



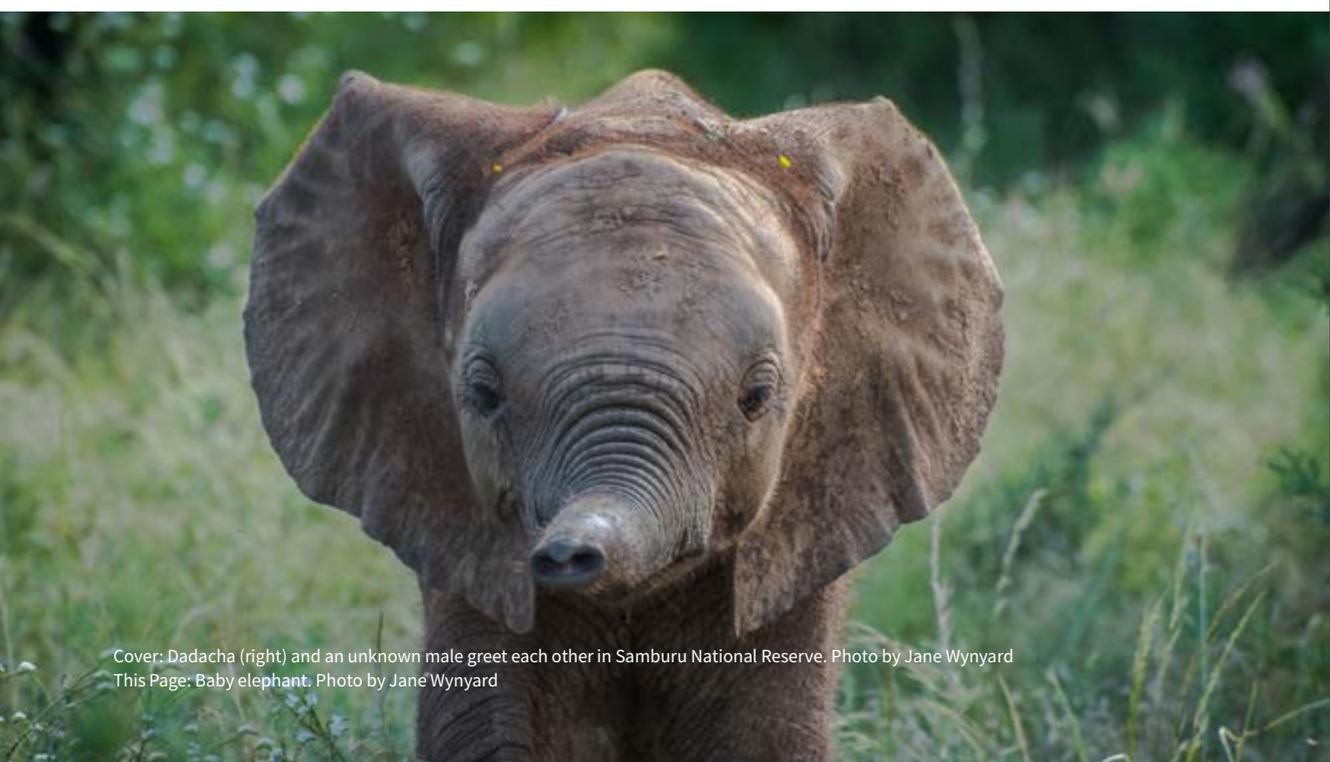
SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Annual Report

2024

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Cover: Dadacha (right) and an unknown male greet each other in Samburu National Reserve. Photo by Jane Wynyard
 This Page: Baby elephant. Photo by Jane Wynyard

CEO's Letter

The last year has been turbulent to say the least, but I'm both proud and grateful for everything that we've achieved. Together, we have pushed boundaries in our investigations into the elephant mind, deepened our understanding of how elephants avoid cancer, and uncovered new insights into their communication - including the discovery that they use names for one another.

Our efforts to protect elephants and their landscapes have reached further than ever. From expanding community-led corridor protection in northern Kenya to advancing the use of AI & technology in safeguarding elephants, we continue to stand at the forefront of research and evidence-based conservation.

Through the Elephant Crisis Fund, we have helped elephants in the forests and savannahs across the continent. From anti-poaching to landscape planning, our partners are creating a sustainable future for elephants. In some areas the elephants have been brought back from the very brink of extinction to a point where they now have the potential to repopulate huge, wild landscapes.

None of this would have been possible without the steadfast support of our donors, partners, and dedicated team. Thank you for standing with us.

In 2025 we will be deepening our investigations of the inner life of elephants, extending the uptake of science-based conservation tools, and doubling down on efforts to rescue elephant populations under the greatest threat.

Together, we can ensure that the future of elephants - and the landscapes they call home - remains bright for generations to come.

Frank Pope
 CEO

Our Impact in 2024



6000+

STUDENTS ENGAGED IN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION THROUGH FIELD TRIPS AND FILMS




1.3

TONNES OF SUSTAINABLE HARVEST PRODUCED FROM STE'S PERMACULTURE PROJECTS



15

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS PUBLISHED BY STE AUTHORS



37

TRACKING COLLARS DEPLOYED ON ELEPHANTS ACROSS KENYA




58

ELEPHANTS TENDED TO BY THE NORTHERN KENYA VET UNIT



108

GRADUATES ACROSS FIVE COUNTRIES EQUIPPED WITH COEXISTENCE SKILLS




1420

NUMBER OF HEC TOOLBOXES DISTRIBUTED GLOBALLY BY STE




240+

ROAD PATROLS PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM ELEPHANTS IN NORTHERN KENYA



\$3.5M

USD DISTRIBUTED TO 30 ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND GRANTEES




500th

GRANT AWARDED BY ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND SINCE INCEPTION IN 2013



910K+

ELEPHANT TRACKING POINTS RECORDED ACROSS KENYA



22

PARTNERS ACROSS AFRICA USING STE WILDTRACKS APP



1. Students see elephants in their natural habitat during a field trip to Samburu National Reserve. Photo by Frank of Petersens
 2. Participants of the 11th Training of Trainers learn about the Buzzbox during a field session in Tsavo in 2024. Photo by Gliday Yuka.
 3. Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Republic of the Congo. Photo by Scott Ramsay

4. Moi shortly after being fitted with a collar. Photo by Jane Wynyard
 5. One of the Training of Trainers participants with a Toolbox. Photo by Meha Kumar
 6. James Mpapa, STE's researcher, tracking elephant movement through the STE WildTracks app. Photo by Jane Wynyard



The Native Americans at play in Samburu National Reserve. Photo by Jane Wynyard

About Save the Elephants

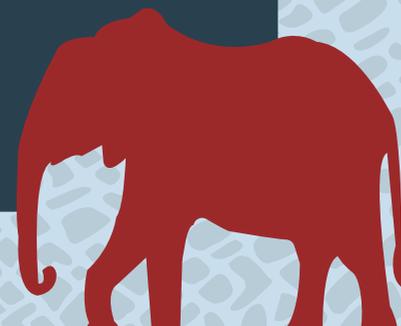
Founded by zoologist Iain Douglas-Hamilton in 1993, Save the Elephants (STE) conducts pioneering research into the ecology and behaviour of elephants and works to secure them a future on a fast-changing continent.

At Save the Elephants' research station in Samburu National Reserve, northern Kenya, STE researchers study wild elephants on a daily basis. More than 900 identified elephants have been recorded using the reserves along the Ewaso Ny'iro river for more than three decades, and STE's intimate knowledge of their family structures and history has opened a rare window into the world of elephants. At our second research station in the Sagalla community in Tsavo, southeastern Kenya, the organisation's human-elephant coexistence team investigates solutions to the long-term challenges that elephants face.

