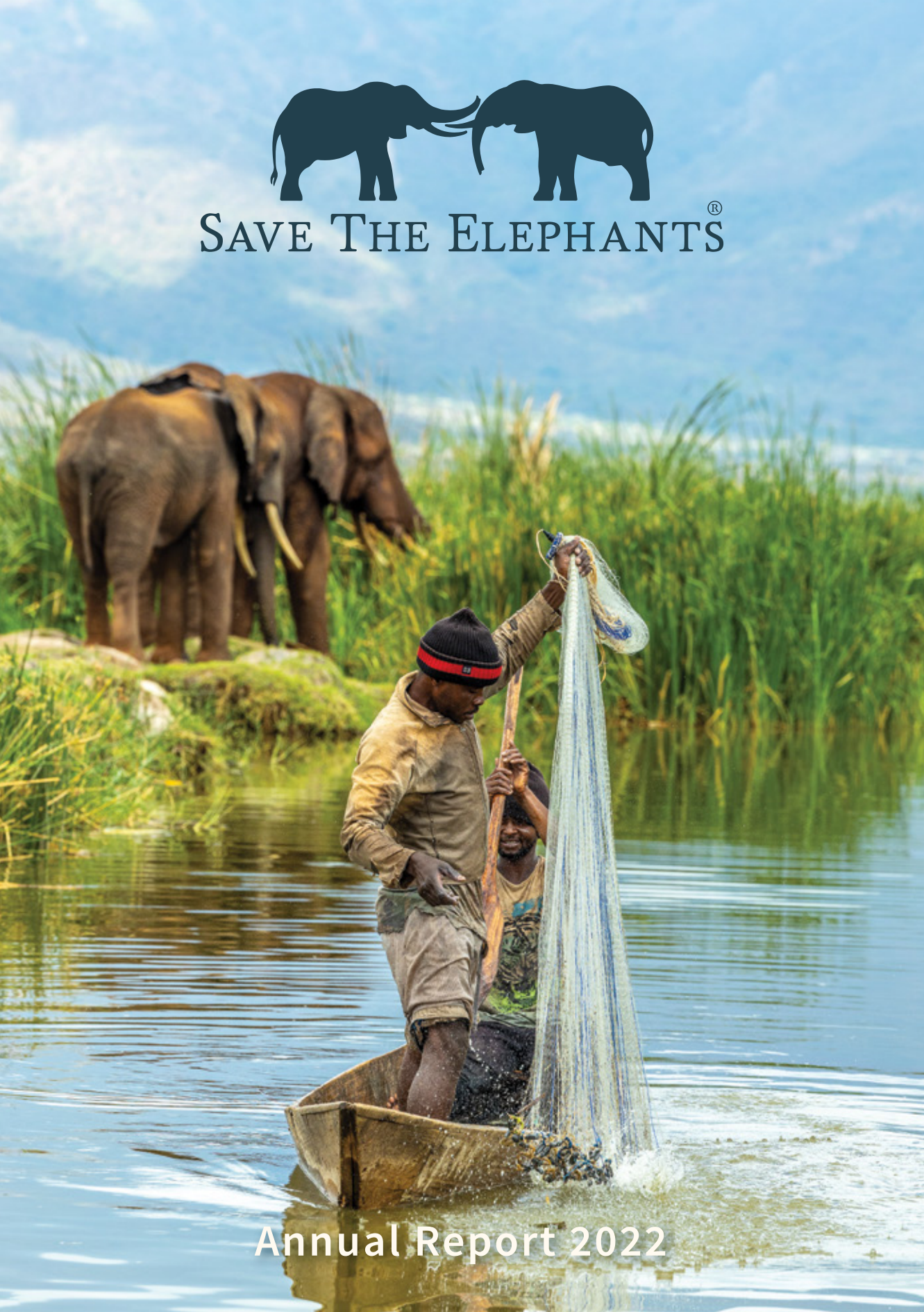
Save The Elephants®



Annual Report 2022

Cover photo: Fishermen and elephants share resources side by side at Lake Jipe, Kenya. ©Anthony Ochieng
This page: Elephants in Samburu. ©Robbie Labanowski

Founder & CEO's Letter

The cover of our 2022 Annual Report speaks volumes about the challenges – and the opportunities – for harmonious coexistence between elephants and humanity.

There is a slow ratcheting up of pressure on elephants as the human footprint on Africa continues to broaden and deepen. The human population is rising rapidly across the elephant range, and landscapes are changing as agriculture expands and transport connections erect barriers to wildlife movements. Droughts and floods are set to intensify as the climate changes.

The situation on our doorstep in Samburu reflects this. In north Kenya's recent drought, we lost many of the elephant elders who were most important to their families, and to our researchers. As water and grassland disappeared, herders and elephants were concentrated into ever smaller areas, leading to an escalation in conflict between them. Yaeger and Sarara, two bull elephants who had been symbols of peaceful coexistence, instead became monuments to senseless killing.

To have any hope of making a difference for elephants at the scale that is needed, we have to develop, consolidate and test our scientific understanding of how elephants behave and how to prevent conflict with people. We need to share this awareness, and we need to encourage and support its uptake by the wide network of excellent field organisations that exists across the continent.

The Human-Elephant Coexistence Toolbox collects tried and tested techniques from across the continent. It was launched last year at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), where it was presented to 28 different ministers and national delegations. This coming year we build our training programme to get these methods into the hands of the people that live alongside elephants.

As we celebrate our 30th anniversary this year, we want to acknowledge the generous support of our donors, wildlife departments and field partners, who make our work possible.

IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON
FOUNDER

FRANK POPE
CEO

Our impact over 30 years

20,000+
children engaged in STE's educational activities in northern Kenya

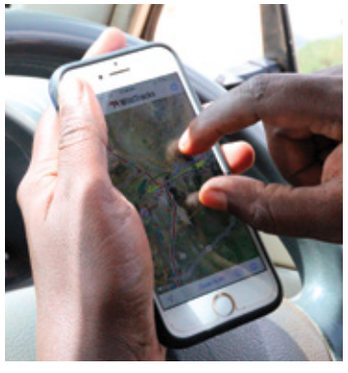
359
Student scholarships awarded

27
schools supported by STE in northern Kenya in past 30 years

300+
elephants tracked by STE over past three decades

220+
peer-reviewed papers published in scientific journals

13
countries where STE WildTracks is being used to track elephants



9
wildlife and livestock corridors identified in northern Kenya by STE tracking data

90 sites in **23** countries adopted STE's beehive fences

11,920+
STE elephant deterrent beehives deployed worldwide

10
years since Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) was founded

$32.2 million
committed by the ECF

$31.7 million
disbursed

The ECF has supported
106 organisations
423 projects funded in
44 countries

New STE research could help forecast critical conflict hotspots as well as manage ‘troublesome’ elephants.

Read more on p.17

STE researchers in Sagalla, Kenya measure footprints to determine the age of elephants.
©Kat Finch

About Save the Elephants

Founded by zoologist Iain Douglas-Hamilton in 1993, Save the Elephants (STE) conducts pioneering research into the ecology and behaviour of elephants and works to secure them a future on a fast-changing continent.

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

STE partners with world-leading institutions to develop new technology to understand and protect elephants. Cutting-edge tracking systems help scientists and protected area managers across the continent defend elephants and their ecosystems, and plan for their future. Work on specialised camera systems combined with artificial intelligence, meanwhile, promises to revolutionise fundamental wildlife population monitoring.

Save the Elephants works to incorporate elephant needs into landscape planning to maintain protected areas and ecosystem connectivity, a critical concern in an increasingly populated and developed Africa. STE pursues evidence-based conservation with grass-roots community engagement, and builds 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.

To create impact at a continental scale, Save the Elephants runs the Elephant Crisis Fund in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Network, providing flexible and responsive support to an alliance of organisations combating the ivory trade, promoting human-elephant coexistence, and protecting elephant landscapes.

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*
Pat Awori
Ambrose Carey
Michael Davitz
Julie Hull
Marlene McCay

Staff from STE's Human-Elephant Coexistence team tend to beehive fences in Tsavo.
©Meha Kumar

Chairman's Letter

2022 was a year when things finally got back to 'normal' at STE after the enforced hiatus of 2020/21.

In Kenya, national elections were largely peaceful. Our own work, and also our collaborations, were back in full swing, as attested by the many exciting projects featured in this report.

However one looks at the existence of any threatened species, it quickly becomes apparent that fundamental research into its behaviour, ecology and health will be the key to managing any conservation.

In this spirit it has always been STE's philosophy that solid data are key to any well-informed discussion around the future of elephants. Irrespective of how much we have achieved, not least a long list of scientific publications and articles (including the gold-standard 'Coexistence Toolbox' manual), there is still so much more to be done before we can honestly say that we have secured a future for elephants, even in our Samburu heartlands.

There are still so many open questions, especially around issues pushing ever more prominently into all our lives that are typically labelled as 'sustainablity'. African elephants inhabit the last vestiges of the world's ancient natural landscapes, and there is hope that these ancestral ecosystems can be preserved - for the benefit of both wildlife and for humans. But with Climate Change these systems will change, perhaps drastically.

Elephants are Nature's gardeners, keystone animal 'engineers' that shape most habitats that they inhabit in significant numbers. This has implications for ecosystem carbon and biodiversity, and research into the complex role of elephants is both a challenge and an opportunity. Along the way, we will learn ever more about these magnificent creatures, which in many ways so resemble us humans.

FRITZ VOLLRATH
CHAIRMAN

Losing the Matriarchs

How drought and human activity impacts elephant lives

Monsoon (rear) with her family in Samburu National Reserve.
©Jane Wynyard

When great elephant herds started returning to Samburu National Reserve last year following a short burst of rain, the mass arrival brought a mixed bag of emotions. While we were excited to see new calves with the families, we were saddened by the number of older females missing - presumably casualties of the drought.

Many of the missing older females once played an integral role in elephant society, sharing their knowledge and wisdom with the rest of the family, so their loss was deeply felt. Just before the rain, the drought had also claimed the life of the extraordinary matriarch of the Storms family, Monsoon, who was in her sixties.

For the past 25 years, Save the Elephants has been collecting data in Samburu on climate, the human footprint and elephant mortality. This data provides us with crucial insight into how drought, human-elephant conflict and poaching impacts elephant society. We use this data to help secure a future for elephants and promote harmonious coexistence with humans.

During the severe 2009 drought, the Samburu population suffered similar losses, at that time exacerbated by poaching. Data collected over 14 years was analysed to show just how extreme the impact of climate and human activity had been on elephant families. The study*, published in 2013 on 934 African elephants in Samburu, revealed a fluctuation in annual mortality between 1 and 14%. While at least half of this mortality was thought to be due to illegal killing, the rest was due to the drought.

As northern Kenya continues to grapple with drought and overgrazing, the next challenge for elephant families like the Storms is how they will cope with the loss of their matriarchs. Using our data, we are working with our partners, local communities and government to address the long-term problems that drought and overgrazing will bring to wildlife and communities alike.

Comparative Demography of an At-Risk African Elephant Population. PLOS One. (Wittemyer.G., Daballen.D., Douglas-Hamilton.I. 2013)

Status of Africa's Elephants

Some rays of light for beleaguered elephants

Elephants currently suffer only low levels of poaching across Africa, but conflict between humans and elephants is rapidly increasing.

A series of arrests and convictions of major traffickers last year, most part-funded by our Elephant Crisis Fund, has made criminal networks more cautious about dealing in ivory. Coupled with low demand for ivory in China, poaching is less of a threat, which is good news for elephants.

