they can remain socially marginalised for years. They interact less with adults, and when interactions happen they are less friendly, and more aggressive. Given how important it is for elephants to learn from their elders, these are serious impacts.

Other orphans take another path, with the oldest surviving daughter taking over the role of family matriarch. They work to maintain tight family associations and support for her younger siblings but struggle without the experience of a mature matriarch. To compensate, they often join up with families led by other young females, traveling together for long periods.

Tracking data comparing the space used by orphans to their mothers has demonstrated orphaned female elephants greatly expanded their range, going to areas we had never recorded their mothers to go. Instead of sticking to the paths and areas they know, these females appear willing to explore far and wide.

Outstanding papers on Samburu's orphaned elephants have been published in peer-reviewed journals by researchers Shifra Goldenberg and George Wittemyer. (To see the full list of publications, go to page 29)



Orphans like Soutine, pictured here with her calf, have been observed socialising with different family groups in Samburu.
©Jane Wynyard

ELEPHANT MOTHERS

The local women on patrol to save elephants

Meet Mpayon (right), the group leader of the Mama Tembos. Since her community-led appointment in 2017, Mpayon has become a fierce advocate for wild elephants, sharing her new-found knowledge with the rest of her village.

Traditionally, Samburu and Turkana women spend their lives taking care of children, herding livestock and making beaded jewellery. These days money is also needed and for Mpayon, a Samburu, life has been particularly tough. Her husband was killed in 2017, leaving her to raise three children alone.

Now, she and eight other Mama Tembos have jobs patrolling wildlife and livestock corridors in the Samburu-Laikipia ecosystem. Their mission, supported by Save the Elephants, is to record animal movements and give early warnings of attempts to create settlements along pathways used by elephants and other wildlife in the region.

The Mamas have rapidly gained the respect of their respective communities and local government. With increased profile thanks to exposure in both global and Kenyan media, they have become ambassadors for ecosystem connectivity as well as information nodes, helping collect and disperse local wildlife-related news.

Says Mpayon: “We feel like educators and are proud to show our people how to behave around elephants. We used to be scared of elephants but now we are so grateful. We have so much energy to do this work.”

With the Mama Tembos (named after the Mama Simbas of our partner, Ewaso Lions) now firmly established in Samburu, the next step is to inspire other communities to protect their own wildlife and livestock corridors. We are working with local communities, conservation partners, county and national governments to help ensure that Kenya’s ecosystems remain connected in the face of rapidly expanding infrastructure.

It’s early days and there is a lot of work to do. However, with the combination of bottom-up community processes and top-down government support we see a future where elephants walk freely with the assistance - and blessing - of locals like Mpayon.

Our work with the Mama Tembos is part of our commitment to the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and its efforts to integrate communities into conservation.



Mpayon (top) and the community-led Mama Tembos are patrolling livestock and wildlife corridors in Northern Kenya.
©Jane Wynyard

A Year Of **SWEET SUCCESS**

Crop-raiding down and honey galore thanks to our Elephants and Bees Project



Lucy King (third from left) and the Elephants and Bees mobile unit after a successful beehive fence operation in Kajire.
©Naiya Raja



The E&B team monitoring elephants in Tsavo.
©Naiya Raja

2018 was a year when our Elephants and Bees (E&B) Project took to the road, and honey badgers were put in their place.

The E&B team launched its first mobile unit to reach more remote farms tackling crop-raiding elephants. Now with a vehicle, salaries, beehives, beekeeper starter packs, tents, tools, radios and medical supplies, the team is able to visit these new high-conflict sites. Alongside providing training and assistance building beehive fences, the team also donated beekeeper kits to help farmers maintain their hives and harvest honey.

With more than 14,000 free roaming elephants living in the Tsavo Conservation Area, life for communities located next to the park can be difficult. Beehive fences give them an opportunity to keep hungry elephants out of their crops while creating a small income from the sale of honey.



(clockwise from top left) Elephant scholar, Margaret Kaiza, the E&B Mobile Unit team with beehive fences built with Lewa Conservancy in Ngare Ndare Forest, women of Mlambeni Basket Weavers Mwakoma and delicious organic elephant-friendly honey. ©Naiya Raja

Honey badgers raiding the hives have been a long-running problem, but this year we finally found a solution thanks to local beehive fence farmer, Nzumu. The E&B Project secured support to build 200 special 'Nzumu' cage deterrents after an initial trial on eight hives repelled all honey badger attacks over a six month period.

