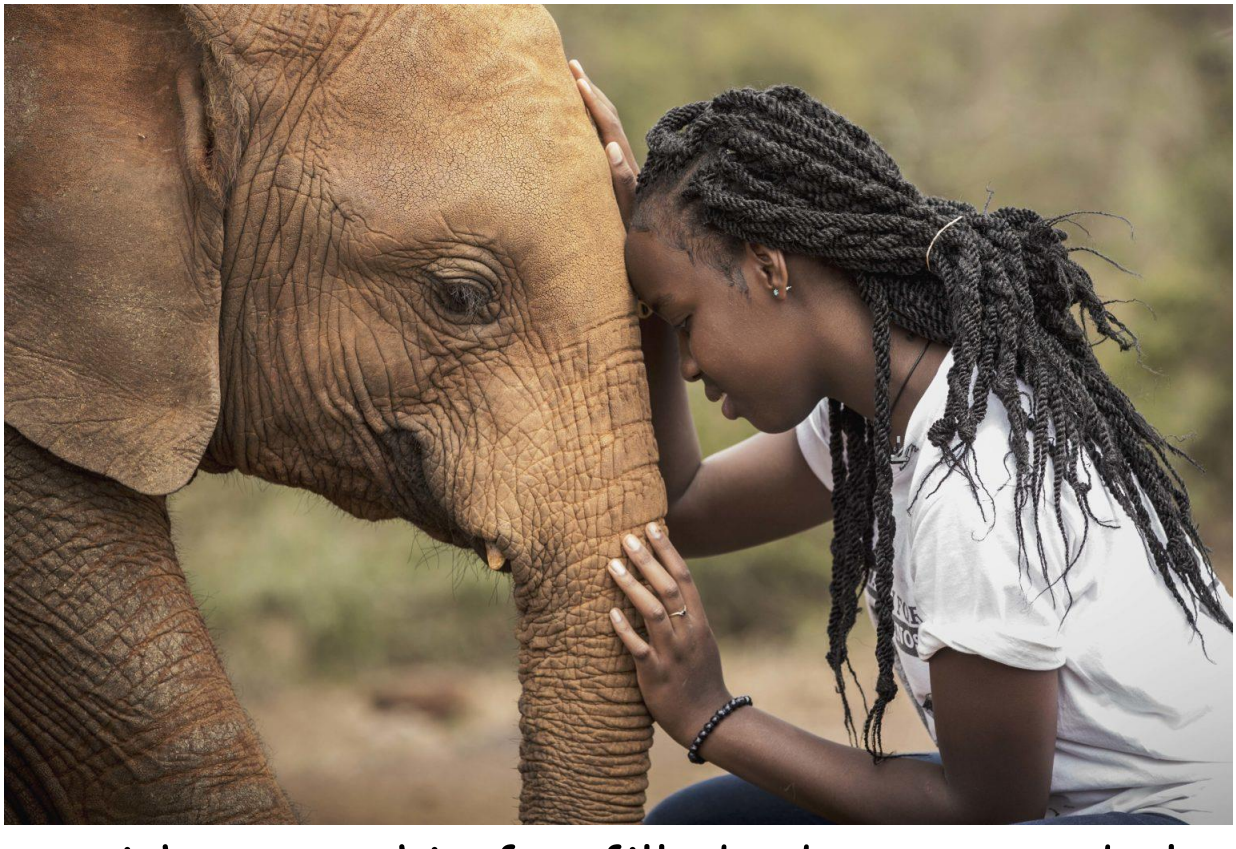
WILDLIFEDIRECT

Newsletter
Issue #13
August 14th, 2020

WILDLIFE WARRIORS KIDS

Hello Wildlife Warriors!
Stay connected to nature even when you are at home.

In this week's Issue, we focus on **Elephants** because on August 12th we celebrated World Elephant Day! Do you know the similarities between elephants and human beings? Have you ever wondered why elephants have very big ears? Please read on! We continue to give you tips on how to take the **BEST** wildlife photographs for Season Two of the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition, wild jokes and much much more…



Stay with us on this fun filled adventure and always remember to share with your family and friends.

KIDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Did you know that the Great Wildebeest Migration across the Serengeti in Tanzania and Masai Mara in Kenya occurs every year from July to September?

Hanain Ayub (15) submitted this spectacular image of a Wildebeest during Season One of the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition on the theme **Bizarre Beauties!**

Follow Hanain on Instagram *@hanain1_*.

Season 2 of the Nature's Treasures Competition has Started!!! Submit up to 3 photos on the theme '*Wildlife Portraits*' by August 14th, 2020.

PHOTOGRAPHY TIP
BY USHA HARISH

Story telling image

Every image tells a story. Here, we get to see how elephants live as a family and how they never forget their set path / route. As pictured above, they are going towards Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest Mountain in Africa on a bright and sunny day.

USHA HARISH
PHOTOGRAPHY

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

NATURE'S TREASURES PHOTO COMPETITION
SEASON 2

Prizes!

Professional Category
Winner KES 5000
Runner up KES 3000

Amateur Category
Winner KES 3500
Runner up KES 2000

Junior Category (Under 15 years)
Winner KES 2000
Runner up KES 1000

Enter up to 3 photos
to bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA
every week!

Themes!

- Wildlife Portraits
  (Aug 1st to Aug 14th)
- Wild Landscapes
  (Aug 15th to Aug 28th)
- Fins, Feathers, and Flowers
  (Aug 29th to Sep 11th)
- Funny and Cute Wildlife
  (Sept 12th to Sept 25th)
- Humans Helping Nature
  (Sept 26th to Oct 9th)
- Dramatic Wildlife
  (Oct 10th to Oct 23rd)

Now inviting photographers
from East Africa!

WILDLIFEDIRECT | CONSERVATION through PUBLIC HEALTH | WILDLIFE CLUBS OF KENYA | TONYWILD Wildlife . Media . Impact | OGO-LAW The green brief | GORILLA CONSERVATION COFFEE | WILDLIFE WARRIORS

Nature photography for children offers a wide range of exciting and valuable learning opportunities.

If you are 15 years and below, you can submit your photos under the Junior Category and encourage your age mates to take part in the Wildlife Warriors Nature's Treasures Photo Competition here
http://bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA

Go Out. Explore. Take Photos. Share.

UNDERSTANDING ELEPHANTS

Did you know…

- There are two species of elephants in the world; namely the Asian Elephant and the African Elephant which has two sub-species namely the African Savannah Elephant and the African Forest Elephant.
- Elephant families are usually made up of related females and their calves. They are led by the **matriarch**, usually the oldest and most experienced female in the group. A family can range in size from 3 individuals to 40. A male elephant is called a **bull**.
- Elephants are herbivores. They eat grass, bushes, bark, leaves, fruits and even twigs.

- Elephants have the longest gestation period of all mammals; that is 22 months. They produce a calf only once every 4 to 5 years.

- Baby elephants are born big, standing approximately one metre tall and weighing more than 91kgs at birth.

- The African Savannah elephant can drink up to 200 litres of water per day. Elephants drink using the trunk. An elephant trunk is the longest nose in the world and it measures 2m when fully grown.

Did you know that one trunkful of water is equal to 10 litres?