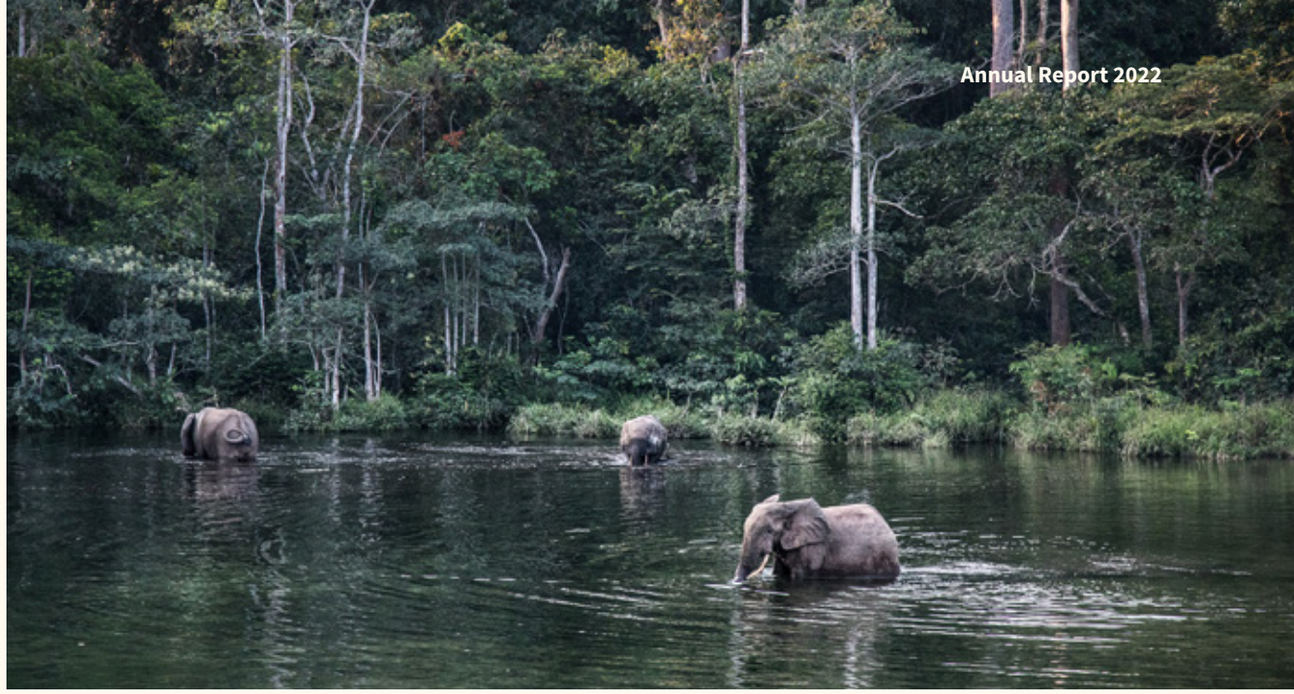
As a result of the ongoing low-level poaching, ivory traders are still offering small numbers of tusks for sale, but it is difficult to find buyers and they are often caught by undercover law enforcement officers. Some larger shipments of ivory have been intercepted, but it is thought most are from old stockpiles rather than freshly killed elephants.

Small amounts of ivory are still getting to China in the post and through courier services, and there is a concern that more may be imported as Chinese tourism to neighbouring countries resumes. Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam remain on the watch list. A large seizure of elephant tusks in Vietnam this year has raised concerns that wildlife trafficking may rebound as trade routes reopen following the pandemic. Our partners are closely monitoring the availability and sales of ivory.

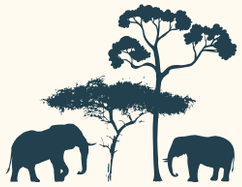
Carved ivory items seized at Shenzhen Baoan International Airport, Guangdong Province, China.
©China Customs

In sharp contrast to this encouraging news about poaching is an increasing flow of reports about human-elephant conflict. As elephant numbers recover and their confidence returns, they are coming into conflict with rising human populations. Clashes over resources and habitat are building political pressure against elephants.

With elephants so widely dispersed in often remote and challenging environments, especially in forests, it can be difficult to obtain a coherent view of their status.



Forest elephants in the Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Congo.
© Scott Ramsay



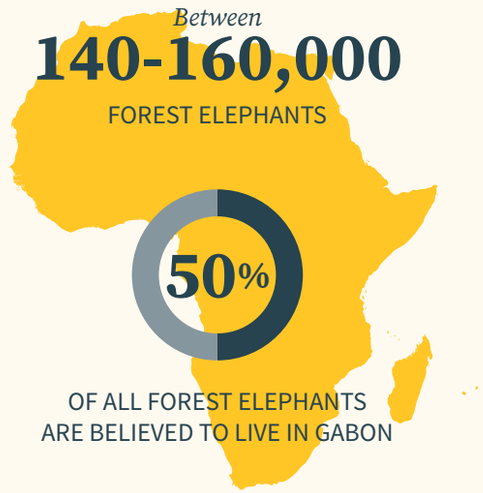
In the next status report, conducted by the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group, African elephants will be split into forest and savannah in line with the recent recognition of the two species.

