

# ELEPHANT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME





# Our Story

The Elephant Scholarship Programme is a primary branch of the Save The Elephants/Elephant Watch Safaris education program founded by Oria Douglas-Hamilton. We work closely with local primary schools in the Samburu Isiolo Conservation Area (SICA) to select intelligent students whose families are unable to afford school fees. Sponsoring these young people provides them with a rare and precious opportunity that will change their lives. Since its inception in 2001, the programme has benefitted over 150 students across Samburu, Isiolo and Marsabit counties.

The programme goes the extra mile to build both intellect and character. This booklet is a brief chronicle of the different stages of some of our past and present scholarship students. Their unfaltering hearts, a thirst for education, humble backgrounds and unique experiences have transformed them into budding heroes and heroines of Save the Elephants and the community they live in.





# Acknowledgement

A heartfelt gratitude to our founder Oria Douglas-Hamilton, all our education donors and to every single person that strives to see these bright and needy scholars through school, we cannot thank you enough.



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# Zeituna Mustafa

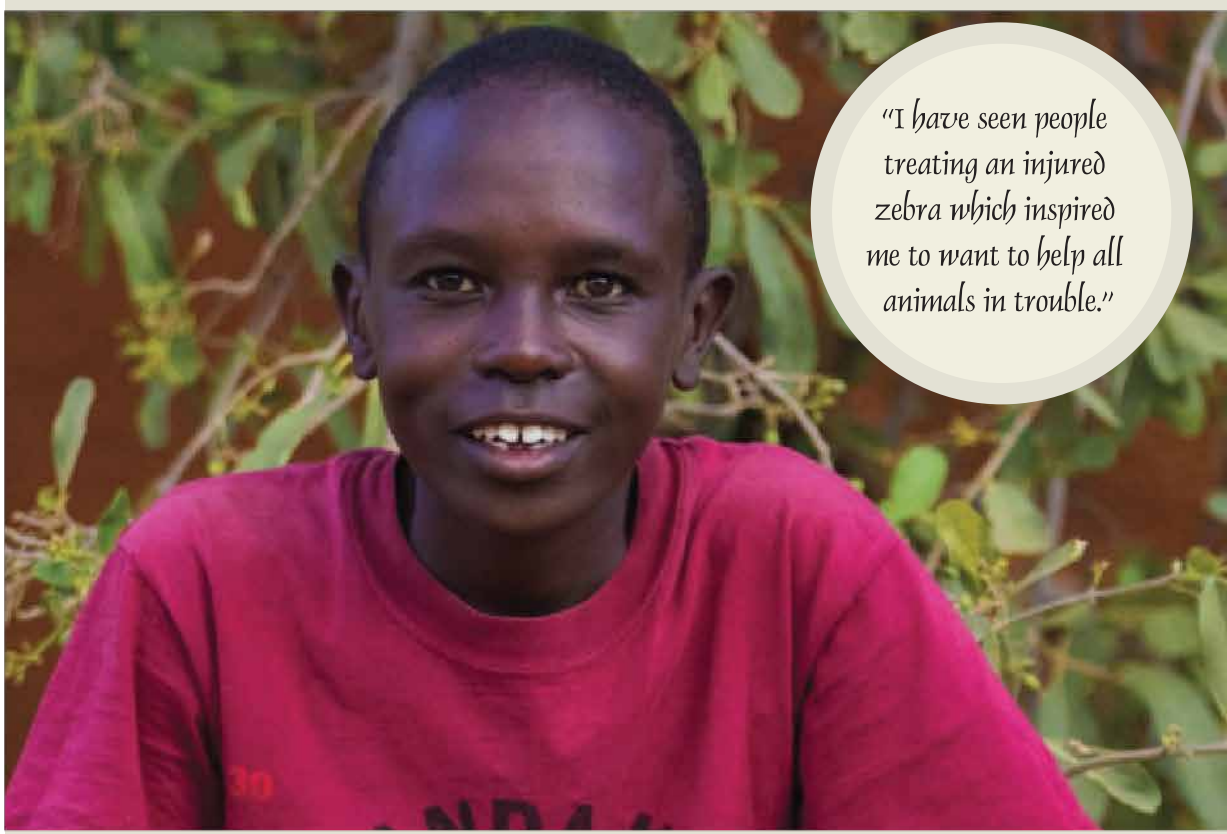


Zeituna is a young lady of Borana origin from Isiolo County. An orphan, living and taking care of her aging grandmother, she's been an elephant scholar since high school. She studied at St. Kizito primary school in Isiolo town and having completed her KCPE in 2005 where she obtained 399 marks out of 500, Zeituna went to the Kenya High School in Nairobi and later joined university. After graduating with honours from her Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Nairobi, she began working for a microfinance firm that focuses on grassroots and community empowerment. Her desire to empower girls like herself as they journey through poverty and discrimination has set her focus on one day starting a mentorship program. Zeituna, who has been in close contact with the programme, received wonderful news from her sponsor to advance her studies. We are happy to report that she has secured admission in a top business university where she is pursuing a Master of Science in Development Finance. We couldn't be more proud!





# Saidimu Lesalunga



Saidimu resides in a remote town located in harsh conditions with little access to basic amenities. He is currently in his third year at Maranda High School; one of the top national schools in the country. One would think this slight boy would be daunted by the challenges of huge high schools with humongous class differences. Not Saidimu. His academic performance continues to be a true reflection of the thirst for education and an unrelenting heart. Term after term, Saidimu has topped his class, coming second out of 644 students. He dreams big for the precious wildlife that roam his home area, Oldonyiro: he wants to become a veterinary doctor.





# Susan Nempiris Lolmodoni



Susan Nempiris is a soft-spoken girl, the first of her seven siblings to complete primary school. With the help of Save the Elephants, Susan joined Bahati Girls' High School, a national school in Nakuru where she sat her final exams and obtained a mean grade of C (+) plus. After completing secondary school, she enrolled at Tunapanda Institute in 2014; a technology based non-profit organization in Kibera, Nairobi that is dedicated towards imparting technology and business skills amongst youth.

