



GAME RANGERS
INTERNATIONAL



Musa (right) is welcomed into his new surrogate family at EOP by Rufunsa (left) and mothered by Chamilandu with a gentle caress of her trunk (far left)

EOP Newsflash... 'my friend' Musa

News update from the Elephant Orphanage Project – 12th May 2011

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

Early Tuesday morning EOP received a radio call from ZAWA that an orphaned elephant calf had been found near Lake Itezhi-Tezhi in Kafue National Park...

The previous evening Senior Officers from Ngoma HQ had seen the distraught little elephant alone and pacing frantically along the road parallel to the lake shore. This tiny calf is estimated to be 11 months old (the same age as Runfusa) and without his mothers protection he was incredibly lucky to survive the night as there are often lions roaming the lake shores! When little 'Musa' meaning 'my friend' in Tonga and named after the site he was found, was seen still wandering alone Tuesday morning ZAWA WPO's and Village Scouts were able to catch him and a passing vehicle offered their assistance to bring him directly to the Elephant Orphanage Project.

Upon arrival Musa was dehydrated and exhausted and slept until the other six elephant orphans returned to the Elephant Boma for their lunch. Chamilandu, the only female (who now really has her work cut out with six bulls to deal with), ignored her much loved pellets to rush to his stable and reassure the youngster. After each elephant had taken it in turn to say hello to Musa we opened his stable door and the other elephants crowded the newcomer in welcome and curiosity. It was Rufunsa though who Musa initially took to. As soon as he saw this same-sized calf he went to him and started following. Rufunsa did not think much of this and ran away trying to shake off this pesky shadow, but Musa was persistent and stuck to him like glue. They ran out of the Boma fence and through the bush – it was a very funny sight!



Hot on his heels! Musa chases Rufunsa through the bush – perhaps he remembers a play-mate from his own herd?



Chodoba (left) and Chamilandu check on Musa as he guzzles down much needed water

We encouraged the orphans to the nearby waterhole where sure enough Musa plunged in head first – he has not yet learnt to drink with his trunk so put his head under water as he gulped it down to re-hydrate himself. Musa seemed happy and relieved to be back with fellow elephants. Although they are not his real family he is already following them around and playing with each in turn as he establishes his place amongst this surrogate herd. We do not yet know what happened to his mother, but can only guess. Elephant mothers do not leave vulnerable babies alone, so we are very thankful to the quick actions of ZAWA and the Village Scouts who rescued Musa. ZAWA are currently sweeping the nearby area for evidence of his mother.

During his first night in the stables Musa discovered the joys of the milk bottle and has been greedily guzzling down every feed offered since – which is 2L milk every three hours!



Musa's big appetite gives us hope that he will overcome the trauma of loosing his family and adapt to life at EOP before he begins his next venture back into the wild of Kafue National Park

'Musa' was safely rescued by staff from the KNP ZAWA Headquarters. We would like to thank ZAWA for their ongoing support and partnership with this project. In particular many thanks to the KNP Park Manager Dr Mkanda, Area Warden Mr Chilufya, Senior Extension Officer Mr Mwakifwamba, Senior WPO's: Mr Ngalaba and Mr Nbao, and the following Village Scouts: Shaftxxxxx, Stembridgexxxxx and Munda xxxxx for their assistance with this rescue

*Now with four milk suckling calves at the EOP we are in need of your support more than ever!
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 baby Musa 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:
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A project of:



Supported and funded by:



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