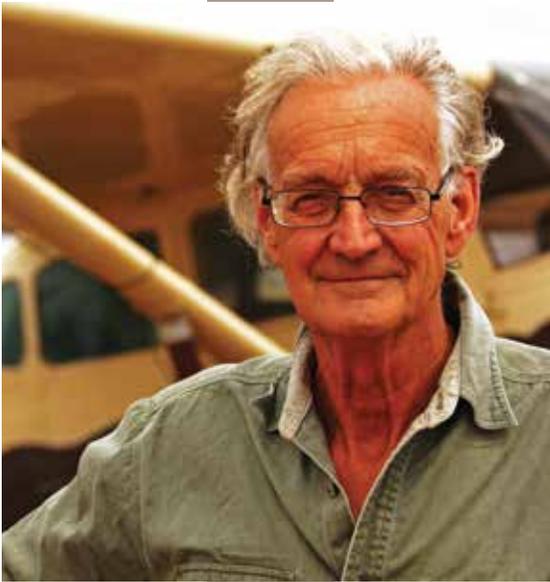




SAVE THE ELEPHANTS®

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



# UPDATE

## FROM OUR FOUNDER

### IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON D. PHIL CBE

With China's commitment to close her legal markets for ivory the survival chances for elephants have distinctly improved. We have for years shared awareness with China about the appalling consequences of buying ivory, while helping to build a global coalition to stop the killing and trafficking of ivory.

Our research shows the price of ivory in China has fallen by two thirds in the last three years, but it still remains too high. Ivory carving factories are mushrooming in surrounding countries, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Laos, from where tourists smuggle ivory into China.

Elephants are still in imminent peril across most of their range. The Elephant Crisis Fund, of Save The Elephants and Wildlife Conservation Network, is now the world's biggest funder of elephant-directed conservation. We support 45 partners in 25 countries and make ivory poaching and trafficking a risky proposition for criminals, and an unattractive purchase to those with a conscience.

Africa is rapidly changing. Elephants are increasingly threatened by a tidal wave of development and encroachment. As economies expand, wide open areas of unfenced elephant ranges contract. The Kenya elephant range presents a stark example. A century of growing human population and overstocking of livestock has severely degraded most pastures. When hit by seasonal drought, herders desperate for

grazing invade conservation areas, including Samburu National Reserve where our research centre is located. Once grass is gone the herders may move on, but little is left for wildlife.

The future well being of human beings and wildlife needs a better scientific understanding of the problems. Dynamic partnerships will be key in forging ecological solutions, just as collaboration is helping turn the tide against the ongoing ivory poaching crisis.

Our donors and partners have allowed us to achieve what we have for elephants. Their support is as crucial as ever. Wildlife Conservation Network has been our main anchor in the United States, and we are deeply grateful to all those who have enabled Save The Elephants with vital financial and moral support.

After more than 50 years of working with elephants, I am stepping back from the day to day running of Save the Elephants to concentrate on the science on which our programmes are based. I'm delighted that our trustees have appointed Frank Pope as CEO of Save The Elephants. I'm confident with his leadership, skill and passion, and our strong team with scientific backing, Save The Elephants will continue to lead the way in securing a future for elephants.

*Iain Douglas-Hamilton*

# 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.

*“Kenya is making a statement that for us ivory is worthless unless it is on our elephants. This will send an absolutely clear message that the trade in ivory must come to an end and our elephants must be protected. I trust that the world will join us to end the horrible suffering of our herds and save our elephants for future generations.”*

*— Uhuru Kenyatta  
President of Kenya  
(April 2016)*



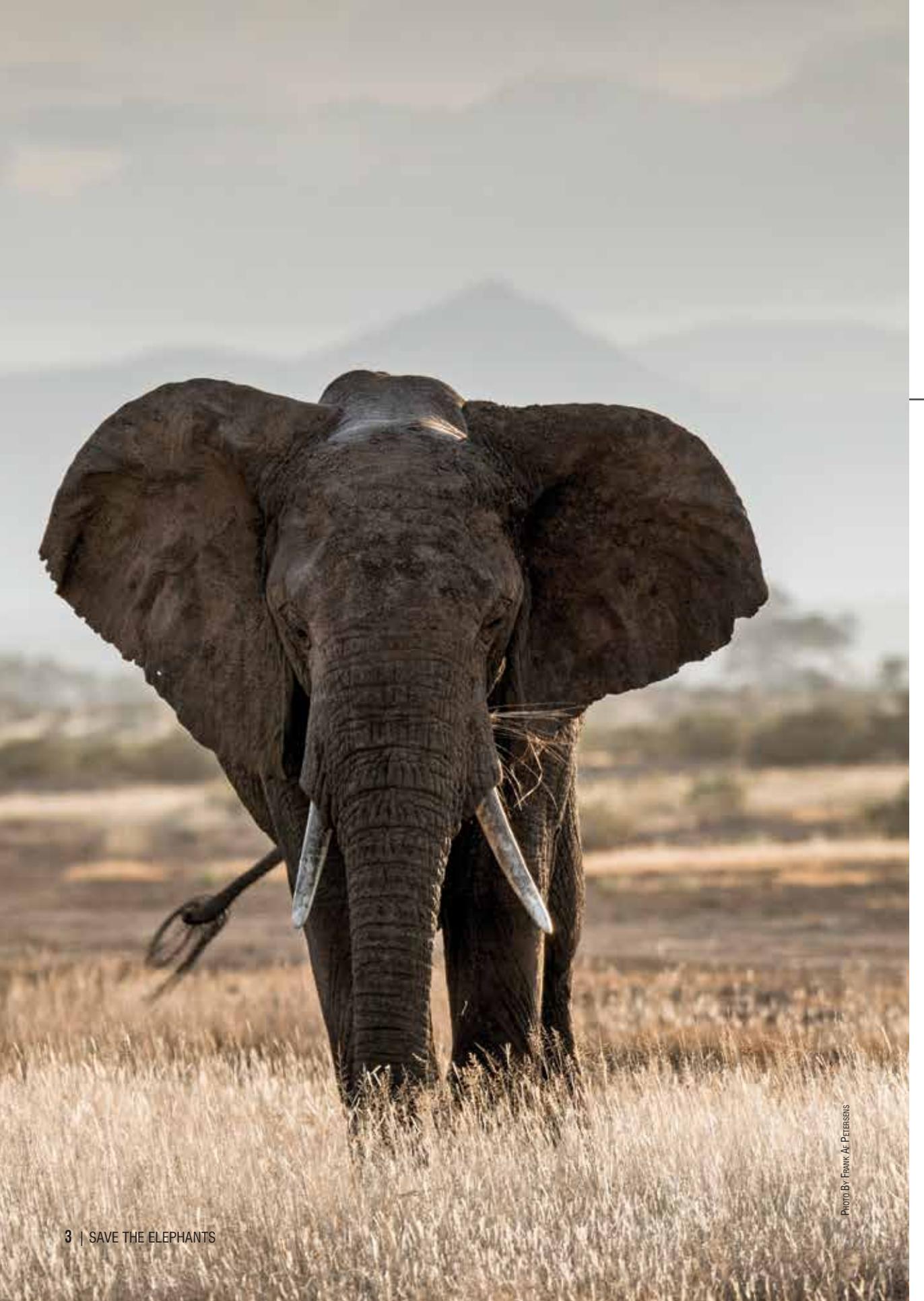
## TRUSTEES

Fritz Vollrath (Chairman)

