



SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

拯救大象



Annual Report 2014



East Africa, the elephant census of the Selous National Park in December 2013 indicated a shocking 67 per cent reduction in just four years. According to TRAFFIC the flow of illegal ivory has reached all time high. Ivory prices in China tripled between 2010 and 2014, increasing incentives for organised crime and ultimately poachers.

Apart from a few bright spots where more ecoguards have been deployed, the news from Central Africa is unremittingly bad. Never has there been such a storm of opposing forces, organized crime, loose weapons, high incentives to kill and trade for ivory, and in many countries inadequate responses, and a lack of political will.

So the struggle goes on. The warm response to our Elephant Crisis Fund, launched jointly with our partners Wildlife Conservation Network, allows us to play our role in forging the grand alliance of concerned world citizens, NGOs, activists, scientists, politicians, institutions and governments needed to stop the killing, stop the trafficking and stop the demand for ivory.

The battle is far from over and there will be a hard struggle ahead, but it is the end of the beginning. We can have cautious hope that if the world remains concerned, with many allies, we can secure a future for some of Africa's elephants.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Iain Douglas-Hamilton".

Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton  
Founder and CEO

Our recent analysis suggests that 100,000 elephants were killed over the three years 2010 to 2012, an astonishing number given an estimated African population of possibly 500,000. The figure was derived from modelling that drew partly from our intensive monitoring of known elephants in Samburu, combined with the ongoing body count of the Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) project. The study indicated that the continental population was in decline in those years.

Other data indicate a slackening of the onslaught. In Samburu births once again replace deaths and the decline of the elephant population has levelled off. While Northern Kenya's intensive, collaborative enforcement efforts and strong community-led conservation is rare elsewhere in Africa, at least in Kenya the situation is not so dire as it was three years ago.

Could Samburu once again be the harbinger for Africa and forecast better times ahead for elephants? It is too early to tell. While the situation is improving in some savannahs of

## OUR MISSION

*To secure a future for elephants and sustain the beauty and ecological integrity of the places they live, to promote man's delight in their intelligence and the diversity of their world, and to develop a tolerant relationship between the two species.*



*“China has advocated harmony between man and nature, and believe that mankind and animals and plants are part of the nature. To protect the wildlife is to protect the homeland of mankind, and also human civilizations.”  
Vice Premier Liu, of China.*

## A Letter from Our Chairman



**A**gain our elephants had a bad year of being killed or maimed with poaching at levels that are unsustainable for all concerned: animals, hunters, traders and buyers. The latest research publication out of Save the Elephants (STE) estimates that we will have lost all wild roaming elephants in Africa before a hundred years have past - unless something changes. This most important of our studies this year analysed data from across Africa and concluded that death exceeds birth by several percent, which translates into an accelerated declining elephant population.

The importance of this finding is self-evident. And the huge effort of all collaborators in this study cannot be over-stressed – and nor can the importance of Iain’s support of fundamental research at STE. Beyond the scientific team itself, the intellectual environment and attitude is key. Here STE is outstanding among conservation charities, I believe. At heart Iain is a dyed-in-the-wool scientist who understands, appreciates, encourages and facilitates fundamental research. Most importantly his

leadership – in science as in conservation - is inclusive and aims to reach out, collaborate and share rather than exclude and monopolise.

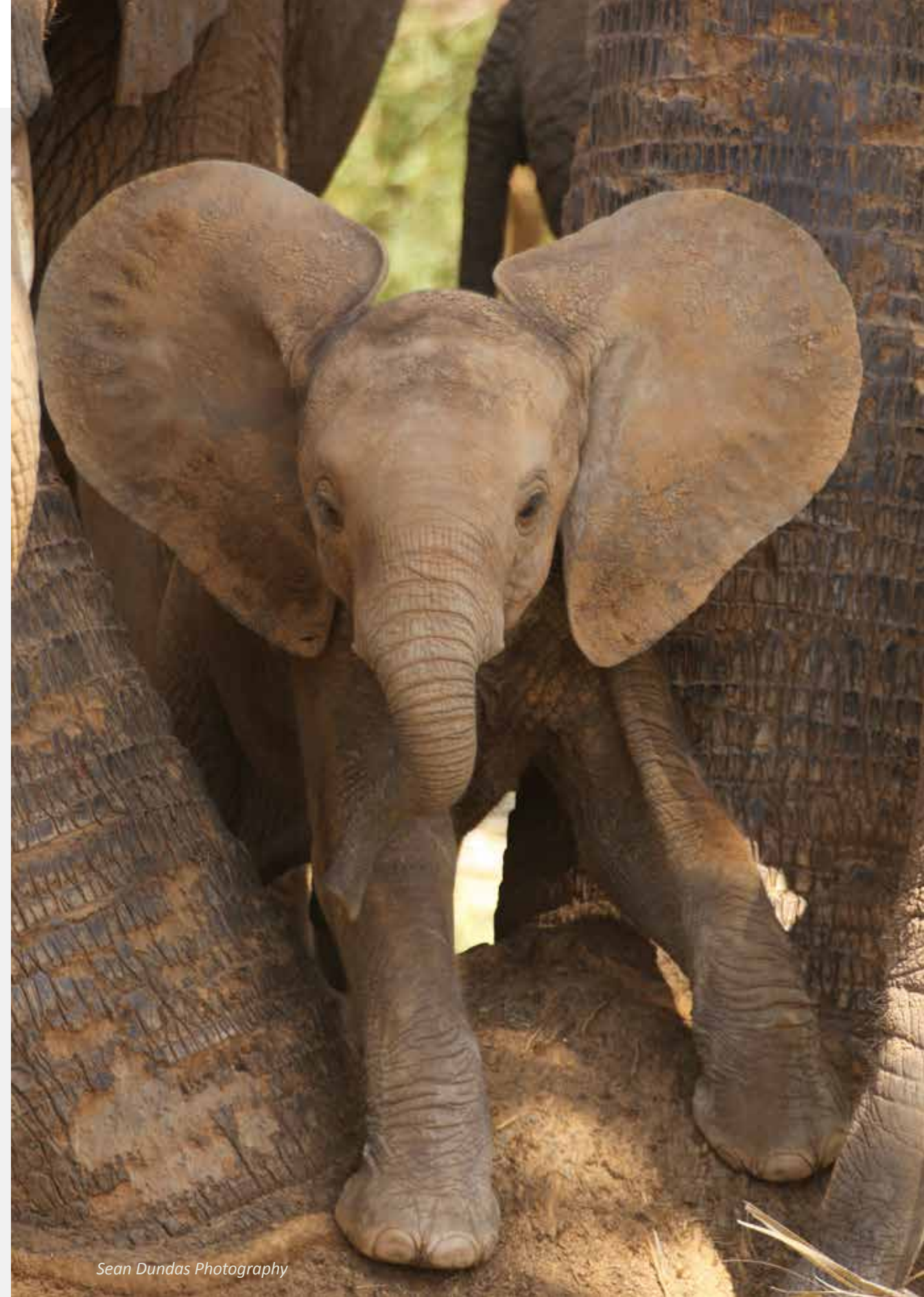
The impressive team that worked on “Illegal killing for ivory drives global decline in African elephants” comprised, in addition to Iain, professors and students of Colorado State University, senior scientists of the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. And, as always over the last decade, Iain was most ably supported by Assistant Professor George Wittemeyer, lead author on the paper and Chairman of our authoritative scientific advisory committee.

