

OCTOBER 2016



the EDUCATION CHRONICLE...



Building trust through education

Daud, our field education officer was out on mammal census in Shaba National Reserve. On his way back to camp, 10 year old Chalo Juma walked up to the research vehicle suspiciously carrying something he had wrapped in his *shuka* (a traditional Samburu wear); later found out to be a piece of ivory. On inquiring, Daud realized that the boy found it hidden beneath the ground while herding in Laresoro. Chalo explained that he decided to take it to Daud as he had heard pupils in one of our partner schools talk about STE's elephant conservation lessons. Asked why he did not forward it to the Kenya Wildlife Service officials, Chalo mentioned that he feared interrogation by the rangers and felt safer approaching STE.

"At first I thought that he needed a lift, but after he called out my name and greeted me, I was puzzled as to how he knew me. We spoke for a while before I asked him which school he was from, having thought that he had recognized me from one of the schools I visited with the STE education team" Daud said.

Daud later learnt that Chalo does not go to school and had been herding his father's goats when he stumbled upon the ivory. He has since been enrolled to a nearby school as we believed education was the greatest gift we could reward him with for his bravery. STE Education team will continue to conduct mobile education lessons in schools with the hope to reach out to many more *Chalos*, young people who are willing to protect their environment for generations to come.

Creating ambassadors for ambassadors

School-going children spend more than half of their early life with teachers whom they depend on to act as a source of inspiration and custodians of knowledge to them. In May this year, the education program held its first ever conservation workshop for teachers from Samburu and Isiolo Conservation Area. The two and a half day workshop brought together over 20 teachers from 12 primary schools.

The aim of the workshop was to (1) train teachers on methods that will enhance parts of the national syllabus dealing with conservation; (2) equip teachers with practical and interesting methods of teaching environmental literacy; (3) update teachers on career choices that enhance individual talents of pupils as well as (4) broaden their understanding of environmental resource management and engrain the intrinsic value of nature conservation.

The education team alongside the Head of Awareness, Resson Duff and Senior Educator, Maya O'Connor from San Diego Zoo took participants through an interactive session that opened up conversations to environmental issues in Northern Kenya. At the end of the session, teachers proposed forming a united front to create awareness, educating both school and community on the importance of conservation.

Asked whether the training experience was relevant to their profession, teachers' responses pointed to them acknowledging their role to pass on useful information to their students. They also recognized and appreciated the significant role they can play in raising awareness on environmental literacy to learners and surrounding communities.



Celebrating the triumph of an Elephant Scholar

In August 2016, we celebrated the incredible achievement of Benjamin Loloju as he graduated from the University of Nairobi, with a First Class degree in Geospatial Engineering. Having been at STE/EWS for eleven years, Benjamin has become one of the most



popular students in the program. Characterized by his ever-charming personality, this young man who hails from Oldonyiro in Isiolo County, has endured a very tough childhood but through zeal and determination, he has endured and excelled.

Despite growing up and attending a rural school, Benjamin gained admission to a top national high school in the country. For the four years, he topped his class and excelled in the final national examinations of 2009 making it to best 100 candidates. We could not be more proud of him!!

Benjamin has chosen to save the very elephants that have been a part of his amazing story having joined the GIS team here at Save the Elephants, tracking daily elephants' movements in Samburu. He is also a role model to many, mentoring other young scholars who want to follow in his footsteps. The power of education to transform one's life should never be underestimated.

Benjamin's sponsors Kirsten McLeod, and Ed & Jenny Smith, have walked with him at different stages of his education journey. They have truly transformed his life and helped him expand his possibilities in life. We really appreciate their support, and the generosity of our donors who have/are giving Samburu children a chance to get education.

Transforming learning in Samburu

As we endeavor to create conservation ambassadors in schools and the community, education is a key factor in this journey. We have partnered with several schools to improve the quality of education and the welfare of students through support from our donors. This has enhanced the face of the schools, and also provided essential facilities needed for effective learning. Educating girls is at the heart of the STE/EWS education program, with girls comprising about 66% of our scholarship students. Incredible support from Ivory Ella and the Mellmann Foundation enabled completion of a chain-link fence at Lorubae Primary School. This fence has provided a safe haven for students, especially girls who could not use the school dormitory due to trespassers through the open school grounds. The fence has gone along way in offering security and enabling the girls to use the boarding facility.

Further to facilitating the boarding students, the Capricorn Foundation is generously supporting two feeding programs in Lorubae and Kiltamany Primary Schools. The support provides breakfast and dinner for students who would otherwise have to trek very long distances to and from school.

At the Westgate (Lpus Leluai) Primary School, through the support from the Fred B. Snite Foundation, Lance & Grant, has enabled the provision of learning facilities, from classrooms to dormitories and sanitation blocks. The school has already received 100 modern desks for students and a dozen chairs and desks for teachers to curb shortages in classrooms, and provide better furniture for teachers to work. The construction of lavatory blocks for both boys and teachers is underway; we are hoping to have these facilities running by the close of the year.



All this has been made possible by contributions of well-wishers and incredible donors. We wish to thank the Capricorn Foundation, Fred B. Snite Foundation, Ivory Ella, and the Mellmann Foundation!

the EDUCATION CHRONICLE is a bi-annual Save the Elephants Education newsletter that gives updates and stories from the field. Step by step, the education program works towards securing a future for elephants by promoting peaceful co-existence between man and wildlife.

The program reaches out to and involves young minds in conservation via its two-pronged approach: (1) Providing elephant scholarships & (2) Conducting mobile education through conservation lessons, conservation films and wildlife clubs. Out of these, we hope to create future ambassadors for wildlife.

Drop us a line! We would love to hear from you.
Contact us at:
scholarship@savetheelephants.org or visit our website: www.savetheelephants.org

Sharing is caring! Help us spread the word. Share news on what your support is helping to achieve with friends and family.

Feel inspired to give. Here's how your funds can help.



\$1 can help plant a tree seedling for the wildlife clubs.



\$45 can help build one desk for a child in class.



\$450 can feed 50 students in a boarding school for one month.



\$1,500 can fund a child for one academic year of high school.

Support a child