Susan did a six months short course where she showed such excellent videography and photography skills that she earned herself a 6-month paid internship as a trainer at the same institution. This self-driven scholar continues to seek avenues for professional and personal growth. Her vision resonated with our very generous donors who have since seen her enroll at the University of Nairobi to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations.







# Benjamin Loloju



*"It has been an amazing story, and all this is because of elephants!"*

Benjamin Loloju is a determined young man from the leeward side of Laikipia; Oldonyiro, an important elephant corridor connecting elephants between Samburu and Laikipia ecosystems. He went to Oldonyiro primary school, sat his final exams to score an impressive 400 out of 500 marks.


Benjamin graduated from Lenana School to rank among the country's top 100 students out of a possible 400,000 students in 2009. This, in spite of the fact that he comes from a poor background, was the first of his eight siblings to finish primary school and has lost both father and mother along the way.

All grown up and having finished his degree in Geospatial Engineering with a first class, Benjamin now works with STE as a research assistant helping track the very elephants that brought him this far.





# Rose Lempate



*"My dream was always to go to secondary school without struggling... Save the Elephants has helped me see that dream come true."*

Rose Lempate is from Wamba area in Samburu. Tragically, bandits killed her father in 1997 leaving her mother to fend for a large family of nine. Rose went to Wamba CCM primary school, and was fortunate to join Limuru Girls' High School as an Elephant Scholar. With her love for the environment, she joined Kenyatta University where she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Education in 2015.

During one of our interviews, a very teary and happy Rose recalls, "My dream was always to go to secondary school without struggling... Save the Elephants has helped me see that dream come true."

Filled with a passion to give back to the community, Rose is currently serving as a supervisor in the National Youth Service environmental conservation project where she is helping her peers give back to the community for the good and development of Kenya.







# Philip Lekalaile Kamari



Philip comes from a polygamous family of eight children, five being children of his mother while three are his stepmother's. Like many of our Elephant scholars, he is the first in his large family to have ever gone to secondary school. In many instances, young boys are tempted to drop out of school to join their peers who are regarded as morans; young warriors in the community known for their great courage. Philip's determination and courage has not been displayed in dangerous and illegal cattle rustling, but in his fervor to complete high school against all the odds. Philip proudly sat his final exams in 2015. His deep devotion to the landscapes he lives has helped him secure admission at Laikipia University College where he is pursuing a degree in Education with special focus in Geography.





