



ELEPHANT WATCH

SAVE THE ELEPHANTS AND ELEPHANT WATCH SAFARIS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

NEWSLETTER: JANUARY - MARCH 2006

New Students 2006

This year 2006 has seen us sponsor the largest number of students yet. Thanks to generous funds from donations received in 2005, we have been able to select 9 students this year. The students come from all over Northern Kenya; from Marsabit, Ol Donyiro to Maralal. We are very excited to have students from 5 different Northern ethnic backgrounds and from such a huge expanse over the elephant ranges. For the first time, we also have 2 students enrolled in two of the top national schools in the country!

The students are:

- **Solomon Kamau.** Solomon comes from the Ngare Mara area, South of Buffalo Springs National Reserve. He is a young Turkana boy, who lives alone with his mother since his father died many years ago. The family is extremely poor and his mother sells charcoal to get whatever money she can. Solomon used to study in West Gate (Samburu) but moved to Ngare Mara Primary School 2 years ago to be closer to his mother. He completed primary school exams in 2004 and almost got 300 marks. However, he sadly failed to secure funding for secondary school. Solomon repeated his final year in primary school to get better marks (primary education is free). He got 347 marks in his exams and we decided to select Solomon. He has been admitted into Nkubu High School in Meru, which is one of the best boys schools in the area.
- **Justina Naeku.** Justina is a young Samburu girl, aged 15 years. Justina comes from the Porro area of Maralal and is from the popular elephant clan known as "Lmasula". Justina was about to be married off by her parents, however, a good Samaritan took her in, moving her to Maralal town and supported her during primary school. She studied in St Mary's Primary School in Maralal, where she was one of the top students in her class. Justina is now enrolled in Kapropita Girls Secondary School in Kabarnet, Baringo District, which is one of top girls school in the Rift Valley Province.
- **Beth Mugure.** Beth Mugure is a young Kikuyu girl from Naivasha. She is the daughter of Joyce Wanjiru, who is the gardener at Olerai House, Naivasha. Joyce grows all the vegetables for the Elephant Watch Camp in Samburu and Olerai House. Beth studied at Loldia Primary School in Naivasha, however, after completing her primary education, she sadly missed a Loldia secondary school scholarship by a few marks. Her mother was desperate to send her to school and managed to scrape through school fees payments with her salary. However, Joyce was unable to continue paying the school fees for her daughter and applied for a scholarship to Save the Elephants and Elephant Watch Safaris. Beth is currently in Form 2 in Turasha Secondary School in Naivasha.
- **Josephine Basele.** Josephine is from Hula Hula in Marsabit, about 200 kms North of Samburu. She is from the Rendille tribe. Save the Elephants has a project based in Marsabit where the movements of 10 elephants are being tracked in the fragile Marsabit forested reserve. Josephine lives on the edge of this reserve and faces elephants on a daily basis. Josephine scored high marks with 307 out of 500 in her primary school exams, and was the top student. She is now enrolled in Cavallera Girls Secondary School in Marsabit.



