



HONG KONG

Elephants

YOUR ADOPTION UPDATE

TOGETHER FOR ELEPHANTS

YOU'RE SUPPORTING CRUCIAL EFFORTS TO HELP
PEOPLE AND ELEPHANTS LIVE IN HARMONY

ALSO
INSIDE

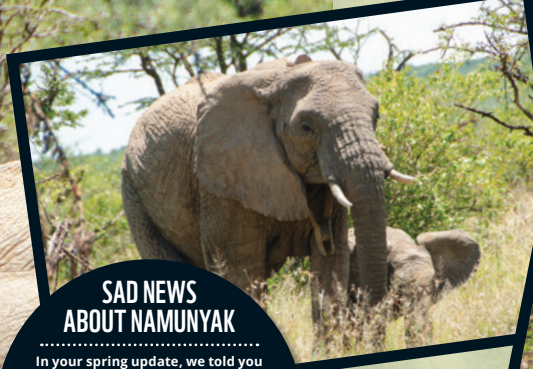
HOW COWS ARE
HELPING ELEPHANTS

YOUR FIELD REPORT

COMPILED BY MAURICE NYALIGU
FROM WWF'S AFRICAN ELEPHANT
PROGRAMME, WHICH YOUR
ADOPTION SUPPORTS



Namunyak with her calf
and herd members



SAD NEWS ABOUT NAMUNYAK
In your spring update, we told you about Namunyak (above), another collared matriarch we've followed since 2015. Sadly, she recently died of natural causes. The good news is that Namunyak's calf was found and rescued by our partner, Kenya Wildlife Service. It's now being cared for in Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Orphanage in Nairobi.



“ WITH YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT, WE’RE WORKING TO HELP PEOPLE THROUGH THE PANDEMIC BY PROVIDING FRESH WATER, PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND HAND-WASHING POINTS ”

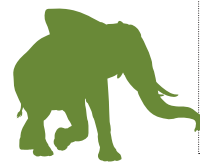
The coronavirus pandemic has affected people's livelihoods and increased pressure on elephant habitats. But with your help, we're rising to the challenge

Families living near wildlife-rich areas often depend on tourism for their jobs and income. Some work in community-run conservancies, which offer tourists an eco-friendly way to see African elephants, lions and other incredible animals in the wild. Others provide tourism-related activities such as giving guided tours, or making and selling handicrafts and honey.

FRAGILE FORESTS

The worldwide lockdown due to Covid-19 has led to a catastrophic reduction in Kenya's tourist numbers, eliminating the sole source of income for many families. Extreme hardship is driving some people to seek out natural resources from the forests used by elephants. Nyakweri Forest is one of the places where we've seen a recent rise in human activity.

150KG
ELEPHANTS
REQUIRE UP TO
150KG OF FOOD
PER DAY, AND CAN
SPEND THREE-
QUARTERS OF
THE DAY EATING



Fondly known as the 'elephant maternity', Nyakweri is usually a safe haven for elephants to give birth. But since lockdown, we've had increased reports of people entering the forest to catch wild animals for meat and to cut down trees for timber and charcoal. Some are even clearing areas of forest for agriculture.

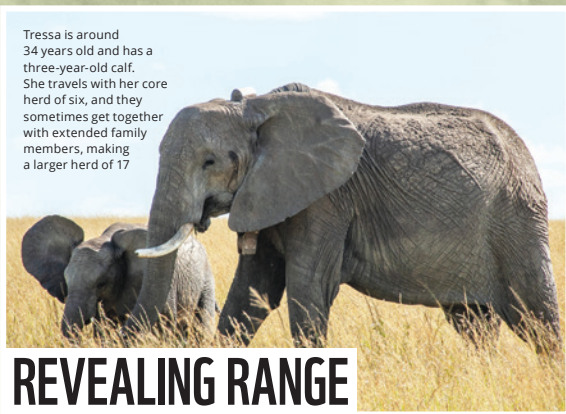
While these actions are understandable, the damage they cause can shrink and fragment elephant habitats even further. Elephants could end up being squeezed into even tighter spaces, bringing them into closer contact with people and increasing the risk of conflict – with potentially devastating consequences for both.