# Mercy Jamweli Letoo



*"Am happy with my new job, it's an amazing opportunity for me to work with my community."*

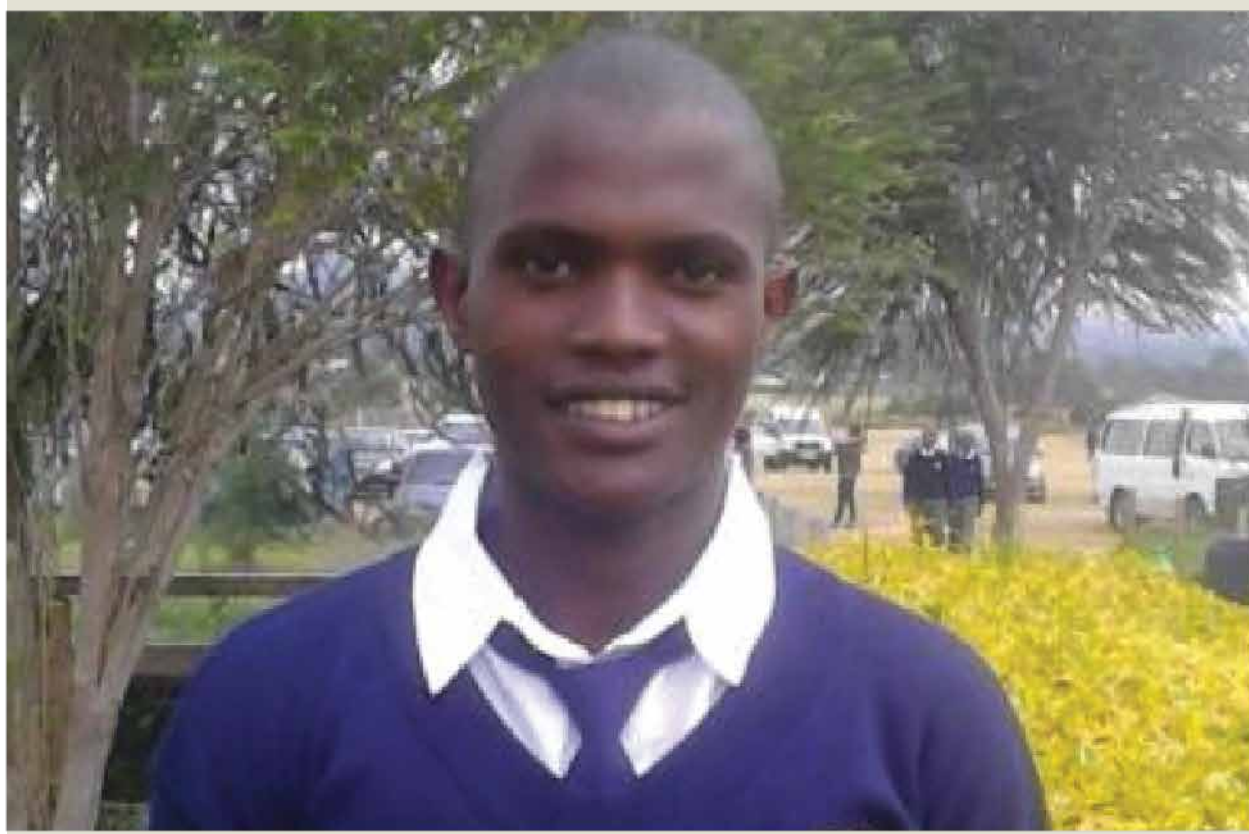
Mercy is a young Samburu lady from Archer's Post in Samburu. She attended Girgir primary school in her hometown then went to Gikumene Girls' high school in Meru. Mercy's journey through the scholarship programme has been dotted with the passion to achieve, do and be more. Her unfaltering spirit coupled with the zeal to try something new landed her at the Confucius Institute, University of Nairobi where she completed her course in Mandarin. Mercy is the first ever Samburu student and female scholar to study Mandarin with a view to build bridges between Africa and China for conservation. Having done hospitality training at Elephant Watch camp, she's also done tour guiding, to give her an entry to talk to the growing numbers of Chinese visitors entering the country.

