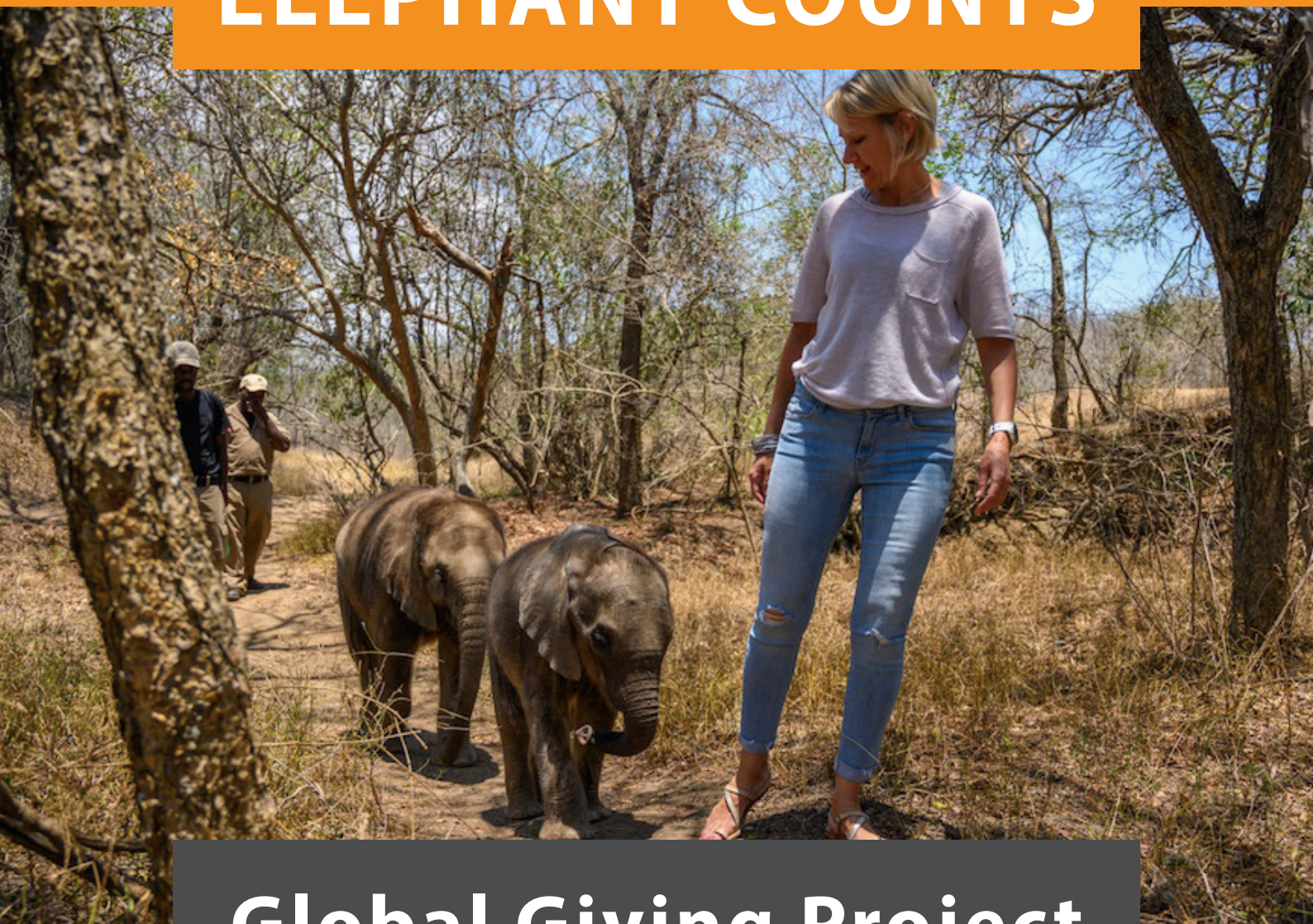




EVERY SINGLE ELEPHANT COUNTS



Global Giving Project

Help us give orphaned elephants a second chance at life, at HESC elephant sanctuary.

Why it is important to ensure every elephant life is saved and protected

Elephant numbers have declined rapidly over recent years, and hence are listed as vulnerable in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, with approximately 400 000 African elephants left.

There are two main causes of this; the continued poaching of elephants for their tusks which are made of ivory, which is in huge demand despite a ban international trade in ivory; and secondly, a loss of land for elephants, where human populations encroach into their habitats, together with agricultural projects, creating conflict between man and elephant, and sadly, the conservation of these precious animals is not taken into consideration.

It is important that every single elephant life is protected to the best of our capabilities, before their numbers are drastically depleted like the current rhino population, which has now become a race for their survival.