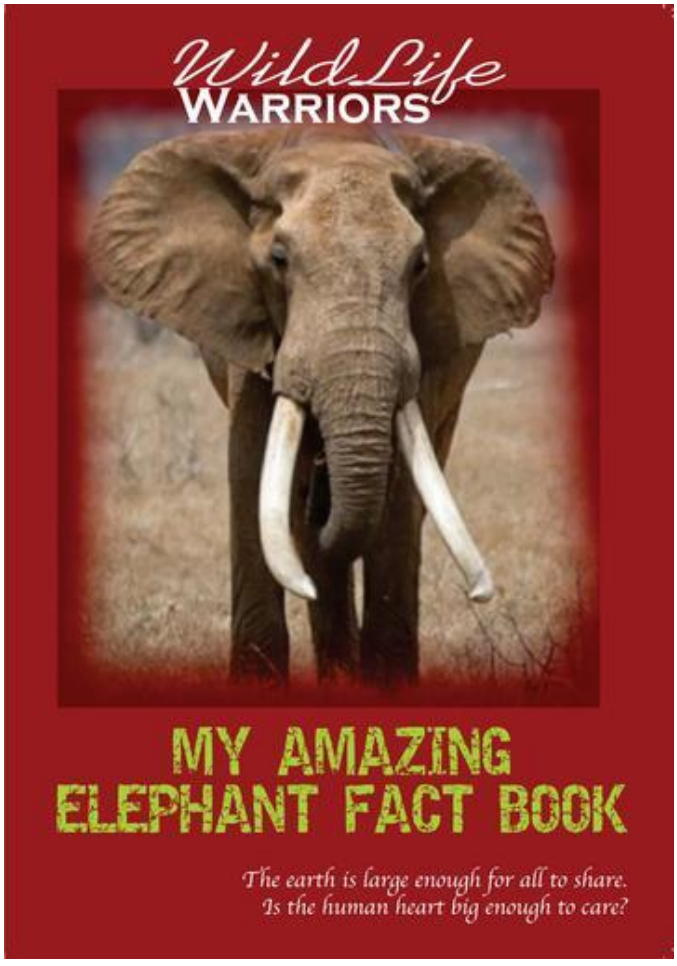
- The ears of an African Elephant are almost shaped like the map of Africa.
- African elephants have the largest ears of any known animal in the world.
- Elephants also use their gigantic ears to communicate with each other between long distances of up to 4km.
- Elephants have 26 teeth in their lifetime, but only four molars are present at any time, one on each side of the upper and lower jaws.
- Elephants have two permanent tusks. They are made of dentine, which is a tough material containing many different minerals. Just like your teeth!
- Even though elephants have very thick skin, they feel every fly landing on them. They wallow in the mud to stay cool and keep off biting insects.

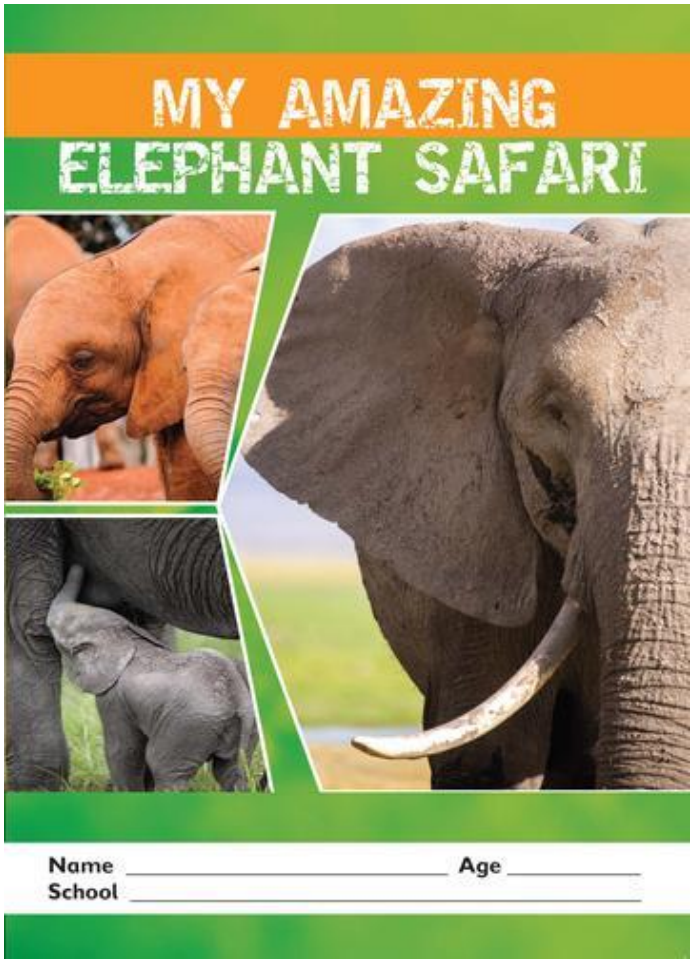
Courtesy of the Amazing Elephant Fact Book

FUN FACT

The elephant has the largest brain of all the land animals. It is three or four times larger than that of humans.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ELEPHANTS





The Amazing Elephant Fact Book tells you about the fascinating world of elephants and will help you understand them!

