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Dear Supporter,

This year really seems to be flying by and the orphans all seem to be growing just as fast! Equally encouraging is the growing support and awareness, which the EOP is beginning to generate for the bigger picture of conservation. It is ironic that the orphans, some of them the tragic victims of poaching, are now the very reason why nine reformed poachers are being supported full-time to provide Park Protection duties in the Nkala Game Management Area (see page 6 for more GRI news). We are also very pleased to report that we are about to launch the GRI Education Programme, which will target 11 schools in the communities around South Kafue National Park.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us in October for our *Art for Wildlife* Competition and Exhibition, culminating with the *Elephants Masquerade Ball*, with special guest David Shepherd CBE. On behalf of all of us at Game Rangers International, I would like to extend a special thank you to you all for your ongoing support of the project.

Yours sincerely, Sport Beattie (CEO – GRI)

**Life is good at the EOP...**

The brilliant colours and cooler breezes of this vibrant season can be seen reflected in the moods and behaviours of the elephant orphans at EOP. They are all very sprightly as they leave their stables in the early morning and begin to play with each other in the sand outside.

After a very wet start to the year (see page 4 to find out just how wet) the abundance of foods is plentiful and the ele's are all very content to indulge in what Kafue National Park has to offer. I am pleased to report that all the ele's are growing fantastically and look in good shape – their bellies well rounded and satisfied each evening upon their return to the boma.

Morale in the elephant

orphans is now at a high – with Batoka, the most recent addition to the herd, now really integrating into life with this unusual little family. Not only is he learning how to socialise again but Batoka is also readjusting to a diet with milk – not that it ever took much encouragement. This malnourished

little elephant orphan has always seemed so grateful for his milk feeds; one only needs to look at his face to tell! His starved little body is now on the mend and his energy levels are high as he can be seen play-fighting with Tafika and running through the long grasses of Kafue National Park.

Rachael Murton – EOP Project Manager



RM

*Batoka is in heaven as he guzzles down his 3 hourly milk feeds*





Batoka, now strong and healthy at two years old

## Batoka Bounces Back!!

The first of May marked Batoka's official 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday! His age has been estimated mostly through analysis of his dentition but also by looking at his tusk and general body development. Since his arrival at the EOP in November Batoka has constantly progressed in his physical repair and development, as well as in his relationship with the other ele's.

On his arrival to EOP Batoka was very skinny, with nearly all his ribs showing and his hips and shoulders significantly protruding. His skin was very thin and patchy – just rubbing himself against a tree would cause his skin to rip and bleed! Due to the malnourishment before his rescue his body had used all his energy just to stay alive, and there



Batoka just after his rescue

*“On his arrival Batoka was very skinny showing nearly all his ribs, with his hips and shoulders protruding”*

was nothing extra remaining to further his growth or condition. Now after 6 months of life at EOP - where he hungrily drinks 2L milk formula (containing specialised minerals and fats) every three hours and spends all day browsing and grazing in the lush vegetation of KNP - Batoka has gained much weight, condition and even growth! In the first couple of months here Batoka's body set to repair itself, then a growth spurt began and he is now visibly bigger all over (he has grown from 119cm to 124cm high at the shoulder). His skin is now much thicker all over his body and the hairs dispersed throughout the body are growing stronger and thicker. It is fantastic to see this change in his physical appearance, though what I find equally as compelling is how he now interacts with the other ele's. RM

### Orphan Appeal—Help us to help them!

Elephant calves like Batoka, who have been forced from their family at such a young and vulnerable age will not survive alone. The EOP is dedicated to *Rescue, Rehabilitate and safely Release* these tragic orphans back into the wild where they belong. But we can't do it alone! The EOP is non-profit charity, funded completely by generous donations. If you are able to assist us in any way to help Batoka and the other ele orphans please donate online at [www.davidshpherd.org](http://www.davidshpherd.org) - 100% will go to the EOP project - or email us at [elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com](mailto:elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com)

Although Chodoba, Chamilandu and Tafika were all interested and friendly to Batoka on his arrival, he did not respond so well to them. It seemed that after a month of isolation (on an island in the Zambezi River) Batoka felt totally dejected and very sorry for himself – he always had a sad look on his face and initially would not join in to play with the other ele's – he just focused all his attention on eating. But things have slowly changed – as Batoka has grown in confidence and security at EOP, he has become more boisterous and playful with the others and it now seems he is really a part of the family. As they are let out of their stables in the early mornings (their most active and excitable time) all the ele's can be seen play-fighting and dust bathing together – with Batoka really taking part in all the activity. We are sure that as time goes on his relationship with the others will grow from strength to strength...

