



SAVE THE ELEPHANTS



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



The world is changing fast. As the tectonic plates of geopolitics and climate change shift, nature is increasingly threatened by humanity.

For elephants the scourge of the ivory trade has diminished, at least for the meanwhile. African elephants are slowly emerging from their safe havens to find a landscape being transformed by expanding agriculture, modern pastoralism, and fragmented by newly built roads and railways. Our strong priority is to promote connectivity between the vital parts of elephant range as much-needed development expands, and to find ways to mitigate conflict between elephants and people.

Sound, evidence-based planning will be key to forging successful co-existence. This year we published new science on the seismic world of elephants, how rescued orphaned elephants adjust to life in the wild, and a new approach to understanding how elephants range across the African continent.

The challenge of fostering harmony between humans and elephants across the elephant range in Africa requires new thinking. To this end, in 2021 we began building our toolbox of conflict mitigation methods and scaling its adoption through the 100+ partner organisations we support through the Elephant Crisis Fund that we run with the Wildlife Conservation Network.

Tracking elephants continues to provide key insights into how elephants take decisions in their lives and how we can defend them. With private and government partners we are now exploring newly discovered elephant pathways among the remote borderlands of Kenya and Uganda, which will yield fresh insights into how to conserve elephants in this area.

Our mission is only possible with the generous support of our donors, wildlife departments and field partners, and we thank them deeply. With their encouragement and backing we continue the struggle to secure a future for elephants.

Iain Douglas-Hamilton

IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON
FOUNDER

Frank Pope

FRANK POPE
CEO

2021 at a glance



Protection

64

Wildlife and community interventions handled by our newly deployed Rapid Response Unit in Meibai, Attan and Ngaremara

22

Elephants treated by our vet team and/or rescued by STE and other partners in northern Kenya

\$3.1 million

Granted by the Elephant Crisis Fund to partners across Africa in 2021. **\$29.2 million granted since 2013**



Tracking

24

Collars deployed on elephants in 2021 to help us better understand their movements and behaviour

12

Collars replaced on bull elephants during mammoth operation in Tsavo between Save the Elephants, Kenya Wildlife Service, Tsavo Trust and Wildlife Works

33

Partners across Africa now using the new STE WildTracks app for exploring and understanding elephant movements



Research

4200

Square kilometres surveyed by the STE team from the air during the Kenyan government's national wildlife census – "Count to Conserve"

17%

The fraction of potential range that African elephants currently occupy, compared to the 62 percent of suitable habitat available

16

Peer-reviewed scientific papers produced by STE in our quest to deepen our understanding of elephant species



Education & Awareness

20

Years since the launch of the successful Elephant Scholarship Fund in 2001, established to help educate bright, needy students living alongside elephants

200+

Students to have enrolled in the Elephant Scholarship Fund since 2001

40

Primary schools in four counties enrolled in the Elephant Scholarship Fund



Community Support

40

Female basket weavers from Tsavo were taught new elephant-friendly enterprise skills in a course supported by STE

2

Women trained as STE's elephant researchers for a new elephant monitoring outpost in Babala, northern Kenya

5

Young conservationists enrolled in STE's Elephant Research Fund, aimed at young Kenyans wishing to advance their conservation careers



Human-Elephant Coexistence

800m

Of fencing erected by an STE team around two high conflict farms in the Okavango panhandle, Botswana

22

Countries now adopting STE's beehive fences, with Indonesia and Liberia added to the list in 2021

10,636

Known beehives that have been installed as elephant deterrents across 82 sites in Africa & Asia

“The loss of a single elephant has impacts that reverberate through her family across generations.”

George Wittemyer, Chairman of STE's Scientific Board about a new study published in 2021, that reveals poaching had a larger indirect impact on elephant populations than previously realised.

(Read more on pages 17 and 18)



Alto and her calf from the Clouds family in Buffalo Springs National Reserve.
©Robbie Labanowski

About SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Founded by zoologist Iain Douglas-Hamilton 29 years ago, Save the Elephants (STE) conducts pioneering research into the ecology and behaviour of elephants, providing hard data on the challenges affecting the future of wild elephants and suggesting solutions for a harmonious future between elephants and humans.

At STE's research station in Samburu National Reserve in northern Kenya, a team of researchers studies wild elephants on a daily basis. Over 900 identified elephants have been recorded using the reserves along the Ewaso Ny'iro river over the last two decades, and our intimate knowledge of their family structures and history has opened a rare window onto the world of elephants. At a second research station in the Sagalla community in Tsavo, southeastern Kenya, our Human-Elephant Co-Existence team is investigating solutions to the long-term challenges that elephants face.

STE works with world-leading partners to develop new technology to track and analyse elephant movements. The resulting systems are helping scientists and protected area managers across the continent to protect elephants and plan for their future. To support the alliance of organisations that are engaged in the fight to end the poaching, the trafficking and demand for ivory, Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network co-founded the Elephant Crisis Fund.

Beyond the ivory crisis, STE works to incorporate elephant needs into infrastructure development planning to maintain protected areas and ecosystem connectivity, a critical concern in an increasingly populated and developed Africa. We pursue evidence-based conservation with grass-roots community engagement, and build broad collaborations to secure a future for the elephants in Kenya, and to create tools and techniques that can be applied elsewhere on the continent.

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.

Trustees

Fritz Vollrath, *Chairman*
 Marlene McCay
 Ambrose Carey
 Michael Davitz
 Pat Awori

Photo: STE researchers David Lolchuragi (left) and David Letitiya (right) are part of the team that studies wild elephants in Samburu National Reserve.
 ©Robbie Labanowski



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

2021 was a lot better than 2020, if not all back to normal. STE again coped brilliantly. Both conservation engagement and research began firing up to pre-covid levels, although Samburu National Reserve remained very quiet, with tourism mostly absent and most lodges still closed. Luckily, remote meeting technology allowed the STE teams to stay in touch with one another, compare notes, and plan for the un-locking.