Marlene McCay

Pete Henderson

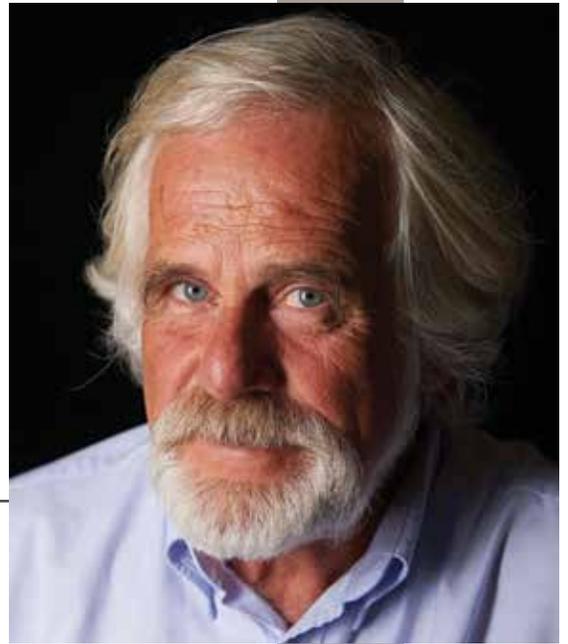
Ambrose Carey



# LETTER

## FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

### FRITZ VOLLRATH



Dear Friends of the Elephants,

China's decision to actively join elephant conservation by banning not only import but also the internal trade of ivory and ivory products was a powerfully positive start to the year. I was fortunate to be personally involved in shaping a fascinating elephant exhibit at the Shanghai Natural History Museum which, authorised at the highest political levels, bluntly addresses the fact that 'only stopping the demand for ivory will stop the killing of elephants'. Importantly, the exhibit is now travelling around other Chinese cities to spread this key message. Encouraged by the experience, I now believe that both national and local Chinese governments are fully supportive of elephant conservation. Hopefully they will be able to do 'what it takes' to ensure that the ban holds firm once underway.

On another positive note, let me reflect briefly on our big Save The Elephants strategy meeting early this year when Frank and his team superbly organised and ran a wonderful and productive few days. With almost all staff and trustees present, three days of intense discussions focussed on the scope of our organisation now and in the future. We concluded that each of STE's four pillars, Protection, Coexistence, Awareness & Research are of equal importance in fulfilling our mission to save the elephants, but that Research is *primus inter pares*. After all, science

and research always were at the forefront of our endeavours and provided the foundation for STE's reputation.

The meeting was so well lead by Frank and his team that the trustees decided to expand Frank's remit from COO to CEO. This now frees Iain to focus, as *primus inter pares*, on his passion of developing and deploying new research tools to better understand elephant behaviour, which in turn will lead to better conservation management and a stronger hand in our conservation efforts. Wainaina Kimani kindly agreed to step in to add the role of COO to his responsibilities as CFO, thus becoming even more of a role model and mentor to all of us.

Of course, we are not out of the woods yet, and the elephants are still facing many challenges. But with such a devoted and enthusiastic team, STE is in a stronger position than ever to help, lead and collaborate wherever we can to ensure a future for the elephants.

With all best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. Vollrath". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Professor Fritz Vollrath  
Chairman

# RESEARCH

## PIONEERING ELEPHANT SCIENCE



By George Wittemyer  
Chairman, STE Scientific Board

## STUDYING THE ORPHANS OF SAMBURU

While the poaching that devastated Samburu has largely been contained, the aftermath can be seen in the low numbers of mature males remaining and the many disrupted family groups. With the support of Singer Rankin's WorldWomenWork we have been studying the repercussions of poaching on Samburu's orphans over the past four years.

We have shone new light on the critical importance of family bonds to elephants. Without their mother's guidance and protection, the orphans face big challenges, but they carry with them their mother's legacy. Orphans of highly social mothers tend to be highly social themselves, while those of more solitary mothers tend to be more solitary. This shows that the social structure may endure beyond the catastrophic deaths of individuals.

The lives of these orphans are very different from those they led before the loss of their



Poaching and drought left one in five of Samburu's elephant families without mature females to lead them. The behaviour of these orphan groups is shedding light on how elephants across Africa are coping with high levels of illegal killing.

mothers. They often face greater aggression from other elephants. Their closest bonds now are to age mates or younger individuals, rather than the adults who would have led them had they survived. Some orphans we track move much more and others much less than they did when their elders were alive. There are different strategies for survival and reproduction and we continue our close monitoring to build our understanding of elephant society.

“ One elephant was collared in an area to the far north, near the southern tip of Lake Turkana, where locals say they hadn’t seen elephants for more than 30 years. ”



By Ben Okita  
Head of Monitoring

## KEEPING NORTHERN KENYA CONNECTED

Three years ago looming infrastructure developments and the ivory poaching crisis threatened the elephants of northern Kenya. To help Save The Elephants confront the issues, The Nature Conservancy gave us a grant as part of a project to track 40 elephants across the wider Samburu landscape. Since then the data from the collars has been guiding ranger deployment, helping us understand how elephants use the landscape and react to its risks, and starting to define what linkages must be protected in order for them to continue their natural movements.

There have been some extraordinary stories. One elephant was collared in an area to the far north, near the southern tip of Lake Turkana, where locals say they hadn’t seen elephants for more than 30 years. We are glimpsing new facets of

elephant behaviour, including signs that might indicate cultural differences and the ways in which elephants respond to danger.

Preliminary data on movements across potential paths of the new road and railway has been fed into the planning process for the Lamu Port, South Sudan and Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor. The planned route cuts through the middle of Kenya’s second largest elephant population, but with sufficient data on animal movements the impacts can be minimised.

New challenges have arisen in the shape of overstocking of the landscape and ensuing environmental degradation. With an estimated 70% of the northern rangelands now unable to support plant growth or on the threshold of not being able to do so, understanding and reducing the human footprint has become an urgent new focus.

## TSAVO'S ELEPHANTS AND LOOMING HIGH SPEED THREAT By Ben Okita

A new high-speed railway linking Mombasa to Nairobi is the most important transport project in Kenya since the building of the first Mombasa – Nairobi railway in the early 20th century. With sections elevated as much as thirty feet high and protected with an electric fence, it also bisects Kenya's largest elephant population in the vast Tsavo National Park

In March 2016 Save The Elephants was invited by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to carry out a long-term study on the effects of the new railway on elephant movements in Tsavo and on ecosystem connectivity. Eight wildlife-crossing points and thirty culverts were included in the design of the railway. To monitor their effectiveness and prepare for planned expansion of the road that runs alongside the railway, we fitted ten elephants with satellite tracking collars and began monitoring all signs of wildlife crossings of the new railway.