Batoka (right) and Tafika get stuck into an early morning play-fight!



## Sometimes 'BIG' things come in 'little' packages..

Tafika may be the smallest of the EOP herd, but he is by far the cheekiest and makes up for his size by being the biggest personality! Tafika craves to be the centre of attention, whether that is with the other ele's or his Keepers, he has to be involved if he thinks something is going on. In the early mornings he is the first to initiate a fight! Albeit a play-fight, he will run up to whoever is standing closest and



Crash! Tafika is not afraid to pick a fight with the big boy—Chodoba!

proceed to ram them with his head! His Keepers stand back to laugh, as little Tafika is even so bold as to challenge Chodoba! Chodoba (now a hefty 5½ years old) has learnt to have a great deal of patience since Tafika 'Arrived' at EOP, and usually suffers quite a lot of bashes to his body before he finally slaps Tafika smartly with his trunk, an inaudible "Enough's enough!" However as he takes a moment to dust bath, Tafika will inevitably be there to catch him while he's down!



"That feels good"... Tafika clearly enjoying a good scratch!

## Clever boy!

Tafika is an incredibly clever little elephant. As his trunk has developed with dexterity and strength he has recently learnt to feed himself, by holding his 2L bottle of milk by himself. He doesn't try to wrap his trunk around the sides, as most ele's attempt to but rarely succeed in doing; instead he has developed his own technique of using his trunk like a vice to trap the bottle just where it's needed!



Chamilandu has now learnt how to be motherly towards both the youngest ele's at EOP—we just look forward to the day when she is wild again and mothering her own babies!



Chamilandu (left) has really taken to baby Batoka

## Spreading her love...

It seems that Chamilandu has recently learnt how to divide her affections between the two young babies. Initially when Tafika joined EOP she was totally besotted with him and could not leave his side, constantly fussing over him and helping him along on walks – nudging him up banks and encouraging him to walk through the river...it was very endearing to witness. However when Batoka arrived Chamilandu didn't seem able to share her affections in the same manner with the newcomer. Initially she may have seen Batoka as a threat to Tafika as she became very protective of the youngest ele, but over time and with Batoka's gradual integration within the 'family' she has learnt that she needs to be motherly to them both. With Tafika's cheeky behaviour increasing all the time she even seems to have become a little tired of the constant harassment and can frequently be seen nuzzling and playing with Batoka with the affection and love that he so desperately needs.

## EOP Project Activities

# Jan

### Wild Dog sightings and Cheetah activity

As mentioned in our Newsflash #9 – Camp Phoenix, based in South Kafue National Park, was treated to an abundance of exciting wildlife sightings this month – including some top predators: Wild dog, Cheetah, Lion and Leopard!!



RM

### Water and Women...



RM

# Feb

Despite the apparent lack of rain at Camp Phoenix in this past wet season, rains further west still managed to raise the water level of the Nkala River – which rose over 8 feet in 24 hours,



RM

flooding the areas around the camp. Luckily Camp Phoenix's location was chosen for its high ridge, and no living areas (human or elephant) were touched by the waters! It did, however, come dangerously close to flooding our brand new office buildings, which some local ladies aka 'Ngoma Ladies Construction Team' worked so hard to make special with their mud-walling skills—as you can see they've done a great job!!



RM

With water comes frogs, and Camp Phoenix became inundated with many differing species – beautiful to behold, though their night chorus was sometimes a little too enthusiastic!!



RM

# Mar

### Livingstone Support

Many thanks to WECSZ Livingstone branch who invited us to give a talk about EOP on 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition Rachael also attended at Acacia Primary School Livingstone, and was very impressed by the enthusiasm the students showed for EOP and their knowledge on elephants. Acacia School have taken a keen interest in Batoka (having been rescued in that area) and have pledged to help raise funds for his upkeep through a school magazine! (See their poem on page 7) Way to go Acacia School!!

