

EOP Newsletter

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

JANUARY 2010



Dear Supporter,

You look up and suddenly it is 2010! Compliments of the Season. Overall, 2009 was a very productive and successful year for Game Rangers International. The Elephant Orphanage Project continues to grow in stature and is already beginning to generate awareness and support for the bigger picture of conservation in Zambia - a trend we hope to nurture. Just before the onset of the rainy season we supported ZAWA to reform nine ex-poachers into loyal Village Scouts - these men are now providing valuable Park Protection support in Kafue National Park, south. On behalf of all of us at Game Rangers International and DSWF Zambia I would like to extend a very BIG thank you to you all for your ongoing support of our projects. May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the very best for the year ahead. Thank you. *Sport Beattie, CEO Game Rangers International (GRI)*

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From TWO to FOUR!!

The dynamics of the EOP herd has dramatically changed with the addition of two younger orphans, Tafika who 'Arrived' in September and followed very recently by Batoka in November (please see pages 2 and 3 for full story of each ele). Chamilandu (now four years old), is completely in her element, mothering the babies, in particular the smallest, Tafika. It was a wonderful sight to witness as little Tafika was introduced to the bigger ele's for the first time - Chamilandu couldn't stop touching him with her trunk and producing soft rumbles of welcome, and even the bigger and often more boisterous Chodoba (at five years old) was completely still and very gentle



The ele's enjoy a squelching mud-bath together - Tafika (front left) has been very attentive to the newest ele Batoka (front right), and has made him feel right at home

with the little new comer. One month later and the closely bonded herd of three were very excited to find Batoka at the boma on returning from their daily walk - again Chamilandu was first in to check on the new baby, even ignoring her much loved pellets to smell and touch Batoka with her trunk. Two months on at the EOP and now the herd of four make a very happy family; the trusting, affectionate and adaptable nature of these little elephants is astounding when considering the traumas that each has suffered. At least they now have each other to take comfort and learn from as they prepare for their long journey back into the wild.





RM

Tafika

If you have been following the EOP Newsflashes you will already be familiar with tiny Tafika from South Luangwa... After his herd rampaged a village, Tafika sadly fell into a pit latrine and was abandoned when his family were chased away. Luckily he was rescued by the *South Luangwa Conservation Society* and ZAWA, and was taken to the *Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust*, where Steve and Anna Tolan and their team cared for Tafika (lead by EOP Keeper Gift) for one month before his transfer to EOP. ***“It was a very special moment to see Tafika reunited with elephant kin and we all felt very privileged to be part of making that happen”*** said Rachel McRobb, CEO

SLCS, who led Tafika’s rescue and assisted with his translocation to the EOP. ***“It was also incredible to see how both Chodoba and Chamilandu have grown and matured since their arrival to EOP in late 2007”***.

Ele Keeper Gift is currently recuperating from having broken his leg— We all wish him a speedy recovery!

Tafika Rescue and Translocation:

Special thanks to: Rachel McRobb & SLCS, Steve & Anna Tolan and Chipembele supporters (who raised US\$4,000 towards Tafika’s translocation and welfare), DR Matandiko ZAWA Head Vet, ZAWA Mfuwe, Proflight, Mark Burton, Henderson’s Transport company, Toyota Zambia

Tafika means ‘to Arrive’, and it was thanks to alerts by the ‘Tafika Lodge’, Mfuwe, that this little ele was discovered having fallen into a pit

Elephants under two years of age are considered to be very vulnerable to sickness and disease and require a great deal of resource and high level care. Tafika is estimated to be just over one year old and Batoka at around two years old. Our dedicated team of Elephant Keeper’s therefore must work around the clock to monitor the health and behaviour of these babies, and provide essential milk feeds every three hours! The EOP is non-profit charity, funded completely by generous donations. If you are able to assist us in any way to help Tafika, Batoka and the other ele orphans please donate online at www.davidshepherd.org - 100% will go to the EOP project - or email dswf@davidshepherd.org / elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com



RM

Chamilandu is always mothering tiny Tafika and the two are rarely seen apart

Tafika has taken to life with the EOP herd in his stride and is already very confident despite being so tiny. He runs over to head-butt any of the other ele’s if he thinks he is missing out on something and loves to be the centre of attention!