While research informs our strategy, it is only one element in Iain’s daily schedule. This year Iain and his team were spectacularly successful in raising and effectively disbursing over \$3 million for the Elephant Crisis Fund. Supporters and friends like those who gave both this year and previously make me hopeful that the current elephant crisis may be stopped from developing into a catastrophe. And I think we can all agree that Iain’s leadership will continue to be a key contribution.

In this spirit, all the best wishes for the year ahead

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. Vollrath".

**Professor Fritz Vollrath**  
*Chairman*





EFFECTIVE ANTI-POACHING PROJECTS MAKE IVORY POACHERS RECONSIDER THE RISKS

## ANTI-POACHING

The front line of the Battle for the Elephants is where poachers - sometimes armed with sophisticated military equipment, sometimes with poisoned arrows and spears - meet the forces of wildlife defence.

Effective law-enforcement increases the risk to poachers of getting caught, creating a crucial deterrent to being involved with the ivory trade. Alongside anti-trafficking work to break up the organised crime networks behind the smuggling and actions aimed at ending the demand for ivory, anti-poaching operations are crucial to stemming the flow of blood ivory out of Africa.

With WCN's efficient support, the Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) is leveraging STE's five decades of experience of on-the-ground experience in Africa to act on the most urgent priorities with the most effective partners in order to protect elephants both in the forests and on the savannahs.

## Defending the last forest elephant strongholds

Gabon is home to over half of the surviving forest elephants but is under increasing pressure. Minkebe National Park lost an estimated 11,000 elephants in the last decade. In order to protect nearby Ivindo National Park from the same fate, the ECF has supported Parcs Gabon to establish professional intelligence networks and smart anti-poaching patrols.

FOREST ELEPHANTS HAVE BORNE THE BRUNT OF THE IVORY CRISIS. 65% OF THEIR POPULATION WERE KILLED FOR THEIR TUSKS BETWEEN 2002 AND 2013.

The Congo Basin's largest surviving elephant population is found in the TRIDOM transborder forest between Congo, Gabon and Cameroon. Boumba Bek & Nki National Parks in Southeast Cameroon are remote enough to have escaped the worst of the ivory poaching but new access roads have created an alarming threat. When a funding shift by USAID created serious gap in anti-poaching finance the ECF jumped

in to support WWF in their defence of these forest elephant strongholds.

In the Central African Republic, the ECF's rapid response to a rebel incursion of Dzangha Bai paid off, with no more poaching incidents reported in the Bai thanks to the intervention of the Wildlife Conservation Society and partners.



## Securing the savannahs

Ethiopia's Babile Elephant Sanctuary lies close to the Somali border. Ivory poachers were driving the population to the edge of extinction until the ECF partnered with Born Free to fund the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority to re-equip anti-poaching forces there. With one of the most notorious poachers already behind bars, and effective patrolling in place, morale is now high.

Niassa National Park in Mozambique is one of Africa's largest protected areas and one of the most important elephant populations, but ivory poaching is rife. Effective patrolling over this huge area is crucial, so the ECF has put its weight behind the Wildlife Conservation Society to implement aerial patrolling and SMART ranger management.

Kenya's Tsavo Conservation Area is also huge and largely roadless. The ECF's catalytic support of the Tsavo Trust to defend this, Kenya's largest elephant population and home of most of the country's remaining Great Tuskers, has paid dividends. Tightly integrated with the work of the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Tsavo Trust has tightened the web of security in the region through a new ground patrol unit with vehicle and keeping an aircraft patrol in the sky.



HIGH TECH TOOLS AND OLD-FASHIONED COLLABORATION COMBINED PROVIDE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION

## ANTI-TRAFFICKING

Lack of adequate law enforcement, poor prosecutions and lenient sentencing are allowing organised crime to grow rich on profits from the ivory trade. Well-connected traffickers and corrupt politicians remain free while low-level poachers and smugglers take the heat. Meanwhile across Africa international borders are too porous to prevent the flow of ivory. Sniffer dogs are a powerful tool for detecting ivory but even when available are often not effectively deployed.

The poor legal environment for ivory crime prosecution was laid bare by an ECF-funded investigation in Kenya by Wildlife Direct which revealed that in 2013 only four per cent of offenders convicted for wildlife crime went to jail. In cases against elephants and rhinos, seven per cent were jailed and maximum fines for ivory possession were only \$350. The hard-hitting report was widely circulated, and two days after the report was delivered to the president he signed into law a new Wildlife and Conservation Act, increasing maximum penalties to \$225,000, life imprisonment, or both. Soon after, a Chinese trafficker trying to leave Kenya with ivory was given the maximum fine and sentenced to seven years in prison.

To address poor process in preparing cases the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Kenya established a Wildlife Crime Team. The ECF has funded work to help magistrates and justices understand the gravity of poaching and its effects on local communities, and supports Wildlife Direct in keeping eyes on every ivory case in Kenya's courtrooms.

To lay the foundations for impactful work with sniffer dogs, the ECF has funded Working Dogs for Conservation to conduct a review of sniffer dog use across Africa to establish how support can best be leveraged.

Elsewhere on the continent, the ECF is financing work to expose and oust the kingpins behind the ivory trade.





THE DESTRUCTION OF  
IVORY STOCKPILES – LIKE  
THIS ONE IN THE UNITED  
STATES – IS AN IMPORTANT  
STEP TO ENDING THE IVORY  
TRADE



## DEMAND REDUCTION

Without a dramatic reduction in the demand for ivory the price will continue to rise, increasing incentives to poach and traffic elephant tusks. The price of raw ivory in China has tripled in four years, according to research by Esmond Martin & Lucy Vigne supported by the ECF; in May 2014 the average retail price of raw ivory in China was \$2,100 per kg.

Efforts to share awareness with everyone in China on ivory may take too long for Africa's elephants. Besides, according to some sources less than 1 per cent of China's population is involved in buying ivory, making campaigns hard to target. STE's Resson Kantai visited China as part of a delegation to build bridges between China and Africa, organised by Chinese conservationist Yufang Gao. Resson returned full of hope and plans to focus advocacy efforts on the few who are buying ivory and pushing Africa's elephants to the brink.