### New Staff

Kate Brill returned to GRI! We are very lucky to announce that Kate, who volunteered for a few months in 2009, has again returned to volunteer full-time at Camp Phoenix. She will now undertake the role of Education & Training Coordinator to provide essential staff training and capacity building, as well as developing the GRI Education Programme in collaboration with WECSZ—which will be launched in 11 schools within our local area. Kate has an MSc in Biodiversity Conservation Management from Oxford University and a BSc in Geography - her experience in scientific field research, environmental education, team management and training will be invaluable as she assists us to push the project forward...welcome back Kate!



RM



25-27 MARCH 2010

Many thanks to Carol of 'Carol White Consultancy' and Chimwemwe of 'Africast' and the whole 'Africast' team for all their support throughout this event and for donating to GRI-EOP as part of their raffle fundraiser!



*E ducation Initiatives...*

The American International School of Lusaka invited GRI-EOP to present to the Secondary School at their first assembly of the term and during the Middle School Earth Day Symposium. Sport attended this event and was very impressed by the high level and calibre of projects undertaken by the students – we look forward to working more with AISL and other schools as we launch an exciting new Education component to GRI-EOP: *Going Wild with EOP...* find out more in the next edition or contact us for more information. [elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com](mailto:elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com)

*A Rumble in the Jungle...*

If you pass through Ngoma village, the ZAWA HQ in Kafue National Park, you may hear quite a rumble – not emanating from elephants nearby, but from the children of Ngoma who can be seen gleefully playing on their new 'jungle gym' throughout the day...

In April GRI was very proud to undertake a joint project with Ethan McCord, a student at the American International School of Lusaka, who undertook a school project to design, fundraise and build a jungle gym for the children of Ngoma. Residents of Ngoma were concerned that many of the small children often run into the bush to play, as they had no other designated play area and this was putting them in great risk from the many wild animals that live around the Ngoma settlement - most notably the elephants who are well accustomed to human habitants.



Many happy faces and children eager to play as the Ngoma Jungle Gym was completed—Ed and Ethan shake hands to a job well done!



The jungle gym was built and ready for use within 2 days thanks to the unstinting hard work of Ethan, Mike and Judith McCord, Ian and Daniel Parsons, Rafi, Wonder, Peter, Maison, Carlington, Pephuis, Eldridge, and Ed who all volunteered their time and labour into making the jungle gym an exciting reality for the children of Ngoma. We would like to take this opportunity to commend Ethan for all his hard work and dedication to this project that means so much to the children of Ngoma. Many thanks to Mike and Judith McCord for their tremendous support, and to ZAWA Ngoma for their support with this project.

Building the jungle gym was a real team effort!

**Fundraising News**

**'Run the Trunk'**

A big thank you to students of the International School of Lusaka who organised the event 'Run the Trunk' last October. They succeeded in raising 2,000,000K which was donated to the EOP. Well done to all those who took part with special thanks to the organisers lead by Mumbi Kabimba, Nikki Ioannou, Balveen Bhandair, Raeesa Vally, Sana Alli, Frank Stevens and Tatenda Chaura. It was a really fun event and we hope that it is something that will be repeated again this year...



*The E lephants Masquerade B all*

We welcome you to join us at the Taj Pamodzi Hotel Lusaka on 16th October 2010 for an evening of arts - live music, dancing & performers, art awards and other entertainments. This promises to be an event not to miss! More details to follow soon...



**Art for Wildlife Competition 2010**

We will shortly be launching this exciting wildlife art competition, open to all artists of all ages—with a chance to win the prestigious David Shepherd Art Award! Watch this space for more info...

## Park Protection & Training



Updates from Sport Beattie, CEO Game Rangers International

Six months have passed since we supported the ‘turning’ of nine of the most notorious poachers in the area into Village Scouts. We are pleased to report that these men are now well integrated into the ongoing Park Protection Programme for Nkala GMA, which forms the buffer zone between the National Park and the Communities of Musungwa and Shezongo.