Navigating strict testing protocols and travel restrictions, my wife Leslie and I were able to travel to Berlin and visit the 'Terrible Beauty' exhibition on ivory that opened the magnificent Humboldt Forum. Here we found STE superbly represented: our wrecked Toyota, sculpted by the bull elephant Rommel in 2002, was the centrepiece; one of our beehives told the bee fence story; a number of huge photographs showcased Samburu's elephants and, impressive because of its immense sadness, the sound of an elephant's dying breaths reverberated throughout the whole huge hall.



This exhibition, showing ivory both as a wonderful material to carve and as something linked to suffering and extinction, was a revelation for many visitors. Importantly, it opened up renewed discussions around poaching, the ivory trade, and elephant conservation. Clearly, much remains to be done, and STE will continue to lead in these discussions, and will continue its many research projects that are informing decisions. For this we continue to rely as much on our friends, sponsors and donors as on our superb teams in Nairobi, Samburu and Voi.

FRITZ VOLLRATH
Chairman



Sarara in our research camp recovering from a spear wound to his stomach.
©Gilbert Sabinga

Sarara, a 31-year old bull elephant, is a favourite among everyone who works at our research camp in Samburu, northern Kenya. We've known him since he was a teenager, and he's a regular visitor to our home.

In October last year, Sarara was found by STE researcher, Davido Letitiya, with a spear blade sticking out of his stomach. Davido called the Kenya Wildlife Service North Kenya Veterinary Unit - sponsored by Grevy's Zebra Trust, Ewaso Lions & Save the Elephants. They were able to remove the spear and treat Sarara's injury before infection could set in.

The attack on Sarara was a shock. We know that human-elephant conflict is increasing in many parts of Africa at an alarming rate. But what we didn't expect was an elephant as well-known as Sarara to be attacked so close to home. Just days before he was speared, he had been wandering around our camp eating trees and swimming in the river.

Sarara was lucky. In Samburu-Laikipia, at least 70 elephants, and possibly many more, were killed in 2021 as a result of human-elephant conflict.

In response to these killings, a key part of our focus for 2022 and beyond is to ramp up our programme of fostering peaceful co-existence between elephants and people. Thanks to the generosity of donors, we've also been able to develop a toolbox of practical solutions from rapid response units to watch towers and mbati strip fences in HEC hotspots. The whole set of mitigation methods will be launched in September 2022.

Today, Sarara appears to have fully recovered from his ordeal and is back in our camp enjoying his favourite pastimes of eating trees and bathing in the river. We are grateful to all our donors and supporters across the world who sent get well messages to Sarara!

Status of Elephants

IVORY POACHING CONTINUES TO FALL

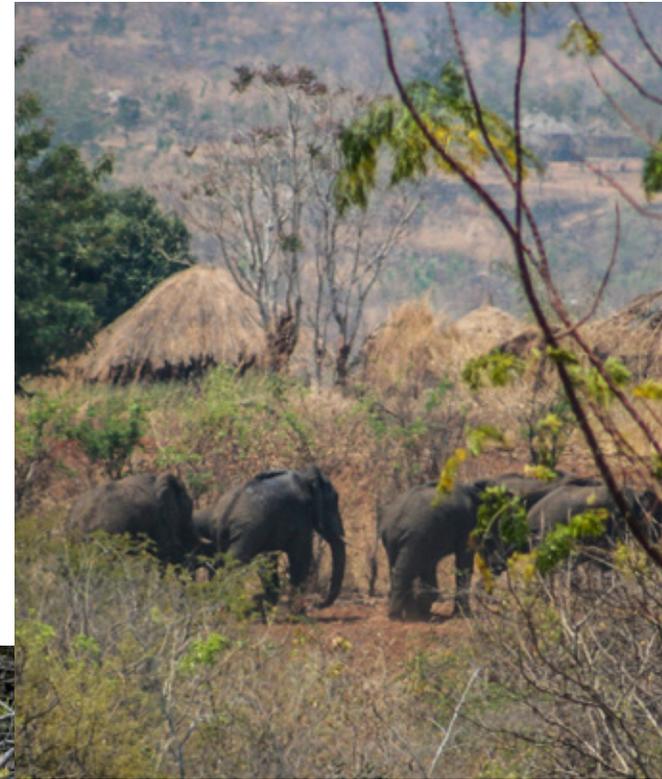
Coexistence and habitat loss present new challenges

Despite the continued negative impact of COVID-19 on tourism, which helps to support conservation, we are pleased to report that **the overall level of elephant poaching has continued to decline**. There have been local outbreaks of poaching, some for meat, rather than ivory. However, compared to the situation five to ten years ago, when elephant populations were in free fall, poaching is no longer the main threat to most elephant populations.



Elephant in Loango National Park, Gabon.
©Lee White/Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux

There was further good news, this time for the forest elephant, which is now recognised as a separate species from the savannah elephant. A new, more accurate, national survey in their main stronghold of Gabon gave an estimate of 95,000 elephants, compared to a range of 59-73,000 from 2016. While this apparent increase mostly resulted from improved counting methods, it shows that **Gabon's elephants survived the poaching onslaught better than had been feared**. The survey found more females than males, suggesting that the poachers had focused on bull elephants, allowing the all-important breeding females to survive.