The first six months of data showed elephants searching for passages to cross from either East or West of Tsavo National park. Six of the ten crossed the railway, one of them more than 100 times. Ominously some of the crossing points have begun to attract illegal settlements – unless removed these will act as an effective barrier to movement.

A joint report with KWS recommended that the electric fence should be designed to direct/funnel animals into the appropriate underpasses, or into specific open culverts along the most densely used sections of the railway. Wide culverts in the sections that are frequently crossed should be left open to increase ecosystem connectivity. Wildlife crossing points across the Mombasa highway adjacent to the railway underpasses should be constructed to ensure that elephants can safely cross both the tracks and the planned new highway. Existing traffic densities on the current highway already pose a formidable barrier.



Left: Liverson Kania from the Kenya Wildlife Service photographed these two elephants climbing over the SGR embankment in Tsavo earlier this year.  
Below: Underpasses beneath the fast rail link between Nairobi and Mombasa were built to allow wildlife movements through the Tsavo Conservation Area to continue. For them to work they must be kept free from settlement, unlike this one pictured, and align with crossing points across other infrastructure like roads.





# THE STATUS OF AFRICA'S ELEPHANTS

By Chris Thouless QGM | STE Strategic Advisor and ECF Director

The African Elephant Database is the most authoritative source of information on the status of elephants in Africa. Experts from Save The Elephants have played a leading role in developing the database since its establishment. The last African Elephant Status Report was issued by the IUCN's African Elephant Specialist Group in 2007 and since then elephants have been subjected to severe poaching.

2015 and 2016 were spent communicating with experts across Africa to collect new information, compiling and assessing the data, and writing much of the text. The report was launched at the CITES meeting in September 2016 and presented more than 275 new or updated estimates for individual elephant

populations across Africa with over 180 of these arising from systematic aerial and dung surveys, many of them carried out as part of the Great Elephant Census (funded by Paul Allen's Vulcan Inc.) as well as expert knowledge of less well known areas.

The results showed a net continental decline of about 111,000 elephants in areas surveyed since 2006. The continental total is now thought to be about 415,000 in the areas that have been surveyed but there may be an additional 117,000 to 135,000 elephants in other areas. Much of the loss is a result of the 60% decline in Tanzania's elephant population. Central Africa's forest elephants have also been substantially affected by poaching for ivory, but this was less clearly shown by the

report, since there were many areas that were surveyed for the first time.

Only tiny numbers of elephants are left in the savannah areas of Central Africa and in the whole of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which once held massive numbers of elephants. A number of West Africa's small elephant populations have been lost, although it is surprising how precarious populations have hung on for so long. Some major Southern African populations, particularly in Botswana, which has the largest number of elephants of any country in Africa, have been relatively unaffected by poaching, although Mozambique and parts of Zambia and Zimbabwe have been badly affected.

# PROTECTION

## SAVING AFRICA'S ELEPHANTS TOGETHER



By Chris Thouless QGM  
STE Strategic Advisor and ECF Director

Since the continental upsurge in elephant poaching in 2009, STE has taken a lead in responding to the crisis. In 2013, together with the Wildlife Conservation Network, we set up the Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) to take action against elephant poaching, ivory trafficking and the demand for ivory.

The aim of the ECF is to provide funds where they are most needed in the simplest and quickest manner, using our knowledge of elephants across their range and our network of contacts across the continent. As of the end of December 2016, we have funded 127 projects in 25 African nations as well as in Asia and North America, and the ECF has acquired a reputation as a highly effective funding mechanism for elephant conservation. 100% of the funding raised goes into field operations with zero overhead, and we keep the administrative burden on partners to a minimum. Personal knowledge, based on site visits, is more

effective than paperwork at ensuring that projects stay on track.

We support innovation, and provide bridge funding to ensure continued protection of elephant populations

before finance from conventional and slower donors arrives. We assist emerging collaborations, particularly between governments and NGOs. We protect elephants across their range, not just the largest populations as small, remote populations often have cultural and biological significance that will only grow in future.

**THE ECF**  
**127 PROJECTS FUNDED**  
**45 PARTNERS**  
**25 COUNTRIES**





Above and Below: The ECF has continued to provide support to the most vulnerable elephant populations in Africa by funding new approaches to law enforcement.

# ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND

## ANTI - POACHING

During 2016 the ECF has continued to provide emergency support to the most vulnerable elephant populations in Africa. New areas have come under assault from poachers, who are constantly seeking new killing grounds. Alongside plugging these gaps we have been supporting new approaches to law enforcement. Experience in North Kenya, where we are based, has showed that law enforcement forces can be given a crucial edge over poachers by deploying highly trained mobile units on the basis of intelligence. Compared to traditional approaches this allows a smaller number of rangers to cover a greater area, more effectively.

It was thought that this kind of approach was impossible in the dense forests of central Africa, where transport and communications are very restricted. However, some of our partners, particularly the Wildlife Conservation Society in Nouabale-Ndoki in the Republic of Congo have shown that this integrated approach to law enforcement can be effective even in the most remote and difficult forests.



Satellite tracking of threatened elephants is proving an increasingly important element in the efficient deployment of anti-poaching units. We have helped other partners across Africa to set up systems for monitoring their elephants in this way, and many are using the Save The Elephants' Tracking App, powered by Vulcan Inc. This is the first step towards a full blown Domain Awareness System, being developed in partnership between Vulcan and STE. No elephants were lost to poachers in 2016 in the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the most heavily besieged areas in Africa, and this has been attributed in part to the use of our tracking system.

# PROTECTION

## ANTI TRAFFICKING

By Chris Thouless

Work on developing trusted law enforcement units across Africa, and helping them to collaborate with similar organisations in other countries paid dividends in 2016. Our partners, particularly those in Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda, have a good understanding of the criminal networks they are dealing with and have made many arrests of ivory smugglers and dealers.

“This dramatic burn shouts out to the world that Kenya believes ivory should never be bought or sold. It is a symbolic memorial to all those that have been killed. We hope that this fire marks the beginning of the end of the ivory trade, and that from here on Africa’s ivory can stay where it belongs: on elephants.” — Iain Douglas-Hamilton



Preventing trafficking of ivory, conducted at its higher levels by sophisticated criminals, is a hard target. We have developed and supported law enforcement units with the aim of arresting and convicting ivory traffickers. Their effectiveness has been increased by our facilitation of cross-border cooperation. Our partners, particularly those in Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda, have a better understanding of the criminal networks they are dealing with and have made many arrests of ivory smugglers and dealers.

Our support of WildlifeDirect in their dogged pursuit of the case against ivory smuggler Feisal Mohamed resulted in a 20-year sentence, despite threats of violence, interference in the case and massive bribery. But different techniques must be employed to catch the higher-level traffickers who may never actually handle ivory, such as the Akasha brothers.

The Akasha brothers in Mombasa allegedly ran one of the largest drug-smuggling operations in Africa, and are also linked to seizures of around 30 tons of ivory. We used our influence to get the case for their extradition taken seriously and it was a major breakthrough in early 2017 when the Akashas and two of their henchmen were arrested, flown across the Atlantic and arraigned in the Southern District of New York court. Their removal from the scene should seriously disrupt the major ivory smuggling route through Mombasa.