STE partners with world-leading universities and institutions to develop new technology to understand and protect elephants. Cutting edge tracking systems now help scientists and protected area managers across the continent defend elephants and their ecosystems, and plan for their future. AI systems are transforming wildlife population monitoring through aircraft and drone mounted cameras, and are revealing previously hidden realms of elephant communication.

STE 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. We pursue evidence-based conservation initiatives with grass-roots community engagement strategies, building broad collaborations to secure a future for the elephants in Kenya, whilst creating tools and techniques for use elsewhere on the continent.

To help secure a future for elephants 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.



Staff in STE's research camp in Samburu. Photo by Jane Wynyard

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

Pat Awori
 Ambrose Carey
 Michael Davitz
 Julie Hull
 Marlene McCay
 Prof. George Wittemyer
 Prof. Fritz Vollrath, Chairman

Chairman's Letter

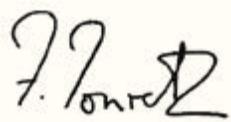
2024 was another year of ups and downs. Foremost on all our minds was of course Iain's health and wellbeing, and he did give us some frights.

In consequence, our January board meeting in Samburu had to go ahead without Iain's ever stimulating presence. However, with expert planning and foresight by Frank and his team, we achieved what we needed to do. Among other things, we were able to confirm the establishment of our US 501c3 allowing us to plan around this important milestone and its integration into our core mission of securing a future for the elephants.

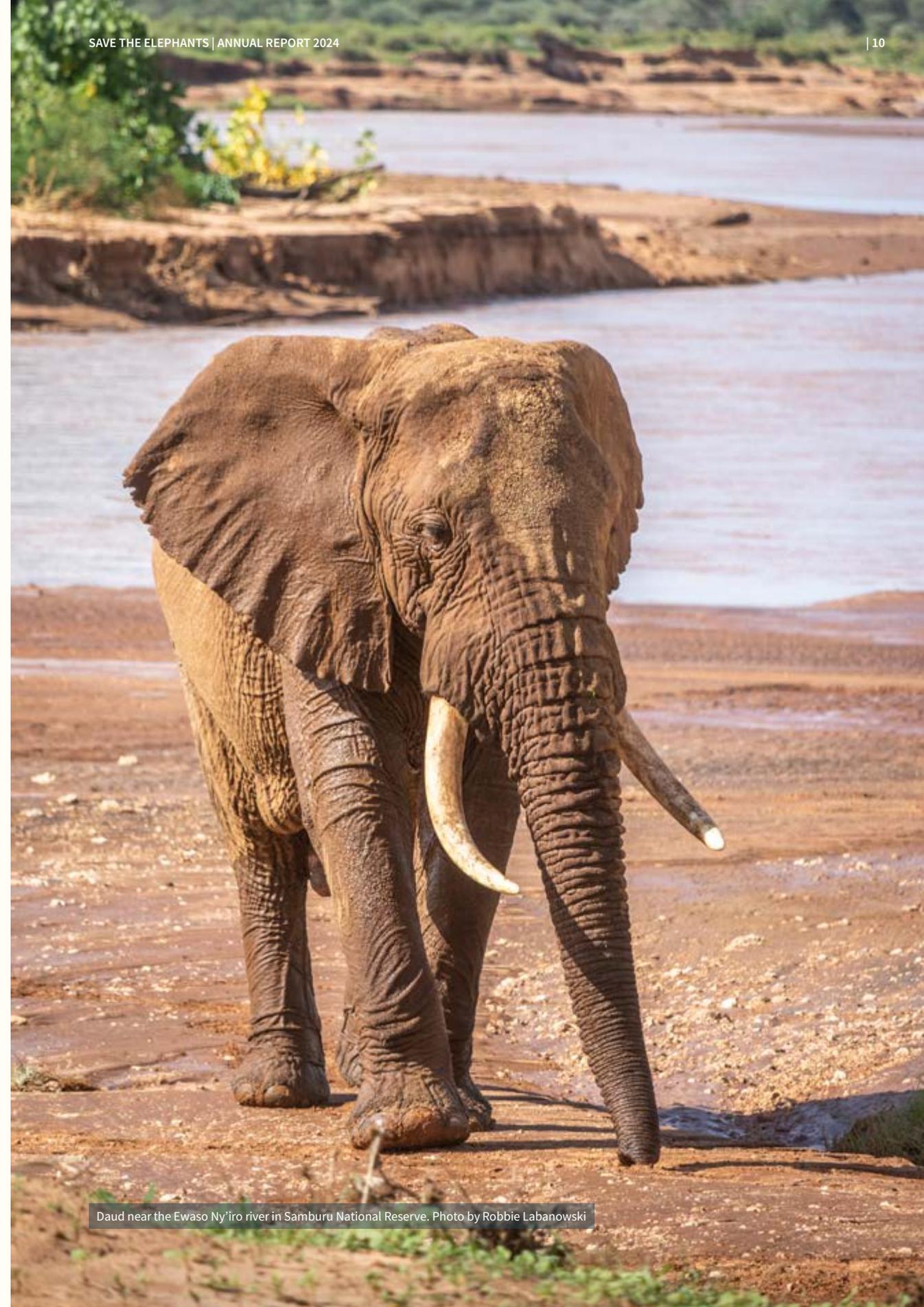
Another milestone in 2024 was a first showing at the Royal Geographic Society in London of *A Life Among Elephants*. This is a most inspiring film about Iain's evolution and impact as an elephant expert with much wonderful footage from the Sixties of Iain, Oria and the family befriending the wild elephants of Manyara National Park in Tanzania

Importantly, the film shows well the patience, resilience and fundamental curiosity that made Iain such a powerful voice in elephant conservation, and which is so inspiring for the team at Save the Elephants. The story also clearly shows how individuals can come together, backed by hard data and conclusive facts, to overcome enormous challenges.

These are important foundation stones for STE's approach, and we are proud of the work we are doing to build upon them.



Prof. Fritz Vollrath
Chairman



Daud near the Ewaso Ny'iro river in Samburu National Reserve. Photo by Robbie Labanowski

Understanding Elephants

A youngster from the Artists 2 family. Photo by Meha Kumar



Catherine from the Royals with her calves. Photo by Jane Wynyard

Secrets of Elephant Society

A Missing Elephant, an Unlikely Bond, and a New Family

Knowing who is who is key to understanding how elephant societies work.

Since 1997, we've been studying elephants in Samburu and unravelling the mysteries of elephant society. Our Samburu long-term elephant monitoring project has revealed the deep, complex relationships that form within and between elephant family groups. Over the years, this data has helped us understand the **devastating impact of poaching, human-elephant conflict and habitat loss.**

After almost three decades, we're still uncovering surprises like the remarkable story of Catherine's daughter.

In December 2023, the ten-year-old daughter of Catherine - the matriarch of one of the Royals family sub-groups - disappeared for almost one month. It's rare for young elephants to survive on their own without the protection of the herd, so **our field team feared the worst.**

Then, in January 2024, she reappeared - with unexpected company. Two unrelated orphaned sisters, around 15 and 10 years old, accompanied her. Astonishingly, the younger sister had a newborn calf barely a month old. What happened to the orphans' family remains a mystery. None of the newcomers were related to Catherine (aged 50) nor the Royals. Even more remarkable, **Catherine's young daughter had taken on the role of caregiver to the tiny calf**, alongside its inexperienced mother.

Over the course of 2024, the orphans integrated into the family. Our team often spotted the tiny calf sticking close to Catherine - his adoptive grandmother - while his mother trailed behind. In a powerful moment, we witnessed Catherine calling for her daughter and the orphans from across the Ewaso Ny'iro river, summoning them to rejoin the herd when they had roamed too far away.

NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE SEEN A YOUNG FEMALE LEAVE A FAMILY AND RETURN WITH A GROUP OF ORPHANS



While orphan integration isn't unheard of - we've observed it before in the course of our research - **this case is unique**. Never before have we seen a young female leave a family and return with a group of orphans. We suspect the presence of the newborn calf may have acted as social glue, drawing the young female elephants together.