It is GRI's aim to eventually expand support to the entire Village Scout Unit, in order to fully secure the eastern buffer zone of the core Release Area. Ultimately, this support will ensure that the communities of Musungwa and Shezongo will realize greater savings from the income generated by their GMA each year and these savings can be ploughed back into their community projects. We talk to one of these former poachers and get a brief, un-edited insight into their new lives as Village Scouts (identities have been withheld for obvious reasons):



Village Scouts—during training with GRI

SB

GRI - Tell us a little bit about your life as a former poacher? I was a poacher and I was doing poaching to get money for keeping my family. I was doing this because I had no other way of getting money. So this is the way I was used to living. I used to poach animals such as lions, elephants, wildebeest, roans, warthog anything which I can find meat to sell. I would use a home made shotgun, .375 or even AK47 to kill these animals. I would spend about 2 – 3 weeks in the bush at one time, sometimes alone. It was very dangerous. One time I wounded a buffalo and it fell down looking dead, but when I got close it hammered me to the ground and was pushing me with his horns onto my legs. I was lucky that time because my friends were nearby and they made some noise and the buffalo chased them. I climbed the nearby tree. We did not find that buffalo again.

GRI – Why did you decide to change from that lifestyle to a Village Scout? I changed because I was given the chance and because I saw my time to be caught by the ZAWA officers was too close!

GRI – Has it been a good decision do you think? Yes this was a good decision. All my family were very happy for me because I was almost to lose my life from poaching.

GRI – Tell us about your new life as Village Scout? To become a Village Scout I am very happy because now I have a job and I am even working in the team with those who tried to catch me before! I am also getting more respect now in my village because I am called ‘Officer’ – my wife and family they are all happy this time. Since starting off I have completed 10 patrols. Some patrols can be for 10 days and some for 20, depending on the season. During this time I have helped to catch 6 poachers and confiscate 6 bicycles used for carrying meats. But it is also a dangerous job because poachers they can try to kill us at any time. If they see us first they will shoot us! And also the wild animals like elephant can be very cheeky when we are trying to control them from the village crops! I see my wife and family 10 days in one month.

GRI – How can your job as a Village Scout be improved do you think? Yes if I work hard I do think I can improve my job and get upgrade.

GRI – What more can we do as a supporting organisation to help you with your job? My appeal to you as a supporting organisation is to improve our salary and welfare.

GRI – What do you like most about your job? I like most patrolling in the field (bush).

GRI – What do you like least about your new job? Staying away from my family for too long.

GRI – What do you wish most for in the world? I wish to be upgrade so that I can help my family..

GRI – Who is your favourite football team and who will win the World Cup? My favourite team is Manchester United. I don't know who will win the World Cup because I only support Manchester United.

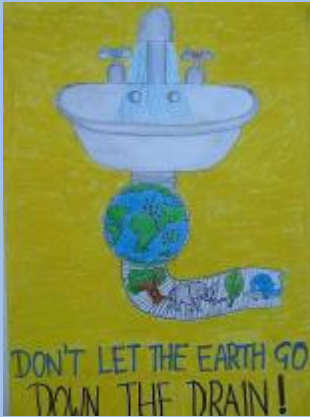


In a village of Musungwa district, a Village Scout wife pounds her maize—happy in the knowledge that her husband is now in regular employment

RM

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

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Zambian winners of the 2009 DSWF 'Global Canvas Art Competition'. The theme was 'Global WARNING' and the judges found it hard to choose between entries "The quality of this year's entries was stunning" says David Shepherd CBE. We think you'll agree...



Anjana Jayaraman, 1st prize  
14-16 yr category



Priya Kapadia, 1st prize  
11-13 yr category



Fabiha Shikser, 2nd prize  
14-16 yr category



Helen Pikira, 1st prize  
8-10 yr category



Nelis Kriek, joint 2nd prize  
11-13 yr category



Yuri Kim, joint 2nd prize  
11-13 yr category



Temwani Nalondwa,  
3rd prize  
14-16 yr category



Ruella Che, 2nd prize  
8-10 yr category



Evita Rumsey, 3rd prize  
8-10 yr category



Cecelia Miller, 3rd prize  
11-13 yr category

## Batoka, the Orphan Elephant

Batoka trip-traps everywhere  
Safe in Elephant Orphan Project's care  
He enjoys eating sugarcane,  
But not today!  
He drinks milk to grow and play.  
Rolling away in the mud  
To take off all the bugs.  
Batoka also runs with his keepers.  
With big floppy ears,  
He never has any fears!  
Squirting water from his trunk  
He is the cutest heffalump!  
Batoka plays with his friends and  
Although he is small, he will become a giant  
Which will save him from the lions!