The success of courtroom monitoring and prosecution support in Kenya has led us to expand this approach to Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe. It has already had a positive impact in Malawi, where for the first time this year, significant custodial sentences are being given for wildlife offences.

PHOTO BY: MUMBAI MWAHISI



Four members of the notorious Akasha family criminal gang in Mombasa High Court. Major dealers of both drugs and ivory, they were extradited to the US in early 2017.



## DEMAND REDUCTION

By Frank Pope | CEO

The end of 2016 saw China's government announce that they would be banning their domestic trade in ivory by the end of 2017. The timeline was unexpectedly short, a testament to the government's new commitment to resolving the ivory issue. Meanwhile at international conservation meetings China emerged as a leading voice calling for all nations to close down their domestic ivory trades.

Save The Elephants has been at the heart of a global coalition of organisations working with China on ivory. Elephant Crisis Fund partners WildAid and the International Fund for Animal Welfare were supported to share awareness with China about the impacts of the ivory trade. Meanwhile we have been supporting the Natural Resources Defense Council in their work helping and encouraging the Chinese government as they worked out the

all-important details of how to make the ban effective and free of loopholes.

Although it is a critical step, China's ban will not alone solve the problem. Markets in neighbouring countries visited by Chinese traders and tourists, such as Vietnam and Laos, are developing and this will be the next challenge we aim to tackle. And unless demand for ivory is reduced to negligible levels the trade will simply move underground.

We have continued to support Lucy Vigne and Esmond Bradley Martin, among the world's leading experts on ivory markets, in their investigations of ivory market volumes and prices. In 2015 they reported the first evidence of ivory prices dropping in China, followed up releasing data in early 2017 showing the wholesale price had fallen to \$730 per kg, down from its 2014 high of \$2,100. Their recent report on Vietnam made a significant contribution to changing the attitude of the government to their domestic ivory trade, and it is these secondary markets that will be a new focus in the year to come.



**THE PRICE OF  
IVORY  
HAS FALLEN  
BY 2/3 RDS  
IN THE LAST  
3 YEARS**

PHOTO BY LUCY VIGNE

# SAVE THE ELEPHANTS



By Jake Wall  
Geospatial  
Science  
Advisor

## NEW TRACKING TECH

For the last year and a half, Save The Elephants has been developing a new 'Domain Awareness System' (DAS) in a core collaboration with Paul Allen's Vulcan Inc. The DAS extends the elephant tracking system built in-house by Save The Elephants beginning in 2004 into an open source platform to integrate data from tracked animals with that from rangers, vehicles, aircraft, sensors and intelligence sources.

Along with Vulcan, we have also designed a mobile phone app specially tailored for elephant tracking, aerial monitoring and law enforcement. A new web-based portal allows us and our collaborators to view and manage tracked elephants, and the vast amounts of data provided by the collars. We are developing additional analytical tools within the DAS framework to generate reports and standardized outputs such as maps, movement statistics and elephant range, and habitat analyses.



The Save The Elephants' tracking app, powered by Vulcan Inc., is a powerful new tool for researchers and protected area managers to understand the movements of the elephants they monitor and to protect them against a wide diversity of threats.

STE's continental tracking program is sharing the software and tracking tools with conversationists free of charge and has continued to expand in the last year. We are now monitoring for ourselves and our colleagues 175 savannah elephants, 58 forest elephants, 45 Scimitar-Horned Oryx, 7 Grevy's Zebra, and 5 lion across nine countries. Our system is sending a range of alerts to wildlife managers in 27 geographical regions and assisting in the planning of daily monitoring, anti-poaching patrols, landscape conservation and long-term research objectives.

# HUMAN ELEPHANT CO-EXISTENCE

## LIVING IN HARMONY WITH ELEPHANTS



By Lucy King,  
Head of Human-Elephant Co-Existence Programme

## BEEHIVE FENCES WITHSTAND CHRISTMAS ONSLAUGHT

The late arrival of the much awaited rains in Tsavo, southeast Kenya, in December was just enough to ripen the crops of farmers in Sagalla. As expected, just as the crops were beginning to mature we received phone calls from people in the communities to alert us of elephants in the area. But this year surpassed any we have previously experienced.

In one night different elephant groups visited up to seven farms, with reports coming in of 80 crop-raiding elephants being seen at one time, which meant that sending teams out to track and observe the damage was too risky. The elephants had come all the way from Tsavo West and were not returning to the park in the day but instead were resting and foraging between the farms between night raids. This sheer number of elephants was overwhelming for an area as small as Sagalla. Previous crop raiding events would typically consist of up to ten elephants at any one time, with elephants roaming around farms at night

Local farmers attend a Conservation Agriculture meeting to understand what techniques can help them avoid conflicts with wildlife held at the Elephants and Bees Research Centre.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE LABANOWSKI



■ Crop-raiding elephants remained in the Sagalla area for about a month but none entered farms protected by beehive fencing.

but ensuring they were back in the safety of protected areas by the morning.

This concentration of elephants in the Sagalla area lasted for about a month, much to the anxiety of the vulnerable local community. Elephants tragically killed one community member in early January resulting in tensions and a curfew for the school children. On the

front line of the farm defence, the beehive fences proved their effectiveness, once again. No elephants entered a farm that was protected by a beehive fence during the month, thereby lessening the risks of human elephant conflict to those farmers fortunate enough to have a beehive fence.

Left: Lucy King adding final touches to a new beehive fence | Right: GPS Tracking of crop-raiding elephants

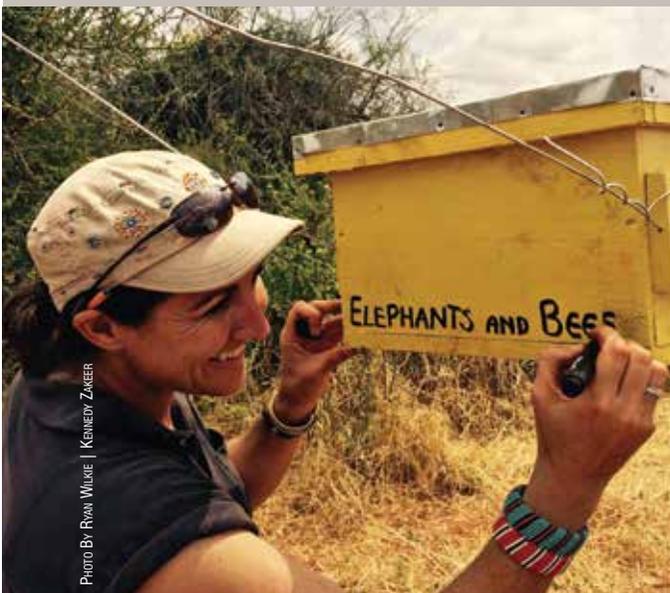
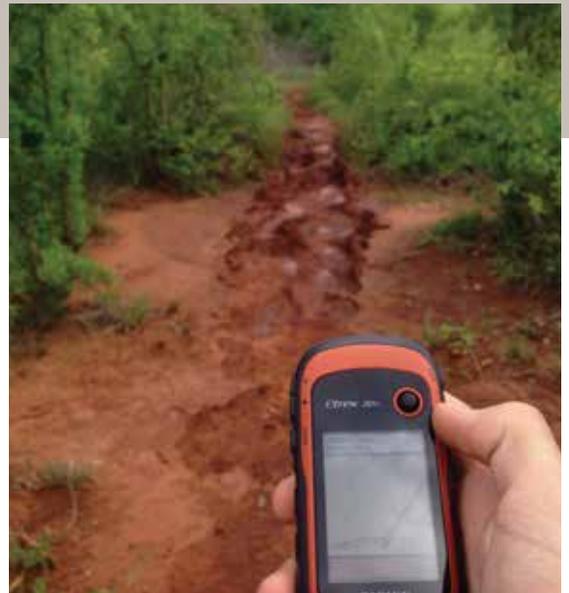