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- **Mary Kimogol.** Mary also comes from Hula Hula village in Marsabit District. She is from the Rendille tribe. Mary lives on the edge of Marsabit forested reserve. Her father was sadly killed by an elephant a few years ago and the family struggled to support her since then. She is now enrolled in St Mary's Girls Secondary School in Isiolo. The school has a good track record and we already have 3 other girls enrolled in the school.
- **Zeituna Mustafa.** Zeituna is a Somali girl who lives with her grandmother in Isiolo. Her father died from a long illness in 1999 and her mother lives in Garsen with her other 6 siblings, however she has not seen her mother in many years since neither can afford to visit. Garsen is in North Eastern Province - more than 1000 kms away from Isiolo. Zeituna comes from a very poor family - her grandmother gets food from neighbours and well-wishers and during the holidays, Zeituna would help her by cutting trees and selling wood to get some money. During her interview at St Kizito Primary, she shyly told us that she would replant the trees after buying them for Kenya Shillings 10 for each tree. Zeituna had dreams of studying in Kenya High or another good national school and her dreams came true in early January. She got 399 marks in her primary school exams; the third best girl in the whole of Isiolo District. She was automatically admitted into Kenya High and we decided to sponsor her. Kenya High is ranked as the 6th best school in the country and the 3rd best girls' school. We are very excited to have Kenya High as one of our schools in the education programme.
- **Hassan Lenakio.** Hassan is a Samburu boy from Archers Post. He is an orphan having lost both his parents to HIV/AIDS. Hassan studied at Girgir Primary School and got 307 marks in his primary school exams. Hassan is now enrolled in Siakago Secondary School in Embu. This is the first time we have sent a boy to Siakago, however their performance to date has been impressive.
- **Benjamin Loloju.** Benjamin is from Ol Donyiro, in Isiolo District. Ol Donyiro is located on a vital elephant corridor that connects Samburu and Laikipia Districts. Benjamin was top in his class in 2004 and got A's in all subjects. He was admitted into Lenana High School in Nairobi. Sadly, due to the high school fees, he turned down this offer and went to a cheaper school in Embu. His father paid for his fees at the time. We found out about this too late - in March 2005, during a visit to Ol Donyiro. During a second visit to Ol Donyiro in November 2005, we learnt that Benjamin had completed 1 term in the Embu school, then sadly his father was killed by a bandit and he couldn't continue paying the fees. As a result of this, he went back to primary school, until the headmaster of the Embu school recalled him and said he could return to school for free, as he was the top student in Form 1. We decided to track Benjamin down and see if he could get re-admission into Lenana. Benjamin arrived in the big city alone and after long meetings with the headmaster of the school, he was re-admitted into Lenana. Benjamin is now repeating Form 1, but is thrilled to be in Lenana and we are just as excited to have another National School in our education programme.
- **Nanetoi Lengima.** Nanetoi is a 15 year old Rendille - Samburu girl who comes from Archers Post village, adjacent to Samburu National Reserve. Her father was attacked and killed near the reserve in 2000, and Nanetoi now lives alone with her mother and her 5 siblings. Nanetoi's mother was unable to afford secondary school fees for her since her entire salary was going towards Nanetoi's brothers education in secondary school. Nanetoi was desperate to further her education, but sadly had no means to do so. Save the Elephants and Elephant Watch Safaris intervened and decided to sponsor Nanetoi after she attained 303 marks in her Kenya Certificate of Primary School exams, which she did at Girgir Primary School, in Archers Post. She was enrolled into St Mary's Girls Secondary School in Isiolo, and is currently in Form 1.



Justina, Benjamin and Zeituna in their new school uniforms



Mary Kimogol at St Mary's school

Nairobi Day for Three New Students

In January, three of our new sponsored students; Zeituna, Benjamin and Justina, came to Nairobi for a week prior to the beginning of their school year. This was the first time for all to come to Nairobi. They spent time with the education officers shopping for their school supplies and also getting to know the city. They visited the Nairobi Safari Walk, Animal Orphanage and National Museum.

Current Students

We now have 22 students enrolled in our scholarship programme. All students are doing well in their respective schools. We are looking forward to having four of our students spend their April holidays with us in our research camp. We will have two Form 4 students (Raphael and Patina) and two Form 1 students (Benjamin and Josephine).

Mbukiwa Boys

Thanks to two donors, we have been able to send the two little Samburu boys, Samuel Lesachore and Litus Lekalaille to primary school in Maralal. Their story was detailed in the annual report. Both boys are doing very well and enjoying school immensely. Samuel was admitted into Standard 3 and Litus into Standard 5.

Nkubu Visit

Nkubu High School Form 4 students visited the Save the Elephants Research Centre on the 8th of February. The students were given lectures on elephants, big cats, general wildlife conservation and career prospects for wildlife conservationists. It was a very successful day and the students enjoyed their outing immensely. They were lucky to see a pride of lions feeding on a giraffe on their way to the centre and also a number of elephant families. We hope to send more students to Nkubu over the next few years since their performance to date has been very good.



Nkubu High School visit to the research camp



Young Litus on his way to Mbukiwa in Maralal

Kiltamany Donation Day

Bags, blankets and tee-shirts were distributed to more than 100 students at Kiltamany Primary School on the 24th of February. The event was a huge success and was attended by elders from the local communities, women group members, the senior warden of Samburu and community members from West Gate. Oria gave a speech to all who attended and presented all students with their gifts. Music from Kenny G was played to all (donor for the bags and blankets). The students were thrilled with their gifts.



Kiltamany Donation Day

Annual Report 2005

Our annual report is complete and has now been distributed to all donors and friends of the STE/EWS Education Programme. Please note that there was an error on page 17 of the report. Anthony Lekoitip is due to begin university in October 2006 and not 2007 as written. Thanks to donors, we have now received donations for the Mobile Film unit, Education Party and Elephant Art Competition. We are immensely grateful to our donors for these funds.

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