RM

Tafika is very playful and cheeky—poor Chodoba just wanted to take an afternoon nap!

Big is Beautiful!

Despite being only some months older than Tafika, Batoka is significantly larger than him and seems to demonstrate a difference in the size and proportions of elephants from different regions. The South Luangwa ele’s, Chodoba, Chamilandu and Tafika, seem to have short and stocky builds. Whilst Batoka, coming from Livingstone (where elephants are crossing borders all the time from Zimbabwe), seems much taller with proportionally longer legs and bigger ears! It will be very interesting to monitor his development verses that of the Luangwa ele’s, as we expect that within a few

years he will be towering over the current ‘bwana’, Chodoba!

Big ears and Big feet! Baby Batoka stands at 1.2m to the shoulder



RM

Batoka

Hopefully you will have already read the recent News Release detailing Batoka's dramatic rescue from Long Island, just above the Victoria Falls, Livingstone. Thanks to the amazing support of local operators, ZAWA and additional manpower, two orphaned elephants were successfully rescued (over two days) from the island and brought across to mainland Zambia. The larger and stronger of the two elephants was promptly released in the Mosi-O-Tunya National Park as he appeared in good health and was browsing well for himself - with regular updates from Livingstone we are monitoring his progress in the wild. The smaller elephant, Batoka, was in a poor state and so was transported to the EOP where he is improving in physical condition day by day.



Physically manoeuvring the elephants across the island was a real challenge. They each weighed between 250-350kg's and were lifted across thick muddy stretches, through bushes and over uneven and difficult terrain!

The entire rescue operation was an incredible feat of teamwork and generosity, with all components conducted very smoothly and safely. The fact that both elephants were only under anaesthesia for less than 1 hour 15 minutes is quite incredible. In that time each were **darted, immobilised, carried across the island, loaded into the boat, crossed the Zambezi, unloaded from the boat and onto the Land Cruiser, driven inside the National Park, unloaded and carried inside the boma before the anaesthetic was reversed!** The time-scale is testament to the efficiency and professionalism displayed by all parties involved and on behalf of the Elephant Orphanage Project I would like to say a big thank you everyone who made this rescue possible and especially the following for their amazing help and support: ZAWA Livingstone; Livingstone's Adventures (Batoka Sky and African Queen); Bushtracks; Bundu Adventures

Many Thanks to the Livingstone Elephant Rescue Team..

ZAWA: Dr Matandiko, Stephen Malungo, Moses Kaoma, Joreck Chishika, Rabson Zimba, Philimon Kawala, Kennedy Nyasulu, David Nalukena Sindila, Katongo Bwalya, Chansa Musawa, Ng'andwe, Munalula Munalula, Max Yuyi, Clever Kamitondo, Clay Muyaba. HWPO's: Raymond Kandenga, Mulenga, Frank Longwani, Mike Welsh, Sven Bolton. Air support: Batoka Sky - Daan Brink, Kevin Kinton, Heiko Held, John Hershall, Pascal Muguto, Lesley Makoni, Bill Davis; Prof light. Boat support: African Queen - Daan Brink, Martin Joseph, Boat Captain. Additional Manpower: Nico Chassing, Joe Brooker x4, Jonathon Davis, Tim Copplesone, Stuart Spencer, Mark Harvey, Jason Kochen, Ciaran and Jamie Stirling, Chris Tett. Photography: Anita Held. Crate: Bushtracks - Chris Tett, Ben Costa, Sunday. Translocation: Bundu Adventures - Nico Chassing, George Angell, Imogen Chassing. Other support: Gwembe Safaris - Joe Brooks, Ian and Sue Brooks, Safari Par Excellence - Clover and Tony, Chris and Sam Tett, Protea Hotels - Efi and Mark O'Donnell