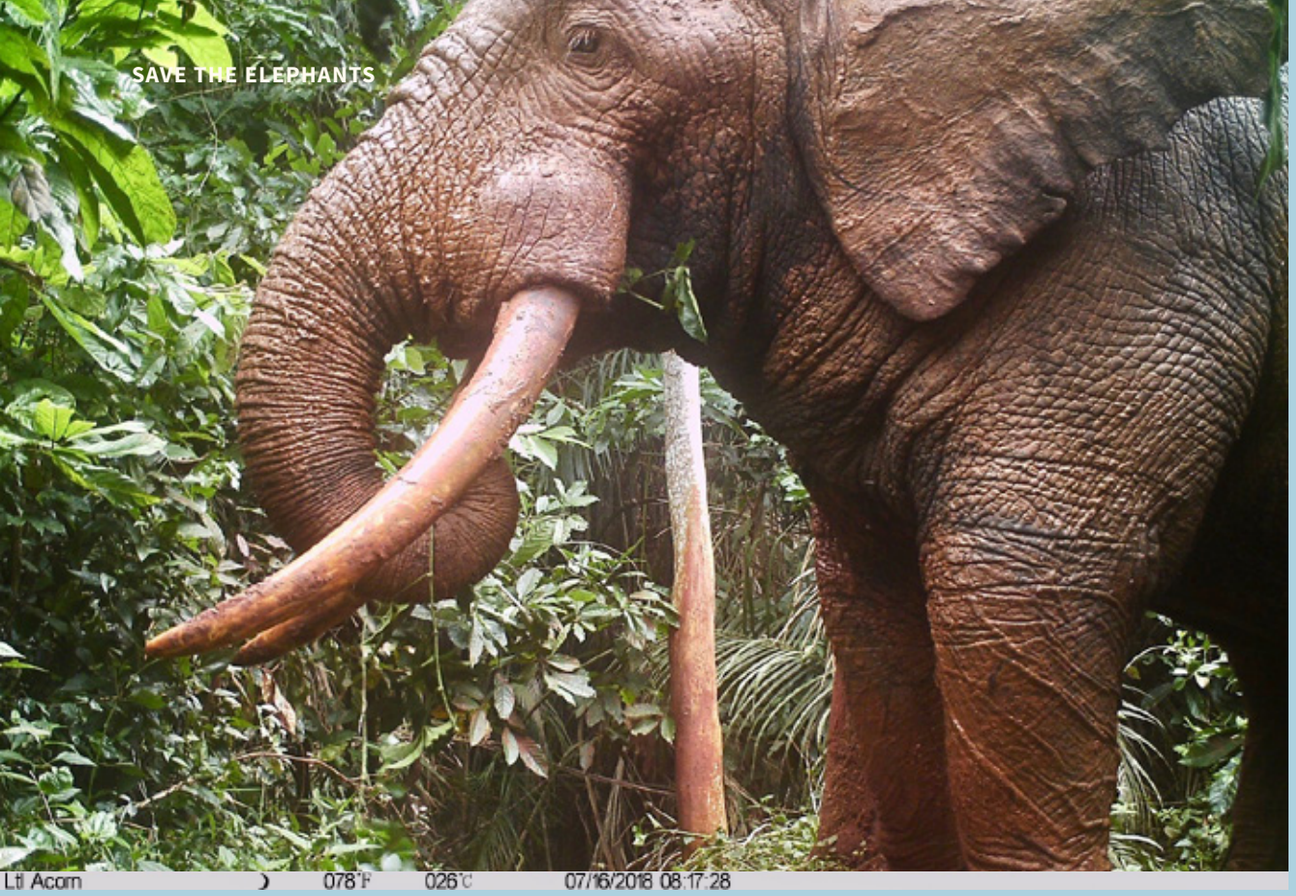
The main work on forest elephants was completed in 2022 and preliminary results presented at the CITES meeting in Panama in November.

Results from surveys and informed guesses indicate there are between 140-160,000 forest elephants. This is about 20,000 more than the 2016 estimate, but is the result of a more accurate national-level survey in Gabon making use of genomic analysis from dung piles. Since over 50% of all forest elephants are believed to live in Gabon, the revision has a big impact on the total population count.

While it is not possible to draw an exact comparison of numbers across the forest elephant range, it seems that numbers have not declined significantly since 2016. For most sites counted more than once, numbers have been stable or increasing. However, it is likely that elephants have been lost in the remote areas that have not been surveyed, making the situation look better than it really is.

The savannah elephant update is awaiting the results of the KAZA ecosystem survey which spans Namibia, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. This area includes more than half of all savannah elephants, so the results are critical. The 2022 survey included the first large scale trial of a method pioneered by STE, using high resolution cameras combined with machine learning.





A camera trap image of one of Côte d'Ivoire's few remaining elephants.
©Ivorien Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR)

Protecting the Ghosts

The struggle for Africa's disappearing elephants

Across Africa, our network of Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) partners is putting in place measures for harmonious coexistence which will help all elephants, from major populations to smaller herds. Habitat loss and fragmentation are fuelling conflict in many parts of the continent. The need to protect vulnerable elephants is now more urgent than ever.

However, finding solutions to protect Africa's 'ghost elephants' - the tiny, isolated groups that move in secret between small patches of habitat - is not so straightforward. Ghost elephant populations are disappearing at a distressing rate, particularly in west Africa. Individual elephants are being lost one by one to old age or conflict with people.

1

SOLITARY BULL LEFT IN SENEGAL

Ghost elephants tend to be refugees in their own homelands, in groups too small to allow long-term survival. Usually the last remaining elephants are wily old bulls, able to conceal themselves effectively, but with no chance of finding a mate.

One lone bull elephant in Senegal still has plenty of habitat but no access to females. We suspect solitary old males like this bull have learnt to hide themselves after their family groups have been lost.

10-15

GHOST ELEPHANTS ARE BEING TRACKED IN GUINEA-BISSAU

The true 'ghosts' are forest elephants, often living in savannah habitat in west Africa in tiny groups. They are masters at making themselves invisible.

In Guinea-Bissau, for example, the ECF supports a Portuguese team from the Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (CIBIO) trying to track down a group of 10-15 ghost elephants with DNA, camera traps and signs of their passing. They have managed to take a few photos but not confirmed the presence of any family groups.

Perhaps the saddest case of all is the southernmost population of around 50 forest elephants in Angola, just inland from Luanda, that have found refuge in a military training area. However, when they leave, they are killed by poachers, harassed by villagers, and hit by lorries on the roads.

Sadly, there is no easy fix for ghost elephants. Darting and moving elephants to a secure location has been tried, in Côte d'Ivoire for example, but capturing them is very difficult and there is no guarantee that they will remain wherever they are relocated. The best chance may be for governments to establish and secure large enough protected areas in the hope these wandering elephants will find them, feel safe enough to settle and perhaps breed.

Rare 'ghost' elephant caught on a camera trap in Guinea-Bissau.
©Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (CIBIO)

The team from Save the Elephants and Wyss Academy for Nature with the Kalama Board.
©Ben Okita

Connecting landscapes

Communities agree to protect wildlife corridors

A partnership between Save the Elephants (STE) and the Wyss Academy for Nature has achieved another goal towards ensuring land connectivity in the north by gaining public support for a key wildlife and livestock corridor.