PHOTO BY RYAN WILKIE | KENNEDY ZAGER



# HUMAN ELEPHANT CO-EXISTENCE

## ONGOING RESEARCH UPDATE By Lucy King UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT BETWEEN HUMANS AND ELEPHANTS

Human population is rapidly on the rise in Africa. Settlements are multiplying and expanding and infrastructure is cutting across wild elephants' habitat and migratory routes. Conflict is increasing between humans and elephants. The Elephants and Bees Research Center in Sagalla is fast becoming a hub for critical research on the causes, ecology and mitigation of this conflict with the novel deployment of income generating beehive fences at the core.

Our research here is focused on understanding all aspects of elephant crop-raiding behaviour

as well as how beehive fences are adaptable to different climatic conditions. Our study into the nutritional and social drivers of crop raiding elephants is being led by PhD student, Georgia Troup, from the Australian National University who records details of elephant foraging behaviour in both Tsavo National Park and compares it to crop raiding decisions in our farm sites. Sophia Weinmann, from Montana University, is focusing her MSc study on identifying alternative food crops that are less palatable to elephants yet are also able to grow in the arid climates of Tsavo. Edwin Ruto, from Nairobi University, is conducting his MSc project with us on how climate change may impact honey bee foraging behaviour.

We are also continuing to monitor the 24 beehive fences we have installed to protect subsistence farmers in the surrounding community. The Walt Disney Company is supporting a programme to expand uptake of the concept through training and equipping more students and conservation organisations to set up their own beehive fences in their home areas. With this training expansion the use of beehive fences as an ethical, income generating deterrent for crop raiding elephants has spread to 13 countries across Africa & Asia. Please see [www.elephantsandbees.com](http://www.elephantsandbees.com) for more information.



Above: Lucy King (far left) with international and local students from Elephant and Bees who are recording details of elephant foraging behaviour in Tsavo National Park, studying alternative food crops and conducting studies on how climate change impacts honey bee foraging behaviour. Below: Beehive fences are an ethical, income generating deterrent for crop raiding elephants as demonstrated in the Sagalla area (see previous story).



# TRACKING TIM THE TUSKER

By Ryan Wilkie  
Field Assistant

Tim, the iconic great tusker of Amboseli, has grappled with human-elephant conflict for many years and there have been multiple attempts on his life as a result of his unfortunate habit of raiding farms in the vicinity of Amboseli National Park. In 2016

Save The Elephants joined a collaborative project with Big Life Foundation and Amboseli Trust for Elephants and Wildlife Direct to monitor Tim more closely and try to manage his crop-raiding habit and seek insights that might help mitigate such behaviour in both him and other elephants.

The idea was to repurpose Save The Elephants' cutting-edge tracking technology to address the problem of human-elephant conflict. We combined intensive, real time tracking with coordinated counter patrols to deter Tim from crop-raiding.

Since Tim was collared in September 2016 we have been keeping a close eye on him, analysing



Tim, a celebrated tusker from Amboseli, needed a specially adapted collar to fit his enormous neck when we started tracking him in September 2016. With partners we are investigating whether the data can help prevent Tim's raiding of local farms.



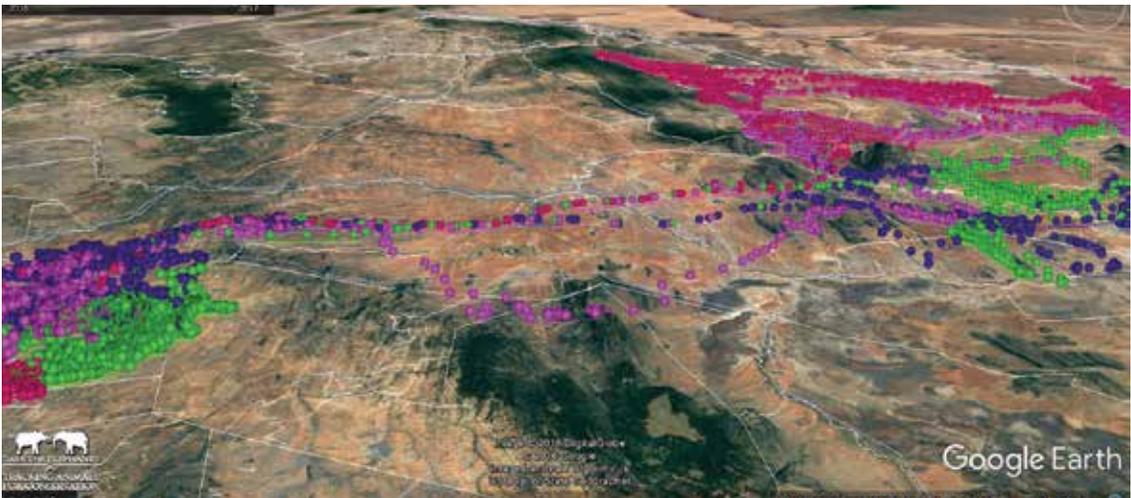
his movements for patterns and learning about his raiding strategies. Early indications show that Tim is exceptional amongst crop raiders and time and again he has proven his ability to outwit and out manoeuvre the rangers in order to breach the farms and feed on the crops. However, we have been able to build on these experiences and adapt our systems to improve the rangers' responses to Tim's raiding.

Trialling these new management strategies is necessarily an iterative process and we will continue to refine our monitoring and response systems as we learn more about Tim's raiding strategies and move into the next phase of the project.