Sagalla local, Margaret Kaiza, won a precious STE scholarship after ranking highly at her school in the national exams. We had previously supported Margaret's school with a library, renovated staff room and kitchen, rainwater harvesting, and improved permaculture garden.

We now have 400 beehive fences in the Sagalla area protecting 30 farms that are on the front line of human elephant conflict, and 30 local women are now engaged in our basket-weaving workshops which provides an additional income during the dry season. Meanwhile our beehive fence idea and know how has spread beyond Kenya into 17 countries and 56 sites around the world.

Winning Young

HEARTS AND MINDS

How STE's education programme is helping dreams come true

Meet elephant scholar, Saidimu Lesalunga from Oldonyiro in Northern Kenya, who was last year ranked among the top 100 students in Kenya, beating more than 660,000 other students across the country.



Saidimu Lesalunga in Samburu National Reserve.
©Jane Wynyard

Born and bred in Oldonyiro, home to an important elephant movement corridor linking Samburu and Laikipia, Saidimu joined the Save the Elephants/Elephant Watch Safaris Scholarship Programme four years ago. He first came to our attention after excelling in his high school-entrance examinations. His family could not afford to pay his fees to go to high school so the Elephant Scholarship Programme stepped in. Saidimu was then able to attend Maranda High School - one of the top high schools in Kenya.

Saidimu now has his sights set on becoming a surgeon - a career he hopes will provide him with an opportunity to give back to the community. Says Saidimu - "My dream is to give back to the community that I grew up in and other communities further afield in Northern Kenya by becoming a doctor."

Saidimu now joins the ranks of the many STE/EWC Scholarship students that have excelled. Since 2001 over 173 beneficiaries have had their lives transformed by donors who donated scholarship funds to help children living in the elephants' range. The alumni are now becoming leaders in their communities. Each is an ambassador for conservation while also increasing local capacity in a wide range of sectors such as health, education, wildlife, tourism, and business, among others.



(clockwise from top left) STE's education team with Saidimu Lesalunga, a conservation lesson taking place in Northern Kenya, Lorubae Primary School students in Samburu, students of Chumviere Primary School
©Becky Walter

The Scholarship Programme is one of many outreach activities run by the Save the Elephants' education team in Northern Kenya. The team also teaches classes designed to increase students' knowledge of elephants, organise field trips for students to see elephants first-hand, purchase educational equipment such as desks, meals for boarding students, equip dormitories, construct latrines and provide electricity for schools. Last year, the team distributed more than a thousand drought-resistant seedlings to provide future shade from trees.

Do you want to help make a young Kenyan's dreams come true by sponsoring an elephant scholar or supporting STE's education programme?

If so, please email us at scholarship@savetheelephants.org



The next generation of conservation ambassadors.
©Robbie Labanowski

Intimate Elephant Encounters

ELEPHANT WATCH CAMP

Creating positive impacts from conservation tourism

Engaging people with elephants and the natural world is key to the future of both. Elephant Watch Camp – an independent company that operates in partnership with Save the Elephants – specialises in giving visitors intimate introductions to the secret life of elephants as being often revealed by STE's research.

With large, colourful tents under thatched roofs supported by driftwood and trees felled by elephants, visitors enjoy the best fresh Afro-Italian fare while living in simple luxury. Staffed almost entirely by Samburu nomads who live within the area immediately surrounding the national reserves that border the Ewaso Ny'iro river, visitors are introduced not only to the wildlife but to the pastoralist communities on whom their future depends.

In 2018 the camp was proud to host a diverse group of influencers organised by Tiffany & Co, now the largest supporter of the Elephant Crisis Fund, and two delegations from The Nature Conservancy China, among others. On the home front the camp plays an important role in the Ewaso Forum that has brought together conservation and tourism stakeholders in the area to work together to create the more sustainable future that the region needs.



Chinese actor Liu Haoran during his filming visit to meet Samburu's elephants, organised by Tiffany & Co.
©Tencent Fashion

NEWS

Paul Allen (1953-2018)

The late Paul Allen was an inventive genius and a towering figure in the conservation world. Paul was always seeking ways to alter the fortunes of elephants by channeling resources and expertise into collecting vitally needed data on the status of elephant population, through anti-trafficking projects, and by producing moving films on the wild world. Thanks to his interest and energy, our home-grown elephant tracking system informed the development of EarthRanger, which now helps defend protected areas across Africa. His multiple acts of generosity towards endangered species and the environment will live on indefinitely. Elephants have lost a great friend."