PRACTICAL HELP

With your amazing support, we're helping people through the pandemic by providing fresh water, protective equipment and hand-washing points. Plus, we're helping to raise awareness about preventing the spread of Covid-19 in the communities we work with. Crucially, we're also continuing to find ways of

supporting and expanding people's livelihoods. For example, in Oloisukut Conservancy, we're working with communities to introduce improved livestock breeds, which have a higher milk and meat yield. These breeds take up less land for grazing, leaving more space for elephants. You can read more about this on page 6.

Understanding the elephants' movements is key to preventing them from coming into conflict with local communities. By tracking the jumbos over time, we can identify hotspots where they raid crop fields or trample through villages, and put harmless yet effective measures in place to deter them. We started fitting elephants with satellite collars in November 2015, and have been helping to monitor these and other subsequently collared elephants ever since. Tressa is one of the elephants we follow, and she's giving us some really interesting information about her herd's movements and behaviour. Read on to find out more.



REVEALING RANGE

In the five years we've been monitoring her, Tressa has never 'trespassed' onto community lands

Tressa is our southernmost collared matriarch, and she's something of an international traveller! She and her herd regularly cross the border between Kenya's Maasai Mara and the Serengeti in Tanzania, where they feed in the open grasslands and along the riverbank.

If their natural water sources and vegetation dry up, elephants are more likely to enter villages and raid crop fields. Thankfully, Tressa's feeding grounds remain relatively lush, despite most parts of the Mara ecosystem suffering months of severe drought. With space to roam and enough to eat and drink, she and her fellow elephants have kept away from communities. We'll keep monitoring her to look for any changes in behaviour. Meanwhile, let's hope her peaceful way of life continues long into the future.

IMAGES © AUSTINE OKANDE / WWF-KENYA



HONG KONG



MILKING THE BENEFITS

WE'RE WORKING WITH THE MAASAI ON AN EXCITING NEW LIVESTOCK PROJECT THAT COULD BENEFIT THEM AND THEIR JUMBO NEIGHBOURS

Maasai people have traditionally lived and grazed native cattle breeds such as zebu alongside elephants and other wildlife. Large livestock herds were once seen as a sign of wealth. But increased competition for land, escalating droughts and dwindling pasture for grazing mean times have changed.

By introducing cattle breeds that produce more meat and milk, and that are resistant to drought and diseases, we can help people reduce their herd sizes. People's incomes also improve and there's more space for elephants and other wildlife. A pilot scheme in Ololokut Conservancy replaces low yielding zebu cattle with boran and sahiwal breeds, and people are already reaping the benefits.

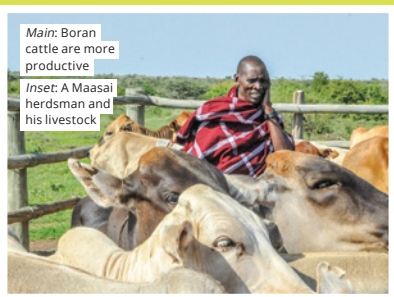
CREAM OF THE CATTLE

As well as taking up less space for grazing, the new breeds offer substantial financial benefits. A four-year-old zebu currently sells for Ksh12,000 (around £90), whereas a two-year-old boran can sell for as much as Ksh100,000 (around £750), making a huge difference

to people's incomes. In turn, practical approaches like this are creating positive changes for elephants.

The pilot shows how managing livestock sustainably can create much-needed income for local communities while reducing pressure on the open spaces elephants and other wildlife rely on. Since the conservancy was established, wildlife numbers have risen, while incidents of poaching and conflict between elephants and people have gone down. 🌱

Main: Boran cattle are more productive
Inset: A Maasai herdsman and his livestock



DID YOU KNOW?

IN MAASAI CULTURE, COW BLOOD AND MILK ARE MIXED TOGETHER AND USED AS A RITUAL DRINK IN SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS, OR TO GIVE TO THE SICK



步走大自然
Walk for Nature @ MAI PO
6-7 Nov 2021

慢步米埔

S L O W C A T I O N

@ Mai Po



活動大使
Event Ambassador:
倪晨曦
Elva Ni



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As well as helping to safeguard elephants,
your adoption supports our other vital work to help
protect our beautiful planet and its wildlife.

Thank you.



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world for people and wildlife
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