# HUMAN ELEPHANT CO-EXISTENCE

## PLANNING NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

By Ben Okita



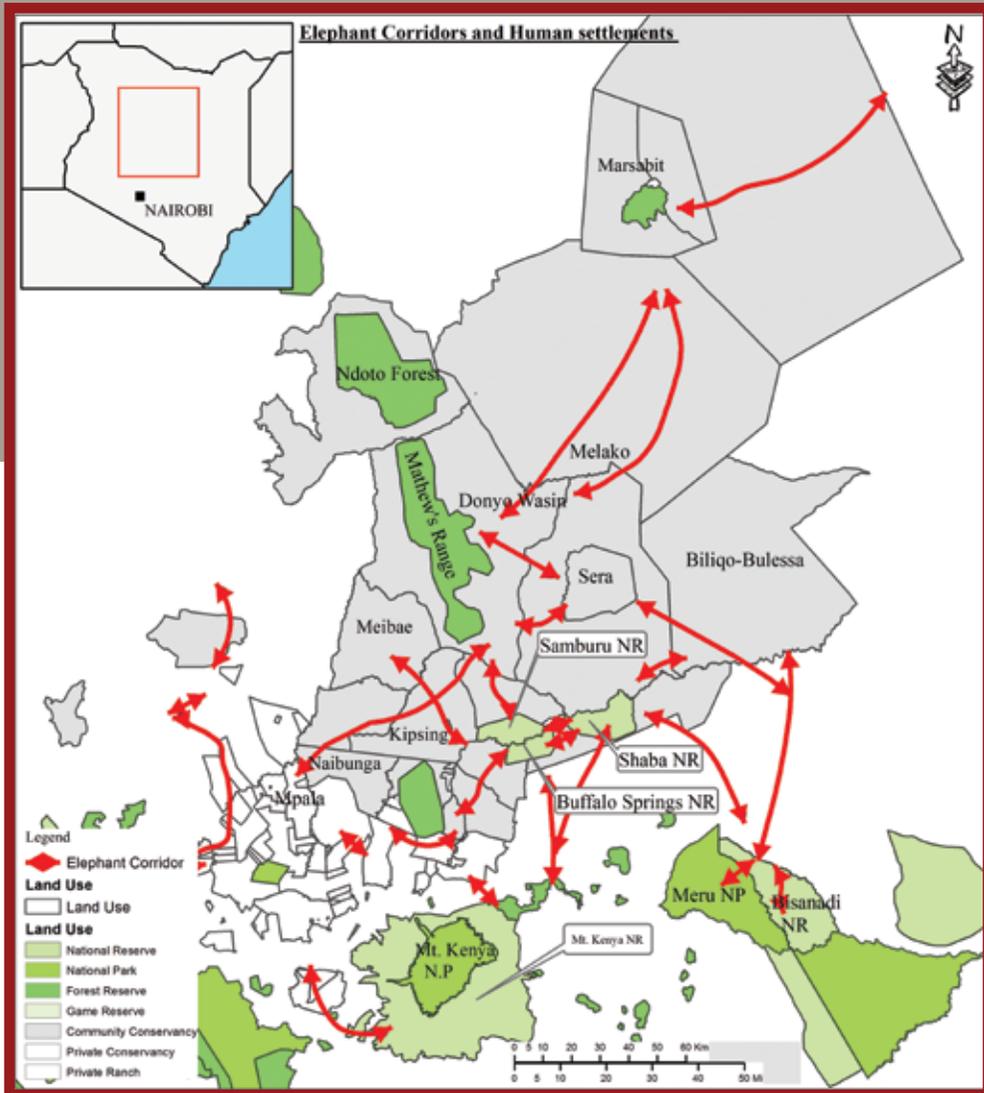
STE's elephant tracking data presented on Google Earth clearly shows a distinct corridor used by elephants in northern Kenya moving between Samburu and Laikipia. Each colour represents a different individual.

A large and mounting threat to elephants – and all wildlife – is the increasing competition with humans for the available land and habitat. Securing wildlife migratory routes and corridors will be critical to sustaining ecological integrity as well as developing a tolerant relationship between man and elephants.

Kenya's ambitions are outlined in its "Vision 2030" blueprint. The plan includes biodiversity conservation through landscape planning. Save The Elephants is playing a critical role in generating scientific information to help achieve the above-mentioned biodiversity conservation projects through satellite tracking

of elephants, mapping the expanding footprint of human development and undertaking census work.

A new national report on wildlife corridors and dispersal areas in Kenya, co-edited by STE, will be launched in early 2017 by Kenya's Department of Environment and Natural Resources and will be fundamental to the biodiversity elements of Vision 2030. STE will be playing an important role in the implementation of the report through the ongoing provision of data and by in working collaboratively to secure and gazette corridors and dispersal areas in selected key areas.



Samburu-Laikipia is home to Kenya's second largest elephant population. Red arrows indicate main elephant movement pathways as suggested by data from 144 collars deployed since 1998.

**SECURING WILDLIFE**

**MIGRATORY ROUTES**

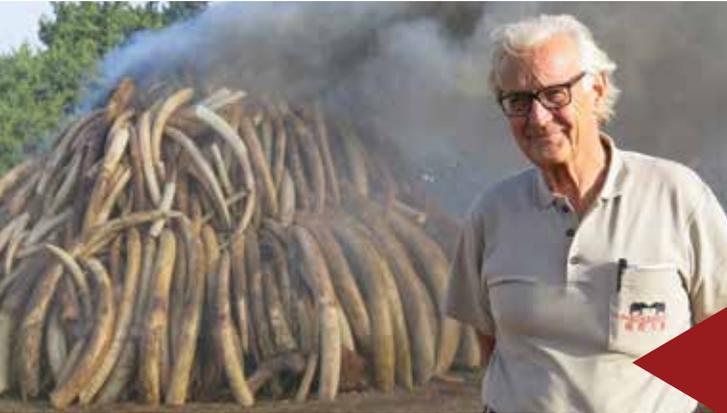
**AND CORRIDORS**

**WILL BE CRITICAL TO**

**SUSTAINING ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY**

# HIGHLIGHTS

## 2016 IN NUMBERS



### 50 YEARS IN CONSERVATION

Iain Douglas-Hamilton marked his 50th year in elephant conservation, and 52 years working with elephants advancing the science of pachyderm conservation and inspiring a whole new generation of conservation leaders

### 1 YEAR

the time China gave to close down the legal ivory trade



### FOR THE 3RD YEAR RUNNING

Elephant births exceed deaths in Samburu



### 10 Kenyan Celebrities got behind Tsavo's elephants raising funds at the Nairobi Stock Exchange Charity Trading Day

PHOTOS BY: Lucy King, Lucy Vigne, Jane Wynyard, Njoki Kibanya, R. J. Walter, Ryan Wilkie

**1<sup>ST</sup>** Benjamin scores a 1st in Geospatial Engineering and job at STE



**7.8M** data points collected on elephant movements by STE

**127** PROJECTS  
**25** COUNTRIES  
**45** PARTNERS  
SUPPORTED BY THE ECF



**118** Rangers trained in monitoring the illegal killing of elephants in Northern Kenya

**400** marchers wave flags for elephants in the first ever Global March in Samburu



**650+** JARS OF HONEY produced by farmers, bringing in an elephant-friendly alternative source of income to farmers



**233** Number of elephants across Africa being actively monitored on Save The Elephants' tracking app



# AWARENESS

## CREATING A COALITION FOR ELEPHANTS



By Resson Duff  
Head of Awareness

## CLOSING THE WORLD'S BIGGEST IVORY MARKET

At the end of 2016 China showed global leadership for the environment in its announcement to close its ivory markets by the end of 2017.