Courtesy of Vulcan

Congratulations Ben Okita



Dr Ben Okita-Ouma

In November our Head of Monitoring, Dr Ben Okita-Ouma, was nominated as co-chair of the African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG), alongside Professor Rob Slotow. The group was co-founded by Iain Douglas-Hamilton and Harvey Croze in 1975 to give continental elephant estimates and provide technical expertise and workable solutions around the conservation and management of these large mammals. Both Dr Okita and Professor Slotow have a wealth of expertise in elephant conservation and we look forward to working with them as we forge new solutions together for elephants in Africa.

Jake Wall joins MEP

In 2018, Dr Jake Wall migrated from Save the Elephants to the Mara Elephant Project (MEP), joining them as Director of Research and Conservation. STE helped to found MEP in 2011, seeing the importance of an innovative and effective ally to grapple with the pressing issues of elephant survival and coexistence with man. Dr Wall had been with STE since 2003 and developed our first tracking software. This later led to EarthRanger - a cutting-edge system to assist with the management of protected areas developed by Vulcan in partnership with STE. We look forward to continuing to work with Jake and MEP in developing our tracking system and in securing a future for elephants.



Jake Wall
©Frank af Petersens

IWT conference

Save the Elephants and the Elephant Crisis Fund were at the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) conference in London in October. Protecting wildlife requires a global coalition of support and we were delighted when four presidents spoke in favour of the Elephant Protection Initiative as one voice. Since then, Botswana has made a disappointing u-turn on the policy it promoted by seeking to resume ivory trading.

A true survivor

After being shot at least five times and losing two daughters during the poaching crisis of 2008 - 2013, Monsoon, one of the oldest elephants in Kenya's Samburu National Reserve and the resilient matriarch of the Storms 2 herd, delighted us by giving birth again for the first time in nine years. Monsoon (estimated to be in her mid 50s) has one surviving daughter, Hurricane, who was born in 2004, and a son - born in 2009. The birth of her latest son in September last year, suggests she has finally – and against the odds - recovered her health and strength, and points to the resilience of elephants.



Monsoon feeding her new son in Samburu National Reserve.

PhD for Festus Ihwagi

In September one of our senior researchers, Festus Wanderi Ihwagi, was awarded a degree of doctor by the University of Twente in Netherlands after successfully defending his dissertation titled 'Living in a Risky Landscape: Elephant Movement in Response to Poaching'. Kenyan-born Dr Ihwagi spent four and a half years studying at the university and is renowned for his work. His last paper on the night/day movement ratio of elephants received scientific acclaim and worldwide publicity.



STE Senior Researcher Festus Wanderi Ihwagi receiving his degree of doctor by the University of Twente in Netherlands.
© Van Slooten Rodger

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

Our community mobile film unit kicks off again this year with a new documentary. We have been given the extraordinary privilege of taking the *The Elephant Queen* out to the communities that share the land with elephants. Made by the celebrated natural history filmmakers Mark Deeble & Vicky Stone, this is an extraordinary story that follows the fortunes of an elephant matriarch as she leads her herd in Tsavo through tough times. It took over four years to make and is already scooping up awards at leading film festivals around the world ahead of its general release, expected later in 2019. With versions in both Kiswahili and Maa languages, the film makers want to provide the people that live with elephants a powerful insight into the complexity and emotional world of elephants.

Elephants in Northern Kenya

have been voting with their feet and spending more time in an area called Mbalabala, 70 miles east of Samburu National Reserve. Located in the Biliko-Bulesa conservancy, the area has been receiving good rain and is far from human settlement. STE plans to set up two field researchers in the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) outpost in the area to extend our knowledge on the elephants that use this area. Watch this space!

Artificial Intelligence now promises to transform conservation, too. Coupled with new high resolution imaging equipment, wildlife census is ripe for transformation. Existing aerial survey techniques are expensive and inaccurate but are critical for management. Working with census expert Dr Richard Lamprey, STE is helping to build a path towards a new era of wildlife census while keeping critical continuity with past techniques to preserve understanding of long-term trends.