Catherine's shrinking family - after the death of her daughter Bess and her calves during the drought of 2022 - may have also made her more open to accepting outsiders so quickly, **another behaviour uncommon in herds**.

This story reaffirms that elephants are incredibly resilient; **they adapt, forging new bonds in the face of loss**. Our long-term research is uncovering how these incredible social networks evolve - and what that means for the future of elephant conservation as human populations across Africa rapidly expand.



Photo by Robbie Labanowski

Elephant Names

Unravelling Their Communication

The groundbreaking discovery last year that African elephants use name-like calls to address one another has brought us closer to understanding their intelligence and social structures.

The study, led by Dr. Mickey Pardo of Colorado State University in collaboration with Save the Elephants (STE) and ElephantVoices, used machine learning to identify distinct vocal labels in wild elephant calls.

For 14 months, Dr Pardo and STE's Samburu research assistants, David Lolchuragi, James Mpapa and David Letitiya, recorded calls from known family groups in Samburu National Reserve, northern Kenya, and combined the recordings with an existing dataset collected by Joyce Poole from ElephantVoices in Amboseli National Park.

They were able to determine that calls addressed to different recipients were acoustically distinct, which suggests that they might contain something similar to name-like identifiers.

To confirm their findings, the team played recorded calls back to elephants. The results were striking: elephants responded more quickly and vocalised more when hearing calls originally addressed to them, suggesting they recognise their "names".

This discovery sheds new light on elephant communication and social bonds, providing crucial insights for conservationists working to improve human-elephant coexistence. The study captured global media attention, demonstrating the power of investigations into animal behaviour to inspire public interest in the natural world.

The study '*African Elephants Address One Another With Individually Specific Name-Like Calls*' was published in June 2024 in the journal *Nature, Ecology and Evolution*.



New research suggests African elephants use name-like calls to address one another. Photo by Robbie Labanowski



Tracked elephants in Garamba National Park, DRC. Photo by Marcus Westberg/Garamba National Park

Uniting Africa

The new Continental Tracking Initiative

For more than three decades, Save the Elephants has pioneered innovation in using tracking technology to understand and protect elephants. From initial collar deployments to the software systems that were the foundation for EarthRanger (now the leading Protected Area Management System), STE research has been helping to defend elephants from poaching, habitat loss, and conflict.

Thousands of GPS tracking collars have been deployed on elephants across Africa, for many different reasons. Each tracked path tells a story about that elephant and its environment, yet too often the data is filed away and rarely used again once it has served its immediate purpose.

In 2024, STE created an online platform for collaboration on elephant tracking with a database of more than 3,200 collars from the past 30 years, uniting elephant researchers and conservationists from 14 organisations across 12 countries. Mapping and analysis tools have been developed and deployed across multiple sites in Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, and Malawi, with training and hands-on support given to multiple conservation partners.

By fostering data-driven collaboration, this initiative is helping to shape the long-term future for elephants in these landscapes - revealing the factors that influence elephant movements and decisions, and helping define their needs. We are excited for what future collaborations will bring as we further our understanding of elephants and work to secure their future.

Monitoring Giants

The Mission to Protect Tsavo's Elephants

How do you deploy tracking collars on 13 select wild elephants across 42,000kms of rugged wilderness? With precision planning, a skilled team and unwavering determination!

In August 2024, the Save the Elephants team in Tsavo pulled off an ambitious five day collaring operation with the Kenya Wildlife Service, Tsavo Trust, and Wildlife Works. Supported by Elephant Cooperation and the Disney Conservation Fund, the mission involved 40 personnel, five aircraft, and a helicopter from Ol Malo for darting and ground support.

Among the elephants collared were a vulnerable big tusker, a notorious crop raider, and a female known for her extraordinary journeys. Five elephants had their collars replaced, eight received new collars, and two collars were removed.

Now tracked in real-time via the STE WildTracks app, these elephants provide vital data on movement and behaviour. Home to 17,000 elephants, the Tsavo Conservation Area is one of Africa's last great elephant strongholds, spanning 42,000 square kilometers of protected land and connecting to key habitats across Kenya and Tanzania.

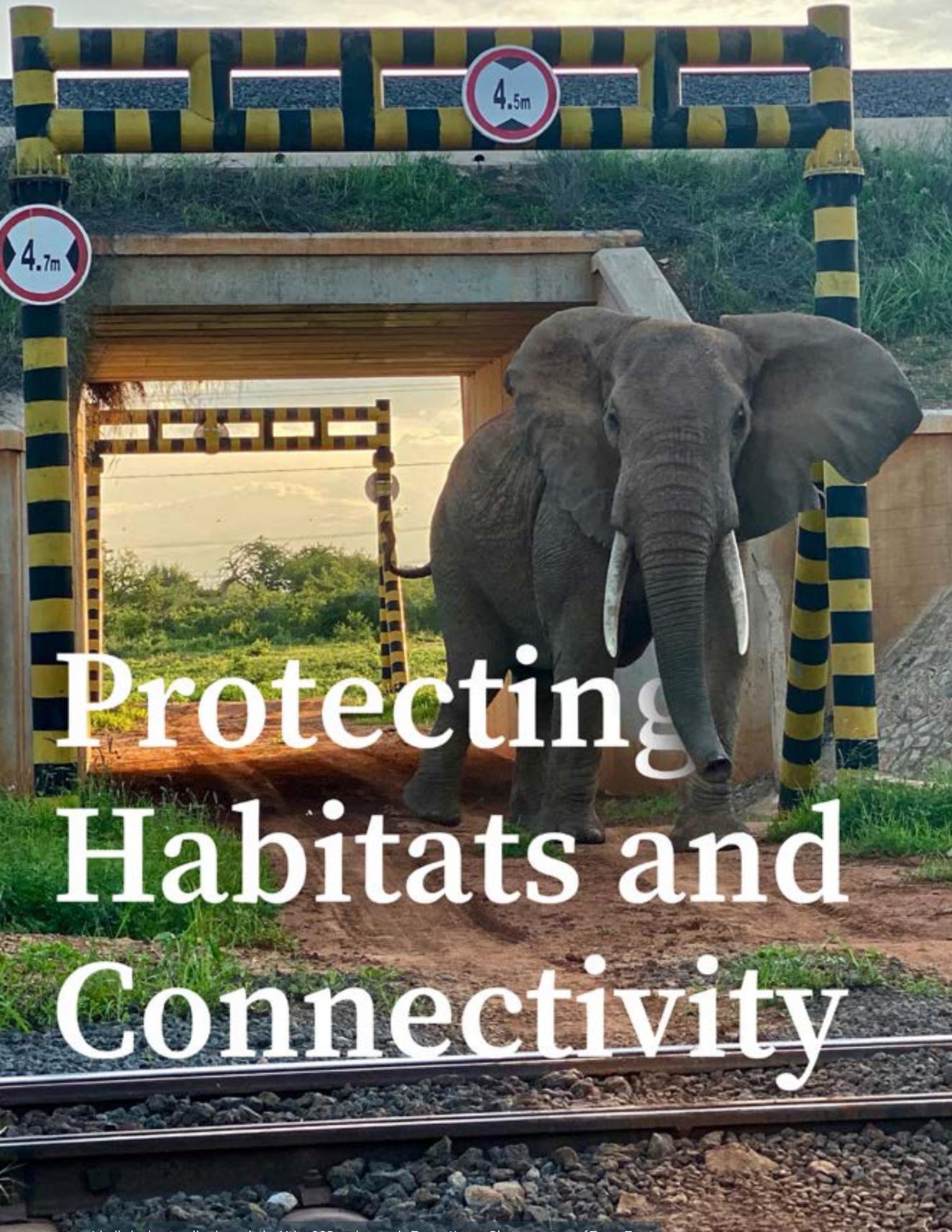
Tracking collars help manage human-elephant conflict, steer elephants away from danger, and create wildlife corridors amid growing infrastructure and human expansion. Regular tracking reports are shared with landscape partners to inform data-driven conservation decisions.