The ECF continues to provide major support to WildAid's demand reduction programme, which last year aired 7,697 public service announcements amounting to at least \$15m of pro bono broadcast value. Campaign leader, Yao Ming, delivered a petition to the Chinese People's Political

Consultative Conference asking China's government to ban sales of ivory. Signatories included a broad spectrum of political and business heavyweights.

We are also funding the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to conduct a complementary, policy-focussed campaign to reach Key Opinion Leaders, and supporting the Natural Resource Defence Council (NRDC) to prepare the legal ground for ending China's domestic ivory trade.

Other national ivory markets, although currently dwarfed by China's demographic and economic might, also pose significant threats to Africa's dwindling elephant populations. Hong Kong may provide a critical testing ground for a domestic ivory ban, and we are supporting WildAid's initiatives there. In September 2014 STE hosted Hong Kong legislator Elizabeth Quat, who is proposing new laws to ban ivory in the region.

African nations holding naturally-accrued ivory stockpiles have an interest in selling their ivory, but doing so would fuel demand. STE is working closely with Stop Ivory, a major initiative that seeks to prevent ivory entering commercial supply chains. Symbolic ivory destructions by Gabon, the US, China, France, Chad and Belgium have all contributed to momentum on this issue.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNTING ELEPHANTS



AERIAL CENSUSES ARE KEY TO ESTABLISHING THE TRUE STATUS OF AFRICA'S SAVANNAH ELEPHANTS

Accurate data on elephant populations and trends are crucial to conservation decision-making, but counting elephants is harder than it might seem. Good census work is therefore a cornerstone of securing a future for elephants. Results from Central Africa indicated that forest elephants had suffered a decline of 62 per cent, then a survey in late 2013 that STE helped plan revealed that what was once Africa's second-largest population, Selous National Park in Tanzania, had lost 67 per cent in just four years.

In early 2014, a new Pan African Elephant Census, led by Mike Chase of Elephants Without Borders, began in Kenya with STE's assistance. The last such continental survey was conducted by STE Founder Iain Douglas-Hamilton in 1976. The first operation in this new census took place in Tsavo shortly after the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) had completed a count using a different and complimentary technique. The total count by KWS established a minimum estimated population of 11,076 elephants (down 1,500 on the 2011 estimate) while the sample count by the Pan African census estimated a probably population of 14,000, plus or minus 3,000.

Iain is on the steering group of the African Elephant Database and STE is committed to continuing to improve the quality and accessibility of continental data on elephant populations.

## MONITORING THE ILLEGAL KILLING OF ELEPHANTS

In the midst of the ivory poaching crisis, sensitive indicators of poaching pressure are critical for identifying the populations across the continent that are most at risk.

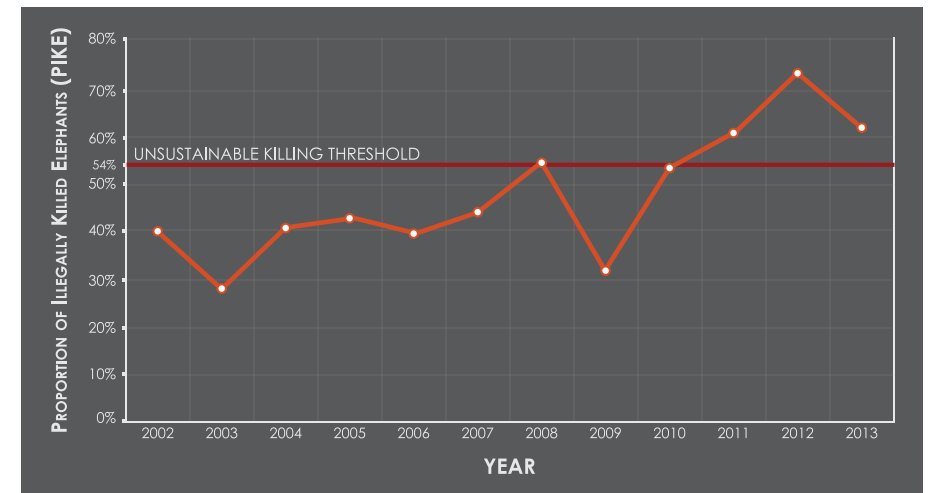
Over 100,000 elephants were killed for their ivory between 2010 and 2012 according to new research led by George Wittemyer, chairman of STE's Scientific Advisory Board. The broad coalition of researchers he assembled drew on data and experience from intensively monitored sites across Africa, including Samburu.

Speculation about the number of elephants being lost has been rampant, but this study provides an important, peer-reviewed estimate of the impacts of the ongoing ivory crisis on Africa's elephant populations. The number of elephants remaining in Africa is uncertain, but the losses drove declines in the world's wild African elephants in the order of 2-3% a year during those three years. Preliminary data indicates unsustainable poaching continued during 2013.



The Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme has served as the most sensitive barometer of poaching pressure since 2001, receiving data from 42 sample sites Africa-wide. Data from the Samburu-Laikipia MIKE site in Northern Kenya shows that illegal killing peaked in 2012. That year 73 per cent of carcasses found had been illegally killed, while by 2013 the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) had fallen for the first time since the ivory crisis began in 2008, reducing to 62 per cent (*see graph*).

Although the situation appears to be improving in Samburu, the total elephant populations of both East and Central Africa are now registering declines along with many populations in the South.



## HIGH TECH ELEPHANT DEFENCE

As the rising price of ivory continues to fuel poaching and increasing human development encroaches on elephant rangelands, elephants are facing severe short-term and long-term challenges to their survival.

Save the Elephants is at the cutting edge of a new, high-tech form of elephant protection that is already helping to transform the fortunes of elephants in Kenya's northern rangelands. Powerful new GPS tracking collars and software feeds real-time movement data into a regional Command and Control centre to guide rangers and alert them to incidents.

The concept has been pioneered in collaboration with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) where it has proved an indispensable tool for security managers in countering poaching. We are

now moving to establish similar systems to help protect other important elephant populations across Africa.

In the next year 40 new elephants are to be tracked across Kenya's Northern Rangelands. The work, which is only possible thanks to a grant from The Nature Conservancy and our ongoing alliance with the Kenya Wildlife Service and NRT, will not only boost the flow of critical security data but also provide detailed information for county-level and national planning authorities.

Oil pipelines, large-scale dams, railways, highways and even new cities are all developments that are planned for the Samburu region. None of them need sever the corridors that elephants need to survive, but without data for proper planning their impacts on this population could be catastrophic.

STE'S GPS TRACKING TECHNOLOGY IS PROVING A CRITICAL TOOL IN DEFENDING ELEPHANTS FROM POACHERS



Sean Dundas Photography

## COLD WAR BOMBS DATE AND LOCATE IVORY

One of the major obstacles to enforcing the law when it comes to ivory is the lack of a reliable way of distinguishing between legal pre-1989 ivory and illegal post-ban ivory.

