

EOP Newsflash #2 – July 2009

EOP Visits KEP

As part of our ongoing commitment to elephant welfare and best practices at the Elephant Orphanage Project (EOP), I was recently invited to the *Knysna Elephant Park* (KEP), South Africa, to receive further training in elephant nutrition and husbandry skills. I was hugely impressed with the elephant management, dedication to elephant welfare and focus on education at KEP. The KEP has been successfully rehabilitating elephants for 16 years and currently provides a home and sanctuary for 15 very healthy and happy elephants. Seeing this well established facility first hand not only gave me some new ideas to implement back at the Zambian EOP, but also gave me reassurance and confidence that our own system and set-up is developing along the right lines, and that our elephant welfare measures are well on par with well established and professional operations such as the KEP. I was also incredibly lucky with the timing of this trip as one of KEP's mature female elephants had just given birth, a testament to the success of KEP's 'free-range controlled environment', and I was very privileged to watch 7 day old baby Bibi's first steps outside to meet the rest of the herd.

By Rachael Murton EOP Field Specialist / Project Manager

Photo's: Bibi and Meeting the Herd