These crucial operations come at a high cost - our deepest gratitude to Disney, Elephant Cooperation, and our generous donors for making such complex field operations possible, and to our core partners, Kenya Wildlife Service and Wildlife Research & Training Institute, for their invaluable support.



Go to P25 to read about our coexistence efforts in Tsavo and P20 to learn more about our monitoring work.

The skilled team works quickly to deploy a tracking collar. Photo by Meha Kumar



Protecting Habitats and Connectivity

A bull elephant walks through the Mtito SGR underpass in Tsavo, Kenya. Photo courtesy of Tsavo Trust

Investing in the future

Safeguarding Migration Routes in a Developing Kenya

Elephant conservation isn't just about anti-poaching - it's about **safeguarding their future in a rapidly changing Africa**. Expanding infrastructure like roads, highways, and railways is fragmenting habitats and making human-elephant conflict an increasing challenge.

Ensuring elephants have a voice in landscape planning is more crucial than ever. Save the Elephants (STE) is doing this by combining research, collaboration, and policy engagement to ensure that elephants retain the space and connectivity they need.



SO FAR, WE'VE ENGAGED OVER 1,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN CORRIDOR MEETINGS IN THE NORTH

An elephant passes under one of the SGR underpasses. Photo by Josh Clay

In 2024, in partnership with the Wyss Academy for Nature, we **ramped up our efforts to protect elephant corridors** - natural links for wildlife between ecosystems - by investing in specialised research. STE and Wyss jointly funded MSc and postdoctoral researchers to examine the effectiveness of community-led corridor protection in northern Kenya, global conservation strategies, and the long-term impact of climate change on elephant habitats in the next 100 years. STE joined various conservation stakeholders in a ten day natural asset mapping exercise in Samburu, Isiolo and Laikipia, marking a step towards the eventual gazettement of corridors in northern Kenya.

So far, we've engaged more than 1,000 community members in corridor meetings in the north, and eight key corridors have been defined and are on track for gazettement. These corridors are now closely monitored by the Mama Tembos – women chosen by their communities and supported by Save the Elephants to patrol and defend both wildlife and livestock routes.

In August 2024, the corridors were given an inaugural visit by some special Samburu elephants. A subgroup of the Royals, led by a tracked female named Arden, made an extraordinary journey west to Oldonyiro - their first visit in over 20 years. They then travelled up the Oldonyiro migratory corridor, which acts as a vital link between the Samburu and Laikipia ecosystems.

For three weeks, Arden and her family roamed Oldonyiro before retracing their steps back to Samburu National Reserve, located 150 km away - again using the corridor. While we can't say for certain, it's likely they were drawn west by the promise of lush vegetation after recent rains.

Their journey is a powerful reminder of why protecting these vital migratory routes is essential for the future of elephants, like the Royals, in northern Kenya. Our work with the community and the Oldonyiro corridor is generously supported by Stichting Wildlife Beekse Bergen.

STE has also been working closely with Kenya's National Highways Authority to optimise wildlife underpass locations along the Isiolo-Kula Mawe highway, where competing space for development and conservation proves a challenge. Also in 2024, STE participated in the preparation of county-level spatial plans in Laikipia, Isiolo and Samburu, which include the elephant corridors defined by tracking data and discussions with communities.

Meanwhile in Tsavo, we are studying how elephants are adapting to railway crossings that cut through a major elephant stronghold, shedding light on how these intelligent animals are learning to navigate crossings. You can read more about this study on the following page.

With Kenya's government planning a new six lane motorway to run alongside the railway, this information will be crucial in identifying the best locations for underpasses and overpasses to be included in the designs.

As a result of these efforts, we are building valuable experience in planning effective wildlife crossings for future development infrastructure projects.



The Royals, led by Arden (wearing a tracking collar), recently made an extraordinary crossing along the Oldonyiro corridor. Photo by Jane Wynyard



Marking a wildlife and livestock corridor with a concrete pillar in Oldonyiro, Narupa Conservancy. Photo by John Leruso

Keeping On Track

Protecting Elephant Habitat in a Changing Kenya

Monitoring the impact of major infrastructure projects in Kenya, such as the new Nairobi-Mombasa railway, is vital to Save the Elephants' mission to protect elephant habitats.

The railway, which links Mombasa to Nairobi, cuts through the heart of the Tsavo ecosystem, one of Africa's last great wilderness areas. For 93 miles, it bisects the unfenced Tsavo National Parks, restricting the movement of Kenya's elephants and other wildlife to just 41 underpasses.



The monitoring team sample wildlife dung as the SGR travels overhead. Photo by Jane Wynyard

Since 2016, Save the Elephants, in partnership with the Wildlife Research and Training Institute and the Kenya Wildlife Service, has deployed a dedicated monitoring team to analyse how wildlife use the various underpasses and culverts beneath the railway. This data is an important addition to the GPS tracking of select elephants in Tsavo (see P16).

The data reveals that elephants are the second most frequent users of underpasses after zebras, with buffaloes, lions, and even giraffes - previously wary of such structures - also crossing. However, human settlements, livestock encroachment, and vehicle and train collisions on nearby roads and railways remain serious threats.

In 2025, we plan to continue our monitoring work in addition to deploying 18 camera traps and working closely with stakeholders to safeguard these important wildlife corridors. The research will provide critical insights for future mega-projects, such as the upcoming six lane Nairobi-Mombasa expressway, helping ensure that Kenya's infrastructure development minimises the impact on the country's globally important biodiversity and ecosystems.



An elephant walking through the SGR underpass. Photo courtesy of Tsavo Trust

ELEPHANTS ARE THE SECOND MOST FREQUENT USERS OF UNDERPASSES



Elephants Under Pressure

A Continent-Wide View of Our Work in 2024

The situation for elephants across Africa varies greatly from ecosystem to ecosystem. We regularly visit our Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) partners to understand how they, and their elephants, are doing. Three site visits in 2024 showed how **different the situation is across the continent**.

In Nouabalé Ndoki in the Republic of the Congo, the Wildlife Conservation Society **has secured the national park, where the elephants are now safe**, and is trying to do the same in the neighbouring forestry concessions, despite the threat of a new tarmac road.

In South Sudan, one of the most insecure parts of the continent, **African Parks is trying to save the last elephants** in a vast landscape east of the Nile – a few hundred survivors out of the tens of thousands that used to live here.

In the Luangwa Valley in Zambia, **elephant numbers are increasing**, and Conservation South Luangwa and the Frankfurt Zoological Society are **developing new approaches** to deal with the increasing challenge of human-elephant conflict.

IN NOUABALÉ NDOKI IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY HAS SECURED THE NATIONAL PARK

Elephant Crisis Fund

Bull elephant captured on camera trap in Mbeli Bai, Nouabalé Ndoki National Park. Photo by Will Burrard-Lucas / WCS

Elephants like this big bull in Wali Bai, Nouabalé Ndoki National Park, in the Republic of the Congo are now safe. Photo by Chris Thouless

Poaching for ivory has not been a threat to the majority of elephant populations in 2024, although killing in conflict or for meat are both increasing concerns. There have been reports of increased poaching in Botswana and Angola, but not at a level that poses an immediate threat to this regional population.

Ivory prices remain at a low level compared to their peak in 2012-2015, although there have been some reports of local increases. Fortunately, there is **no strong evidence of an increase in demand for ivory in Asia** and there have only been a few major interceptions of illegal ivory shipments, suggesting demand is down.

However, across Africa, levels of human-elephant conflict and **resulting pressure on governments is increasing**. This reinforces our decision to put more ECF funds towards innovative actions to support coexistence between elephants and humans, and to protect elephant landscapes.