Thanks to these incredible efforts Batoka is now settling in really well at the EOP. After three days he was accompanying the other elephants on daily walks and now seems very happy at his new home. Having been isolated for at least one month, Batoka was not as social with the rest of the herd we had as expected. It was as if he felt too dejected to allow them to get close to him, but over this last month he has become more friendly and Tafika in particular is always there to make him feel loved. Here at the EOP the other orphans will assist Batoka to overcome the tragic separation from his natal family, as he is absorbed into this surrogate herd and learns from them the vital skills to become wild again one day.

Just a few weeks at EOP and Batoka is eagerly leading the herd when he knows it's time for a bottle of milk!



Tafika (left) and Chodoba (right) make newcomer Batoka feel very welcome at the EOP

Batoka, meaning 'Sky' to the local Toka people, was named after 'Batoka Sky' the aviation company who first spotted the stranded elephant who were instrumental in his safe and successful rescue from Long Island

EOP Project Activities

Aug

'Lusaka Agricultural Show 2009'

The EOP team were invited to set up a stall as part of the Toyota Zambia stand, following Toyota's recent donation to the project of a *Land Cruiser*. The few days saw many visitors to the stall where Rachael and Head Keeper Kelvin updated many passers-by to the EOP and its ele orphans. A huge attraction to the stall was the colouring table, which provided a good opportunity for wildlife education and awareness to some Lusaka youths.



Sep

Medical Support

Camp Phoenix was very lucky to be visited by a group of voluntary Doctors and Dentists from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. The group utilised Camp Phoenix as a base so they could provide medical outreach support to the local Ngoma community. They kindly offered medical and dental checks to all GRI staff members and to the Village Scouts in training. In addition they also donated a substantial quantity of medical supplies for use at Camp Phoenix.



Kafue Buffalo



GRI staff were called by ZAWA Ngoma to assist with an investigation of dead buffalo found floating in Lake Itezhi-Tezhi. GRI organised a speed boat to escort Area Warden Chris Kaoma to the scene. There were over 34 dead buffalo floating eerily on the lake waters, including a mixture of ages and sex. Sport and Rachael took blood slides for examination by vets, although a search of the area indicated that it was only buffalo that had seemingly been affected. Vet Luke Gamble visited the scene again the following day and with ZAWA Officers made further investigations to conclude that it was a stampede that had caused the unfortunate deaths of so many buffalo! With herds up to 1000 strong in KNP this cause is not so unlikely, and provides huge relief that there are no localised problems with disease or poisonings.

Ele's on Sky

A UK film crew stopped by the EOP to film part of a new series for SKY called 'Vet Adventures'. The series star, Luke Gamble, is an English Vet who has established the charity *Worldwide Veterinary Services* to support with veterinary work around the globe. Luke fully endorsed the EOP as well as giving some good advice and medical supplies.



Oct

Water on tap!

With the dry season well and truly upon us, the incredibly generous donation of a Bore Hole for Camp Phoenix was impeccably timed! Drilling commenced in October thanks to Nigel and Victoria Colne, who had visited the project at the end of August and who were very impressed by the achievements of the team and the projects vision.



RM

Nov

Ele Education Programme

In October Rachael and Head Keeper Kelvin attended the local Ngoma Basic School to provide an elephant education programme to the children, spanning all grades and ages. The programme was really well received and some children later presented work on the EOP as part of their Annual Science Fair



KB

As a follow up to our education day we later organised for 50 school children from Grade 1-3 from Ngoma Basic School to visit the project site and the ele's. The day was a fantastic experience for the young children—most of whom had never been inside the National Park before let alone seen a baby elephant! The children were impeccably behaved and seemed to have a thoroughly fun day out. EOP has pledged to facilitate educational field-trips to all of the children at this neighbouring school and looks forward to expanding on our involvement in wildlife education.



