



EOP Newsflash ...and then there were six!

News update from the Elephant Orphanage Project – 9th Oct 2010

To Rescue, Rehabilitate and Release Zambia's orphaned elephants back into the wild

Another elephant baby has tragically become orphaned from his maternal herd, but was thankfully rescued by ZAWA Officers from Kafue National Park Headquarters and brought to the safety of the Elephant Orphanage Project...

Just 4 days ago a little elephant bull was picked up by ZAWA Officers when they realised it had become orphaned. The little elephant, now called 'Kafue' in honour of the KNP ZAWA Officers who rescued him, was observed near the Ngoma airstrip wandering alone. He spent five days in the area, under the watchful eyes of ZAWA WPO Moses Sikaonga, who observed that he did not interact with any other elephants and was getting weaker each day. So, on 5th October ZAWA Ngoma sent a small team of Officers, lead by Senior WPO Moses Mulimo to capture the ele and transferred him to the EOP, which is located only 35 minutes away from the airstrip.

Kafue arrived at night to the EOP boma to find five other orphans already stabled and very excited to see him. He was stabled next door to Chamilandu (the female) who made sure he felt welcome by feeling him with her trunk through the stable wall frequently throughout the night. Of course she is still doting on tiny little Rufunsa, so she had to share her affections that evening.



His first venture back in the bush and Kafue (middle) seems to be settling safe now he is with Chamilandu (left) and Chodoba

After being stabled for just 2 days to get used to the Keepers and to learn how to drink milk from a bottle, we were all very excited to let him outside yesterday morning for the first time, so he could interact properly with the other ele's. They all thought he was very interesting and each ele took it in turns to befriend him – all except Rufunsa, who at six months old seems to think that he is the only one who deserves to be centre of attention!

This time it is Chodoba (the oldest ele) who has been adopted as 'mother' by little Kafue, who took an instant shine to the biggest of this surrogate herd and has not left his side since...

We estimate that Kafue is just 1 year 3 months old – so at this age is still milk dependant. As a result of not being with his mother he has lost condition and is quite skinny. He has however taken well to the special milk formula used at EOP and we hope that his physical recovery will not take long. With a dedicated Team watching him 24/7 and Chodoba and the others by his side we hope his emotional recovery will be just as quick...



Kafue (right) is encouraged to leave the boma by his new friends Tafika (left) and Chodoba (middle)

'Kafue' was safely rescued by staff from the KNP ZAWA Headquarters. We would like to take this opportunity to thank ZAWA for their ongoing support and partnership with this project. In particular we would like to thank the KNP Park Manager Dr Mkanda, Acting Area Warden Mr Mwakifamba, Senior WPO Mr Mulimo and the following ZAWA WPO's: Moses Sikaonga, Anderson Tembo, Kingsley Muzhamba, Ruben Nzhibwe, Isaac Mulenga, Obby Moobwe, Felix Simachemba, Tradewell Chingobe.

With an ever growing family of orphaned elephants at EOP we desperately need more funds to nurture these fragile babies and give them a second chance for a life in the wild.

To make a cash or in-kind donation to help Kafue and the other elephant orphans with milk supplies, veterinary and other vital support, please email us at elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com or donation's can be made online by clicking this link <http://www.davidshepherd.org/help-us/donate/> and choosing 'Zambia' from the drop down menu - 100% will go to the project.
Or call Rachael on +260-978-736025

For further information on the Elephant Orphanage Project, please contact:
elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com

A project of:



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Game Rangers International (DSWF Zambia) P O Box 30255, Lusaka, Zambia. Tel. 00 260 976068183 Email. Sportbeattie@hotmail.com
Trustees: Dr Jacob Mwanza (Chair), Sport Beattie, Robin Miller, Timothy Mushibwe, Adam Pope, Efi O'Donnell, Melanie Shepherd. Chief Patron: David Shepherd CBE FRSA

The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, 61 Smithbrook Kilns, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8JJ, UK.
Tel: 01483 272323 Fax: 01483 272427 E-Mail: dswf@davidshepherd.org Website: www.davidshepherd.org. DSWF is a registered charity no: 1106893.
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