(Left) Breeding herd walking back towards forest through Salima village. (Top right) Joint operation with Nigeria Customs Service led to four arrests, seizure of 839.4 kg of pangolin scales and 145 kg of elephant ivory in February 2022. (Bottom right) Damaged banana tree after elephant crop raid in a small village in Salima, Malawi. Photos: Lynn Clifford/Wildlife Action Group and Nigeria Customs Service.

The ban on ivory sales in China continues to hold, and we hope that the closure of the Hong Kong market, which occurred at the end of 2021, will reinforce this impact. Chinese law enforcement agencies have continued to crack down on ivory traffickers, and have mounted sophisticated investigations and court cases leading to significant convictions, often working closely with overseas partners. However, there are still worrying amounts of ivory on the move, particularly from Nigeria.

As poaching pressure eases, and elephants start to move back into their former range, they are encountering new problems. Roads, railways, legal and illegal mines, and farms have continued to push further into elephant habitat. **Conflict between farmers, herders and elephants appears to be increasing in many parts of Africa at an alarming rate.**

From across Africa, reports are coming in of increased conflict between people and elephants. This, along with habitat loss, is becoming the main threat to elephant populations. Farms, fences and waterpoints are damaged by elephants, and people and livestock are killed and injured by elephants. Elephants, in turn, become the victim of retaliation.

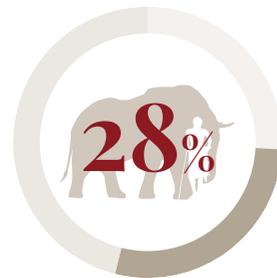
Thanks to the support of concerned donors around the world, Save the Elephants and the Elephant Crisis Fund are working to reduce this growing crisis for elephant conservation. STE is sharing innovative solutions to human-elephant conflict, allowing people and elephants to live together more harmoniously. A newly developed toolkit provides clear, graphical descriptions of possible approaches to reducing HEC. The ECF is now providing a significant proportion of its grants to promoting human-elephant coexistence. Alongside reducing conflict where it flares up, we are also supporting larger scale land use planning and management to minimize future problems.

Elephant Crisis Fund HIGHLIGHTS for 2021

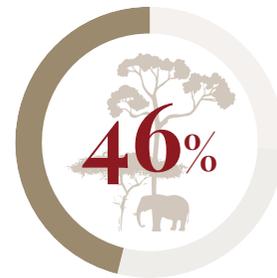
\$3.1 million granted in 2021, split as follows:



to combatting the ivory crisis



to rescuing and restoring elephant landscapes



to fostering human-elephant coexistence

50 new grants to **29** grantees in **24** countries

new countries in 2021
Equatorial Guinea
South Africa

overall figures up to 31st December 2021:

\$29.2 million granted to ECF partners since 2013

368 grants to **100** partners in **42** countries

Save the Elephants staff operate the Elephant Crisis Fund. The Wildlife Conservation Network administers the finances that feature on this page.

Downfall of a wildlife criminal

KINGPINS NOT ABOVE THE LAW

Arrest heralds major successes in countering wildlife trafficking



(Left) Yunhua Lin outside the court in Lilongwe, Malawi, September 2021. (Right) Chinese and Malawian members of Yunhua's trafficking network, sketched during court proceedings in Liwonde, Malawi. Photos: Malawi Police.

The kingpin of one of southern Africa's most prolific gangs was sentenced to 14 years' prison in Malawi in 2021, sending a clear message to high-level wildlife traffickers that they are not above the law.

The downfall of Yuhua Lin, together with 13 of his associates, 'the Lin-Zhang gang', is the result of years of hard work by law enforcement agencies, governments and NGO partners to bring down powerful and dangerous wildlife criminals and their gangs. Earlier in the year another high-level trafficker called Mansur Surur was extradited to the US in a dramatic win for governments, law enforcement agencies and NGO partners battling the ivory crisis.

These successes are major achievements in countering wildlife trafficking efforts and disrupting networks by removing central players. They send a loud signal to wildlife criminals that the exploitation of Africa's natural heritage and damage to its economy will not be tolerated. Lin's was also one of the first significant money laundering cases against a wildlife criminal to be prosecuted in Africa. This is an important development, as following financial trails has proven a powerful way to disable and deter wildlife traffickers and other criminals in other parts of the world.

Securing victories against criminals like Lin and Surur is the result of an extraordinary level of commitment and collaboration between multiple international and national partners. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Elephant Crisis Fund has been able to support many of these efforts from the outset and continues to invest in the dismantling of wildlife trafficking networks.

New research outpost

NEW EYES FOR ELEPHANTS

Demystifying the secret lives of Babala's elephants



Kabale Dadacha (left) and Muslima Indi (right) training in the field ahead of their deployment to STE's new research outpost in Babala. ©Giacomo D'Ammando

Meet Kabale Dadacha and Muslima Indi. These two women are on a mission for Save the Elephants (STE): to gain insight into the secret lives of the Babala elephants.

Located in Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy in northern Kenya, 70 miles downstream of STE's research centre in Samburu National Reserve, Babala is a remote, wild and fertile area on the Ewaso Nyiro river, and is home to a thriving Borana community.

Over the last few years elephants have been sending a strong message that Babala is an important area for them. Tracking data has revealed that elephants are now spending a lot of time there, as well as often stopping in Babala as a waypoint when traveling between the protected areas of Samburu National Reserve and Meru National Park.

To start building an understanding of these elephants and to help build awareness in the area, the PARC Foundation has supported STE to set up a new research outpost - the first of its kind - which will be staffed by Kabale and Muslima.