Following five public meetings, hosted by STE and Wyss, and after months of negotiation, communities from three major conservancies (Westgate, Kalama and Namunyak) have agreed to support the protection of the Oldonyiro/Kipsing corridor - a critical lifeline for elephants in northern Kenya.

As a result, the Oldonyiro/Kipsing corridor is now marked with pillars to identify it as a key passageway for wildlife and will be patrolled by teams of local women, named the Mama Tembos (Elephant Mothers). Their job is to alert local authorities to the construction of illegal bomas and settlements that could potentially block wildlife and livestock movements.

STE used
20+
YEARS OF TRACKING DATA

The 70km Oldonyiro/Kipsing corridor, which allows elephants to move between Samburu and Laikipia, is one of a number of major migratory routes under threat of being blocked by human settlement or infrastructure.

Using more than 20 years of tracking data from more than 200 collars, STE has identified crucial corridors and is partnering with Wyss on a mission to work with communities to agree which areas should be set aside and kept free of development in perpetuity.

The ultimate goal is for the communities to secure and gazette the corridors into law with the support of the county governments and National Lands Commission.

Elephants on the Move

Tracking data shows cross-border movement

In February last year, Save the Elephants (STE) took part in a collaring mission to investigate rumours of elephant movement from Uganda into parts of South Sudan and Kenya. Though there had been anecdotal reports of this movement, no one had actually recorded elephants making this journey.

STE deployed 16 tracking collars on the operation, which was put together by the Northern Rangelands Trust in partnership with the Uganda Conservation Foundation and the Uganda Wildlife Authority, as well as providing technical and aerial support for darting the elephants in Uganda's Murchison Falls National Park.

We were thrilled when a few months later the elephants' tracking data demonstrated connectivity between Uganda, South Sudan and Kenya. One elephant in particular, a bull named Moe, travelled to all three countries. He spent most of his time in Uganda and Kenya (around 52 and 46 percent respectively) and the remainder (approximately two percent) in South Sudan.

1 ELEPHANT TRAVELLED TO **3** COUNTRIES

The data, monitored in real time through Earthranger, also revealed that the collared elephants were spending more than 50 percent of their daylight hours outside protected areas - a concern due to the risk of human-elephant conflict.

When they were in the north-east region of Kidepo Valley National Park at night - a previous poaching hotspot in the 1980s - the elephants moved quickly, appearing to be cognisant of high risk areas - something we've observed in other territories.

Read more about the Uganda mission here.

(Left) Wildlife vet, Dr Margaret Driciru of Uganda Wildlife Authority briefing the team before a collaring operation in Uganda.
©Betsy Searle (Right) Part of the collaring team in Uganda with STE's David Daballen.

Looking Ahead

Protecting elephants in a changing world

In the past 30 years, Save the Elephants (STE) has published more than 300 scientific publications that have deepened our understanding of elephants. As the world has shifted, so too has our research. In the last decade in particular, the evolution of new technology and new research techniques has given us unique insight into how elephants thrive in an ever changing, rapidly compromised landscape.

As human-elephant conflict (HEC) continues to rise across Africa, researchers - including our teams at STE - are searching for new ways to keep a watchful eye on wild African elephants.

Researchers measure an elephant's tusk during a collaring operation in Tsavo.
©Naiya Raja

At our research centre in Tsavo we have witnessed first-hand the clash between crop-raiding elephants and small-scale subsistence farmers. Although human-elephant conflict is a complex issue, our research has given us a better understanding of what drives elephants into community areas in the first place. This knowledge has enabled us to teach communities how to use innovative mitigation methods such as beehive fences and non-palatable crops to keep the elephants away.

In response to the rising HEC issue, we published several studies in 2022 that could potentially help forecast critical human-elephant hotspots as well as manage 'troublesome' elephants.

By analysing six years of data, our researchers have revealed how elephants entering the buffer zone around farms - often before launching a crop raid - forage on particular tree and plant species, and that routes to those plants are determined by the composition of the group.

A new STE study shows translocated elephants like this bull, subsequently wander alone or fall victim to poachers or conflict.
©Jane Wynyard

The study* was led by Gloria Mugo, a former Elephants and Bees intern who earned a Masters degree in Remote Sensing from the UK's University of Southampton. Gloria's clever use of Sentinel 2A satellite data combined with field studies of hundreds of sample vegetation plots, revealed a fascinating pattern of what attracts elephants to community lands, and the critical plants they need inside game reserves.

We also published two papers** on the impact and outcomes of two elephant translocation exercises conducted in Kenya. This study showed that problem elephants translocated into a new area often wander alone, without companionship, and are more likely to fall victim to poachers or conflict. Some individuals try to walk back home, heedless of the distance and obstacles in their way. Others head back into farm lands soon after being dropped into their new area.

Science, combined with grass-roots community engagement, is crucial to our mission of securing a future for elephants. The data gives elephants a voice while our broad collaborations enable us and our partners to face the challenges of the ever-changing modern world head on.

Mapping Floristic Composition Using Sentinel-2A and a Case Study of its Application in Elephant Movement. Remote Sensing. (Mugo G., Tiller. L., King. L. 2022)

****The outcome of an Elephant Translocation from Isiolo to Tsavo East National Park, Kenya. Pachyderm, no. 63 july – sept 2022. (Tiller et al., 2022 a & b)***

***** The behaviour and Fate of Translocated Bull African Savanna Elephants (loxodonta africana) into a Novel Environment. African Journal of Ecology. (Tiller et al., 2022 a & b)***

People living near Lake Jipe, Tsavo, appear to live in a state of passive coexistence with elephants.
©Anthony Ochieng

Toolbox On Tour

Elephant deterrents adopted across continent

Last year, on World Elephant Day, Save the Elephants (STE) launched a unique ‘how to’ manual of tried and tested techniques to help communities to protect their livelihoods from elephants in conflict hotspots. The Human-Elephant Coexistence Toolbox was two years in the making and a labour of love, so we were excited to see how it would be received.

Since the launch, the Toolbox has had a whirlwind ‘tour’ across the continent. We’ve introduced a number of methods to our partners through our Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) and the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group. The Toolbox also received international recognition from delegates of more than 28 countries at the CITES conference in Panama City in November 2022.

