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GAME RANGERS INTERNATIONAL

"Conservation Beyond Borders"

NEWSLETTER
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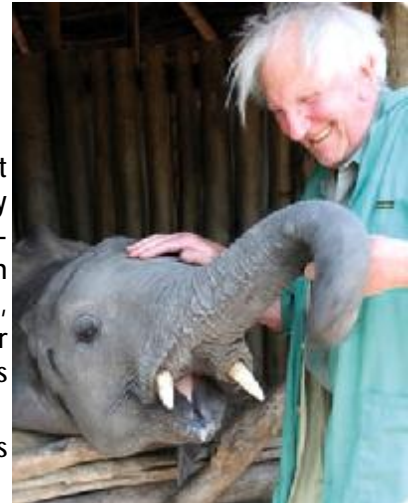
Incorporating: Elephant Orphanage Project, Park Protection & Training,
Conservation Awareness Programme and Community Outreach

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY DAVID!!

Dear Supporter,

Welcome back to the GRI Newsletter (formerly EOP Newsletter) - as this project grows we'd like to share with you more news from the other projects in operation by GRI. But first let me start by wishing David Shepherd CBE a very Happy Birthday—David turned 80 on 25th April! This very special man has made it his personal mission to fight for wildlife conservation throughout his life, and through his foundation, DSWF, he has supported conservation in Zambia for more than 25 yrs! His love for Zambia is best summed up by a high ranking Zambian official who described David as a 'Zambian living in the UK'. *Sport Beattie, CEO-GRI*

Join David to celebrate his birthday here in Zambia during his upcoming visit....details inside



DSWF & TOYOTA come to the rescue!

Thanks to the huge generosity of DSWF, their dedicated supporters and Toyota Zambia Ltd, the *Elephant Orphanage Project* has finally got a set of reliable wheels! After many breakdowns, repairs and prayers the old blue LandRover (a well know figure in Lusaka) was finally retired to the bush, as a very excited Rachael (EOP Project Manager) went to collect a new Toyota Hilux from Toyota Zambia last week. A reliable vehicle is an absolute essential when living out in the bush, and this newly donated Toyota Hilux will more than prove its worth in Kafue National Park, where it has just made it maiden voyage!

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all at DSWF who enabled this to happen for us, especially David Shepherd, Melanie Shepherd, Jill Inglis, Sharon Oliver and Robert Abbot, and to all at TOYOTA ZAMBIA especially Andrew Marshall, Neil Stewart and Tony Voorhout.



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Game Rangers International is a non-profit organisation, established in 2008, with critical and ongoing support from the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation. GRI works alongside ZAWA and local communities to support wildlife conservation in Zambia through four main projects: Elephant Orphanage Project, Park Protection & Training Support, Conservation Awareness Programme and Community Outreach





Elephant Orphanage Project

Elephant News...

Elephant Orphanage Project

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



Remember Rufunsa?

Last year we rescued tiny 'Rufunsa', whose mother was tragically killed by poachers in Mozambique, on the Zambia border. Rufunsa fought for his life as he narrowly escaped their attack and managed to avoid harm as he bravely swam across the crocodile and hippo infested Luangwa River back to the Zambian shore – where astonished fishermen pulled him to safety and contacted the EOP.

Despite this very traumatic experience at such a young and vulnerable age (approximately 4 months old and very dependant on his mother), Rufunsa has made a remarkable recovery at the EOP. With a winning combination of nutrient rich milk, and lots of love and affection from both his Keepers and the other elephant orphans he seems to have landed on his feet. In particular it is Chamilandu, the only female ele at the orphanage, who is to thank for such a speedy emotional recovery; she completely dotes on the little one and smothers him with tenderness. Chamilandu and Rufunsa are almost inseparable,

with Chamilandu ensuring that Rufunsa is always content and near her side. At night they are stabled next to each other and Chamilandu's trunk is often found resting on a sleeping Rufunsa as she delicately places it between the spaces of the gum-pole walls.