As part of their training, the Borana women will learn individual elephant recognition and techniques in ecological monitoring and recording of elephant populations. On a daily basis, they will collect data on the individuals sighted which will then be uploaded onto a digital database for analysis of population dynamics, social structure, dietary preferences, season dispersal and mortality from different causes including illegal killing.

The ability to recognise individuals is fundamental for understanding elephants, and also works to deepen empathy. Though STE has been working to build artificial intelligence systems to help with identification, to date they cannot compete with talented and trained humans. STE not only trains its own researchers, but also those from other conservation organisations, helping open doors into the rich world of elephants in other areas.

Tracking data as evidence

THE ELEPHANT IN THE COURTROOM

How an elephant named Jenga helped stop an avocado farm

Save the Elephants has collared hundreds of elephants over the past 29 years, but this year was the first time that the data from one of our tracking collars was used as key evidence in a legal challenge.

It's all thanks to the movements of Jenga - a bull elephant (aged around 40) who likes to travel between two important ecosystems: Amboseli National Park and Tsavo West National Park in Kenya. Why Jenga makes this 200 km journey remains a mystery but elephants are known to make such epic treks, usually in search of sustenance, safety and/or mates.

In 2019 we were surprised when his route took him through a newly defined and constructed wildlife corridor established by the Big Life Foundation, and partners. Part of the corridor includes the Kimana Crossing where animals are funnelled through a 250 ft-wide opening and over a tar road and through to safety in the Kimana Sanctuary. Jenga's journey was a textbook example of how the new corridor could help.

Unfortunately, when Jenga tried to repeat his journey in 2020 he found his path threatened by a 180 acre wide avocado farm which had been developed across the Kimana wildlife corridor. The farm was the focus of a legal battle and Jenga's movement data became a key piece of evidence, which led the court to halt the development. The farm is currently appealing this ruling, but we are hopeful they will be overruled due to the overwhelming evidence and importance of the corridor.

“Jenga’s tracking data played a crucial role in this court case and highlighted how vital corridors are for connectivity and genetic diversity. His data has helped to preserve the movement of wildlife from one important ecosystem into another.” - says Richard Bonham, co-founder and executive chairman of Big Life Foundation

Collared bull elephant, Jenga, is known for his epic 200km treks between Amboseli National Park and Tsavo West National Park. ©Tsavo Trust



Poaching Impacts

A TRAGIC CASCADE

Study reveals knock-on effect on wider elephant population



A bull elephant investigates the remains of a deceased elephant in Samburu National Reserve. ©Jane Wynyard

In our quest to deepen understanding of the species, Save the Elephants (STE) produced a wide range of research in 2021, from investigating how elephants react to seismic activity to exploring how protected areas and the human footprint have shaped elephant habitat.

One piece of research shone a spotlight on the terrible flip-side of the intensely social world that elephants inhabit. The study, conducted in collaboration with researchers from Colorado State University, revealed the cascade of impacts that poaching inflicts on elephant populations.

The direct impact of poaching on elephant populations is clear. When poachers kill elephants, those elephants are removed from a population and elephant numbers are reduced. However, elephants are social animals with complex societies. All elephants who have ties to a deceased elephant could be affected by their death, perhaps most of all the offspring of poached adult females who lose her care.

Using almost two decades of data collected in the Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves of Kenya, the team found that even elephants as old as 18 years of age were less likely to survive following the loss of their mothers. Those younger than eight were significantly more likely to die and, as we already knew, those orphaned under the age of two never make it in the wild.

The study also revealed the knock-on effect on the wider population: the premature loss of these orphans slows the population's growth. The loss of the mothers is compounded by increased mortality among the orphans they leave behind.

The study highlights the impacts of poaching on elephant behaviour and, in turn, on elephant demographics. It also helps us better understand the decline and recovery processes of elephant populations.

“The loss of a single elephant has impacts that reverberate through her family across generations.” - says George Wittemyer, a conservation biologist and Chairman of STE's Scientific Board, in response to the study

(To see STE's full list of published scientific papers for 2021, go to page 30)



Cleopatra's calf from the Royals beside her dead mother in Samburu National Reserve. Orphans younger than eight years old are significantly more likely to die following the loss of their mother. Calves under the age of two never survive in the wild. ©Gilbert Sabinga

Forging coexistence

CASUALTIES OF CONFLICT

Both people and elephants suffering in the competition for resources

Nancy Lomaka was only 13 years old when she was attacked by an elephant. She was walking to school, in Kipsing, Samburu, when she surprised the animal, who charged.

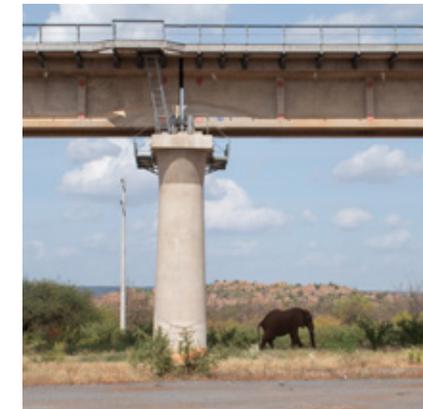
Rushed to hospital, Nancy underwent life-saving surgery for a perforated intestine and a crushed kidney. The kidney was so badly damaged that it had to be removed. **Thanks to the support of generous Save the Elephants' donors** we were able to cover Nancy's total hospital bills.

Nancy is one of the lucky ones. Although doctors claimed her case as one of the worst they'd seen, she is now on her way to recovery. Again thanks to the support of donors, we will be enrolling Nancy into a secure boarding school, once she's ready to continue her education.

Unfortunately, not all cases have a happy ending. As the human population increases in Kenya's arid north, **people and elephants are increasingly coming into conflict** over shrinking grazing and water. With urbanisation, traditional knowledge around how to avoid problems is fading. As a result the number of serious injuries - and deaths - is increasing.