2018 Scientific Publications & Other Articles

- 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
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- Gaynor, K.M., Branco, P.S., Long, R.A., Gonçalves, D., Granli, P., & Poole, J. 2018. **Effects of human settlement and roads on diel activity patterns of elephants (*Loxodonta africana*)**. African Journal of Ecology 58(4): 872-881. [Special Section: Camera Trapping in Africa] <https://doi.org/10.1111/aje.12552>
- Goldenberg, S. Z., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Wittemyer, G. (2018) **Intergenerational change in African elephant range use is associated with poaching risk, primary productivity and adult mortality**. Proc. R. Soc. B 285: 20180286. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2018.0286>
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- King, L., Pardo, M., Weerathunga, S., Kumara, T.V., Jayasena, N., Soltis, J., 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., Serem, E., Russo, L. (2018). **Minimal effect of honey beehive fences on native bee diversity and abundance at the farm scale during the dry season in southern Kenya**. Apidologie, 49(6), 862–871
- Koskei, M., Okita-Ouma, B., Lala, F., Mwazo, A., Kibara, D., Tiller, L., King, L., Pope, F., Douglas-Hamilton, I., (2018). **The effect of the new standard gauge railway (SGR) on elephant movement in Tsavo Ecosystem, Kenya (March 2016 - March 2018)**. Pages 1-42. Save The Elephants & Kenya Wildlife Service, Nairobi. Typescript 42 pages
- Mortimer, B., Rees, W. L., Koелеmeijer, P., Nissen-Meyer, T. (2018) **Classifying elephant behaviour through seismic vibrations**. Current Biology. Volume 28, Issue 9, 7 May 2018, Pages R547-R548 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2018.03.062>
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- Sampson, C., McEvoy, J., Oo, Z. M., Chit, A. M., Chan, A. N., Tonkyn, D., Soe, P., Songer, M., Williams, A. C., Reisinger, K., Wittemyer, G., Leimgruber, P. (2018) **New elephant crisis in Asia-Early warning signs from Myanmar**. PLoS ONE 13(3): e0194113. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0194113>
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- Turkalo, A.K., Wrege, P., and Wittemyer, G. (2018). **Demography of a Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) population**. PLoS One 13:e0192777
- Vigne, L., Martin, E. (2018) **Myanmar's growing illegal ivory trade with China**. Save the Elephants. ISBN 978-9966-814-09-8
- Weinmann, S. (2018) **Impacts of Elephant Crop-Raiding on Subsistence Farmers and Approaches to Reduce Human-Elephant Farming Conflict in Sagalla, Kenya**. Thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science In Resource Conservation, International Conservation and Development The University of Montana, Missoula, MT
- Wilkie, R., Douglas-Hamilton, I. (2017). **High-resolution tracking technology reveals distinct patterns in nocturnal crop raiding behaviour of an African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) in Amboseli, Kenya**. Pachyderm. 59. 41-48

Newspaper Op-Eds & Other Articles

- Okita-Ouma, B. 2018. **Road, rail projects should balance development with conservation**. Daily Nation Newspaper. 4 April 18 <https://www.nation.co.ke/oped/blogs/620-4371988-10vpd5yz/index.html>
- Wynyard, J. 2018. **Women embrace elephant task of protecting wildlife**. Daily Nation Newspaper. 18 Aug 18. <https://www.nation.co.ke/oped/opinion/Women-embrace-elephant-task-of-protecting-wildlife/440808-4717534-o0wnt3/index.html>

Honouring **MATRIARCHS**

This page honours the men and women – our Tuskers and Matriarchs – who have devoted great energy to elephants but whose vital work is often behind the scenes.

This year we're honouring two exceptional ladies who are leading the way in mustering support for elephants and community education efforts.

Singer Rankin, one of Save the Elephants' first ever supporters, continues to be a powerful force for elephants with her annual fundraising work and ability to lead life-changing trips for those who travel as part of her non-profit organisation WorldWomenWork. Her devotion to the elephant cause is outstanding and it has been a true privilege to work with her for the past two decades. Thank you Singer!

Our second Matriarch is Lori Souder. Since her first trip to Kenya a decade ago she has created a firm base of elephant support in Chicago, recently raising six figure sums and leading multiple yearly conservation-focussed trips to Kenya to visit our team on the ground through her travel company *Here Today, Africa Tomorrow*.

Both Lori and Singer continue to inspire, connect, influence, and encourage others to make a difference. Thank you, Matriarchs, for your leadership!