My Amazing Elephant Safari is an activity book which you can use to enter your own observation.

To order copies of The Elephant Fact and Activity books, please call, send an SMS or WhatsApp message to 0746 511 787. Each book is Ksh. 400 only! You can also send an email to info@wildlifedirect.org

ELEPHANTS AND PEOPLE

Do you know the similarities between humans and elephants?

With the help of your friends and family, list all the similarities you can think of in your nature journal ! Here are some.

Elephants	**Humans**
i. Have families	i. Have families
ii. Have names	ii. Have names
iii. ……	iii. ……
iv. ……	iv. ……
v. ……	v. ……
vi. ……	vi. ……
vii. ……	vii. ……

Share your list with us via WhatsApp by sending a photo of it to 0746 511 787

NKINI'S ENCOUNTER

Nkini, a widow with 8 children was grazing her goats and collecting firewood out in the bush as she did every day. She was leaning over to pick sticks when out of the blue, an elephant charged.

She had not seen it and did not have any time to run. Tusks ripped through her from behind.

The elephant attacked her at least twice before leaving her. Though this happened close to home, nobody saw what happened; she was alone.

Somehow she managed to crawl to her hut and told one of the small children to call one of the elders and she was rushed to hospital.

Within two weeks, the injuries on her face had nearly healed but the wounds where the tusks ripped through her legs, were barely closing. Soila, who was an expert in elephant behavior, visited her at the hospital everyday until she was discharged. This happened in 2018 and WildlifeDirect helped her for six months.

Nkini is now fully healed and healthy.

THREATS FACING ELEPHANTS

Kenya's elephant population has doubled from 16,000 in 1989 to 34,800 in 2019.

Elephants do not have natural predators. However, sometimes lions will attack young and weak elephants in a herd.

The biggest threat to elephants is human beings.

By Amit Vasani

- **Human-Elephant Conflict.** Elephants roam for thousands of kilometres every year in search of food and water. Sometimes they stray into human settlements destroying crops and property or kill people and this causes conflict. People retaliate by killing the animals using crude weapons such as spears laced with poison.

Ivory burning at the Ivory burning site at the Nairobi National Park

- **Poaching.** This is the illegal killing of elephants and other wild animals in order to sell their meat or other products such as tusks. In Kenya, killing an elephant will lead to 5 years imprisonment or a fine of 1 million Kenyan shillings.

- **Illegal trade.** The transporting and selling of elephant products or ivory is illegal in Kenya. Some ivory also comes into Kenya from surrounding countries such as Tanzania and Congo. Our police officers and Kenya Wildlife Service work together to stop this illegal trade.

MEET DR. WINNIE KIIRU

Q: Have you always wanted to be an elephant expert?

A: My love for elephants developed when I joined the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in 1992. I spent many hours in Amboseli with elephants and learnt a lot about the families.

Q: Why did you choose to study the elephant?

A: I was fascinated by their large size and gentle nature, the female led family groups and the rumbling sounds that they use to communicate.

Q: What is your most memorable moment on the job?

A: The day when President Kenyatta burnt over 100 tonnes of ivory in Nairobi. Kenya made a statement to the world that ivory belongs to elephants.

Echo by Elephant Voices

Q: What was your worst day on the job?

A: The day when Echo died. She was my favorite matriarch in Amboseli. I received the news when I was out of the country and I felt really sad.

Q: What are you most proud of?

A: The youth of Kenya and their passion towards wildlife. I am happy that I have been an inspiration to many of them and I hope to continue inspiring them through my work.

Q: What would you say to advise a child who wants to be a researcher or animal expert?

A: It is never too early to start learning about wildlife. Start with the butterflies, birds and flowers around you. Learn everything you can about them.

WILD JOKES! 🤣

Q: What's an elephant's secret talent?
A: They're good at multi-tusking.