While ivory poaching has reduced in protected areas, **rangers still face danger on a daily basis**, often because they are seen as symbols of law and order in otherwise chaotic landscapes. We mourn all the rangers who were killed in 2024 doing their vital protection work, and in particular those who lost their lives in areas supported by the ECF.

Two rangers were killed by Mai-Mai rebels in Upemba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in different incidents in the first half of 2024, and in November we heard the horrifying news of the abduction, torture and killing of two elephant trackers in Upemba.

In July, five African Parks rangers were killed in a violent attack on an outpost in W National Park, Benin. In June, a ranger was killed in an attack on the Babesua Patrol Post in Okapi Wildlife Reserve in DRC.

These tragic events highlight the ongoing risks rangers face and serve as a reminder that, while elephants are not as directly threatened as they once were, they will not survive unless their refuges are secure, and that constant effort and sacrifice is needed in the face of increasing threats.



Rangers, like these on patrol in Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Republic of the Congo, risk their lives every day to protect wildlife. Photo by Frank af Petersens



The Boma-Badingilo-Jonglei landscape was one of three key elephant areas in South Sudan funded by the ECF in 2024. Photo by Benoit Morkel/African Parks

A Conservation Revival

Saving South Sudan's Elephants

South Sudan, home to globally important wildlife and vast spaces, has been a priority for Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) investments. Civil war massively reduced elephant populations, but ECF partners, working with South Sudan's National Wildlife Service, are reviving conservation efforts.

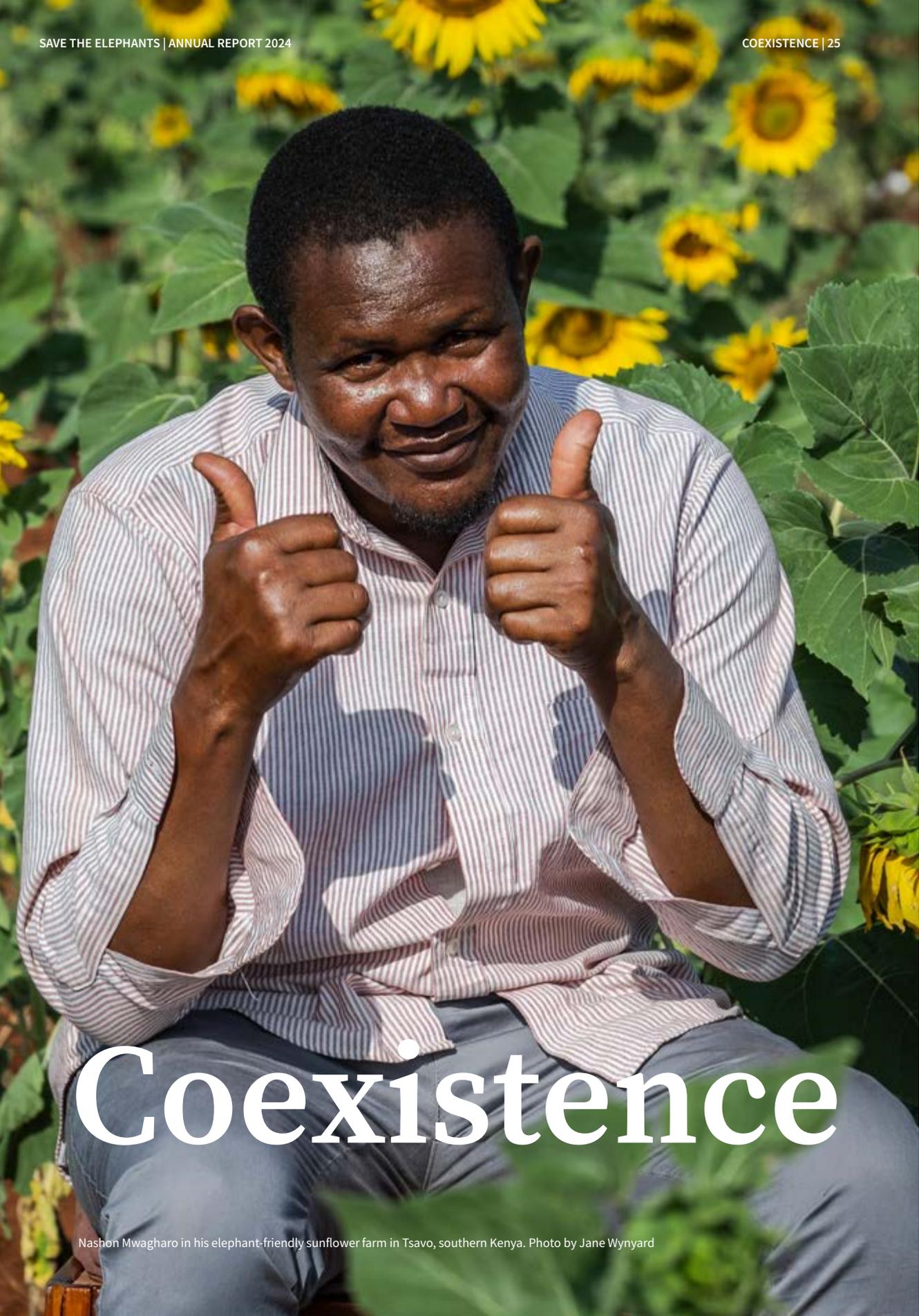
In 2024, the ECF funded three key elephant conservation projects in South Sudan:

The Jonglei ecosystem is home to the world's largest land mammal migration of the white eared kob. Overcoming challenges including limited road access, armed groups, intercommunal conflict, illegal gold mining and poaching, African Parks, supported by the ECF since 2022, is implementing a recovery plan with an initial emphasis on Boma and Badingilo National Parks.

As part of this plan, the ECF has funded aerial surveillance efforts, as well as a Land Cruiser and elephant collars for monitoring. African Parks is tracking some of the surviving elephants including a herd of 50-80 elephants which moves between Boma and neighbouring community areas.

The Agency for Conservation and Development (ACD), a youth-led organisation, is working in Zeraf Game Reserve in the Sudd wetlands where civil conflict and extreme flooding have displaced communities and wildlife. Since 2021, the ECF has supported ACD with funding for training, equipment and reconnaissance trips. In 2024, we funded canoes and a motorboat, reducing reliance on hired boats, and the team made the first ground-based detection of elephants in the area for years. This encounter gives some hope that elephants may permanently return if the water recedes.

Fauna & Flora, with ECF support, is restoring management to the western sector of Southern National Park. ECF-funded camera traps have confirmed a breeding elephant herd south of the park, with hopes for recovery. In the last year, the ECF has also funded a ranger outpost and community wildlife ambassadors to help protect these elephants.



Coexistence

Nashon Mwacharo in his elephant-friendly sunflower farm in Tsavo, southern Kenya. Photo by Jane Wynyard

Red Giants of Tsavo

Finding Harmony between Elephants and Farmers

The iconic red colour of Tsavo's elephants has a story to tell: the region's iron-rich, mineral-packed soil not only gives these colossal elephants their striking red dust coating, but also **helps them grow some of the largest ivory in Africa.**

Monitoring and protecting these precious pachyderms - the largest population in Kenya - has become a national priority. **Save the Elephants is proud to support one of East Africa's largest conservation areas** through landscape monitoring, aerial anti-poaching surveillance and grassroots coexistence research.

One of Tsavo's red elephants, a hefty bull with eye-catching long, straight tusks has been named "Goshi" by local farmers (after a nearby river). He is notoriously fond of leaving the safety of the park and searching for snacks in the nearby community of Sagalla, where farmers find elephants like Goshi to be challenging and unpredictable neighbours. That's where our **Tsavo Research & Coexistence Centre** comes in.