Save The Elephants has worked towards this moment for over a decade as China's role in determining the future of elephants became increasingly important. Central to

our approach has been to acknowledge that no one society wants to drive elephants to destruction, and that by sharing our awareness of the impact of the trade China would be inspired to act to protect elephants. STE lauds China's decision, and is working with partners to help ensure watertight implementation and enforcement.

It has taken a global coalition to reach this point, but STE has played a particular role lobbying for elephants in the corridors of power and with introducing key individuals to elephants and the terrible impacts of the trade.

Data is a cornerstone for action, and STE have consistently supported ivory experts Esmond Martin & Lucy Vigne in their work that sheds a strong light on the state of the ivory markets in China and her neighbours. By early 2017 the price of raw ivory had fallen by almost two thirds from its high just three years before. A national economic slowdown, a crackdown on corruption and nerves over the coming ban are all factors cited in the reduced value.



Busy ivory markets like this one may be a thing of the past.

PHOTO BY LUCY VIGNE

“WITH THE END OF THE LEGAL  
IVORY TRADE IN CHINA, THE  
SURVIVAL CHANCES FOR  
ELEPHANTS HAVE DISTINCTLY  
IMPROVED.”

IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON



By Nancy Odweyo  
Assistant Conservation Education Officer

## THE ELEPHANT IN THE CLASSROOM

Learning is tough when schools lack equipment for student's basic needs such as security, food, sanitary towels for girls and classroom materials. This in turn can lead to bright kids being unable to achieve their dreams.

However, now with the support of the Capricorn Foundation we have enabled two schools to feed more than 60 boarding students. The Mellmann Foundation together with Ivory Ella have allowed us to install a strong fence around Lorubae's Primary School offering security to the young girls studying there.

Elsewhere, the long-term support of the Fred B. Snite Foundation through Lance Williams and Grant Kretchik continues to improve and reshape learning experiences for students at Lpus Leluai (Westgate) Primary School. In previous years they have funded a new dormitory for the school and in 2016 added lavatories, mosquito nets and 100 modern desks to the list.

In May 2016 we joined forces with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and San Diego Zoo and held the first ever conservation education workshop to equip teachers with practical and interesting ways of teaching conservation literacy. The two and a half day event brought together almost 30 teachers from 12 different schools.



Keen students follow the process of joining a wildlife club, as explained by Nancy Odweyo





By Connie Makandi  
Education Officer

## SCHOLARSHIPS MENTORING THE FUTURE OF ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

The Elephant Scholarship Programme has been in existence for the past seventeen years. Through this programme, over 140 bright and needy children have been educated with hands-on mentorship from our team. In 2016, we admitted the highest ever number of scholars to the programme.

Among those taking full advantage of the programme, we have a rising star born in an elephant corridor that passes through Ol Donyiro. Three times a year Saidimu Lesalunga travels more than 500

kilometres to the prestigious national school where he won a place over thousands of others. He comes top of his class term after term and is in the top three out of over 600 students in his year. With his sights set on being a veterinarian, he is now a beacon for many other students.

The importance of such examples should not be underestimated. Saidimu's own hero is Benjamin Loloju, another graduate of Save The Elephants' scholarship programme. Also from Oldonyiro, Benjamin graduated in 2016

with a first class degree in geospatial engineering from the University of Nairobi and joined STE's team as a Research Assistant.

With support of our amazing donors, the programme currently educates 36 students in high school, 12 in universities around the country, and many others have already graduated in Medicine, Conservation Biology, Education, Geospatial Engineering, Nursing among others. These students and graduates are not only the ambassadors

for elephants within their communities, but also are increasingly influential in their communities. It is through such interactions that we can reach the heart of the community and build an environmentally conscious society in the future.



Elephant Scholarship students receiving inspiration for their future.



90 per cent of staff at Elephant Watch Camp come from the communities directly surrounding the National Reserves in Samburu. This offers an in depth insight into the life of these nomads, as well as providing an increasingly important alternative income.

## CONSERVATION TOURISM

### AN INTIMATE INTRODUCTION TO ELEPHANTS

Elephant Watch Camp continues in its mission to immerse people in the world of elephants and the work of Save The Elephants. Smaller than most commercial camps with only 6 tented rooms, EWC hosts elephant supporters from around the world while also recruiting new allies to the cause. More than half of all donations to STE have come from individuals (or their foundations) who at some stage have stayed at the camp.

The camp is pioneering a new form of Conservation Tourism, moving beyond

the ambition to be zero impact on the environment to being high impact – in a positive way. Guests enjoy unparalleled interaction with the local community, who make up 90% of the camp’s staff.

With increasing human pressure on Samburu National Reserve and the surrounding landscape, EWC is playing a crucial role in uniting other tourism facilities in the area to stand up for the ecosystem that so many people rely on.

# NEWS

A woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a green military-style jacket and dark pants, stands in a savanna. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. In the background, two elephants are visible: one on the left and one on the right. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

## #KNOTONMYPLANET

With humanity becoming increasingly urban, the natural world is becoming ever more remote. Elephants have the charisma and power to break through barriers and create connections. When New Yorkers David Bonnouvrier and Trish Goff learnt about the ivory poaching crisis they decided to help make a better future. They mobilised an army of supermodels (he runs one of NY's top agencies and she was one of his stars) led by Dutch beauty Doutzen Kroes to spread the word about the threat to elephants through their massive fanbase: Elephants killed for their ivory? #KnotOnMyPlanet, was their response. The campaign – engineered pro bono by UK agency Blood – made over a billion impressions on social media (including 300 million uses of a custom-made Snapchat filter), as well as attracting support from megabrands like Tiffany's & Co and Pearl Jam.



## IVORY ELLA

Save The Elephants's biggest supporter in 2016 was Ivory Ella, a young US company who are devoted to creating Good Clothes for a Good Cause. With 10% of their net profits coming to Save The Elephants and other organisations, and over \$850,000 donated for elephants to date, their support has been

a huge boost to STE's ability to save elephants. Alongside essential support for our core costs, their contributions allowed us to fit a new engine to our Cessna 185 aircraft, equip ranger patrols and build a fence around Samburu's Lorubae School to allow schoolgirls to sleep safe at night.