This year researchers from Save the Elephants joined those from Colombia University, the University of Arizona, and the Kenya Wildlife Service to publish the finding that Cold War radioactivity can be used to date elephant tusks. The work is expected to make it easier to enforce bans on the ivory trade.

While photosynthesizing, all plants absorb radioactivity from the air that was put there by nuclear weapons testing in the 1950s and 1960s. This gives scientists a time marker for all those meals. The radiocarbon travels up the food chain, finding its way into the fingernails, hair, teeth and tusks of herbivores. Elephant ivory grows ring by ring, and so records the date at which it was formed.

Our Elephant Crisis Fund is now funding work to bring the technique out of the lab and towards use in the field.



ACCURATE DATING OF IVORY WILL BE A CRITICAL TOOL FOR FUTURE ENFORCEMENT OF IVORY BANS.

## ELEPHANT ALARM CALLS REVEALED!

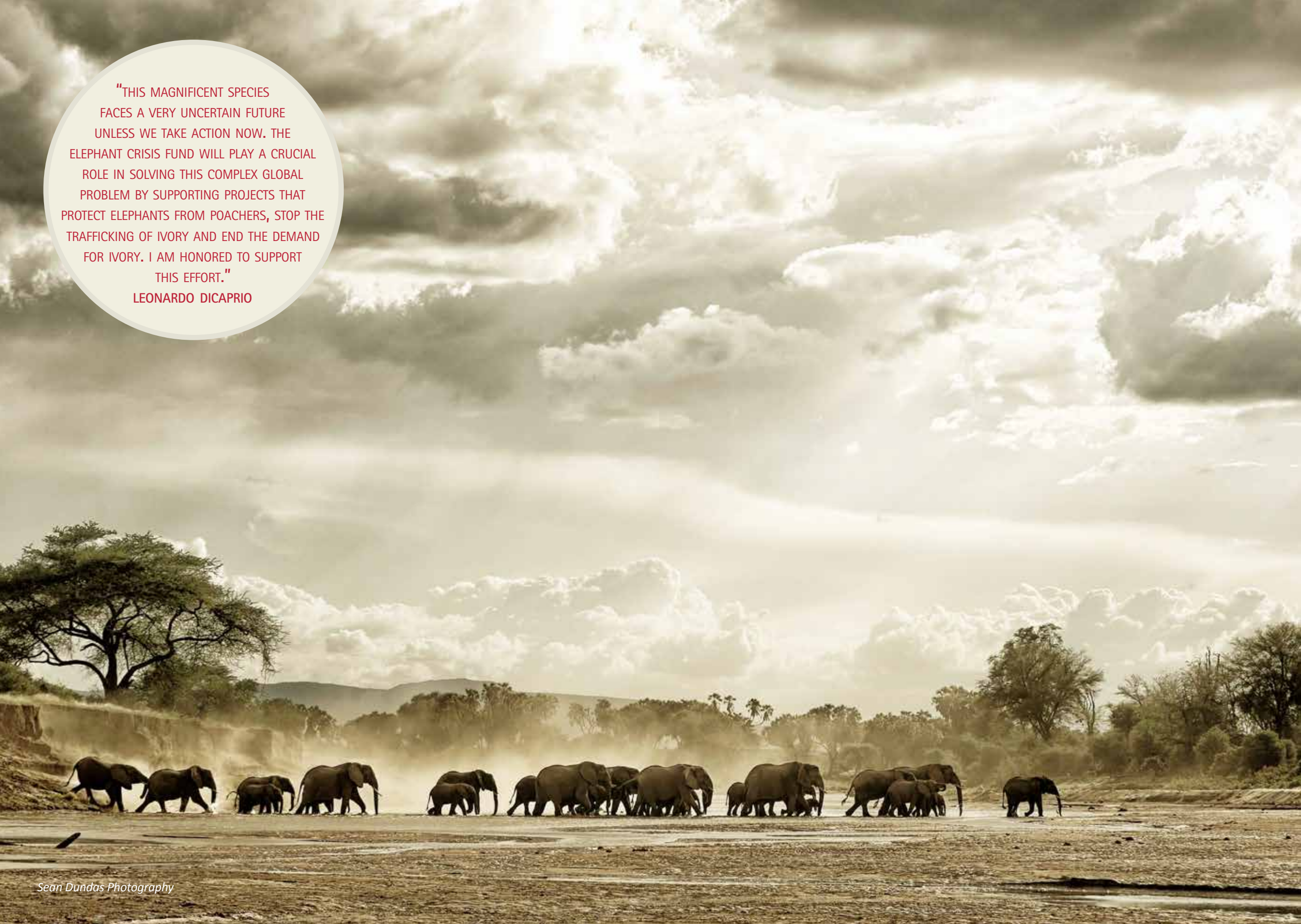
After eight years of study in Samburu we have discovered that not only do elephants have a unique alarm call in response to the threat of bees, but they also use a different alarm call when threatened by humans, specifically, the threat of Samburu warriors.

Our analysis of the infrasonic (below human-hearing) frequencies of each alarm call, conducted in partnership with Disney's Animal Kingdom and published this year in the journal *PLoS One*, opens a window into the complexity of referential alarm calls in elephants. Elephants not only reacted to human threat with a different vocal structure to their call, but they also ran away without headshaking or dusting which we have shown is a classical response to threatening bee sounds.

The study further reveals the depth of intelligence and awareness that elephants have of their surroundings, and the vital need for advanced family communication in order to live successfully in the wild areas of northern Kenya.



"THIS MAGNIFICENT SPECIES  
FACES A VERY UNCERTAIN FUTURE  
UNLESS WE TAKE ACTION NOW. THE  
ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND WILL PLAY A CRUCIAL  
ROLE IN SOLVING THIS COMPLEX GLOBAL  
PROBLEM BY SUPPORTING PROJECTS THAT  
PROTECT ELEPHANTS FROM POACHERS, STOP THE  
TRAFFICKING OF IVORY AND END THE DEMAND  
FOR IVORY. I AM HONORED TO SUPPORT  
THIS EFFORT."  
LEONARDO DICAPRIO



## NEW RESEARCH CENTER, TSAVO

Beehive fences not only reduce harmful elephant crop-raids, but they also provide an income through honey production, an increased crop-yield and, just as importantly, help to change the attitude of our farmers from elephant-haters to a tolerance which we hope will enable them to live more harmoniously with their elephant neighbours in the future.

As a result the STE Elephants and Bees Project, run by Dr Lucy King, has become popular with conservation projects, rural communities, and government wildlife departments from all over Africa and Asia. They are now interested in how beehive fences may help their specific human-elephant conflict (HEC) situation. A new project website ([www.elephantsandbees.com](http://www.elephantsandbees.com)) gives free access to all manuals and reports. Scores of new beehives have been bought, and the project's ancient research vehicle has been replaced with a more reliable Toyota Land Cruiser.