Early this year, Mercy secured a job working for The Samburu Project as the assisting manager Samburu office. As she enables her community gain access to clean water, Mercy is also helping communicate her (Samburu) culture as the company's blogger.





# Moses Lentirangoi



Moses Lentirangoi is a determined young man from Koiya village; Oldonyiro. He sat his final exams at Oldonyiro primary school in 2015 and attained 355 marks out of 500. He is the second born in a family of seven. Moses lives with his mother, a small-scale green grocer at the local shopping center. His father had two wives but each have to fend for their family. Moses has little knowledge of his mentally disadvantaged father who has since separated from the family. Moses' determination continues to shine at the prestigious National school: Utumishi Boys' Academy in Nakuru where he ranks among the top 10 in his class. This, he believes, is the initial step towards achieving his dream of becoming a veterinary doctor.





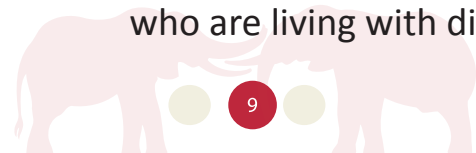


# Newton Mwita



Newton's is a story of hope and perseverance. Born in Mitunguu area of Meru County, he is the last born in a family of two children. Newton suffered a condition that rendered him immobile as an infant. For most of his childhood, Newton could neither sit nor stand without support. His single mother took him to several hospitals seeking treatment with no success. A break-through came when Newton was admitted to a home for children living with disability. Three years later, the home let Newton go due to lack of funds. With a bit of physiotherapy, Newton managed to sit, and with further support from the Alakara Center for Children with Physical with Disabilities (PWDs), he had two surgeries done and he can now walk (though with a bit of difficulty) and sit upright.

Save the Elephants/Elephant Watch Safaris identified Newton, after emerging as the top student in his school in Ngaremara. He continues to excel in his studies at Kanyakine Boys' High School, where he is enrolled, and ranking in the first 20% of his class of about 200 bright students. His determination and hard work is what drives him, and he says that the disability cannot deter him from achieving his goals. His drive goes beyond the 'disability' and the Elephant Scholarship Program continues to support him to achieve even greater things in life. In the future, Newton aspires to teach in an institution of higher learning, and to raise others who are living with disabilities, like himself.