Elephants are also suffering. As the threat of ivory poaching has receded, elephant mortality from conflict is rising to troubling levels.

Infrastructure development, changes to land use, and increasing human and livestock densities across elephant landscapes are multiplying, and in areas with more rain or access to water, agriculture leads to the most common cause of conflict between humans and elephants.



(Top left) Increasing livestock numbers within elephant landscapes is a major cause of conflict. ©David Letitya. (Bottom left) Elephant under SGR railway line. ©Josh Clay. (Top right) STE's Head of Human Elephant Coexistence, Dr Lucy King (left) and a community member at the opening of the coexistence hub in Kajire Village in Nov 2021. ©Courtesy of Lucy King. (Bottom right) STE's 'toolbox' of solutions to help mitigate human elephant conflict. ©Nicola Heath

Around Tsavo National Park, rural farmers not only face crop-raids but also elephants breaking into houses in search of grains or water. Elephants are becoming increasingly desperate for food as a result of livestock grazing inside protected areas, and clash with subsistence farmers whose crops are endangered by unpredictable rainfall.

Tolerance for elephants is often low in areas where people depend on the crops they grow. **To help foster coexistence and increase tolerance, STE is building a 'toolbox' of solutions** to help everyone, from farming communities in need of appropriate barriers, to pastoralists at risk from clashing with elephants whilst herding. Rapid Response Units have been responding quickly to community reports on human-elephant conflict by motorbike - listening to problems, supporting injured persons, and collecting data to build understanding of how the situation is evolving.

In Tsavo, our team is supporting farmers through innovative farm boundary defenses and a "One Health" approach to their shared landscapes. This includes choosing crops that elephants don't like to eat, such as sunflowers and chillies, as well as introducing alternative income streams through poultry farming, beekeeping, eco-enterprise activities and tackling family health issues. Solutions all come at a cost, and change is not easy, but if long term coexistence is to be restored we need to support communities as they learn new techniques to live with elephants in a changing, modernising world.



(Left) Nancy Lokamar (left) and her brother after being released from hospital. @Courtesy of Samburu Trust. (Right) One of the Rapid Response Units that has been responding quickly to community reports on human-elephant conflict by motorbike. @Jane Wynyard

Education

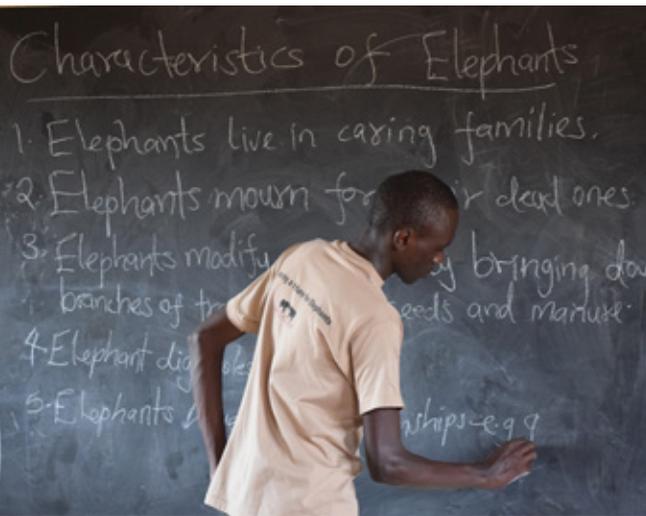
INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

Celebrating 20 years of the Elephant Scholarship Fund

The Elephant Scholarship footprint spans 40 primary schools and four counties across Kenya including Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit and Taita Taveta. The generosity of our donors, 150 and growing, has made the programme possible.

Some of the students to have gone far with the fund include STE's research officer, Benjamin Loloju, who is applying skills developed from his UK Master's degree to track elephant movement and understand their landscape. Alumnus, Zeituna Mustafa, is flexing her MSc in finance to develop microfinance for women in low-income areas, and former scholar Bernard Lesirin manages Elephant Watch Camp and acts as a three-way interpreter between international visitors, elephants and the Samburu people.

“The scholarship has truly been transformative and has opened so many doors and opportunities. It certainly gave me an opportunity to educate, participate and get more involved in what I love most which is conservation.” says Bernard Lesirin.



(Left) Elephant scholar, Saidimu Lesalunga, teaches students about elephants. ©George Mugera (Right) STE's David Daballen introduces students to the world of elephants during a field trip. ©Frank af Petersens

When the Elephant Scholarship programme began in 2001, little did we realise how effective it would become. Today more than 200 students have had their lives transformed from the scholarships, with many now working in wildlife conservation, education, medicine, finance, and engineering.

Oria Douglas-Hamilton was inspired to start the fund while setting up Elephant Watch Camp as a place for guests to meet Samburu's elephants and to see the work of Save the Elephants (STE). When the elders were asked what they needed most, they immediately requested education.

“The most rewarding thing is to see what education actually did for all the people who went through our programme. It's changed their lives and it's changed minds. It's been such a huge success.” says Oria Douglas-Hamilton.

The scholarships are designed to boost bright, needy students from communities that live alongside elephants. The team works closely with local primary schools to select the best students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. Most of the scholars are the first in their families to have gone to high school and university. Students are selected annually and enrolled into boarding schools across the country, where they can focus on their studies away from the challenges of home life. More than just tuition and school costs, the programme includes holiday tutoring, mentorship sessions and internship opportunities.