In Tanzania, the Frankfurt Zoological Society, an ECF grantee, has constructed dozens of mitigation tools from the Toolbox such as elephant-safe grain stores and watchtowers for communities suffering from food losses on the edge of the Serengeti.

(Left) A farmer in Tsavo holds a copy of the Toolbox manual showing how to build a watchtower with an exact replica behind her. ©Meha Kumar (Right)The Save the Elephants team at CITES in Panama in November.

In southern Zambia, Conservation South Luangwa - another ECF grantee - is supporting farmers to harvest chillies that are used to make ‘smelly elephant repellent’ which is one of the methods featured in the Toolbox. This year (2023), the farmers harvested over 3.3 tonnes of chillies, generating more than $3,800 USD in sales.

In Kenya, at one of STE’s project sites in Tsavo, a number of Toolbox methods such as beehive fences, water tank protection, non-palatable crops and watchtowers have already been implemented and proven to be effective with farmers. We now plan to train farmers and help set up more elephant-friendly deterrents in many more communities in Kenya to spread awareness on how they can harvest and store crops safely.

To date, the Toolbox has been shared with hundreds of partners in 50 countries, and this is only the start of the journey. We aim to share these techniques far and wide in order to help people across the continent to coexist alongside elephants without risking their livelihoods, or their lives.

To view Save the Elephant’s HEC Toolbox, click here.

On The Frontline

Protecting community and elephants in a conflict hotspot

Wilson Lelukumani in front of a community water tower protected from elephants. ©Jane Wynyard

Spare a thought for Save the Elephants’ rapid responder, Wilson Lelukumani, who lives and works in a human-elephant conflict hotspot in Ngaremara, northern Kenya.

When his phone isn’t ringing off the hook with locals complaining about damage caused by elephants, he’s rushing to cool tension when conflict arises, escorting school children past wild elephants and rescuing orphaned calves. In July, an elephant charged his motorbike and he ended up with broken bones. Months later, he was digging trenches in the hard sun-baked ground of Daaba, helping rebuild elephant-damaged community water pipes.

As the drought continues to ravage northern Kenya, conflict over resources is at an all-time high. Last year, a female elephant fleeing irate villagers one evening trampled a bystander. The next day the same thing happened again, but this time the villagers took lethal revenge. In the village of Ariamawoi, elephants ate nearly a month’s livestock feed after breaking into a terrified family’s hut. In the nearby settlement of Daaba, elephants destroyed water points and drinking troughs, depriving the community of their source of water.

Wilson’s excellent diplomatic skills means he is able to calm people down, stop them from retaliating against elephants and secure the support and/or medical intervention they need. It’s not an easy job, but it’s a crucial one for creating a harmonious future between humans and elephants.

Says Wilson,*“Because of this terrible drought, elephants are coming into settlements looking for food and water. I’m getting calls day and night so I hope the rain comes soon. I’ve never seen a drought this bad. Tension is high. But we can’t give up, the community and elephants need us.”*

STE's after-school programme is helping children learn how to stay safe around elephants.
©Anthony Ochieng

Improving young lives

Fostering coexistence through school support

The drought in Kenya combined with unsustainably high food prices and an increase in human-elephant conflict continues to hurt local communities, in particular the lives of young children.

In schools throughout the country, many students are forced to go without meals for days at a time. This affects their ability to learn and creates great anxiety for their families and teachers. For those not in school, the situation is equally challenging. In Samburu, young herders have been injured or killed by elephants while searching for grass for their livestock in the bush.

Save the Elephants (STE) is helping children through a school feeding programme. In 2022, we added 12 new schools to our feeding programmes in Samburu and Tsavo, bringing the total to 19. Since the year began, STE has provided school meals to more than 5,000 school children in both regions. All the schools and children supported through the feeding programme live close to critical elephant corridors and dispersal areas.

19
SCHOOLS IN THE FEEDING PROGRAMMES

Thanks to the school feeding programme, we have seen improved class attendance, improved academic performance and more positive attitudes to elephants from children, their parents and the wider community.

Alongside the school meals support, STE has been operating an after-school programme for children in elephant corridors, helping them understand and appreciate elephants as well as promoting tolerance through practical lessons about elephant-safe behaviour. This way, children who find themselves in the vicinity of elephants know how to stay safe.

Students at Daaba school in northern Kenya are recipients of STE's feeding programme.
©Jane Wynyard

STE's school outreach has prioritised activities that mitigate conflict as well as providing bursaries to children, such as the young Samburu herders who are injured or affected by elephants, and scholarships to children living in conflict hotspots. This ensures children and families are taken care of in the face of adversity, and the community is not driven to kill elephants in retaliation.

Geoffrey Dida, head teacher of Laresoro school in Samburu, says, *"We want to thank Save the Elephants for chipping in to provide us with school meals. As a result, our learners' attendance has tremendously improved. STE is not only saving elephants but also the learners."*

Elephants crossing the Ewaso Ny'iro river in Samburu National Reserve. During drought, when there is no rain in the reserve, water can still flow into the river from upstream.
©Jane Wynyard

Elephant Watch Camp

Uniting people for the future of elephants

For two decades Save the Elephants (STE) has enjoyed a fruitful and dynamic partnership with Elephant Watch Camp, a unique safari-business come social enterprise. Founded by STE's first matriarch, Oria Douglas-Hamilton, the camp has helped recruit many new conservation allies to the elephant cause.

Located seven kilometres upstream from STE's research centre, and nestled beneath a canopy of soaring acacia trees on the banks of the Ewaso Ny'iro river, guests enjoy a blissful retreat of shade and comfort in open simplicity and charmingly organic but exotically-furnished tents.

Staff are almost entirely employed from the local pastoralist communities, offering an important source of income and training for Samburu's nomads, and positioning them as frontline ambassadors for elephants and conservation.