RM

Fundraising News

DSWF visited Zambia again at the end of August, accompanied by acclaimed artist Emily Lamb—David Shepherds highly talented granddaughter. The 'Art for Wildlife' exhibition was held at Alliance Francaise from 25th-30th Aug, where local and international artists displayed and sold artwork to raise funds to help protect Zambia's wildlife. The event was well attended and raised USD\$4500! Many Thanks to all the generous contributors of this event including Emily Lamb, Judith McCord, Guy Hammond, Allison Street, Carol Aslin, Carol Harvey, Quentin Allen, Vic Guhrs and John Hudson.



DSWF also visited EOP where Emily kindly offered some drawing lessons to our team which was thoroughly appreciated – especially by Chodoba!

Chodoba steals the limelight and the pencil!!!



RM

Many thanks to the students at the International School of Lusaka (ISL) for organising 'Run the Trunk!' This was a sponsored run around the schools running track, where students were sponsored per lap. Well done to all those who took part and helped raise money to feed the elephant orphans!



The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

(DSWF) is working to save critically endangered mammals in their wild habitat.

DSWF has been supporting wildlife conservation in Zambia since the early 1960s when David Shepherd first visited. Zambia is one of DSWF's longest standing projects to which it remains totally committed - see www.davidshepherd.org



Park Protection & Training



Updates from Sport Beattie, CEO Game Rangers International

In July the Community Resources Boards of Musungwa and Shezongo approached ZAWA with the names of nine (9) notorious 'hunters'. These men had all been actively involved in poaching activities in Kafue National Park and its Game Management Areas for a number of years – they were not unknown to ZAWA, but by hook or by crook had somehow managed to evade the long arm of the law for quite some time – some of them for more than 10yrs!

**a reformed
poacher will
more often than
not become one of
the unit's most
loyal scouts**

Through a focused and increased presence of ZAWA scouts in the area these particular nine men perhaps began to realise that their days were numbered. The net was closing in - they were tired of the constant hide and seek existence they lived. All of them had families to support. Faced with the very real prospect of going to jail these nine men all voluntarily agreed to hand in their weapons if they could be offered an alternative source of income.

ZAWA made a plan, as they say, and Game Rangers International was approached to see if we would support the idea and costs of reforming poachers into Village Scouts. This concept is nothing new – provided the right level of welfare, training and operational support are afforded to a reformed poacher he will more often than not become one of the unit's most loyal scouts. In addition, once trained, these scouts would be undertaking Park Protection duties within the buffer zone surrounding the release area of the Elephant Orphanage Project. It was an easy decision for GRI to support this initiative.



During the initial stages of training wooden AK47's are carried by the recruits at all times

An Induction Training course was launched at Camp Phoenix immediately. Under the watchful eyes of Senior Instructor Mwanza and Instructor Mwandire (both ZAWA WPOs) the recruits were put through their paces. The main objective of this course was to instil the basic skills required in order for the recruits to fulfil their jobs safely and effectively within the field, as a team. Four guiding principles were used throughout the course: Physical Fitness, Knowledge, Team Work and Discipline. Most importantly, we also wanted to establish whether these ex-poachers would be loyal and dedicated enough to join the ranks of the Village Scout Unit. Safe to say, not one of the nine men faltered during the grueling 30 day course. On the 9th of October, in full view of the Honourable Chiefs Musungwa and Shezongo, village headmen, CRB representatives, ZAWA, family and friends, the nine once notorious poachers passed out as Nkala Village Scouts. There was much pride and a dulation from all in attendance.



Regular classroom lessons form an essential component of the village scout training



SB
Weapon handling skills must be refined

As this Newsletter goes to press we are pleased to report that the Nkala Village Scout Unit, which is now operating at full strength has been very successful in apprehending more than eight poachers – resulting in the confiscation of 10 weapons, various ammunitions and 120kgs of bushmeat. Inside information provided by 'someone in the know' was key to these arrests. Gradually, but surely poaching will be brought under control within the area and a safe haven for the recovering populations of wildlife in Kafue National Park south will be a reality once more. Who knows, if we can secure the area well enough we could even consider the possibility of reintroducing black rhino back into the Park – an ambitious thought, but one which could generate many positive ripples across many boundaries.