In November 2013, the community of Mwakoma, next to Tsavo East National Park donated an acre of land. Thanks to this and the St Andrews Prize, The Rufford Foundation, and the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, we have been able to build a new Elephants and Bees Research Centre. The building has a large, airy training room for community meetings, a Project Office and the Rufford Honey Room - well-equipped with the tools to hygienically de-cap, spin and jar our kilos of Elephant-Friendly Honey with techniques taught by Jess de Boer.

The extraordinary sweetness and clear golden colour of our honey is, of course, down to the bees and Tsavo's plants. With the help of one of Kenya's best ethno-botanists, Anne Powys, we are now studying both plants and pollinators to understand better the genesis of the honey's magical taste. With our new Post-Doc, Dr Flora Namu and her team of Kenyan undergraduate students from Karatina University, we are also investigating the pollinating effects of our beehive fences on our rural farms.



## ELEPHANTS AND BEES REACH SRI LANKA

With the growing success of our Elephants and Bees Project in Africa there has been increasing interest from elephant projects in Asia to see if we can export our beehive fence idea to help protect Asian farmers from Asian crop-raiding elephants. Sri Lanka has almost 6,000 elephants packed onto a relatively small island. The human-elephant conflict issues are severe and will only increase as development and human expansion grows in this post-war country.

Essential to our research is trying to understand how Asian elephants will respond to Asian honey bees, *Apis cerana indica*. We know they are less aggressive than their African honey bee cousins, *Apis mellifera scutellata*, but its possible that elephants may still prefer to avoid their stings.

As a testing ground for the rest of Asia, we have started two research projects in Sri Lanka. First, we have teamed up with Dr Shermin de Silva and her team at the Uda Walawe Research Project. In June 2014, Dr Lucy King spent a month in Uda Walawe National Park trying to understand how elephants react to the sound of disturbed honeybees, as well as take the chance to learn more about Asian elephant social structure, foraging behaviour, and to observe a famous "dwarf" bull elephant who lives in the park.

Secondly, our new PhD student, Kylie Butler from Newcastle University in Australia, has joined our team to assess if communities next to Wasgamuwa National Park may be interested in trying beehive fences as one deterrent method to stop the many crop-raiding elephants that cause havoc in the harvesting season. In partnership with the Sri Lankan Wildlife Conservation Society, Kylie will spend the next 3 years studying the elephants in this stunning area of the island.



# ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND PROJECTS

## - UP TO AUGUST 2014 -



## THE RISE OF THE ELEPHANT SCHOLARS



**S**mart kids from Samburu can end up trapped not by grades or opportunity, but by funding. Family pressure to earn rather than learn can mean they leave school early, depriving the area of potential leaders.

STE's Elephant Scholarship programme began when Oria Douglas-Hamilton started introducing guests of Elephant Watch Camp to bright but needy schoolchildren. 12 years later, more than 80 children have received a higher education thanks to these introductions.

By September, 2014 had seen ten new students begin their journey. In keeping with our vision to produce all-round students who will form the future of the ecosystem and of community conservation in Kenya, we are proud to announce that three of our students are pursuing higher education in Nursing, Business Management and Geospatial Engineering.

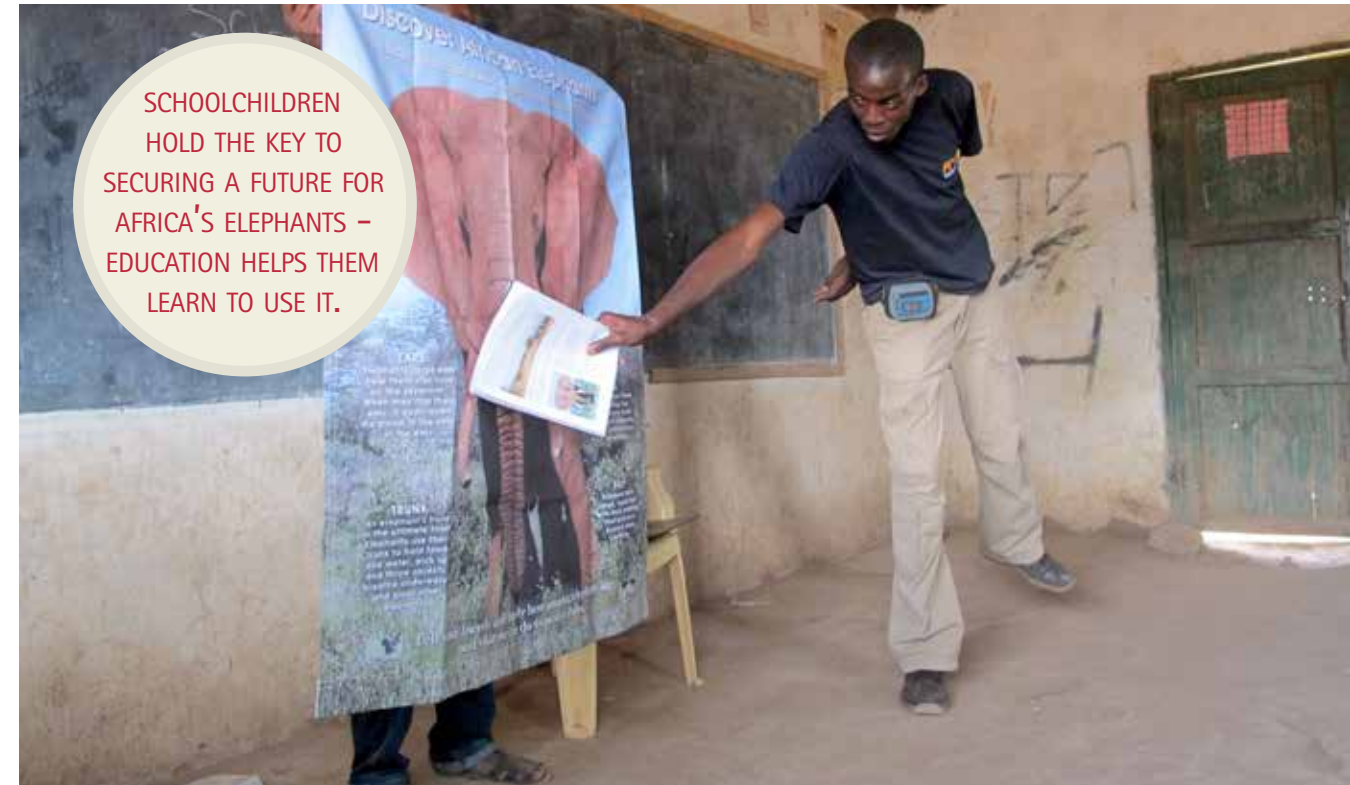
The other seven students have enrolled for their first year of secondary education in high schools across the country. All this would not have been possible without the selfless generosity of our dear sponsors the Fred B. Snite Foundation, Handsel Foundation,

Carol Steinkamp, Jamie Martin, the Lester Family, Laura Keating, Susan and Curtis Combs, Lisa and Jeff Bennett and Kaile Eison.