Staff at Elephant Watch Camp are almost entirely employed from the local pastoralist communities.
©Kristian Schmidt

Their profound understanding of the landscape and its wildlife - gleaned from a deep reservoir of traditional knowledge and lifetimes of experience - is enriched further by training with STE's behavioural monitoring team. Detailed insights on elephant behaviour and relationships, along with the gentle rapport that exists between the guides and elephants, lead to intimate, life-enhancing encounters.

As prolonged drought pushes life to the edge, and the pressures of human population and land degradation ramp up conflict between species for natural resources, the role of these rare human and elephant peace-ambassadors become ever more important.

Camp manager, Bernard Lesirin, is in the UK earning a Masters degree in conservation, while Executive Director, Saba Douglas-Hamilton, undertook a two month speaking tour in Britain. The camp remains a great way for visitors to see STE's work up close, and to bring people together for the future of elephants.

News

High praise from a prince

Prince William and David Daballen during the Tusk Conservation Awards in Africa ceremony. ©Getty Images for Tusk

Prince William had high praise for our Director of Field Operations, David Daballen, at the prestigious Tusk Conservation Awards in Africa in London last year. During the award ceremony, at which David won a finalist award, Prince William commended him on his ability to engage and integrate the community in conservation efforts. Said the Prince - *"He (David) speaks so eloquently, you go into any community and he will charm everyone. So I have a big sort of soft spot for David"*. Hongera David!

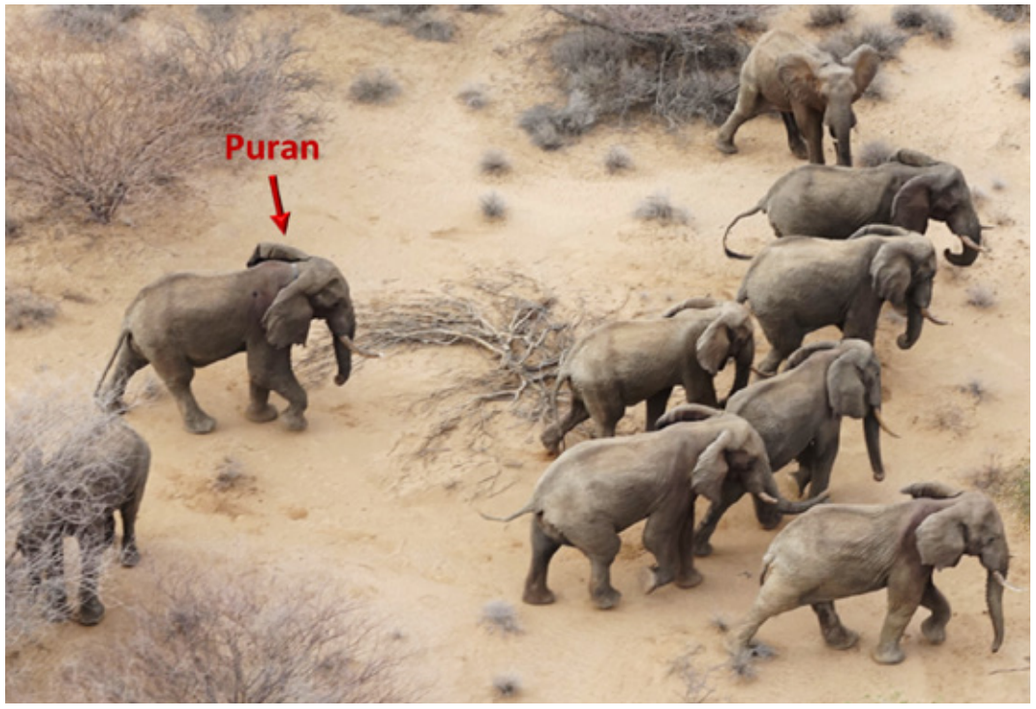
Milky Samburu blessing for new plane

The traditional bottle of champagne was replaced with cow's milk when our new Savannah ultralight aerial patrol plane was blessed at a traditional ceremony by Samburu elders last year. The long-awaited, fuel-efficient aircraft arrived in Samburu to a hero's welcome and was immediately put to work, carrying out aerial patrols to monitor elephants in northern Kenya. The two-seater Savannah, funded by a small group of generous donors, runs at a seventh of the cost and consumes a fraction of the fuel used by older planes, and is gentler on the environment.

Samburu elders bless the new Savannah. ©Sharon Mulindi

Puran's journey into Chalbi

A magnificent collared bull elephant named Puran amazed our researchers last year by blazing a trail across a vast desert landscape in remote northern Kenya, showing once again how elephants are expanding their range northwards into areas where they haven't been seen for decades. Watching on the STE WildTracks tracking app, we observed Puran streak across the remote Chalbi desert before passing close to the base of the extinct volcano, Mount Kulal. Our Samburu team launched an aerial monitoring mission and discovered that Puran was not alone, but accompanied by eight other adult bulls.



Puran with a herd of bull elephants. ©Giacomo D'Ammando

Karibu to our new trustees

In 2022, we welcomed two new Trustees to our herd: Pat Awori and Julie Hull. Pat is Director of the Pan-African Wildlife Conservation Network and specialises in elephant behaviour and advocacy for wild species conservation. Julie brings her experience, energy and passion for elephants as a Trustee after first being introduced to Save the Elephants in 2012. Karibu Pat and Julie!

New trustees Julie Hull (left) and Pat Awori (right) with our founder, Iain Douglas-Hamilton. ©Frank Pope

Tribute to two lost friends

We pay tribute to two beloved and iconic bull elephants, Yeager and Sarara, who were tragically killed in separate incidents in northern Kenya in 2022. For decades, both curious and loveable elephants were part of our herd, spending a lot of time in our research camp and Elephant Watch Camp further up the river. We suspect the bulls were killed when they came into conflict with herders moving their livestock through the south of Buffalo Springs National Reserve. Their shocking deaths are a harsh reminder of the challenges we face as human-elephant conflict escalates across the north.