# Rosemary Lengunai



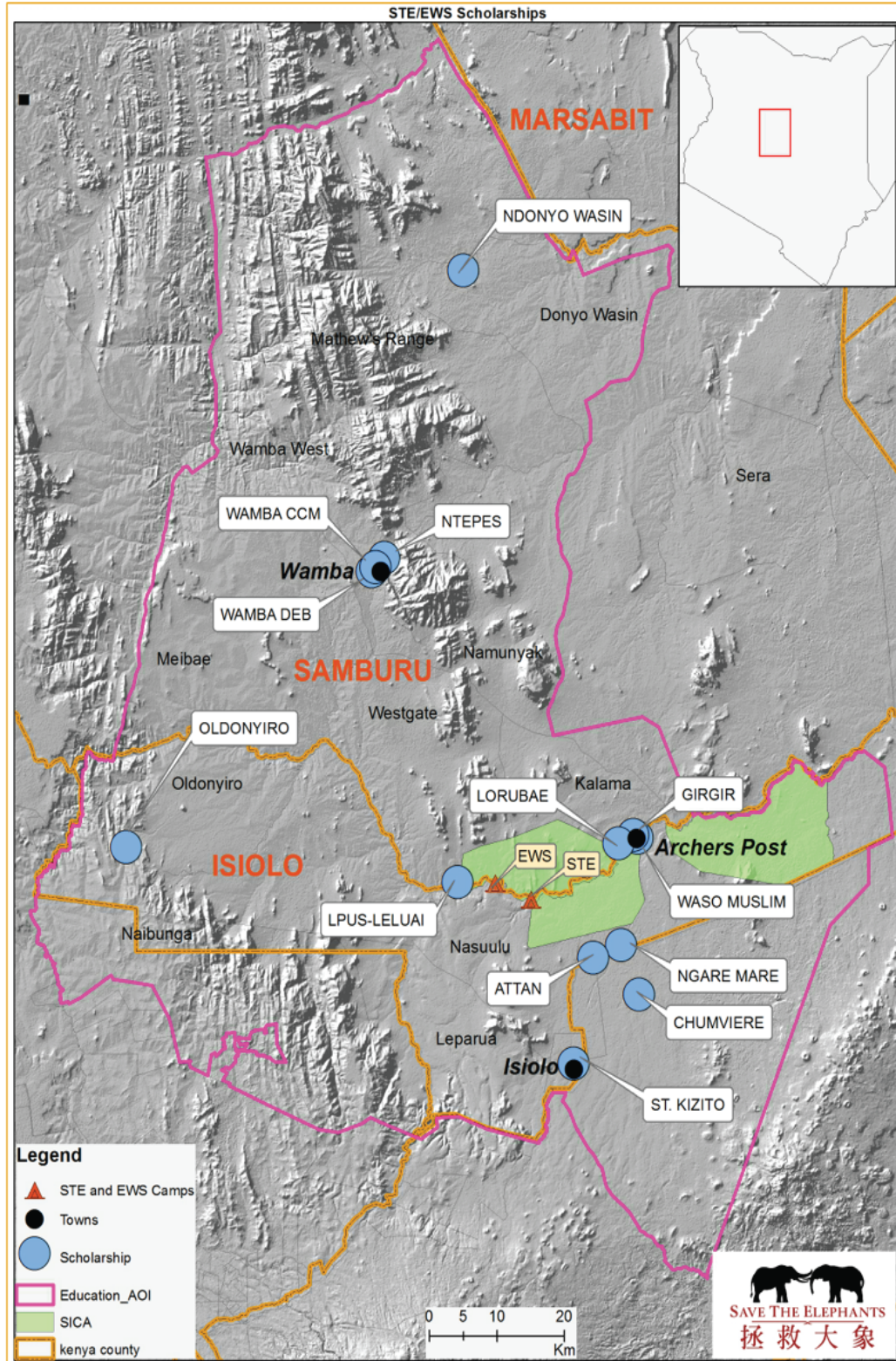
Rosemary was one of Save the Elephant's first scholars, and has now risen to take on an extremely male dominated world. Although handy in the kitchen and in camp, Rosie is the first female tour guide in Samburu National Reserve! After graduating from Koiyaki Guiding School, Rosemary joined Elephant Watch Camp in Samburu. The Elephant Scholarship Program took her on in 2014, and under a US Embassy Program, she went on a one-year tour-guiding scholarship and sheer adventure in the United States. Rosemary's journey has been both a unique and exciting experience, and as one of Samburu's best trained elite guides, Rosemary wants to empower more women like herself.







# Elephant Scholarship Footprint







# Donation Information

A donation of \$6,000 will fund a child for 4 years of secondary school education, paying for tuition fees, books, uniforms, transportation, food, allowances etc.

## CHEQUE DONATIONS

**UK/INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS can be channeled to:**

### **Cheque Donations:**

Please mail cheques payable to Save the Elephants,  
c/o Bircham Dyson Bell LLP, 50 Broadway, London SW1H 0BL. UK Reg.  
Charity No: 1118804, HMRC No: XT11693.  
Please include your address for the mailing of tax information.

**US DONATIONS can be channeled to:**

### **Cheque Donations:**

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

To learn more about ESP, scan the Quick Response code  
with your phone camera if it has an inbuilt scanner or  
download a free QR scanner from an App store





Save the Elephants

Marula Manor, Marula Lane, Karen

P.O. Box 54667-00200 Nairobi, Kenya Phone: +254 (0) 720 441 178

Email: [info@savetheelephants.org](mailto:info@savetheelephants.org) Website: [www.savetheelephants.org](http://www.savetheelephants.org)