In assessing students' performance throughout high school, we detected a disturbing trend: half way through their education there is a tendency for their grades to drop. The trend is reflected nationally, but in an effort to reverse it we have begun a holiday tuition camp for our scholars. For a week each break they stay at our research centre and are guided through online tuition with the Khan Academy to improve in their English, Mathematics and Sciences. This was made possible by the Handsel Foundation, who fully backed the programme.

This year also brings inspiring conclusions to the journeys of two scholars. Mohamed Gololcha and Zeituna Mustafa joined us in the year 2005 and 2006 respectively, and just graduated with Actuarial Science and Commerce degrees. They are now ready to face the world and the challenges that come with it!

## EDUCATION IN ELEPHANT RANGELANDS



**SCHOOLCHILDREN  
HOLD THE KEY TO  
SECURING A FUTURE FOR  
AFRICA'S ELEPHANTS -  
EDUCATION HELPS THEM  
LEARN TO USE IT.**

**F**or the young elephants of Samburu to have a future, the region's human children must have a developed appreciation for their pachyderm neighbours. Unfortunately, all too often the only interaction that children have of elephants is negative due to elephants raiding crops or confronting livestock herders.

Our Education programme continues to reach out to younger generations to instil confidence and trust in our wildlife. The curriculum, 'Living in Harmony with Elephants', developed in collaboration with Disney's Animal Kingdom, is designed specifically for primary schools located near elephant corridors, areas heavily affected by elephant poaching and human elephant conflict.

Through interactive sessions that make use of evaluations, posters, visual aids, puzzles, photographs, both indoor and outdoor practical exercises, the programme aims to instil understanding and respect for the natural world, including elephants and the key role they play in the ecosystem in which they live.

To provide a positive experience with wild elephants we also include a field trip that brings these students into the Samburu and Buffalo Springs Reserves. From our open research vehicles they are given a safe yet up-close experience in which they are able to observe elephants in their natural habitat. Our experts are there to help interpret the elephants' behaviour and name the individuals and their interrelationships, helping to inspire them to become ambassadors for the species.

## SAVING ELEPHANTS THROUGH HEARTS AND MINDS

COMMUNITY MEETINGS HELP WARRIORS, ELDERS, POACHERS, EX-POACHERS AND WILDLIFE RANGERS TALK IN PEACE.

Elephants in Kenya spend most of their time outside of protected areas. These wider regions are too large for a solely military-style approach to defending them to make economic sense. The only sustainable solution is to win over the hearts and minds of the communities who share the landscape with wildlife, and re-acknowledge elephants as Kenya's cultural heritage, and a pillar of our economic development.

Following the last year's successes reforming poachers, our community outreach team has now established an effective format for bringing their stories to areas where warriors still run amok. Backed up by local elders, ex-poachers - including a once-notorious local bandit - are now advocating the benefits of conservation, thanks to the support of the Bodhi Tree Foundation.

Dispelling the long-standing distrust of southern authority held by the largely nomadic people of the north is key to improving law enforcement, and many meetings constitute an important peaceful encounter between warriors and Kenya Wildlife Service forces.

Together with our anti-poaching work (conducted in close partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service, County Government rangers and the Northern Rangelands Trust), the outreach programme has helped reduce poaching intensity in the area immediately surrounding the national reserves in Samburu.

The programme has been expanded to the far-flung regions of Oldonyiro and Kirisia Forest. We now include business people, including the Boda Boda (motorbike) riders who have long assisted poachers by ferrying illegal goods from town to town, but who now operate as lookouts for illegal activity - especially ivory trafficking. Through appearances on Serian FM, a powerful local radio station, our reach has extended from the hundreds who attend our meetings to Serian's thousands of listeners.

## CREATING A PASSION FOR ELEPHANTS

It is now twelve years since Oria Douglas-Hamilton started Elephant Watch Camp with her vision of linking Save the Elephants to nomadic pastoralist communities through conservation, education, training and employment.

Guests coming to experience the very best of Samburu and Kenya often find they want to forge their own links to this land, and over the years they have supported more than 80 students through high school education, and so far fifteen have gone on to receive a higher training in Colleges, Medical Schools and Universities. All thank the generous sponsors who have helped change the lives of them and their families for the better.

Rosemary Lengunai, the first Samburu female guide to be trained by Elephant Watch, has also managed to win a full scholarship from the *International Sponsored Programs* to join a Community College Initiative Program in the US. She will be studying ecotourism at The Annandale Campus in Virginia - a wonderful opportunity to broaden her horizons and gain knowledge and experience of the world.

Through education, ecotourism and conservation, Elephant Watch is helping give the young people of Samburu a positive, engaging attitude and vision. With deep understanding about the challenges and opportunities that their region is facing, some may become powerful leaders and forces for good.



## MALIBU FUNDRAISER RAISES \$2.1M IN ONE EVENING

On May 10 2014, Hollywood gave elephants a significant boost at an oceanfront gala that raised \$2.1 million for the Elephant Crisis Fund.

The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation and Mark Wahlberg co-hosted the event, held at the luxury La Villa Contenta estate - generously donated for the evening by Richard & Liane Weintraub. Screenwriter Erica Beeny and her husband film director Rupert Wyatt hosted, while philanthropist Lyndie Benson chaired the host committee. Diana Jenkins, the brains behind Neuro Drinks underwrote the entire cost of the evening, meaning that 100 percent of proceeds went directly to saving elephants.



After passionate speeches by Iain and Saba Douglas-Hamilton and co-founder of WCN, Charles Knowles, it was announced that Leonardo's foundation would pledge \$1 million if a match could be raised that night. As the live auction began we were \$400,000 short when Ryan Kavanaugh, CEO of Relativity Media, came out of nowhere to bid that amount on a luxury safari for eight. His astonishing, impulsive generosity pushed total raised for elephants beyond \$2 million in one flourish.

Jon Batiste and his band then took to the stage – and soon afterwards the dining tables – to provide the perfect end to the evening. Many thanks to everyone who made the gala such a success and to those able to join us. We can now expand the alliance!

## STE CONSERVATIONISTS ON TOUR!



2014 was a bumper year of overseas opportunity for STE staff. Festus Ihwagi, Head of Geographic Information Systems, began his PhD at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. Gilbert Sabinga, Samburu Camp Manager, began a year-long scholarship in Information Technology at the Houston Community College in Texas. Jerenimo Leperei, Research Assistant in Samburu, continued his Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders training in the US. Last but not least, Robert Mwehe, a dedicated intern working with the Elephants & Bees project in Tsavo won a full scholarship to Yale's School of Forestry.