Our matriarchs (left to right) Singer Rankin and Lori Souder.

Finance

Statement of Revenue & Expenses

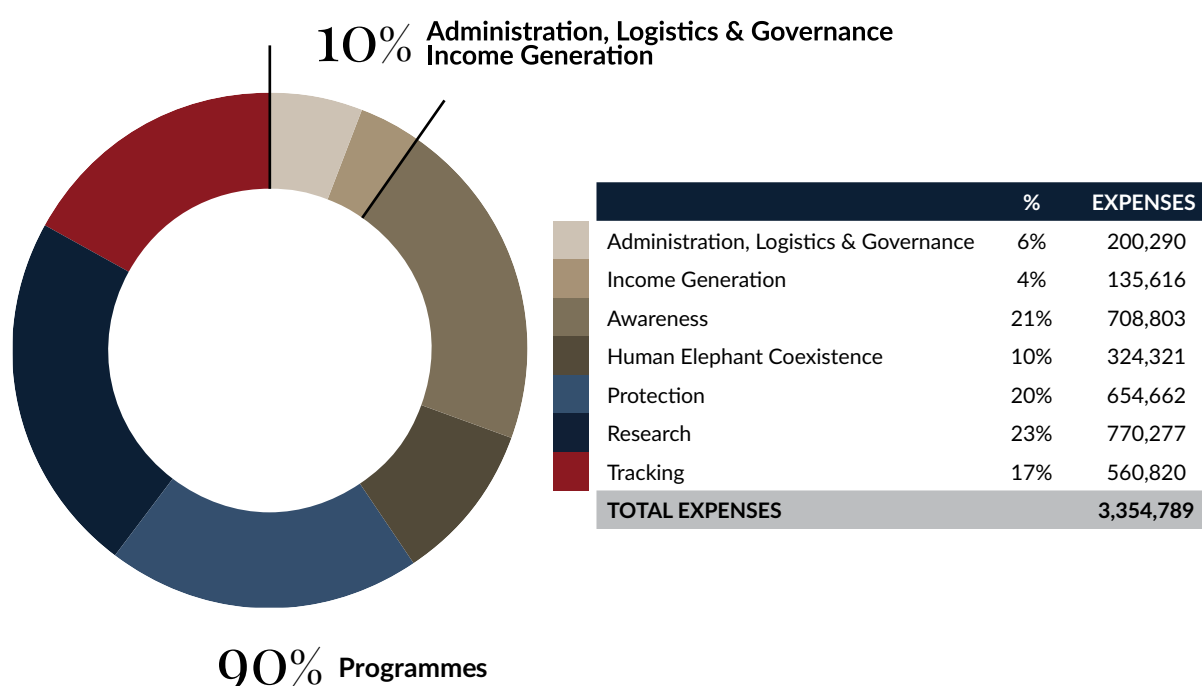
	UNAUDITED	AUDITED
	2018	2017
REVENUE (US\$)		
Donations, Grants, Royalties	2,352,581	4,399,789
Interest Earned	134	159
TOTAL REVENUE	2,352,715*	4,399,948
EXPENSES (US\$)		
Programme Grants & Services	3,032,246	2,499,884
Administration, Logistics & Governance	186,927	398,044
Income Generation	135,616	67,389
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,354,789	2,965,317

* An additional \$1.39m was donated to STE via the Wildlife Conservation Network in December 2018 but not transferred to STE accounts until 2019, and therefore does not appear in this total.

Audited accounts converted at a rate of £1 = \$1.33

Unaudited figures for 2018 are presented here. Variations may result from the auditor's recommendations. At the end of 2018 STE held \$1.6m in reserves, equivalent to 4 months of operating expenditure. We aim to increase this reserve to cover 6 months by the end of 2019.

2018 Expenses





A study elephant in Samburu National Reserve. Over the last 15 years, Samburu's elephants have become some of the best studied in the world.
©Robbie Labanowski



Elephants need you. Those born today could live up to more than 60 years but with Africa's population set projects key to development, threaten the integrity of wildlife areas. With humans and elephants forced

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This will guide us on which bank
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Please continue to give elephants a voice



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to double by 2050, their health and safety is at risk. Agriculture is expanding rapidly, and infrastructure into close proximity, conflict is on the rise. Help us protect elephants during Africa's next big growth.

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and protect them for generations to come.



STE aircraft over Tsavo during elephant collaring.
©Richard Moller

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