Yeager (left) and Sarara were killed in 2022. ©Robbie Labanowski and Jane Wynyard

Holistic, community-centric conservation

As part of a 'One Health' approach to conservation, Save the Elephants implemented a Community Health Project in 2022 to increase public health awareness in and around Tsavo's Sagalla community. By facilitating access to family planning services and resources, we're helping local communities plan their families and invest in education, healthcare, and economic growth, leading to sustainable development and greater participation in conservation efforts. Through partnerships with the Departments of Health Services and Education, Taita Taveta County and other stakeholders, we've been able to support over 1,500 individuals with reproductive health education and services.

Kirumbi Dispensary staff, Community Health volunteers and STE Team with donations for the project. ©Laurence Willsher

Building Samburu skills in the UK

STE's Kennedy Lemayian and Elephant Watch Camp's Bernard Lesirin temporarily swapped a life in Samburu for one in the UK to pursue their studies. The duo, who have been working very closely with communities living with elephants, are both studying for a Masters in Conservation and Rural Development at the Durrell Institute for Conservation Ecology in Canterbury. The skills and experience they acquire will boost our long term conservation efforts of fostering human-elephant coexistence.

Kennedy Lemaiyan (Top). ©Jane Wynyard. Bernard Lesirin (Bottom). ©Elephant Watch Camp

Why We Give

Driven by passion

As a lover of wildlife and an animal enthusiast, I have always been drawn to organisations and charities that work towards preserving and protecting wildlife. It was during one of my winter holidays that I stumbled upon an article featuring Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton and the work he has done to protect elephants. As I read the article, I was moved by the challenges that elephants face in the wild, the work that Save the Elephants does to protect them, and Iain's dedication. I knew I had to do something to support them.

I proposed the idea of supporting Save the Elephants to the owners at Mammoth and they loved the idea. Our love for preserving and protecting animals is a passion that we share widely among our team. Our offices are always full of our dogs running about, and our employees stop to do daily pets and give out treats. The TUSK Outreach program began by following Save the Elephants' work in Kenya and becoming inspired by them to start a programme to assist in funding their efforts.

Our visit to Elephant Watch Camp and Save the Elephant's research facility in the Samburu National Reserve in Kenya in 2015 further encouraged us to support their work. We were able to see first-hand the compassionate work that they do, and it solidified our commitment to supporting them.

It is an honour to support such an amazing organisation, and I encourage anyone who loves animals and wildlife to join us in supporting their efforts.

Casey Hunt
Managing Director, Mammoth, Inc. / Tusk Outreach

Casey and Joshua Hunt with STE's founder Iain Douglas-Hamilton at our research camp in Samburu.
©Casey Hunt

©Robbie Labanowski

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Elephants in Shaba, northern Kenya.
©Jane Wynyard

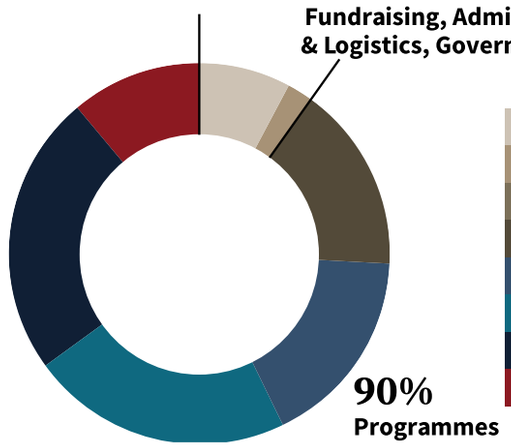
Finance

Statement of Revenue & Expenses

	UNAUDITED	AUDITED
	2022	**2021**
REVENUE (US$)		
Donations	5,280,810	4,703,100
Interest Earned	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	**5,280,810**	**4,703,100**
Cost of Generating Funds		
Fundraising	418,571	250,246
OTHER DIRECT CHARITABLE COSTS (US$)		
Grant to STE Kenya	-	-
Administration & Logistics	119,578	97,715
Governance	12,272	34,683
Awareness	860,451	620,185
Human-Elephant Coexistence	905,522	556,924
Protection	1,186,687	510,363
Research	1,334,091	692,410
Tracking	626,762	721,754
TOTAL EXPENSES	**5,463,934**	**3,484,280**
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	**-183,124**	**1,218,820**

2021 accounts (audited) converted at a rate of £1 = $1.28
2022 accounts (unaudited) converted at a rate of £1 - $1.24
Unaudited figures for 2022 are presented here. Variations may results from the auditor's recommendations. At the end of 2022, Save the Elephants (STE) held **$2,847,429** in reserves, equivalent to six months of operating expenditure, as set by STE's board.

2022 Expenses



	%	EXPENSES
Fundraising	8%	418,571
Administration & Logistic	2%	119,578
Governance	0%	12,272
Awareness	16%	860,451
Human-elephant Coexistence	17%	905,522
Protection	22%	1,186,687
Research	24%	1,334,091
Tracking	11%	626,762
TOTAL EXPENSES		**5,463,934**

An elephant calf and its mother in Tsavo National Park.
©Jane Wynyard

Thank You

Save the Elephants' donors, corporate partners and supporters

Save the Elephants is deeply grateful to you all for contributing financially to our shared mission from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022.

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 over $1,000 made to Save the Elephants.

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We wish to thank the many other matching gift programs for support in the year.

Every effort has been made to list current and accurate information. If you see an omission or error, we would love to hear from you. Would you like to give feedback regarding this publication? Email donate@savetheelephants.org

Legacy Circle

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 Lynne Creighton
Estate of Verlyn Fae Deckert
Estate of James George Fleming
Estate of Keith Fowler
Estate of Allene Lapides
Estate of Judy Gay Loveland
Estate of Alan John Luxton
Estate of Marie Doreen Penn
Estate of Margaret Cecilia Ruygrok
Estate of Eleanora Worth

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

The 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 for our Salesforce system...
Leason Ellis and Millbank for pro bono support in the US...
Deborah Mumford at Alaco for administrative support in the UK.

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

Securing Their Future

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Elephants need you. Those born today could live more than 60 years but they face increasing challenges from human impacts. Expanding agriculture and infrastructure are threatening their resources and habitats, creating conflict. Help us protect elephants and foster peaceful coexistence between our species.

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

Elephant bulls heading to Lake Jipe, Tsavo.
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