Next time we will take you behind the scenes into the village life of one of these men to see what differences, if any, becoming a scout has meant for him and his family.

The transformation of these nine ex-poachers was made possible through the support and awareness raised by the Elephant Orphanage Project.



SB
The newly trained Nkala Village Scouts salute the Honorable Chiefs Musungwa and Shezongo at the official pass out parade

Join the Ele-Fan Club...

Who is an Ele-Fan? Any child who is really interested in elephants and wants to learn more about the Elephant Orphanage Project

How do I become an Ele-Fan? If you are reading this newsletter you may already be one! Just email us to say "I want to be an Ele-Fan" and we will make sure you receive Ele-Fan news, events, competitions and information on ele-adoptions in the future newsletters

Ele-Fun Page for EOP 'Ele-Fans'!

We would like to thank the following Ele-Fan's for their beautiful artwork and stories inspired by the EOP ele's...



By Rebecca Sichone (age 6)



By Tara Hans (age 5)



By Kalai Shenton (age 9)

I mogen's story about Kafue Trip

A month ago my dad brought a baby elephant to Kafue, it had no mother or father. Then two weeks after that we went to see how he (Batoka) was doing. In the morning we went to see the elephants, we watched them being fed. On Sunday it was Ali's birthday. We went to the Lake and by that lake there was a lodge. We went to that lodge and me, Kate, Dad and Kalai went for a swim. After that we went back. At Kafue we saw three Cheetahs and a Pangolin. First Batoka did not go on walks, but now he does go on the walks with the other baby elephants. We also saw wild elephants. We saw a whole group of wild elephants. We also saw two leopard tortoises. We heard Lions at night. We found a rat but it went away. Some people went fishing and caught a Barbel fish. And that is the end of the Kafue story.

Written by I mogen Chassing (8 years old)



Kafue Cheetah cubs

Tooth truths

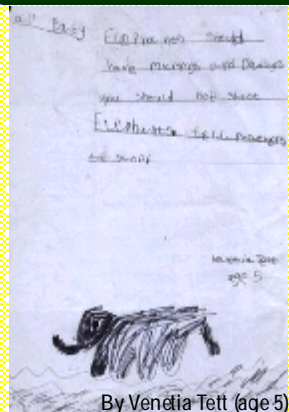
- An elephant's age can be best estimated by looking at their teeth!
- Throughout their lives elephants have 6 sets of teeth, plus one pair of tusks (this makes a total of 26 teeth)
- African elephants grow tusks (upper incisors) throughout their lives. These start to appear when an elephant is around 2 years old.
- Elephant's teeth do not fall out vertically like ours. Instead they grow horizontally in plates moving forward in the jaw – the new teeth eventually push the older teeth out at the front!
- Once the last tooth is lost an elephant cannot feed properly and will die soon after from malnutrition. By that time the elephant maybe 60 years old!

Fundraising for the ele's... how u can help! Caring for baby elephants requires a lot of time, energy and funding! If you would like to help these little ele's why not organise a sponsored fun run, a sponsored silence, non-uniform day, or anything else that you can think of, we are always eager to hear of new and exciting ways of raising funds!

Can you find all these words in our fun Ele-Word Search?

- Batoka
- Bull
- Calf
- Chamilandu
- Chodoba
- Elefan
- Elephant
- Gestation
- Herd
- Kafue National Park
- Keeper
- Matriarch
- Milk
- Orphan
- Poaching
- Protection
- Tafika
- Trunk