The notorious Goshi in Tsavo shortly after he was fitted with a tracking collar in August 2024. Photo by Meha Kumar

Originally built in 2013, the old Elephants and Bees Research Centre was renovated and rebranded last year under new leadership, and embarked on a new mission to host Training of Trainers workshops. Over the past year, more than 108 professional staff and community leaders have received training on the tools to help their home communities with practical elephant coexistence techniques. Across eight intensive events, participants studied our Human-Elephant Coexistence Toolbox Manual, packed with 80 different elephant coexistence tools, before heading into the field to meet farmers successfully using these methods to protect their crops from unwelcome visits by Goshi and his elephant friends.

Many of our coexistence methods also enhance livelihoods by introducing **alternative income streams**. These include honey production from beehive fences, growing and harvesting sunflowers, chilli and sesame - all crops that elephants avoid - as well as creating fashionable baskets, bags and woven craft items for sale.

Fifteen years of work has gone into the research, development and scaling of these coexistence methods for rural farmers living near Tsavo. It's rewarding to see the tools our team developed, now being shared with partners around the continent.

Since its publication, we have distributed more than **1,400 of our HEC Toolbox manuals** to almost every elephant range state, and supported some sites with grants allocated from our **Elephant Crisis Fund** to ensure coexistence lessons learnt in Tsavo can be scaled continentally. Every community in Africa struggling with human-elephant conflict has farmers needing protection and food security support - just as we find elephants like Goshi needing the same. Practical, low-cost, scalable solutions are key to balancing elephant conservation and human well-being as Africa moves toward its 2030 sustainable development goals.

We are **incredibly grateful to our donors for supporting this journey** - transforming fundamental elephant behaviour research into science-based solutions that keep both farmers and elephants safe. We hope you will continue to invest in our mission to scale our coexistence solutions even further.

In 2024, more than 150 professional staff and community leaders were trained in the tools to help their communities with practical elephant coexistence techniques. Photo by Kirstie Ruppert/San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance



SINCE ITS PUBLICATION WE HAVE DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN 1,400 OF OUR HEC TOOLBOX MANUALS TO ALMOST EVERY ELEPHANT RANGE STATE



Reducing Conflict

Seventeen African nations collaborate on scalable solutions

The rise in human-elephant conflict across Africa is deeply concerning - especially as funding for critical interventions is shrinking. In May 2024, Save the Elephants participated in the Global Wildlife Program's technical workshop in Nairobi - hosted by the World Bank in partnership with the Elephant Protection Initiative.

Seventeen African elephant range states, including several Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) grantees, shared scalable solutions. Ethiopia provided a promising update, reporting fewer human and elephant deaths in a community near Chebera-Churchura National Park, where Toolbox solutions like watchtowers - funded by ECF grants - have been implemented.

The workshop was highly collaborative and succeeded in bringing together motivated regional government wildlife officials. However, challenges in implementation remain. The most pressing resource gaps - budget, infrastructure, equipment and technical capacity - are areas we continue to invest in through our ECF grants. Even still, the scale of support and pace of investments needed is simply not fast enough to keep up with the demand across the continent.

Unless we make bold, decisive investments now to protect the land that elephants need to move, feed and thrive, we will lose crucial space for them and all the other wild creatures that rely on these areas of critical habitat. Please do consider supporting our work - vital continental conservation investments are needed now more than ever.



Funded watchtowers, like these in Chebera-Churchura National Park in Ethiopia, are proving successful in reducing human-elephant coexistence. Photo by Greta Francesca Lori / Elephant Protection Initiative

2024 Elephant Scholars Set New Record



Our 2024 Elephant Scholars have set a new record as the highest-performing cohort since our programme began in 2001!

Leading the way is Matthew Lodunga, the top-performing 2024 STE scholar in the national exams. Passionate about drones and technology, he dreams of studying aerospace engineering.

Matthew, who once saw elephants as a threat, now understands their importance thanks to his STE scholarship: "Growing up, I saw my mother and fellow tribesmen in constant conflict with elephants. Our perception was entirely negative. But through my elephant scholarship, I've come to understand their importance and the need to protect their habitats."

Beyond academics, he gives back by volunteering at a school in Manyatta village, Isiolo - proof that education can transform lives and conservation efforts.



Cinnamon from the Spices in Buffalo Springs National Reserve. Photo by Meha Kumar

Elephant Watch Camp

Wild Encounters, Real Impact

As the official tourism partner of Save the Elephants (STE) in Samburu National Reserve, Elephant Watch Camp & Safaris is the best place to stay for anyone interested in experiencing our work. Nestled beneath a lush forest canopy beside the Ewaso Ny'iro river, the camp is a colourful celebration of elephants, the wildlife of north Kenya, and the Samburu nomads who are the stewards of the land.

Staffed entirely by nomads hailing from villages immediately bordering the park, the camp offers a critical alternative livelihood to pastoralism and an important stake in wildlife conservation. The camp's guides know the elephants of Samburu so well that they often feed important information on elephant interactions back to STE's research team.

Elephant Watch has played a pivotal role in bringing stakeholders that live and work in the Ewaso ecosystem together, from tourism operators to community leaders and conservation NGOs, to lobby in favour of the parks and wildlife in this remote but stunningly beautiful region through a powerful grass-roots alliance.



Elephant Watch Camp offers an important stake in wildlife conservation. Photo by Susan Molloy

While there's a range of interesting places to stay in Samburu, as STE's long-time sister organisation, Elephant Watch offers special discounted rates to our supporters and donates 10% of profits to STE.

The insightful immersion into the world of elephants and their society that guests experience at Elephant Watch is matched by an equally profound introduction to the nomadic culture of peaceful coexistence with wildlife that lies at the heart of the calm, trusting behaviour of Samburu's elephants we so enjoy.

A Life Among Elephants

Award-Winning Documentary Captures Hearts

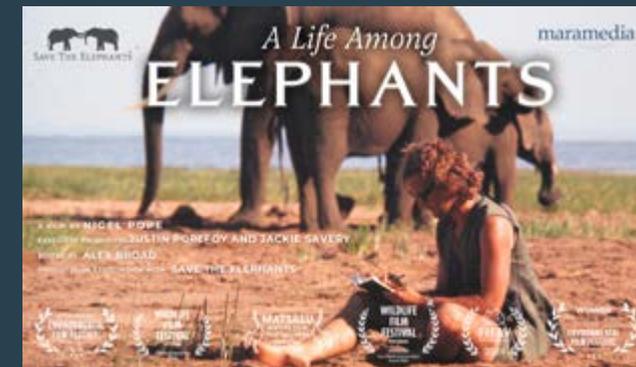
The powerful documentary, *A Life Among Elephants*, is making waves on the festival circuit, earning accolades and capturing hearts. The film chronicles the extraordinary life of STE's founder, Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton (aged 82), and his lifelong mission to protect Africa's wild elephants.

Featuring rare behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with Jane Goodall, Iain's family, and STE's Director of Field Operations, David Daballen, the film offers an intimate look at Iain's groundbreaking conservation work. First broadcast on ARTE France last year, it is distributed by Munich-based Autentic.

After premiering at the Royal Geographical Society in London last November, it made its US theatrical debut in Washington on March 22 2025, with screenings continuing across the US in this year (2025). It will also be screened on World Elephant Day (August 12) at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.

In March 2025, the film won the Flo Stone & Roger D. Stone Award for Outstanding Artistry in Filmmaking at the Environmental Film Festival in Washington, DC.

The film chronicles Iain's spectacular journey starting in 1965 at Lake Manyara in Tanzania, where he pioneered the study of wild elephants. As poaching escalated in the 1970s, he transformed from researcher to advocate, providing crucial data that helped secure the 1989 global ivory trade ban. When poaching surged again in the 2010s, he led efforts to push for China's 2018 ivory ban. As founder of Save the Elephants in 1993, Iain's work continues through a new generation of researchers dedicated to protecting Africa's most iconic species.