At only 5 years old Chamilandu is already displaying incredibly strong motherly instincts and she often puts Rufunsa's needs before her own, rushing her meals to find him if he has gone out of sight! Although Chamilandu is still a few years away from puberty and thus unable to produce milk, she does however allow Rufunsa to 'comfort suckle' from her mammary glands. This behaviour is reminiscent of wild sub-adult female elephants who provide maternal assistance as 'allomothers' to the mother elephants within their herd by watching over calves, assisting them to forage and providing protection against predators which serves to increase calf survival within the herd. Here there seems to be a mutual benefit from this arrangement with Chamilandu enjoying her motherly role just as much as Rufunsa who is the recipient of all her affections.



Chamilandu provides Rufunsa with the essential love and comfort he needs to overcome the loss of his mother



Big Boisterous Boys!

Since both Batoka and Tafika now have tusks developing nicely we often see these boisterous boys sparring and playing with each other. Play fighting like this is so important for these young bulls for developing their strength and muscles, as well as the physical contact reinforcing the social bonds between them. These skills will be essential when they are older help them find their place amongst the bachelor herds of the wild Kafue bull elephants.



Kafue, very keen to drink his milk but initially without any table-manners

Kafue settles in

Kafue, the newest ele to join the EOP herd, is progressing nicely since his rescue by ZAWA near Ngoma airstrip last October. Although emaciated on arrival and very nervous, six months on he is now settling into this surrogate herd and finding his place within his new family. His condition is picking up all the time and in particular we can see how thick and strong his skin has become (on arrival it was paper-thin and patchy) which is a good sign of his improved condition. His appetite for milk is insatiable and it is this strong drive for food that has encouraged him to become more friendly with his Keepers as he now harasses them for just one more bottle!!

Help us to help them!

Elephant calves like Rufunsa and Kafue, 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 *Release* these orphans back into the wild where they belong. But we can't do it alone! If you are able to assist us in any way to help Rufunsa, Kafue and the other ele-orphans please donate online at www.davidshepherd.org - 100% will go to GRI - or email: elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com

On arrival to EOP Kafue was skinny and very nervous— here his trunk is outstretched as he tries to recognise some familiar smells. Luckily the other ele's at EOP reassured him soon enough...



Going Wild...

The start of 2011 saw plenty of wild elephant activity around EOP resulting in socialisation opportunities for the young orphans. It was only Chodoba (now 6 years old) who showed much interest in two wild bulls as they entered inside the Boma fences one night. Senior Elephant Keeper and Team Leader, Gift, reported "Chodoba was lifting the trunk and smelling them. He wanted to touch. Chamma, she was fearing (meaning scared) at the back of her stable and the babies continued eating their grasses – they did not seem to notice". Only three days later and during a walk into the Park Chodoba took off from the orphan herd at a pace....he proceeded for ½km where there was a wild herd feeding at the edge of the forest. Oscar, an Elephant Keeper, and the ZAWA WPO who had followed Chodoba saw him trying to interact with this herd, but the Matriarch kept him at a distance by rushing him with her ears flared. "She had the very small calf and other babies behind her" said Oscar "She doesn't know Chodoba and so was pushing him from the babies". Despite the cool welcome Chodoba persevered with the herd for approximately 45 minutes before giving in and turning back to his surrogate family. Encounters like this are a perfect way for the orphans to experience the wild elephants living in KNP and provides them with an opportunity to start building relationships so that they may find their own way one day in Kafue National Park, wild and free, just how they should be.



Education News...

Conservation Awareness Programme

To inspire greater Environmental Awareness and Understanding through education and wildlife sensitisation at local and regional levels

Muzovu Project

One of the main projects falling under GRI's Conservation Awareness Programme (CAP) is the Muzovu Project...Muzovu meaning Elephant in Ila, the local language...its main aim is to raise, promote and support conservation awareness in order to safeguard Zambia's wildlife for the future; inspiring young conservation minds and promoting environmental education and sustainable resource practices in local rural schools and communities. Since its inception in October 2010, the Muzovu Project completed Round One in early December, reaching a total of 16 rural schools and over 2000 children! The children were taught about the EOP and the principles behind it, as well as discussing broader environmental issues such as poaching, pollution, deforestation and littering. GRI-CAP has also combined forces with WECSZ and is helping to deliver much needed environmental resources for the setup of the Chongololo Club in each of the target rural schools. The response from the teachers and children has been very encouraging. GRI volunteers are essential to the success of this program, as is the continued help and support from GRI Community Liaison Officer Britius Munkumbwe and EOP Head Keeper Kelvin Chanda - well done team and volunteers! A special thank you to all GRI volunteers who helped get the Muzovu Project off its feet: Christina B and Christina C; Luke & Izzi; Tyler & Andrea; and Harriet - If you are interested in volunteering with us, please email Kate for more information at GRleducation@gmail.com