Written by Acacia Primary School, Livingstone

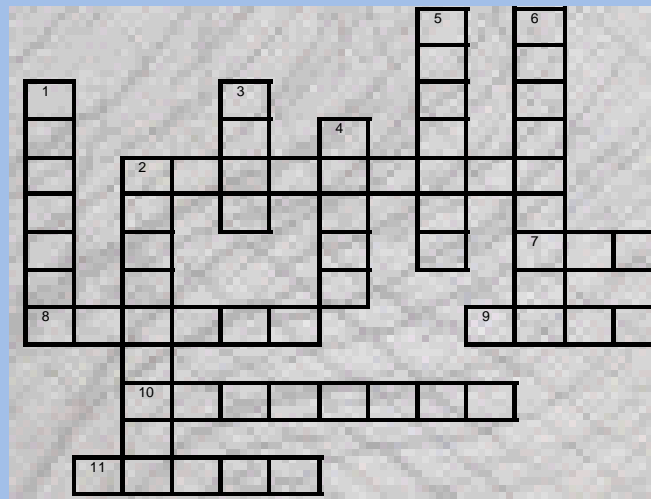
### Across

2. \_\_\_\_\_ tears (9)
7. Snake-like fish (3)
8. A very small antelope (6)
9. Soldiers of the insect world (4)
10. It is said that they never forget (8)
11. You may have to use a \_\_\_\_\_ crossing to get to school

### Down

1. He'll never change his spots (7)
2. A very leggy creature (9)
3. Who's the king of the jungle? (4)
4. Don't threaten me, or I'll spit at you! (5)
5. This bird lays the biggest eggs (7)
6. I change my colour to match my surroundings (9)

## African Wildlife Cross-Word



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!

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

## Elephant Orphanage Project

### Project Partners, Supporters and Donors



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](http://www.davidshepherd.org)

### 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:

#### ACTION FOR THE WILD

We would like to extend a very BIG thank you to Colchester Zoo, UK, who have recently agreed to provide financial and technical support to the EOP through their charitable body 'Action for the Wild'. For further details please see: [www.colchester-zoo.co.uk](http://www.colchester-zoo.co.uk) and [www.actionforthewild.org](http://www.actionforthewild.org).

- American International School of Lusaka – stand at annual Triathlon
- Carol White Consultancy and Africast – ZITE exposure
- Colin Rhoda and ZEGA – storage of milk powder
- Dave Clements - donation
- David Bland and Jacana Construction – milk powder storage and transport
- Dr Matandko (ZAWA) - veterinary support
- Edwin Davies– volunteer assistance at Camp Phoenix
- Isaacv Livni – aircraft and piloting services
- Kate Brill – volunteer assistance
- KAZANG – airtime donations
- Knysna Elephant Park – elephant food supplements
- Liz O'Brien and Vet Solutions – donations of computer software and veterinary supplies
- Lotta Sylwander – accommodation and storage in Lusaka
- Lusaka International Comprehensive School – awareness stall at Fun Day
- Matobo Veterinary Practice – veterinary support
- McCord family – playground construction
- Nutri Feeds – stock feed supplier for the ele's
- Pilatus and Reanne Stuart—Land Rover mechanical support
- Polo Association – awareness stands at Tournament's
- PoloCross Association – stand at Sponsors Tournament
- Shiobhan Watson – advertisements
- Showground Vets – dung sample analysis
- Tracy Wetnall – international transportation of supplies
- TS Tyres – discount tyres
- WECSZ – kind use of office space



#### TOYOTA — supporting conservation in Zambia

Many thanks to Toyota Zambia for supporting GRI Trainee Mechanic, Carlington Kafabwe, to attend the Toyota Service Training Course in Lusaka. Under expert eyes Carlington learned routine maintenance procedures which is he now putting to essential use with the GRI project vehicles...



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## Elephant Orphanage Project

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