The award-winning documentary is capturing hearts around the world

Produced by Maramedia's award-winning team, under their Maradocs label, *A Life Among Elephants* is a compelling tribute to Iain, his legacy and the ongoing fight to protect Africa's most iconic species.

News

Empowering Conservation Leaders

Investing in people is key to securing a future for elephants. That's why we support the growth of our team as they take on new challenges in conservation.

After earning an MSc in Geographical Information Management from Cranfield University in the UK, STE's Benjamin Loloju is now advancing his studies with a PhD at the University of Twente. Kennedy Leneuyia, who earned his Master's degree in Conservation and Rural Development in the UK, is now pursuing a PhD at Yale University, Connecticut, US, to advance human-elephant coexistence efforts. Both Benjamin and Kennedy are on fully-funded scholarships from their respective universities.

Meanwhile, our Coexistence Project Officer, Derick Wanjala, is advancing his expertise with a Master's degree in Conservation Science at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology in Kent, UK. Paul Koki, our Aviation Coordinator, trained in aerial operations with African Parks in the Central African Republic, enhancing our ability to monitor and protect elephants from the skies.

By equipping our team with top expertise, STE is helping to protect elephants and their habitats for generations to come.



Kennedy Leneuyia. Photo by Jane Wynyard



Derick Wanjala. Photo by Brayn Mwalavu



Paul Koki. Photo by Jane Wynyard



Benjamin Loloju. Photo by Jane Wynyard

New Visitor Centre for the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary



President William Ruto and dignitaries inspecting STE's interactive elephant landscape model. Photo by Frank Pope



Our CEO, Frank Pope, cutting the ribbon with the President of Kenya, William Ruto. Photo courtesy of the President's media team.

Save the Elephants led the design of Reteti Elephant Sanctuary's new visitor centre, inaugurated by Kenya's President His Excellency Dr. William Ruto in November 2024. This groundbreaking space highlights the importance of wild elephants and promotes conservation. In collaboration with our partners, Sarara Foundation and Mass Design Group, we're proud to inspire visitors to the sanctuary. Thanks to Jody Allen and the Wild Lives Foundation for their support.

Legendary Elephant Joins Great Migration

A striking herd of more than 100 life-size elephant sculptures is touring the U.S. for The Great Elephant Migration, a global fundraising initiative by Elephant Family. Among them is Matt, a legendary African bull and great tusk who roamed further than any elephant we've ever tracked in Kenya, and whose epic journeys reshaped our understanding of elephant migration. The journey, which has visited New York, Miami, and Houston.



Matt in Houston. Photo by Tasha Gorel



STE's CEO Frank Pope at Expo. Photo by Chloe Jackman

Giving elephants a voice

On a mission to give elephants a voice, STE's CEO, Frank Pope, and Community Outreach Manager, Esther Serem, took centre stage at the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo in California, highlighting human-elephant conflict and the impact of our Elephant Crisis Fund. They also met supporters in San Francisco, Malibu and Washington, strengthening global efforts to protect elephants.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible supporters and donors who joined us for our talks and met our team. You are a vital part of our herd, and our work wouldn't be possible without you!



STE staff Sarah Kunkel (left) and Esther Serem manning our booth at Wildlife Expo. Photo by Chloe Jackman

The Elephant Queen - Phase Two

Save the Elephants is proud to support The Elephant Queen Outreach Tour, a groundbreaking initiative bringing award-winning natural history storytelling to Kenya's elephant rangelands. Through film screenings and an interactive stage play, the tour sparks conversations about human-elephant coexistence and conservation solutions.

In its first phase, the tour covered 24,000 kilometers and reached more than 135,000 people, delivering powerful education and awareness. Building on the success of Phase One and with STE's continued support, the Outreach Team will revisit communities, schools, old and new partners with an additional film, The Elephant and The Termite, in June - continuing to inspire communities and protect elephants for generations to come.



Athena and her herd projected on a large inflatable screen shortly before a community screen of The Elephant Queen. Photo courtesy of the Outreach & Education/The Elephant Queen

In Memory Of A Visionary Filmmaker

We honour the memory of Vicky Stone, a world-leading wildlife film maker and co-founder of The Elephant Queen Outreach Programme, who sadly died in November 2024. Her extraordinary drive, passion and dedication to sharing the wonders of the natural world leave a powerful legacy. Our thoughts are with her family. May she rest in peace.



Vicky Stone in action. Photo by Mark Deeble

Listeners tune in to STE's local radio broadcasts

Through partnerships with community radio stations in Samburu and Tsavo, our coexistence outreach campaign reached over 2 million people. These broadcasts shared practical solutions to help local communities live harmoniously alongside elephants, empowering residents with knowledge and strategies for peaceful coexistence.



David Daballen, STE's Head of Field Operations, and Tom Lesarge, Director of Samburu National Reserve, on air at Samburu's Radio Ashe. Photo by Gilbert Sablinga



500 Grants and Counting!

In 2024, the Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) hit a major milestone - its 500th grant to protect elephants! Launched in 2013 by Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network, the ECF has worked tirelessly to end the ivory crisis and secure a future for elephants. Over the past decade, it has supported 115 partners across 44 countries delivering rapid funding to frontline efforts tackling the ivory trade, human-elephant conflict, and habitat protection.



Elephants in Kafue National Park, Zambia. Photo by Gilmour Dickson / African Parks

Donor Profile

Powerful Ways to Support



Tanja Gallist, son Lucas and husband Rudi with STE's founder Iain Douglas-Hamilton in Nairobi.

Growing up in Tanzania in the late 1970s and Kenya in the 1980s, my family loved hearing about Iain Douglas-Hamilton's work in Manyara and later on in Uganda and Kenya. We devoured his books and he became a constant companion in a literary way.

Fast forward to 2004 Munich, Germany. The opportunity arose to establish a foundation and realise my long-cherished dream of supporting children in Africa. I wanted to give back to the people that had been a major part of my upbringing. The Capricorn Foundation was established and we set to work. We started in Southern Africa but realised more support was needed so we included Nature Conservation in our statutes and moved our focus to Kenya.

Partnering with Save the Elephants aligned with our new focus – Children, Education & Nature Conservation. We believe that future generations can only protect what they understand. Supporting STE with education-based programmes ensures just that. We kitted out schools, built fences, reopened boarding schools and provided a warm meal a day in two schools in Samburu initially. With the drought and price increases in 2022 we spontaneously picked up 11 schools and are now feeding more than 5,500 children per year.

By working together with STE, we are helping to educate these children to grow into a new generation, knowledgeable and strong protectors of their unique environment.

We love the work we do with STE and we not only visit by flying in, but also by driving our own car into camp in Samburu.

We hope to keep this work up for many years (and generations) to come.

Tanja Gallist
Capricorn Foundation



Tanja Gallist with teacher and students in Kiltamany school. All photos courtesy of Capricorn Foundation.



Tanja with students from Lorubae school in Samburu.



The Native Americans in Samburu National Reserve. Photo by Jane Wynyard

2024 Publications

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Photo by Robbie Labanowski

Finance

Statement of Revenue & Expenses

	AUDITED		UNAUDITED	
	2023		2024	
REVENUE (US\$)				
Donations		4,980,050		5,424,734
Interest Earned		-		-
TOTAL REVENUE		4,980,050		5,424,734
Fundraising	303,568	378,790	6%	7%
Administration & logistics	121,242	149,961	2%	3%
Governance	11,537	35,036	0%	1%
Awareness	979,512	-	20%	
Protection	1,167,150	-	23%	
Research	1,032,322	-	21%	
Tracking	611,108	-	12%	
Elephant Protection & Pathways	-	1,760,785		34%
Human-Elephant Coexistence	-	1,769,434		35%
Understanding Elephants	-	1,030,559		20%
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,011,328	5,124,565		
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		- 31,278		300,169

In 2024 we consolidated our project management and accounting from five pillars to three, as presented above.