School visits to EOP

The last few months have seen nearly 200 school children from the near-by schools visiting the EOP - where they are given a guided tour of the project by Head Keeper Kelvin Chanda and a unique opportunity to view the orphaned eles during feeding time. All were completely captivated by the eles and now know their names by heart! Bringing the local children to see the EOP is an essential component to the Muzovu Project, as it helps to overcome their inherited fear of elephants whilst also sensitising them to the other wildlife in the park.

Sports workshops @ Ngoma Basic School

Play is a vital component of education and development and volunteer Tyler Fallon recently held a sports workshop for the children of Ngoma Basic School, KNP. The children really enjoyed the chance to show off and practice their volleyball skills...even the teachers had a go! Thank you Tyler for your boundless energy and enthusiasm and moves on the volleyball court! Sadly, there is always an inadequate supply of sporting equipments in these rural schools and communities - children can normally be seen playing with a makeshift football made out of old plastics carrier bags! If you have any old sports goods hanging around at home, not being used, please let us know and we can find it a good home!



GRI & DSWF Fundraising News

Acacia Primary School, Livingstone

We would like to say a special thank you to the pupils at Acacia School, Livingstone who have set up a school magazine in order to raise funds for Batoka and the EOP...thank you to all involved and best of luck for the next edition! ...



Downside School, UK

Many thanks to 'Downside School' for their recent generous grant to GRI's Conservation Awareness Programme which will be used to purchase much needed resources for the community schools surrounding South KNP, including a projector to bring interactive outreach to over 2,000 children!

American International School of Lusaka



Thank you AISL for donating 30 much needed writing desks to Ngoma Basic School (the local school to EOP in SKNP)...these were delivered, and received with great enthusiasm, by David Shepherd during his last trip to Zambia. Many thanks also for the donation

of second-hand books for the remote community schools surrounding SKNP.

Lusaka International Community School

A big thank you is also going out to all Year 8's at LICS Secondary School – their awesome 'Bake Sale' and 'Simply Whacky Hair' day helped to raise money to support

the rescue of baby Rufunsa... a brilliant idea with great results – well done!



Abberley Hall School, Worcester, UK

A huge thank you to William-Ross Anderson & family, who are organising a sponsored kayak event to raise money for the EOP! William-Ross has also enlisted the help of his friends at Abberley Hall School so that 47 pupils will take part in a Kayak Challenge in June this year...see how they get on in the next edition. Rachael recently visited the school and spoke to some very enthusiastic students about the EOP and elephant conservation – thank you to you all who promptly adopted Chamilandu through DSWF, for more details on elephant adoptions (one way you can help these orphan babies) see <http://www.davidshepherd.org/help-us/adopt-an-animal.php>. Thanks also to Abberley Hall School for hosting an auction of the 'Bottom Line' by David Shepherd which raised a staggering GBP£500 for the EOP!

During her recent fundraising trip to the UK Rachael was honoured to be asked to talk about the EOP at the Royal Geographic Society, London, alongside David Shepherd CBE and wildlife film maker Simon King OBE. The evening was a big hit with over 400 attendees and raised great funds for wildlife conservation in Zambia! Rachael also presented at the Natural History Museum during the prize giving for DSWF Global Canvas Art Competition, as well as Colchester Zoo, Abberley Hall School and St Catherine's School. A big thank you to everyone who was involved!



David Shepherd CBE is coming to Zambia—Dates NOT TO MISS...

Join us with David Shepherd to celebrate his 80th birthday in Zambia at one of the following events:
12th Sep—'Art for Wildlife' Exhibition and Competition Awards—Lusaka (venue TBA)
Sep TBA—Art Exhibition and Demonstration by David at the Royal Livingstone Hotel
Sep TBA—a Steamy Birthday Celebration aboard the Livingstone Express
17th Sep—'The Elephants Ball' at the Taj Pamodzi Hotel with 80's theme...

