



Elephant Orphan Swims to Safety!

News update from the Elephant Orphanage Project – 10th Sept 2010

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

Another elephant orphan is about to join the surrogate herd at the Elephant Orphanage Project...

Little 'Rufunsa' (named after the area he was rescued) is now safe in the care of the EOP Elephant Keepers thanks to the residents of Rufunsa GMA. Four days ago he swam across the Luangwa River with his mother from Zambia into Mozambique. Tragically his mother became stuck in the muddy banks when villagers found her and shot her dead! They attempted to also attack Rufunsa, but he managed to escape, sustaining slash wounds to his body. Zambian fishermen witnessed the event in astonishment as little Rufunsa managed to swim all the way back across the great river to Zambia, avoiding the many hippos and crocodiles - at only five months old this is an incredible feat! As he reached Zambian shores, exhausted, he was captured and brought to the Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) at Luangwa Boma who contacted EOP.



A thirty little elephant...on arrival at Luangwa Boma – at approximately five months old he is too young to drink well with his trunk

On Tuesday Sport and Rachael headed to the scene (5 hours drive from Lusaka) with two EOP Keepers. Rufunsa was re-hydrated and loaded into the Toyota Land Cruiser inside a large purpose made crate to make the journey to Lusaka, by road, where he is currently in quarantine. Once he is given the all clear by the ZAWA Head Vet he will make the next leg of his journey, by air, to Kafue National Park to join the other orphans at EOP - We will keep you posted on his progress...

At this young age Rufunsa is very vulnerable, so every precaution is being made to secure his health, although only time will tell if he can recover physically, socially and emotionally from such a terrible ordeal!



Rufunsa, currently in quarantine, with Elephant Keeper, Sydney

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 Rufunsa and the other orphans with milk supplies, veterinary support and other vital support, please email us at elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com or donate online at www.davidshepherd.org - 100% will go to the project. Or call Rachael on 0978735025

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

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