Q: What do you call an elephant whose opinion doesn't matter?
A: Irrelephant.

Q: Why did the elephant start the stampede?
A: Because it wanted to be herd.

Q: Why don't elephants use computers?
A: Because they're afraid of the mouse.

Q: Where did the elephant borrow a suitcase?
A: Because she had a tiny trunk.

Q: Why did the elephant's opinion matter so much?
A: Because it carried a lot of weight.

Q: What do you call a flying elephant?
A: A Jumbo Jet.

Q: What do elephants do at night?
A: They watch elevision.

Wild jokes courtesy of Eric Sasia

THE RETETI ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

Elephants might be the largest and strongest land mammals on earth but as babies, they are extremely vulnerable.

When elephants are killed by poachers, many elephant calves are left orphaned. Some elephant calves are abandoned because of drought, death of the mother, human-wildlife conflict and when calves get stuck inside man-made wells.

Around 5-10 calves are rescued in Northern Kenya every year with the help of community members who understand and treasure the elephants and other wildlife.

Baby elephants depend on their mothers milk for the first 3-4 years of their lives therefore orphaned or abandoned calves cannot survive on their own .

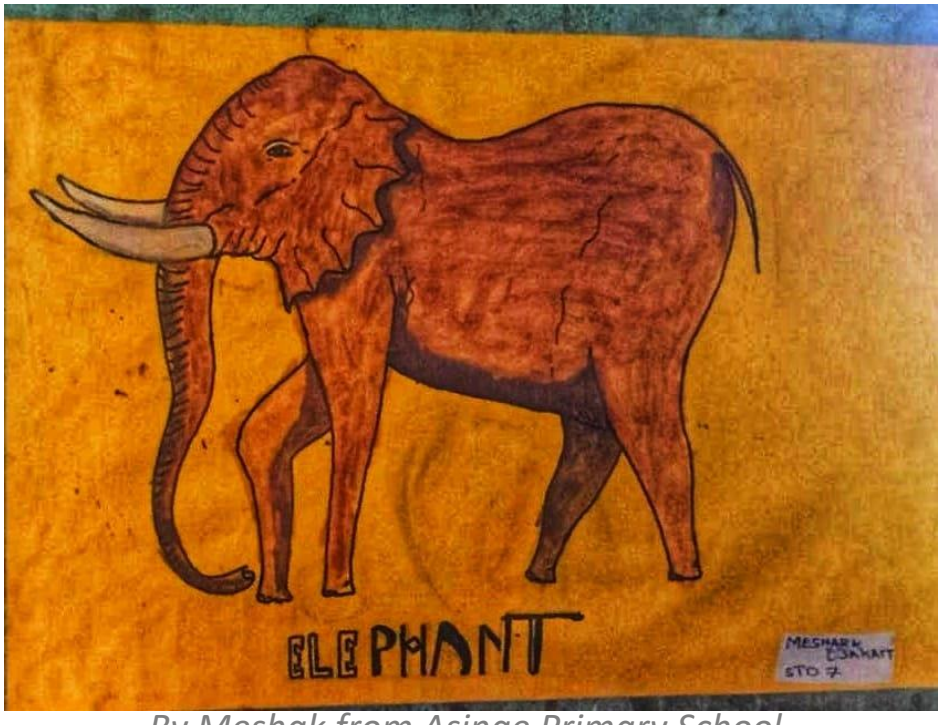
The Reteti Elephant Sanctuary in Samburu was started to rescue these calves, by giving them a home and feeding them with specially made milk, with one baby elephant drinking an average of 16 litres of milk a day.

Elephant dung is sampled to observe any changes which help in understanding their health. Solid stool indicates a healthy elephant while loose stool means that the elephant is sick.

After taking milk, the calves are taken into the bush to learn which plants to eat as they get prepared to be released back into the wild. When they get to five years and are able to survive on their own, they are released into the wild.