(Left) Former elephant scholar, Bernard Lesirin, who now manages Elephant Watch Camp in Samburu. ©Pete McBride. (Right) Elephant scholars pictured with STE's founder, Iain Douglas-Hamilton, at our research center in Samburu during Khan Academy tuition. ©Jane Wynyard

For communities in Samburu and Tsavo, education is allowing young people to thrive in a rapidly changing and modernising world. With your help we hope to continue inspiring more brilliant minds through the fund for the next 20 years, motivating them as future ambassadors, not just for elephants, but also their communities and natural heritage.

(Meet one of our wonderful donors on P29)

Discovery

ELEPHANT TWINS!

Rare sighting sparks global interest



Elephant Watch Camp (EWC) guide, Serenoi Letoiye, who first spotted the rare twins in January 2022. ©David Bebbler

When Elephant Watch Camp (EWC) guide, Serenoi Letoiye, pictured above, spotted two tiny elephant calves wobbling along behind their mother in Samburu National Reserve in January this year (2022), he immediately knew the babies were rare twins.

This wasn't an uneducated guess. Serenoy, alongside all the Samburu guides at EWC, have been expertly trained by Save the Elephants (STE) to recognise each of the 66 elephant families that are resident in Samburu, most of whom have recorded histories that date back to the foundation of STE's research camp in 1993.

Just by looking at the ear patterns or tusks of an elephant, the guides can spot who's who in Samburu's elephant society. This specialised training complements their own ancestral knowledge as nomadic pastoralists and makes them superb wildlife experts.

With STE located just downstream from the popular and unique luxury eco lodge, it's easy for the EWC guides to get regular updates on individual elephants and families. Serenoy's discovery of the twins, however, surprised even the STE researchers as it was the first time in over a decade that twins had been seen in the reserve.

The STE team immediately went to investigate and confirmed the calves were a male and female, and roughly one day old. News of the discovery soon spread like wildfire creating international headlines and highlighting Samburu as a key tourist destination.

Despite a serious drought and low chance of survival, Bora has managed so far to keep both her twins alive. The little family were spotted in March this year (2022) in a remote area outside the park.

Serenoy's discovery of the twins is just one example of the intimate wild encounters guests experience at EWC, thanks to the profound knowledge and passion of the guides.



Bora and her twins (male and female) at one day old. ©Jane Wynyard

NEWS



Rothko shortly after she was killed in northern Kenya. ©David Lochuragi

Elephants gunned down in the north

This heart-breaking photo above shows the carcass of a female elephant called Rothko, one of two elephants from our study population in Samburu, northern Kenya, who were gunned down last year. Rothko, from the Artists and Shafaa, an orphan who lost her mother to poachers when she was young, were both killed in separate incidents in the north as a result of human-elephant conflict (HEC). What's even more tragic is that the bullets not only killed the females, but also orphaned their calves. HEC is increasing at an alarming rate across Kenya and Africa. In Samburu-Laikipia, at least 70 elephants were killed in 2021 as a result of this conflict. STE is working on practical solutions to reduce conflict. It is, however, a complex and deeply distressing issue that will take time and effort to resolve.



The Toyota on display at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. ©Humboldt Forum

Toyota returns from Germany

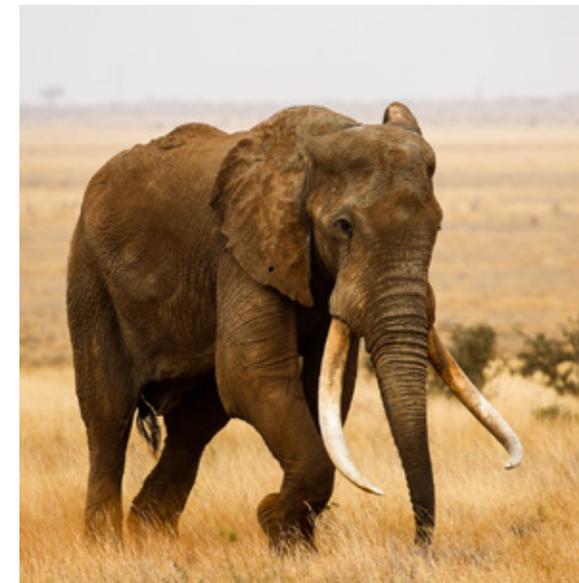
Our elephant-sculpted Toyota is making its way back to Kenya from Germany after starring in an exhibition at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. The research vehicle, attacked by a bull elephant called Rommel in northern Kenya in 2002, was part of a six-month long exhibition called *Terrible Beauty* that presented the interrelationship of elephant, human and ivory. Thousands of visitors viewed the exhibition, learning about elephant bulls like Rommel and how their future is threatened by poaching. Once the Toyota clears customs, it will return to its 'official' home at our research centre in Samburu.

Well done Hong Kong!

We salute you Hong Kong! After a four year rollout, the complete closure of one of the world's largest ivory markets, Hong Kong, took effect in December last year. The ban demonstrates the country's commitment to elephants and conservation as a whole and follows on from China's historic ban on ivory sales in 2018. Both the China and Hong Kong bans mean greater hope for elephants.



Confiscated ivory stockpile in Hong Kong. ©Alex Hofferod



Wide Satao in Tsavo National Park. ©Naiya Raja

The last of the super tuskers

We mourned the loss of a great giant in 2021 - one of Kenya's last super tuskers, Wide Satao. We collared Wide Satao in 2018 in collaboration with Tsavo Trust and Kenya Wildlife Service and continued to monitor his movements up until his death. In fact, it was a mobility alert from his collar that first alerted us that the great bull was in trouble. Wide Satao died of old age, his death most likely accelerated by the extended drought that has ravaged Tsavo. As sad as his death is, Wide Satao did live a full life and died naturally of old age rather than at the hands of poachers or as a result of conflict. His legacy also lives on in the Tusker genes that he passed on.