# CITES

IN

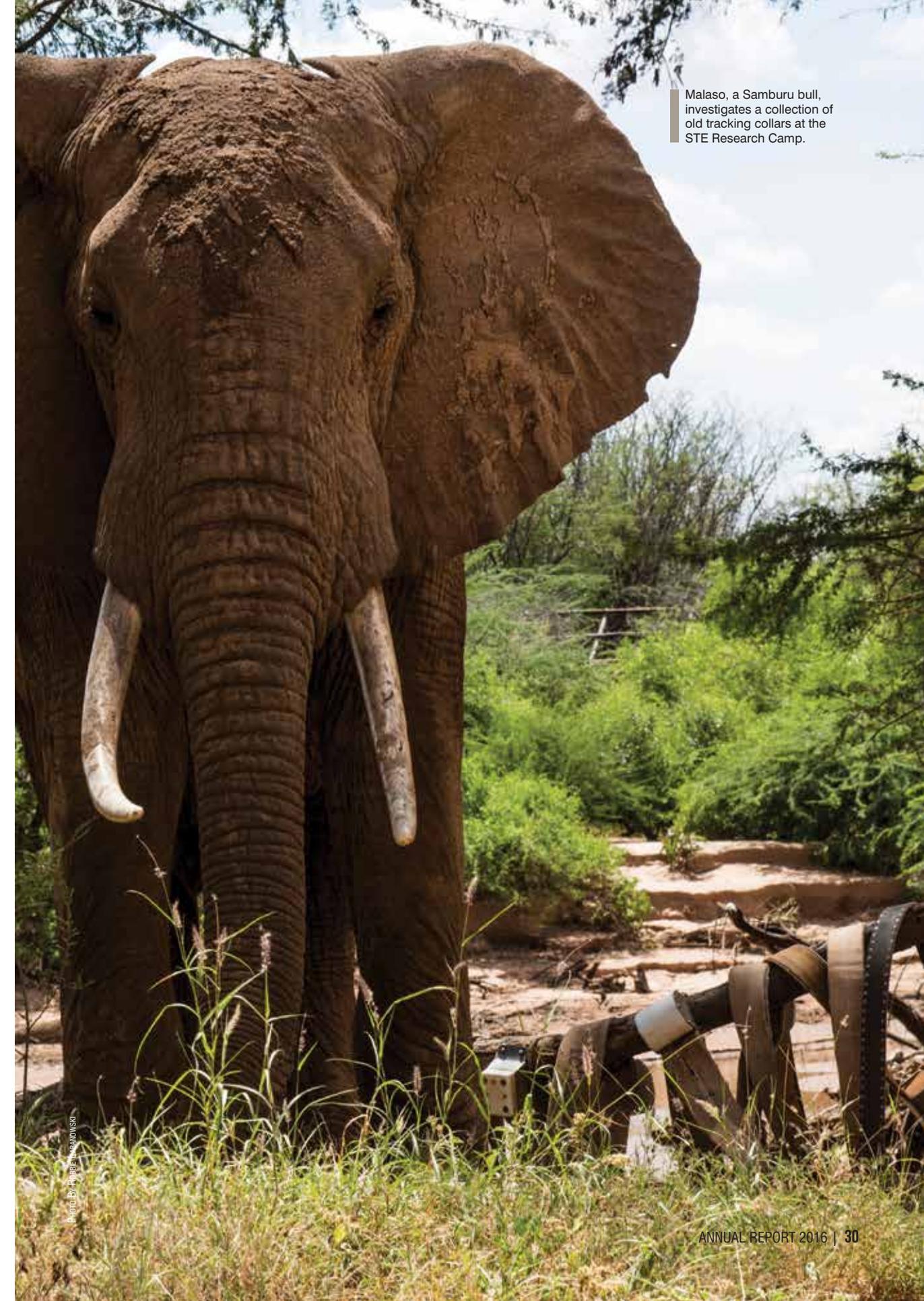
## JOHANNESBURG

Save The Elephants fielded a strong team to the 17th Conference of Parties of CITES, held in Johannesburg, thanks to Singer Rankin's WorldWomenWork, and other donors. Elephants dominated the agenda and there were some big wins. Momentum towards the closure of all domestic markets built even further as China became a leading voice calling for bans, and an ivory trade mechanism that had long kept traders' hopes alive was finally dumped. In many ways it was the most productive CITES for elephants since 1989 when the international ivory trade ban was put in place.



PHOTO BY ISID/ENB | Kaseo Wirth

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A large elephant with mud on its head and tusks, standing in a savanna with tracking collars in the foreground.

Malaso, a Samburu bull, investigates a collection of old tracking collars at the STE Research Camp.



Photo By ROSIE LAKOWSKI

# FINANCES

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 and with transparent financial operations. All grants and earmarked donations are used 100% on the intended projects.

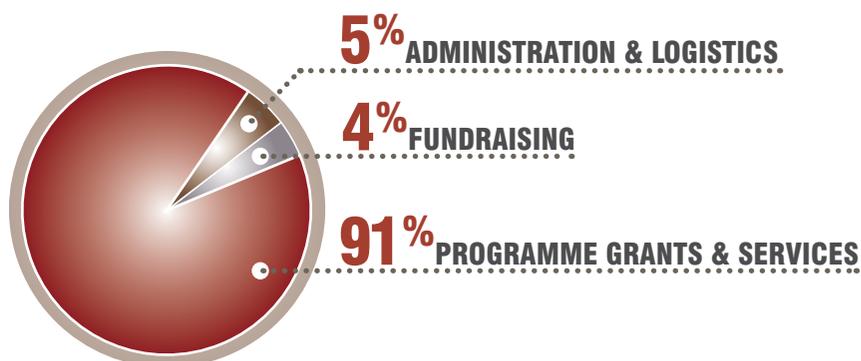
## STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

	UNAUDITED	AUDITED
<b>REVENUE (US\$)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Donations, Grants, Royalties	\$3,812,318	\$2,590,427
Interest Earned	\$387	\$50
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$3,812,705</b>	<b>\$2,590,477</b>
<b>EXPENSES (US\$)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Programme Grants & Services	\$2,391,554	\$2,249,814
Administration and Logistics	\$130,856	\$160,830
Fundraising	\$116,485	\$84,159
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,638,895</b>	<b>\$2,494,803</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,173,810</b>	<b>\$95,674</b>

*Audited accounts converted at a rate of £1=\$1.6*

Un-audited financial statements for 2016 are presented here alongside audited figures from 2015. Variations in the 2016 figures may result from the auditor's recommendations.

## 2016 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE (UNAUDITED)



# BUILD A FUTURE FOR ELEPHANTS

Elephants are among the most intelligent creatures on the planet and have complex emotions. They are being lost to the ivory trade and accelerating habitat and range destruction. You can help put a stop to this and ensure Africa's elephants are protected for generations to come.



**NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL**

## DONATE

**CHEQUE** Please include your address for the mailing of tax information.

 Payable to:  
Wildlife Conservation Network,  
209 Mississippi St, San Francisco,  
CA 94107 marked for  
Save The Elephants.  
Tax Exempt ID #30-0108469  
Tel: +1 415 202 6380

 Payable to:  
Save The Elephants,  
c/o Bircham Dyson Bell LLP,  
50 Broadway,  
London SW1H 0BL  
HMRC No: XT11693  
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7227 7000

**ONLINE**

A quick and safe way to make a difference in elephant conservation. Give a single, or monthly donation. [savetheelephants.org/donate](https://savetheelephants.org/donate)



## BUT THE STAKES FOR THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT ARE HIGH

### A LASTING GIFT

Leaving a gift in your Will is a powerful way to make a lasting impact for elephants. After taking care of your loved ones, please consider remembering Save The Elephants.

**Contact us at:**

**Email:** [donate@savetheelephants.org](mailto:donate@savetheelephants.org)

**Call:** +254 720 441 178

PHOTO BY FRANK AF PETERSENS



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HMRC No: XT11693