Learn more about Reteti Baby Elephants on this episode of Wildlife Warriors here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqIIURq-7Kw

ART FOR WILDLIFE



By Meshak from Asinge Primary School

Art Gallery at the 2019 Kids Expedition

Share your drawings/poems/paintings with us via WhatsApp by sending a photo of it to 0746 511 787

PHOTO STORY OF THE WEEK
TSAVO FIRES

Two months ago, unknown people started fires in Tsavo West National Park.

Many people who love wildlife joined the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in putting out the fire that had burnt large acres of vegetation.

The volunteers used fire beaters, fire engines, aerial water spray, graders and water bowsers to put out the fires.

However, strong winds in the Tsavo Conservation area kept re-igniting the fire making it very difficult to extinguish it.

On Monday August 10, 2020. the Fire that had been raging the Tsavo West National Park was finally put out and the area will still be monitored closely for more fire outbreak.

The fire caused the death of many wild animals, loss of acres of vegetation that provides food and habitat for many animals. The thick smoke caused air pollution.

NATURE INVESTIGATIONS PART 3

Now that you have been observing, noticing, asking questions and drawing animals and plants, you must be getting good at drawing them! Keep asking questions.

It's now time to work on identifying the animal or plant.

- Look at it closely and think about what it reminds you of.
- Break a leaf and smell it- what does it remind you of?
- Get close to look at the different parts in detail. Touch it.
- What does it feel like?

As you develop your skills in focused observation and saying what you notice out loud, what you wonder and what the insect/plant/animal reminds you of, you will stretch your mind and develop your curiosity about the mysteries of nature.

Write as many things it reminds you of as possible.

Now draw your animal or plant and write your notes next to the drawing.

Look at all your drawings and your object and think about how much you have learned about it.

Is it velvety and soft or rough? Do the flower petals bend over and remind you of a dogs ears? Does this insect remind you of a helicopter?

Being curious and observant will make you feel happy!

Nature Investigations by Dr. Paula Kahumbu

Take a photo of the **work** you have done in **your journal and send it** to us via **WhatsApp on 0746 511 787** so that we can **share your amazing work with all the other kids.**

TRIBUTE TO TIM

By Paula Kahumbu

Tim, probably the most Majestic Elephant in Kenya and probably the elephant with the biggest tusks in Africa, died of natural causes this year on February 5th, 2020.

Tim lived in Amboseli and he brought so much joy to so many people. Many people traveled from far to Amboseli to try and get a glimpse of this gentle giant.

He died at the age of 50 and will be greatly missed.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP ELEPHANTS

There are many animals that used to roam the earth but are now extinct. Without the help of everyone, elephants could also become extinct.
Here is some of the things you can do to help.

- Never buy wildlife products such as elephant ivory and rhino horn and if you see someone else buying, ask them not to.

- Write stories and songs about why elephants are important and find a place to tell your story.

- Help organize a fundraiser in your school or community to take your classmates to a national park in Kenya so everyone can experience wildlife. While at the park, talk to the rangers about their work!

THIS WEEK ON MY WILD AFRICA

Remember to set your alarms for this Sunday at 5:30 PM EAT on My Wild Africa as we continue to follow the lives of 4 cheetah cubs - Yankee, Zulu, Whiskey, and X-ray, the Serval Cat - Baggins and the Livestock Guarding Dogs at the Cheetah Outreach Centre.

Tune in only on Citizen TV Kenya and learn why the cheetah cubs and the serval are being trained to act as ambassadors for their species.

Share with us your favorite part.

Watch the **film** with your family and tell us **what you learnt** by sending an **SMS** or **WhatsApp message** to **0746 511787**

COMING UP… DON'T MISS!

- **My Wild Africa on Citizen TV at 5:30pm on** August 16th, 2020
- **World Orangutan Day** is on August 19th, 2020
- **World Photography Day** is on August 19th, 2020
- **World African Wild Dog Day** is on August 26th, 2020
- **International Whale Shark Day** is on August 30th, 2020

FOR PARENTS!

- Please tell us what you think of this newsletter by filling the second part of bit.ly/WWKIDS and we will get back to you.

- If you would love to support Wildlife Warriors Kids, please make a donation to:

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Email us: info@wildlifedirect.org

Contact us on: +254 746 511 787

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