Objectives of The HESC Elephant Sanctuary

Our journey with elephants started over 20 years ago, with an orphaned elephant that was brought to Lente Roode, the founder of Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC) for care and rehabilitation.

Hand raising an elephant calf is an exceptionally delicate task, and it requires around the clock care, love and the expertise of an experienced wildlife veterinary team.

From the time of their birth until at least two years of age, an elephant calf is completely reliant on its mother's milk. That is why human intervention is critical to elephants that are orphaned as they could not possibly survive without their mother's milk. After about four to six months, baby elephants will start discovering their trunks and being using them to pull at grass and eventually will start eating the grass too.

At HESC we take on the momentous task of seeing the orphaned elephant calves through these two crucial and highly fragile years of their lives, until such time they are ready to be introduced to a herd of elephants, which is imperative for the emotional health of an elephant. Every elephant needs a herd.

Once we feel the young elephant is ready for the next step, we will introduce them to a herd of elephants at Camp Jabulani, who are unique in their history of accepting orphaned elephants into the herd. To date they have accepted three baby elephants successfully into the herd.

This provides an ideal environment, where we have opportunity to continue feeding the baby elephants milk and monitor them, during their phase of introduction to the herd, until such they are fully weaned, and not needing milk any longer.

Orphaned elephants at the HESC Elephant Sanctuary

Currently we have two orphaned elephants in our care at HESC, their names are Mopane and Rae.



Small and frail when he was brought to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC) a year ago on

8 December 2017, the little orphaned elephant that was later named Mopane is now a healthy and robust youngster weighing 247 kg – more than three times his original 78 kg.

Estimated to be only three or four weeks old when he was found wandering on his own in the Kruger National Park near Phalaborwa, he stood barely waste high and no-one was sure whether the dehydrated little creature with an infected navel and a decided limp would pull through.

However, immediate veterinarian treatment coupled with the ongoing care of dedicated carers and HESC curators and staff has seen Mopane develop into a strapping young fellow with a very good appetite. His surrogate mother, Lammie, also did much to comfort the little elephant that was exhausted and very frightened when he arrived.

Setbacks did occur. In October Mopane suddenly became very weak with no appetite and blood tests showed low albumen levels. A blood transfusion from a healthy adult elephant of the Camp Jabulani herd restored his health – and the peace of mind of HESC director Adine Roode who had spent nights with him when it was feared that he might not survive.

However, concern over Mopane has not entirely disappeared and Adine understands only too well how difficult it is to successfully raise a young elephant. She also admits to another concern: “While Mopane appears to be fit now, we still worry about him as we know that animals in the wild often abandon their young when there is a health problem. That may be the reason why he was found alone, but we continue to hope and pray that our Mopane will remain healthy.”



Raekie was found by an anti-poaching unit, in the Imfolozi Reserve in KwaZulu Natal, on the 19th October 2018. There was no sign of a breeding herd, for a long distance.

HESC was contacted to assist with Raekie, though we are quite a distance away. They estimated she was about two months old.

Our HESC team moved with urgency as we know how fragile an elephant calf's conditions can be, in circumstances like these, without the correct milk and nourishment, that is vital for their survival. We transported the elephant calf to our centre, and she arrived on the 20th October. During the trip to HESC she was drinking well, and showing all signs of being in good health.

Her first night went well and she was soon introduced to Mopane, who was in great need of having an elephant friend for company.

Raekie is a strong and determined young elephant, and has so far shown good signs of health. At first, they thought she was a male, and was named "Ray", but upon finding out she was a female, her name was amended to the male version, "Rae", but our staff have since preferred to call her "Raekie"



Mission

We aim to provide respected rehabilitation, sanctuary and a safe haven to the orphaned elephants that are currently in our care, as well as any future orphaned elephants that are brought into our care at HESC, as there are very few places in South Africa that have the knowledge or expertise to successfully hand rear a baby elephant.

Once we believe they are at the correct age and ready, they will be introduced to an elephant herd. This is our ultimate goal, to give young elephants a second chance with a new family, to ensure their futures.

This comes at a great cost, and with each elephant these costs naturally escalate. We cannot do it without funding.

Estimated costs and funding goals

Funding towards orphaned elephants will be allocated costs incurred for:

1. Veterinary care
2. Milk Formula/Feeding
3. Security and Labour
4. Rehabilitation process

When funding is required to rehabilitate and hand raise orphaned elephants, these calves' costs will become part of the Wildlife Conservation Trust responsibility, and the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre will be responsible for the daily care and rehabilitation programme.

Average daily cost per elephant for all above costs: USD288

Monthly Cost per elephant based on 30 Days = USD8640

Annual Cost per elephant based on 12 Months = USD103 680

Total Annual cost for both Rae and Mopane: USD207 360

PROJECT GOAL FOR 2019: USD207 360



WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION TRUST