



# GAME RANGERS INTERNATIONAL

## GRI Newsflash #24

APRIL 2012 – SUNI APPEAL!!



### News update from: Elephant Orphanage Project (EOP)

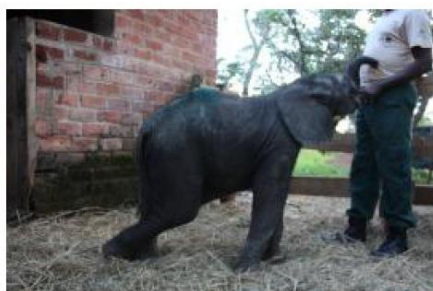
~To Rescue, Rehabilitate and Release orphaned elephants back into the wild~

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of orphaned elephants brought to the EOP recently but none as shocking and traumatic as the latest, little 'Suni', who has not only become orphaned but who suffered a horrendous axe wound to her spine...

During her attack Suni received a large gash under her chin but most dangerously a very deep axe wound on the right side of her spine, initially causing paralysis to her right leg! Despite this vicious attack on her by humans Suni seemed to know we were trying to help her and was guzzling down all the milk she could get her trunk on, clearly fighting for her life!

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April staff from 'Sun International', Livingstone were shocked to find a 7 month old elephant calf on the road near the Resort. She was dragging herself by the front legs along the gravel weak and dehydrated with severe lacerations to her body. With help from ZAWA the calf was stabilised within the Resort where EOP Head Keeper Kelvin rushed to the scene. Dr Harvey Kamboyi ZAWA Vet followed close behind to assess her condition and begin treatments.

Courtesy of 'Royal Air Charters' Suni was flown to the EOP staging post at Lilayi where she settled quickly in the company of the other orphans. The ZAWA Vets have been frequent visitors to closely monitor her condition and recuperation. Although it is early days for the recovery of any nerve damage and there is still the possibility that a very sad and difficult decision may have to be made, but we are hopeful for Suni's future. Since the swelling of the back wound has decreased she has demonstrated increasing feeling within the leg although she cannot yet walk on it. She does not appear to be in pain as she playfully pushes Zambezi around the stable and continues to drink readily. With a combination of physiotherapy, massage, medication and intense nursing we are all keeping our fingers crossed that Suni will recover enough for a future life back in the wild, which she so deserves!



Suni rests her right back leg as she seeks comfort from Head Keeper Kelvin. The horrific axe wound to her spine is still very swollen in this photo

With many thanks to...



#### With huge thanks...

Suni was rescued thanks to the quick actions of Sun International's staff and the ZAWA Unit at Livingstone. We would like to say a big thank you to ZAWA Vets Dr Squarre and Dr Kamboyi, ZAWA Ecologist Jorek, and the WPO's at Sun International. We would like to thank Top Turf staff who rescued Suni and Sun International for the care they provided to Suni and their hospitality to project staff - and a big thank you to their guests who rallied together to support and donate towards Suni's care and rehabilitation. In particular many thanks to Joanne Selby, Dean Pitt and Ronell Coetzee. A huge thank you to Royal Air Charters who very kindly donated the flight for Suni to travel to Lusaka - many thanks Rob Stacey and your crew for your ongoing support of the EOP. Many thanks to Marlean and Chad Gomm for supporting Suni with Body Stress Release therapy which is contributing to her physical recovery! And a big thank you to Lilayi Lodge, the Miller family and Caroline Pearce for your ongoing support and temporary use of the stables whilst the Elephant Nursery is under development...



Zambezi (right) keeps a watchful eye on his new stable-mate Suni

Suni requires constant nursing and medical support, but we are determined to do all we can to help her! Please help us to support little Suni. Donations can be made online at <https://www.justgiving.com/Game-Rangers-International-EOP> or contact Talja +260-976-913022 [talja@gamerangersinternational.org](mailto:talja@gamerangersinternational.org)

With many thanks to...



Sun International

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