

ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE PROJECT

The Elephant Orphanage Project (EOP) is working to rescue, rehabilitate and release orphaned Elephants as a direct result of poaching.

In 2022, Action for the Wild donated £10,000 to help provide food and medical treatment for the orphans and to support the wage of one of the Elephant caregivers, Aaron, who has worked at the project since 2012.

At the end of 2022, a total of 25 orphans were under the Elephant Orphanage Project's care or monitoring spanning the six stages of release, with 2 new rescues over the year. The youngest, Chikumbi, was rescued from Rufunsa, which has always been a hotspot for orphans, and has now seen 16 orphan rescues since the EOP's inception.

The project has two camps; Lilayi Elephant Nursery where keepers provide constant care and feeding for 5 young orphans, and the Kafue Release Facility, where 13 orphans that need less time with humans are prepared for release back into the wild, but come back to the protective boma overnight.

A further 7 orphans move freely within Kafue National Park; 5 of these spend nights outside the boma, but do return on occasions to join the orphan herd, and 2 live in the wild full time.

2022 saw orphan matriarch Chamilandu finally leave the security of the release facility to form a wild based herd with her calf, Mutaanzi, and age mates, Tafika, Mosi and Rufunsa. They have been seen moving comfortably amongst wild Kafue herds.

Much of 2022 was absorbed with rebuilding a new home for the Elephant orphans in Lusaka National Park and to create an education and awareness space that really will shape the future of conservation through our future generations.

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