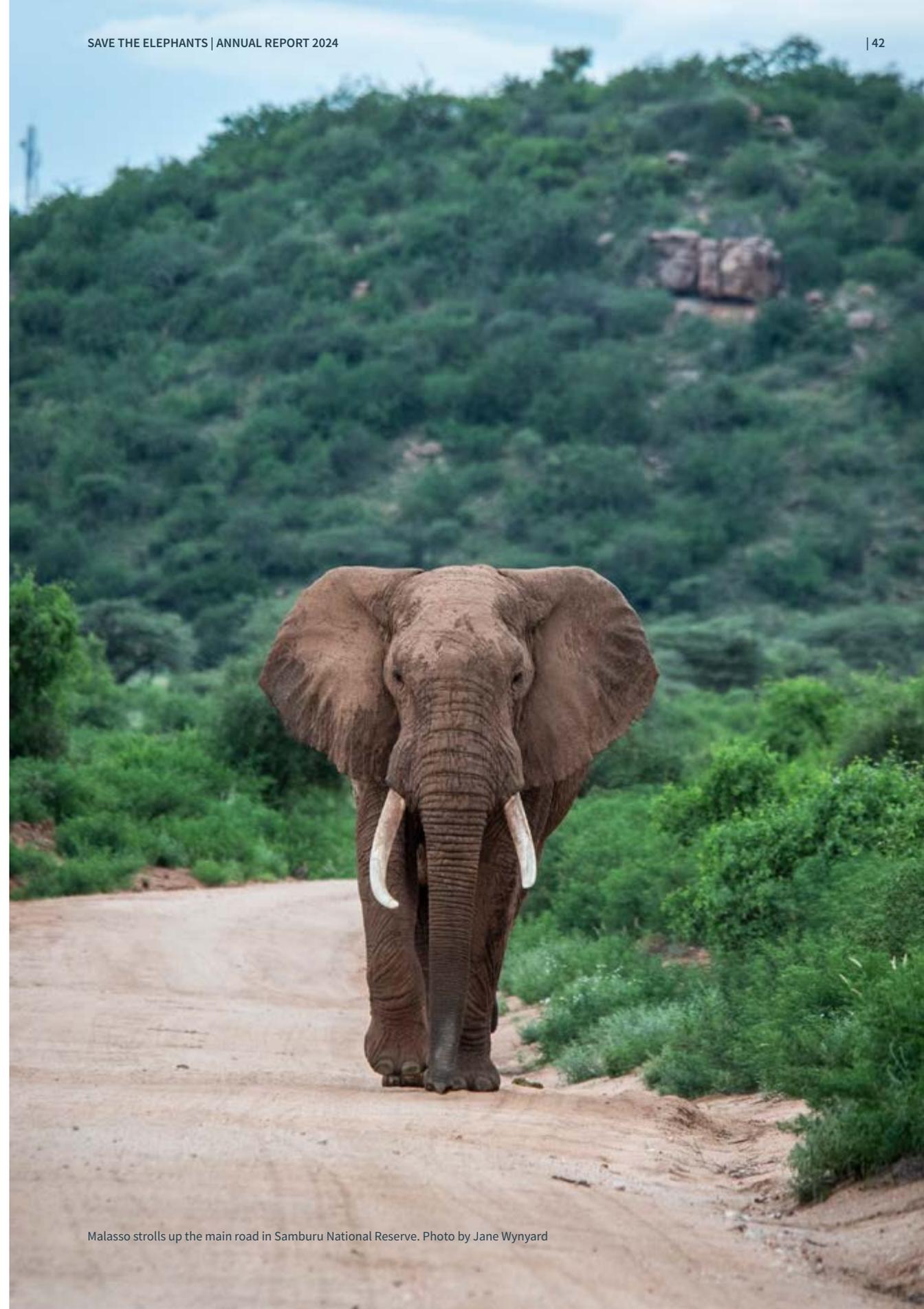
2024 accounts (unaudited) converted at a rate of £1 - \$1.267

Unaudited figures for 2024 are presented here. Variations may result from the auditor’s recommendations. At the end of 2024, Save the Elephants (STE) held **\$2,835,000** in reserves, equivalent to 6 months of operating expenditure, as set by STE’s board.



Analysis of 2024 expenditure

Admin & Logistic	3%	\$149,961
Governance	1%	\$35,036
Fundraising	7%	\$378,790
Elephant Protection & Pathways	34%	\$1,760,785
Human-Elephant Coexistence	35%	\$1,769,434
Understanding Elephants	20%	\$1,030,559



Malasso strolls up the main road in Samburu National Reserve. Photo by 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 from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

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.

Conservation Visionaries: \$100,000+

Mary S. Boardman Fund for Conservation	Elephant Cooperation	San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
Caldwell Fisher Family Foundation	Heidi Charleson & Lou Woodworth	Anonymous (1)
	Tom & Julie Hull	

Benefactors: \$20,000 - \$99,999

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The Argus Fund	Dr. Sal Jepson	Nancy P. & Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation
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Capricorn Foundation for Africa's Children & Nature	Martinez Family Trust	Wyss Academy for Nature
The Dawson Family Fund	The McBride Family Foundation	
Dry Creek Foundation	Singleton Rankin & WorldWomenWork	

Ambassadors: \$5,000 - \$19,999

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Laura Davis	Kathleen Kendle	David Remes
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Rebecca Detrich	John Kirila	Janette Rice
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Dorothy & Frank Dimeglio	Michael Kranefuss	Roisilin Riley
Jamie Douglas-Hamilton	Tim Kuypers	Gretchen Robinson
Marcus Duncan	Louis Labellarte	Stephen Robinson
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Lorraine Farr	Paul Lee	Hank Rose
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Lou Fiorentino	Michael & Valerie Liberty	S. Anselm's Preparatory School
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Paul & Susan Fleischman	Mimsy Lindner & Cabby Boone	Peter Sacks
Alexa Gangemi	David Luckham	Charles Sandel
		San Francisco Zoological Society

Sponsors continued: \$1,000 - \$4,999

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
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| The South Square Trust | Marc Jones & Sami Tucker | Wilmot Wheeler Foundation |
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| Daniel Spooner | Allen Whittemore & Mary Walton | Anonymous (7) |
| Adam Teepe | Whittemore | |
| Margaret Tennant | | |

Matching Gifts

We thank the following companies that matched employees’ gifts over \$1,000 made to Save the Elephants.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Apple Match Gift Program | Intel Corporation Match Gift Program | NetApp Match Gift Program |
| Evite Match Gift Program | Microsoft Match Gift Program | Qualcomm Inc |
| Google Match Gift Program | N1234 Match Gift Program | |

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 Theodore J. Adams Jr. | Estate of Paul Le Huray | Estate of Margaret E. Simmons |
| Estate of Carol E. Botello | Estate of Zelda Levy | Estate of Ruth Smiler |
| Estate of Jasmine Cicely Brunner | Estate of Marion Florence Ellen Payne | Estate of Eleanora Worth |
| Estate of Paul Ronald Ferris | Estate of Peggy Constantine Payne | Estate of Janet Weisberg |
| Estate of Kathleen Fowler | Estate of Barbara May Peters | Estate of Mark A. Yablonsky |
| Estate of Barbara Elizabeth Latham | Estate of Peter Michael Thomas | |

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.

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!



Playful elephant calves in Samburu. Photo by Frank af Petersens

Elephants need you. Those born today could live more than 60 years but they face increasing challenges from human impacts.

Help us protect elephants and foster peaceful coexistence between our species.

Cheque

Cheques should be made out to the payees and sent to the corresponding addresses below. Please include your address for the mailing of tax information.



\$ (USD) Payable to:
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