## END IVORY IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong has long been China's ivory gateway. A change in attitudes and legislation regarding ivory there could prove a critical test case for similar shifts in mainland China. Influential Hong Kong legislator Elizabeth Quat was already passionate about the cause when she visited Kenya on a trip organised by our partners WildAid. After coming to Samburu to meet wild elephants and witness the impacts of poaching, Dr Quat is now on a mission to save elephants from the ivory trade.



## JUDGES MEET ELEPHANTS

In August as the third National Dialogue on Wildlife Crime drew to a close in Shaba National Reserve, the hot and tired delegates got a rare chance to be introduced to the elephants by the expert STE team. Not surprisingly, the magistrates, tax officials, police and task force officials learnt more out in the field than they had in the boardroom. Many were filled with new inspiration for the cause, and learnt volumes about what was being done to track, study and protect the elephants of Samburu. They have since intimated their renewed vigour to fight for elephants and all endangered wildlife.

MID-2014, A SEVEN-PERSON TEAM ROWED OVER 4,200 MILES ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN IN AID OF SAVE THE ELEPHANTS. ON THE WAY THEY SURVIVED MULTIPLE CAPSIZES, COLLIDED WITH A WHALE AND BROKE A WORLD RECORD!



## THE GLOBAL COALITION FOR ELEPHANTS

The worldwide nature of the ivory trade makes the challenge of ending this threat to the future of elephants too large for any one organisation or even nation. For too long the political landscape around the issue has been fragmented, with many different perspectives and agendas among both countries and NGOs. Building a global coalition is of critical importance.

A big force for consensus-building arrived in September 2013 with the Clinton Global Initiative. STE is proud to be among the influential partners who have stated their commitments alongside the seven African nations that have also signed up: Botswana, Cote D'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, South Sudan, Malawi, [Tanzania] and Uganda.

The Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) is a separate, African-led programme that seeks to move beyond ivory as a commodity and to fund the African Elephant Action Plan. The continued building of linkages between the Clinton Global Initiative and the EPI represents an important convening.

The 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee passed with none of the feared moves towards reopening the ivory trade coming under discussion. Indeed this represents a tectonic shift in the politics of ivory and ivory stockpiles.

While almost all parties now recognise the importance of working on three fronts to stop the killing, stop the trafficking and stop the demand, China remains the key to the future of the elephants. Beyond our work with partner organisations in China, we have continued to host key VIPs from the East to wild elephants in Northern Kenya, and to the ivory issue. We now have an active Chinese internship programme. The first of many to pass through this programme was Yufang Gao, who went on to be a significant player in helping build bridges of scientific trust and transparency between Africa and China.



## STE SOUTH AFRICA BECOMES ELEPHANTS ALIVE!

After 12 years Save the Elephants' South Africa programme has become fully fledged and is now operating under the new name *Elephants Alive*. Their mission remains closely aligned to that of Save the Elephants, namely:

To ensure the survival of elephants and their habitats, and to promote harmonious co-existence between man and elephants.



Science & Survival

Elephants Alive will continue to promote awareness of elephants and the challenges to their survival at this critical juncture. The organisation will continue to work in close collaboration with Save the Elephants in tracking elephant movements across transboundary areas North, East and West of the Kruger National Park, as well as in detailed monitoring of elephant mortality.

Alongside collecting and collating information on habitat expansion and proposed corridors, Elephants Alive will also be focussing on research into the influence of elephants on their habitats and experimenting with methods of alleviating any negative impacts.

Those wishing to support Elephants Alive can still do so through Save the Elephants channels (as detailed at the back of this report), with the project receiving 100 per cent of any donations made.



## Scientific Publications

Chiyo, P.I., Grieneisen, L.E., Wittemyer, G., Moss, C.J., Lee, P.C., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Archie, E.A. 2014. The influence of social structure, habitat, and host traits on the transmission of *Escherichia coli* in wild elephants. *PLoS One* e93408

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Goldenberg, S.Z., de Silva, S., Rasmussen, H.B., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Wittemyer, G. 2014. Dynamic states and social properties among male African elephants, *Loxodonta africana*. *Animal Behaviour* 95 (2014) 111-119

Polansky L., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Wittemyer, G. 2013. Using diel movement behavior to infer foraging strategies related to ecological and social factors in elephants. *Movement Ecology* 1:13

Sienne, J.M., Buchwald, R., Wittemyer, G. 2014. Differentiation in mineral constituents in elephant selected versus unselected water and soil resources at Central African baits (forest clearings). *European Journal of Wildlife Research* April 2014, Volume 60, Issue 2, pp 377-382

Soltis, J., King, L.E., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Vollrath, F., Savage, A. 2014. African Elephant Alarm Calls Distinguish between threats from Humans and Bees. *PLoS One* 9(2): e89403. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0089403

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Wall, J., Wittemyer, G., LeMay, V., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Klinkenberg, B. 2014. Elliptical Time-Density model to estimate wildlife utilization distributions. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* Volume 5, Issue 8, pages 780-790, doi: 10.1111/2041-210X.12218

Wittemyer, G., Northrup, J.M., Blanc, J., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Omondi, P., Burnhama, K.P. 2014. Illegal killing for ivory drives global decline in African elephants. *PNAS* September 9, 2014 vol. 111 no. 36: 13117-13121