K	P	H	B	C	E	A	B	O	D	O	H	C	A	L
T	R	S	U	A	R	L	K	A	T	N	A	E	U	L
M	A	A	T	L	R	I	E	I	N	G	C	D	H	K
G	I	J	P	F	A	K	L	F	U	L	N	F	N	B
T	T	N	K	C	L	N	E	N	A	A	O	U	O	T
B	A	T	O	K	A	F	O	O	L	N	R	L	P	G
I	F	N	B	R	P	H	L	I	M	T	P	C	H	E
O	I	A	A	P	I	K	M	T	T	N	H	A	C	S
N	K	H	I	O	N	A	L	C	N	A	A	D	R	T
G	A	P	S	A	H	E	T	E	L	A	N	D	A	A
E	C	E	K	C	E	E	P	T	M	E	G	O	I	T
S	H	L	F	H	P	B	F	O	C	I	U	B	R	I
D	O	E	L	I	T	U	R	R	A	N	L	F	T	O
C	H	I	N	N	K	L	U	P	M	D	E	K	A	N
D	R	E	H	G	A	L	K	E	E	P	E	R	M	K



By Venelia Tett (age 5)

Please send us your pictures and we will try to display them in our next edition!

In Memory of...

This edition is dedicated to Stephen Malungo the ZAWA Area Warden of Mosi-O-Tunya National Park, who has recently passed away. He was instrumental in our recent efforts in Livingstone and it is a tremendous loss to ZAWA and Zambian conservation. Our sincere condolences and thoughts are with his family and friends.

Acknowledgements & Thanks

GRI (and the Elephant Orphanage Project) would like to thank all our sponsors and supporters, without whom this project would not be possible. We would like to make special mention of the following people/orgs:

- Alan and Siobhan Watson for providing a HF Radio and support with project awareness
- Albert Coetzee of ASAP Digital for the design and production of EOP banners
- Alison & Colin Street for ongoing support to the EOP
- Amit Kumar 'Universal Corporation Ltd' who has pledged to provide all medical supplies for the elephant orphans
- Cookes Safaris for donating a handheld GPS
- Dave Clement for providing pony rugs during the cold weather
- Ginny Miller and Emily Lamb for support to the EOP (re: Gift)
- Honda Zambia and Nyanja Safaris for the donation of a 5Kva generator
- Isaac Livni for ongoing support to the EOP
- Kate Brill for all her voluntary help and assistance to the EOP
- Leon DeWitt of Kazang for an Eco-cooker
- Lisette and Ian Withers for ongoing advice and support, and providing essential mineral supplements for the ele's
- Lt Gen Sir Graeme Lamb and family for support to the project
- Luke Gamble – WVS
- Maja, Maja, Maja, Masa and Natasha from the Section for Tropical Medicine, Medical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Mark Dunn of Southern Steel for the woodstove
- Mark Burton & family for financial support during Tafika Rescue
- Nicola Carruthers for donating a portable internet modem
- Nigel & Vicky Colne for the donation of a borehole to the EOP
- Peanut Lamb for all her voluntary help and assistance to the EOP
- Pro-flight for support during the Tafika Rescue
- Robert Abbot for ongoing support to GRI and donation of VSAT
- Steve McCully – Panorama Security for support during Induction Training
- Stuart Beattie for the donation of a laptop
- Sue and Derek Francis for support to the project
- Sue and Hugh Carruthers for generous donation of Land Rover parts and tyres!
- Tyre Services – discount tyres
- WECSZ for kind use of office space
- Yash Pharmaceuticals for a large donation of milk powder and assistance with importing milk powder



On behalf of everyone involved with Game Rangers International I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very sincere and special thank you to James Florence (Marketing & PR) for his tireless enthusiasm and commitment to the Elephant Orphanage Project, on a voluntary basis. James has been involved with the project since the very beginning. Anyone who has met James will agree that you probably couldn't meet a nicer person! Through thick and thin James has stuck it out with us – we will obviously be sad to see him go, but wish him all the very best in his new position as 'Head of PR & Operations' for Worldwide Veterinary Services in the UK. *Sport Beattie, CEO Game Rangers International (GRI)* N.B. We will therefore be looking for a new Admin /Comms & Marketing person very soon in the New Year—any enquiries please contact us...



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Elephant Orphanage Project



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