Forever part of our herd

We bade farewell to our Head of Fundraising, Gemma Francis, in October 2021. Gemma, who dedicated 12 years of her life to Save the Elephants, has swapped a life of pachyderms to focus on her own young family - son Finn and newly-arrived daughter, Sydney. Gemma's efforts over the years helped save countless elephant lives and her bubbly personality and dedication ensured she developed lifelong friendships with a number of STE donors.



Gemma Francis (left) pictured with STE's Founder, Iain Douglas-Hamilton. ©Jane Wynyard

Big celebration on the horizon



Iain Douglas-Hamilton in Samburu National Reserve. Iain has been studying elephants for close to 60 years. ©Lisa Hoffner

Our founder, Iain Douglas-Hamilton, hits a big milestone in August 2022 when he turns 80! Those who know Iain will find this hard to believe as he still has the stamina and energy of a man much younger than his age. When he's not knee deep in elephant research or studying the behaviour of orphans in Samburu, Iain is flying aeroplanes in remote northern Kenya or joining collaring expeditions to Uganda. In fact he's shown little sign of ever slowing down in his relentless lifelong quest to understand elephant society. Iain has a tremendous perspective on everything and everyone he encounters and we are forever grateful to him for his leadership, enthusiasm, humour, expertise and knowledge. Hongera Iain!



The ultralight Savannah aircraft that will be used in aerial patrols across northern Kenya. ©Karl Spangenberg

New plane to help elephants

Save the Elephants donors invested in a new, fuel-efficient, Savannah ultralight aircraft to assist with aerial patrols in northern Kenya. The two-seater plane will be flown by STE's aviation co-ordinator, Paul Koki, who was also supported by STE donors in 2017 to become a fully-trained pilot. The new aircraft consumes a third of the fuel used by the current STE Cessna planes, so is gentler on the environment. Daily aerial patrols are essential for monitoring elephants in remote areas, surveying wildlife and deterring illegal wildlife crime.

Proud to partner with Fahlo

Save the Elephants is proud to partner with Fahlo (previously known as Wildlife Collections) on its best-selling Expedition Bracelet! We were approached by founders, Carter Forbes and Daniel Gunter, with the idea of a bracelet that allowed their customers to track one of our study elephants. Each Expedition Bracelet comes with a postcard that includes your elephant's name, photo, history, and the ability to see where he or she travels throughout their African habitat. Fahlo donates 10% of profits from every Expedition Bracelet to Save the Elephants and donated over \$100,000 in the first year of the partnership!



Fahlo expedition bracelets in support of Save the Elephants. ©Jane Wynyard

Elephant Queen tour back on track

The Elephant Queen mobile cinema unit is back on track after a terrible crash on the Kenyan coast last year. The team's custom-built mobile cinema truck, affectionately known as 'Athena', was written off in an accident on the way to a school screening in November. Luckily no one was hurt but the team had to temporarily halt its eight-month long nationwide tour taking The Elephant Queen to remote communities across Kenya. Happily, the team were able to purchase a new truck and the tour is back on the road with over 100 screenings planned. It's hoped that the award-winning film will help forge empathy for elephants among the people who live with them.



The Elephant Queen screening in Lake Jipe. ©Lucy King

Why We Give

POSITIVE IMPACT ON STUDENT LIVES

Why Kris Norvig was inspired to support STE

I was first inspired to donate to Save the Elephant's (STE) Elephant Scholarship Fund after meeting Oria Douglas-Hamilton - the founder of the fund.

I think probably everyone who meets Oria is enchanted by her. She's one of a kind, a unique human being with a very loving and generous spirit that shines through her entire being. She has made it her life's work to help everyone she comes into contact with and has made a difference in probably hundreds and hundreds of people's lives.



I have sponsored six children in the programme so far. Two have recently graduated and my latest student, Saidimu Lesalunga, is in medical school in Nairobi. I met Saidimu about six years ago on a visit to STE in Samburu. I already knew from the staff that he was special, dedicated and hard-working. As the years have gone by, I have been so amazed at how brilliant a student he is.

Meeting graduates like Bernard Lesirin (who manages Elephant Watch camp) and others who have been

greatly impacted by being recipients of the fund, is so inspirational. I am honoured to be able to help. There's a phrase - "Talent is universal but opportunity is not universal", so I want to do what I can to change that paradigm for individuals that have crossed my path. I want to offer them an opportunity.

STE is not a big, top heavy organisation with lots of bureaucracy, paperwork, red tape, and rules and regulations. STE's education scholarship programme allows a little more latitude in communicating with the children, meeting them, actively participating in what's happening to them and possibly helping them even more than other programmes.

Kris Norvig, California

(To find out how the fund has impacted the lives of students over the past 20 years, go to page 21)

Photo above: Saidimu Lesalunga and Kris Norvig in Nairobi.
©Courtesy of Kris Norvig

2021 Scientific Publications

Bastille-Rousseau, G., Wittemyer, G. (2021) **CHARACTERIZING ANIMAL "MOVESCAPES" TO IDENTIFY CRITICAL HABITATS AND MOVEMENT CORRIDORS FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING.** *Conservation Biology* 35:346-349

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Murphy, D., Henley, M., Wittemyer, G., Mumby, H. (2021) **DETECTING COMMUNITY STRUCTURE IN WILD POPULATIONS: A SIMULATION STUDY BASED ON MALE ELEPHANT (LOXODONTA AFRICANA) DATA.** *Animal Behaviour* 174:127-148. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2021.02.008>