## In Press

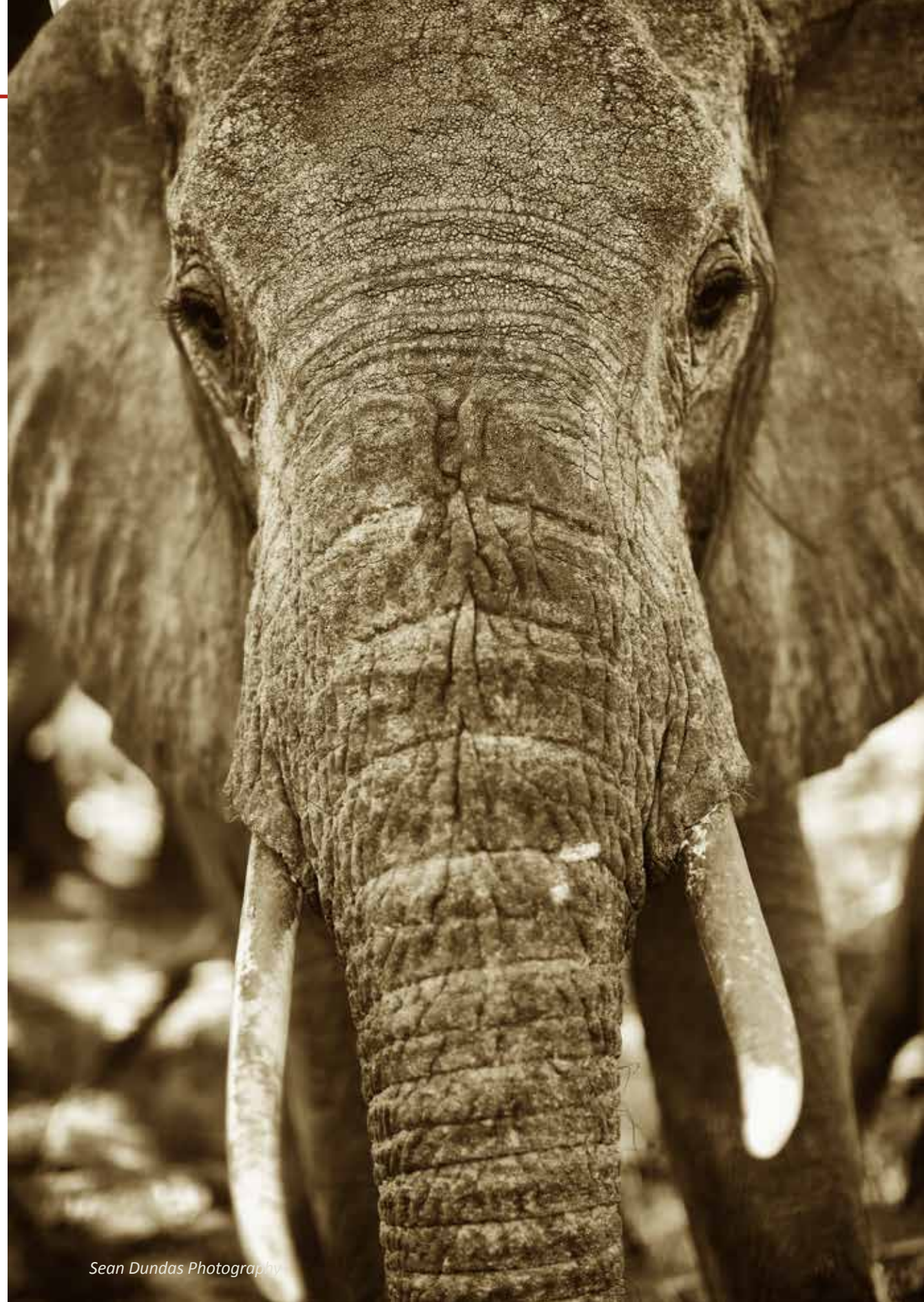
Gessner, J., Buchwald, R., Wittemyer, G. In press. Plant mineral concentrations related to foraging preferences of Western lowland gorilla in Central African forest clearings. *American Journal of Primatology*

Selier, J., Henley, M., Pretorius, Y., and Garai, M. in press. A Conservation Assessment of *Loxodonta africana*, in: M.F. Child, D. Raimondo, T. Hoffman, and T. Sethusa (eds.), *The Red List of Mammals of South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho*

## Popular Articles

Henley, M.D., Galliers, C. 2013. On the Tracks of some of Africa's last remaining 'big tuskers'. *Environment* 16:62-64.

King, L.E. 2013. Elephants and Bees. Could honey bees be effective for Asia's crop-raiding elephants? *Sanctuary Asia Magazine, India*. October 2013.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Save the Elephants relies on donations and grants to run our operations. As a registered UK Charity (no. 118804) we operate under strict financial controls. In 2013, 90% of the funds raised went to support our programmes in the field. 10% of the funds went to Fundraising and Administration.

## Statement of Revenue and Expenses US \$

Calendar Year Ending 2013

### REVENUE

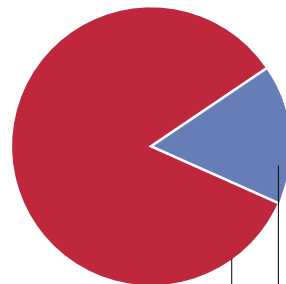
Donations, Grants, Royalties	\$1,972,360
Interest Earned	\$36
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,972,396</b>

### EXPENSES

Programme Grants & Services	\$1,407,742
Fundraising and Administration	\$157,543
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,565,285</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(\$407,111)</b>

Complete financial reports are available upon request.  
Converted from management accounts at a rate of £1=\$1.652

## 2013 Analysis of Expenditure



Programme Grants & Services 90%  
Fundraising & Administration 10%



Over the last 21 years our world-leading conservation efforts have been possible thanks to the dedication and generosity of loyal supporters. To join them you can donate in a number of ways. Please consider how you would like to give today by using any of the following methods:

### Online Giving US

US taxpayers can donate online via the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) website. 100% of donations designated to 'Save the Elephants' will come to us. Please remember to designate! To use this method go to [www.savetheelephants.org/donate](http://www.savetheelephants.org/donate) and click on the 'DONATE IN USA' tab.

### Gift Aid It

Are you a UK taxpayer? If so, every £1 you give could be worth £1.25 to us, at no cost to you. To download a Gift Aid Form please go to [www.savetheelephants.org/donate](http://www.savetheelephants.org/donate) and click on the 'DONATE IN UK' tab.

### Giving by Cheque

USA – Please mail cheques payable to Wildlife Conservation Network, 209 Mississippi Street, San Francisco, CA 94107 with a note indicating you would like your donation to go to Save the Elephants. Please include your address for the mailing of tax information. Tax Exempt ID #30-0108469

UK - Please mail cheques payable to Save the Elephants, c/o Bircham Dyson Bell LLP, 50 Broadway, London SW1H 0BL. Please include your address for the mailing of tax information. UK Reg. Charity No: 1118804

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Many employers match charitable donations, increasing the impact of your gift. Check with your company to find out if they will match your donation.

### Online Giving UK (and globally)

UK taxpayers can donate online via the Just-Giving website. This online platform allows donors to give via credit or debit card for a single or monthly contribution and also takes care of the Gift Aid. To donate via this method go to: [www.justgiving.com/savetheelephants](http://www.justgiving.com/savetheelephants)

### Bank Transfer

Donate via direct bank transfer. For details of our bank account please email [info@savetheelephants.org](mailto:info@savetheelephants.org) and advise us of your name and address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.

### Legacy

Leaving a legacy is one of the easiest ways to make a lasting gift to charity. A planned gift may help you give more to elephant conservation than you thought possible while still providing you (or someone you designate) with favorable financial and/or tax benefits. We would be grateful if you could inform us of your decision. For more information contact us on [info@savetheelephants.org](mailto:info@savetheelephants.org)

### Amazon Wish List

Want to donate specific items to Save the Elephants and help keep our costs down? Make a real difference to the protection of elephants, visit our 'Save the Elephants Wish List' on Amazon.com and donate today!

Save the Elephants is deeply grateful for the support it receives. We are thankful for every gift, each of which is an investment in the future of Africa's elephants.

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