Further details to be released soon, in the meantime contact: elephantorphanageproject@gmail.com

Park Protection News...

Park Protection & Training Support

Providing Welfare, Training and Operational Support to wildlife personnel on the front line of endangered species protection

Part of the bigger picture of conservation surrounding the Elephant Orphanage Project is to ensure the Release Area into which the elephant orphans will one day be roaming freely within is kept safe and secure. (This initiative will also benefit all the other wildlife species too). To this end Game Rangers International works alongside ZAWA and the local communities of Musungwa and Shezongo to support Park Protection & Training activities within the Nkala GMA, which forms the eastern flank of the Release Area. Monthly support of wages, rations, fuel and logistics allows the Nkala Village Scout Unit, under the command of ZAWA, to undertake routine patrols of the area.



Honorable Chief Musungwa looks on as David Shepherd CBE donates uniforms to the Nkala Village Scout Unit during his last visit to Zambia



One of the accommodation units being constructed for the Nkala Village Scout Unit

In addition to this monthly support of anti-poaching operations GRI is also committed to developing the Nkala Village Scout Unit Command Centre. This development, led by ZAWA and the communities, is sited at Shanangoma (an old tsetse fly control post) and will enable the scouts to operate as a more cohesive unit from a centralised location. To date, with your help and ongoing critical support from DSWF we have helped to construct 2 x accommodation units, install a temporary Command Centre complete with solar powered VHF Radio – which allows vital communication links to the patrol teams and ZAWA HQ. GPS units have also been issued to the patrol teams to capture vital patrol data.

Now that the dry season has arrived more effort will be concentrated on completing the development project at Shanangoma so that hopefully, before the next rainy season all scouts will at least have decent housing to live in. However, the end of the rainy season also brings new challenges – as crops dry in the neighbouring communities human-elephant conflict becomes a major issue in the area. This is a realm of conservation which GRI will investigate further to see what mitigation measures can be implemented in support of the local residents living alongside wildlife.



Temporary Command Centre for the Nkala Village Scout Unit

Dealing with human-elephant conflict issues in the communities can often detract the scouts from doing their core work of providing anti-poaching presence within the Park/GMA. Human-elephant conflict can also result in elephants being wounded by frustrated farmers who rely on cropping as a sole source of income for their families. Wounded elephants are extremely dangerous and unpredictable – they will not hesitate to kill a human! Elephant orphans can also be a result of human-elephant conflict encounters. Reducing human-elephant conflict will help to improve livelihoods within local communities; increase the anti-poaching patrols and help to reduce any future elephant orphan occurrences.



Kilian Brunet, 1st prize 6-10 yr category

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

DSWF Global Canvas Art Competition winners for Zambia

During his last trip David Shepherd judged and awarded all the Zambian entries for the DSWF Global Canvas Art competition. The standard of artwork this year was exceptional, with entries from ISL, LICs,



Chiluba Chomba, 1st prize 11-13 yr category

Baobab, AIS, Jacaranda, and Happy Face Kids in Lusaka; in addition to entries from Zambezi Basic School & Linda West Basic School in Livingstone – a huge thank you to all that entered!! Let's hope that this year's competition will be even bigger and better than last years!

Congratulations – the winners for each category for Zambia 2010 were as follows:

8-10yrs: 1st Kilian Brunet (AIS); 2nd Jasmin Stoios (AIS); 3rd Orin Cornille, Mohamed El Hussein & Sarang Patel (Baobab)

11-13yrs: 1st Chiluba Chomba (ISL); 2nd Amab Bhowmit (ISL); 3rd Lucy Young & Eva Van de Heide (Baobab)