Okita-Ouma, B., Koskei, M., Tiller, L., Lala, F., King, L., Moller, R., Amin, R. and Douglas-Hamilton, I. **EFFECTIVENESS OF WILDLIFE UNDERPASSES AND CULVERTS IN CONNECTING ELEPHANT HABITATS: A CASE STUDY OF NEW RAILWAY THROUGH KENYA'S TSAVO NATIONAL PARKS (2021).** *Afr J Ecol.* <https://doi.org/10.1111/aje.12873>

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Wittemyer, G., Daballen, D., Douglas-Hamilton, I. **DIFFERENTIAL INFLUENCE OF HUMAN IMPACTS ON AGE-SPECIFIC DEMOGRAPHY UNDERPINS TRENDS IN AN AFRICAN ELEPHANT POPULATION (2021)**. Ecosphere 12(8):e03720. 10.1002/ecs2.3720 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.3720> August 2021

Finance

Statement of Revenue & Expenses

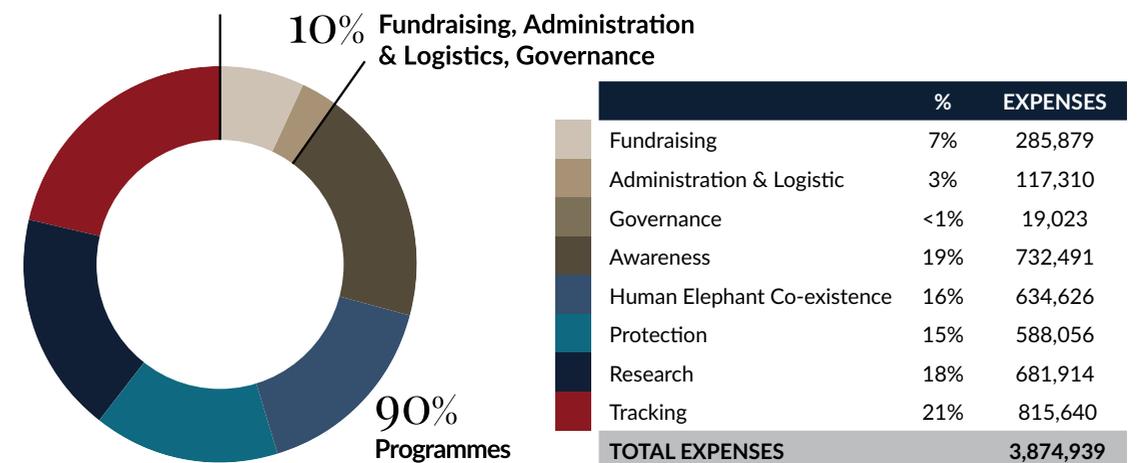
	UNAUDITED 2021	AUDITED 2020
REVENUE (US\$)		
Donations	4,961,786	4,219,785
Interest Earned	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	4,961,786	4,219,785
Cost of Generating Funds		
Fundraising	285,879	148,764
OTHER DIRECT CHARITABLE COSTS (US\$)		
Grant to STE Kenya	-	-
Administration & Logistics	117,310	156,136
Governance	19,023	37,836
Awareness	732,491	825,306
Human Elephant Coexistence	634,626	435,651
Protection	588,056	527,762
Research	681,914	613,458
Tracking	815,640	752,768
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,874,939	3,497,681
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	1,086,847	722,104

2020 accounts (audited) converted at a rate of £1 = \$1.33

2021 accounts (unaudited) converted at a rate of £1 = \$1.28

Unaudited figures for 2021 are presented here. Variations may result from the auditor's recommendations. At the end of 2021 STE held **\$2,453,000** in reserves, equivalent to 6 months of operating expenditure, as set by STE's board.

2021 Expenses





Thank you

Save the Elephants is deeply grateful to you all for contributing financially to our shared mission from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

We are thankful for every single gift, including those of you who chose to remain anonymous. Thank you for your dedication to securing a future for elephants.

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We thank the following companies that matched employees' gifts made to Save the Elephants. If you are a donor to Save the Elephants you can check with your employer as they may match your philanthropic gifts!

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LEGACIES LIVE ON

We acknowledge the supporters from whom we have received a gift in their will this year and express our appreciation to their family and friends for their thoughtful generosity. These gifts are an expression of their lifelong passion for elephants, and we are truly grateful for their visionary support.

Estate of Charlotte M Brezing
 Estate of Petra Christal Edwards

Estate of J Charles James
 Estate of Lilian Florence Rayner

Estate of Claire Leonora Ward

To find out how to include Save the Elephants in your bequest plans, please contact Pooja Dutt, Director, Major Gifts at pooja@savetheelephants.org

ADDITIONAL GRATITUDE

We would also like to thank the entire team at Elephant Watch Camp led by Saba and Oria Douglas-Hamilton, for their continued support of Save the Elephants.

Wildlife Conservation Network for their long-running partnership that supports our US administration and governance, and provides resources for our US fundraising efforts.

Thijs Bokkers for his invaluable pro bono support of our Salesforce system.

Leason Ellis and Milbank for pro bono legal support in the US.

The Animal Defense Partnership for pro bono advice in the US.

Deborah Mumford at Alaco for administrative support in the UK.

Last, but certainly not least, we thank all the generous volunteers who have donated many hours of their time and talent to Save the Elephants over the past year. We couldn't do this without you!



Elephants need you. Those born today could live more than 60 years but they face increasingly fierce competition for habitat and resources. Agriculture, infrastructure and other human impacts are expanding fast, threatening giant lives and creating conflict. Help us protect elephants and create peaceful coexistence between our species.

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This will guide us on which bank account to direct you to.

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Please continue to give elephants a voice and protect them for generations to come.



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