

JUMBO RESCUE

A YOUNG elephant calf has found safety at an elephant orphanage in Kenya after almost drowning.

Lomunyak ('Lucky' in the Maa language) was rescued from the fast-flowing Ewaso Nyiro river in Kenya by the security team from the Elephant Bedroom Camp, a luxury camping site close by. They heard his cries from the campsite and rushed to help save him.

The baby elephant, believed to be around 6-8 weeks old, was upset by his ordeal and also had injuries from a suspected lion attack. A team from Save the Elephants and the Kenya Wildlife Service searched for his mother, but were unable to find her. They contacted Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, which was able to offer Lomunyak a home.

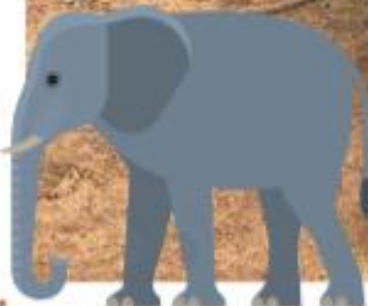
After Lomunyak was transported to the sanctuary, his wounds were cleaned and stitched up, and he began to drink milk from a bottle.



Reteti Elephant Sanctuary

Lomunyak has now settled in with the rest of the orphaned elephant calves at the sanctuary. The small group are all under six months old, and they play together and have daily morning dust baths to help keep them cool in the African heat.

As they are so young, the orphans get a lot of love and affection from the keepers looking after them at the sanctuary.



Save the Elephants

LONELY LOCKDOWN

IT'S not just humans who are missing people while the world is on lockdown – zoo animals are missing their visitors too.

Keepers from zoos around the world are reporting that their animals seem to be feeling lonely now that they don't have daily visitors.

Rhinos and giraffes at Orana Wildlife Park in New Zealand are still turning up at the part of their enclosures where keepers host a daily meet-the-animals talk for guests. Apes and birds seem to be particularly missing interactions with people.

"Primates especially have noticed our guests are gone and go looking

for them," says Linda Hardwick from Phoenix Zoo in Arizona.

In the UK, staff at zoos and aquariums are making sure they spend lots of extra time interacting with their animals. At the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, staff are hand-feeding the ducks and geese, which is what visitors would usually do!

As the world starts to slowly come out of lockdown, hopefully it won't be too much longer before zoos can welcome visitors again.

RHINO EVACUATION



RANGERS and government officials in Botswana are relocating black rhinos living in the Okavango Delta, to keep them safe from poachers.

Poachers attacked and killed six black rhinos in March, and rangers are worried that the lack of safari trucks and visitors to the area is giving poachers more opportunities to find the rhinos.

Botswana's Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism has increased anti-poaching surveillance of the area, but thinks that evacuating the remaining black rhinos to a secret location is the best option.

Across Africa, there are more than 20,000 white rhinos, but black rhino numbers have dwindled to just 4,500. The last black rhino that was native to Botswana was killed by a poacher in 1992.

Since then, around 20 animals have been reintroduced to the Okavango Delta with the help of wildlife conservation organisations, including Rhinos Without Borders.