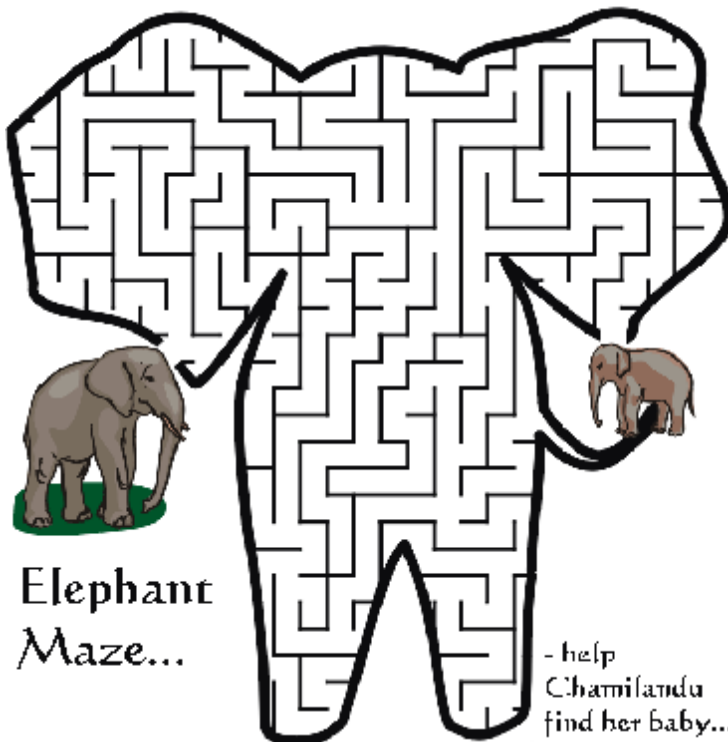
14-16yrs: 1st Mario Nithyanillian (ISL); 2nd Vision Kim (ISL); 3rd Mukachewa Walanga (Zambezi Basic School)

Highly Commended: Christopher Ellington (LICs) 8yrs; Pieter du Toit (LICs) 11yrs



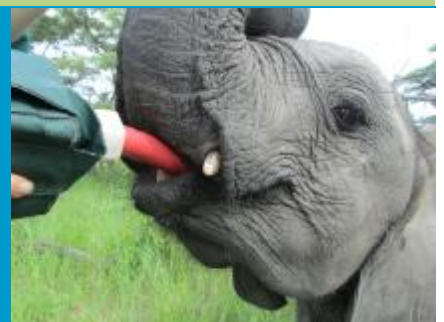
Mario Nithyanillian, 1st prize 14-16 yr category

Keep up the amazing work and get creative for this years competition with the theme 'S.O.S' —all Zambian entries to be judged and awarded at the Art for Wildlife Exhibition Launch on 12th September 2011...



Elephant
Maze...

- help
Chamilandu
find her baby...



Tafika's Tusks

Tafika the cheekiest orphan at EOP who was rescued from a pit in August 2009 is now approximately 2½ years old and has started to display a very healthy set of tusks. Tusks usually start protruding through the gum at 18months to 2 years old and are a good way of estimating the age of an elephant, although they grow much quicker in males than female elephants.

Tusk Talk...

- Male African elephant tusks can reach a staggering 3m in length and weigh up to 100kg (although this is rare)
- The tusks are actually the elephants incisor teeth that have continued to grow
- Tusks have a living section running along in the centre at the base of the tusk called the pulp cavity – if the tusk gets damaged here it is incredibly painful toothache!

Project Partners, Supporters and Donors



David Shepherd

Wildlife Foundation



BRITISH AIRWAYS

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

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Acknowledgements & Thanks

Game Rangers International 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:



A VERY big thank you to ASAP Digital from South Africa for their ongoing support to provide milk powder for the elephant babies. The milk formula is an essential part of the elephant's rehabilitation and these generous donations by ASAP help us to ensure the orphans have the best milk available to them! For all your promotional needs visit their website.

Kubu crafts	Sue and Hugh Carruthers
Matobo Veterinary Practice	Toyota Zambia
Mercury Couriers	TS Tyres
Nick Storm and Karl Frieslaar, Kafue Mechanical Services	Union Gold and Brenda
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	Yash Pharmaceuticals
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Siobhan Watson & A d-dicts Ads
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LUMENO lights up our lives!

Thanks to a very kind donation of 'LUMENO LED' lights by Fox & Sons SA, Camp Phoenix is now alight at night! These very low energy LED strips last 80% longer than normal energy saving light-bulbs, and so work very efficiently well with our limited solar power supply...for more details: www.foxandsons.co.za

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