

EOP Newsflash #1 – June 09

'A View with an Elephant'

As part of the Re-Wilding Program to desensitise older ele orphans to humans we have just implemented a new Visitors Protocol and Visitor Viewing Wall at the *Elephant Orphanage Project (EOP)*, Kafue National Park, Zambia. When arriving at the EOP Release Facility, as well as being taken on a guided tour of the operations, visitors are now able to view the older ele orphans through the Viewing Wall windows (which effectively act as a viewing hide). This allows visitors to get a close peep at the ele's whilst they are at their boma, without negatively impacting on them. Ele's at this stage in their progression (over 3 years old) are no longer dependant on their keepers for feeds and spend most of their day foraging naturally. The less interaction they have with people now the better, as they learn to rely more and more on their natural instincts to guide them as they take each step closer to living back in the wild where they belong.

By Rachael Murton EOP Field Specialist / Project Manager