



FOSTER AN ELEPHANT

ABOUT THE CAMP JABULANI HERD

In June 1997, just 4 months old, a tiny elephant arrived at the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC). He had been found stuck in the mud of a silt dam, and was injured and severely dehydrated. He had been abandoned by his herd. It took a full year to nurse the elephant back to health. He truly beat the odds, as not much hope was held that he would pull through. He was monitored around the clock by a dedicated team (including a hand-reared sheep called "Skaap" which acted as a surrogate mother) and was slowly brought back to a state of health. He was called Jabulani – meaning "to rejoice".

Now came a challenge of an altogether different kind. Despite numerous attempts to re-introduce Jabulani to the bush, he would have none of it! These humans were his family, and he had no intention of parting ways. What to do with a quickly growing elephant?

Enter the hand of fate once again.

In March 2002 word reached HESC of some Zimbabwean elephants which faced a grisly and untimely end. These elephants were all orphans due to a culling programme that took place in the 1980s, and were already trained for elephant back safari operations. Their owner's farm was in the process of being expropriated by war veterans, and the elephants were tagged for their meat. A rescue mission was put into place within a matter of weeks. Two massive trucks left Johannesburg for Zimbabwe empty – and returned with a couple pachyderms.

It was with amazement that the HESC team witnessed the meeting of Jabulani and the herd. He was immediately adopted by Tokwe (the matriarch) and had finally found his kin.

Left with the overwhelming custodianship of these beautiful but mammoth animals, the next logical step was in the creation of a camp to support them. This camp would enable travellers from around the world to experience the extraordinary impact of interacting with elephants.

And so Camp Jabulani was born.

15 years later, and the elephants are alive and well. Five babies have been born to the herd, and two orphans (Kumbura and Timisa) were successfully introduced to the herd.

THE COST TO TAKE CARE OF AN ELEPHANT

It's an expensive exercise taking care of an elephant. Food, veterinary care, housing and human resources all amount to approximately R30,000.00 per elephant per month. This cost is fixed, regardless of visitor numbers.

WHY FOSTER AN ELEPHANT?

Following the extraordinary interactions they have enjoyed, so many of our guests have expressed an interest in fostering one of the Camp Jabulani elephants. We have therefore made available various fostering options for the younger elephants of the herd. These elephants will never be utilised for elephant back safaris, although the expense for their care is still absorbed as part of the operation.

ELEPHANTS AVAILABLE FOR FOSTERING

FISHAN



Fishan is a 33 year old male elephant born in Zimbabwe. He was hand reared with a couple of other elephants on a farm which was eventually expropriated due to the national land reform programme. This farm was located 12km east of Chinhoyi town.

Fishan was castrated at a young age in Zimbabwe due to a serious infection. An elephant never forgets, and this is very evident through Fishan's behaviour. When the vet in Zimbabwe used to visit to clean and medicate Fishan's castration wound, he would climb a ramp for easy access. Fishan associated any ramp with pain, and refused to go anywhere near the mobile ramp used for easy mounting before and after each safari at Camp Jabulani. The only way that Fishan would allow anyone to climb onto his back was from the ground directly! Respecting his discomfort the decision was made to remove him from the elephant back safari completely.

Fishan is a relaxed elephant who cares greatly for others in his family. He enjoys being around people, especially during stable visits. He loves attention, even more so when it comes with tasty treats! He has himself a healthy appetite, and food is one of his all-time favourite things. Fishan's closest ally in the herd is Tokwe. He is a very confident elephant, and is second in command to Sebakwe. Had he not been castrated so young, he would in all likelihood have been the dominant bull of the herd. He can also be quite lazy. For instance, when he is asked to shake his head, he will comply but will simply flap his ears.

KLASERIE



Klaserie was born to Setombe on 23 February 2007, and is extremely attached to her mother. This young calf has a beautiful disposition, and enjoys good relationships with the other juveniles.

KUMBURA



When Kumbura arrived at Camp Jabulani, she was a vulnerable and traumatised 18-month old calf. The plight of this elephant was brought to the attention of the Camp Jabulani Team by Nature Conservation authorities, when she had been seen wandering alone through the bush in Botswana in July 2009. It is not known what happened to her mother or herd.

When she arrived at the camp, she was in a highly emotionally disturbed state. Despite her fear and aggression, Lundi and baby Mambo soon calmed her. The two elephants were in the stable adjacent to hers, and both animals tenderly stroked the new arrival with their trunks. Kumbura means "remembrance" – her arrival marked the 7-year passing of Johanne Roode – the man without whom neither Camp Jabulani, nor the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre would have existed today.

LIMPOPO



Limpopo is a female elephant, and was the first baby to be born to the Camp Jabulani herd on 19 August 2006. Her parents are Tokwe and a wild bull from the reserve. Soon after arriving from Zimbabwe, Tokwe eloped one night, joined the wild herd and came back the following morning. Limpopo was born 22 months later, she was named after the Limpopo River, which separates South Africa and Zimbabwe.

When Limpopo arrived, the Jabulani herd had yet to experience true family dynamics, and it was she that taught these trained animals about maternal instinct. She loves to be loved, and is a gentle, proud and affectionate animal. She is also the most intelligent elephant in the herd, and absolutely thrives on attention. Many have called her a Dival! She became very accustomed to a lot of attention as the only baby in the herd, and gets jealous quite easily – especially when food is involved! Limpopo is very tolerant when it comes to her younger sister, Pisa – despite the youngster always poking her. At night she stays alone in her own stable while her mother prefers to stay outside.

MAMBO



Mambo is one of the Camp Jabulani herd's young elephants. He was born to Lundi on 29 August 2009, and is a charming youngster who is also very playful at times. In fact, he can be quite the little hooligan! Mambo enjoys people and often interacts with our guests. He knows that the more people he sees, the more food he gets. He works this to his advantage, and loves every minute of it!

'Mambo's hobby is eating,' says Tigere Matipedza, elephant manager. When Mambo interacts with guests, his mother will stand about 300 – 500 metres away. This really shows how much she trusts humans. Mambo and Zindoga are best of friends, and are often seen together. They enjoy spending their free time wrestling with each other in between grazing. Mambo is growing extremely fast, and even though he is two years his junior, he is already the same height as Zindoga. Despite being extremely energetic, Mambo is a very gentle and trusting elephant, and is constantly making the grooms laugh with his funny antics. We can tell him apart from the other elephants by looking at his tail, which is hairier than most of the other elephants, and his short tusks.

PISA



Pisa was born to Tokwe on Friday the 13th November 2009 on a hot day, out in the bush. The newborn had a long walk back to the stable, and it is thought that this challenging beginning may have contributed to her sensitive nature. Although she doesn't enjoy physical affection, she is more tolerant when there is fruit or cubes to be had! Her sister, Limpopo, is by far the more outgoing of the two.

Pisa's cousin, Mambo, probably has something to do with her tomboyish nature as he 'plays rough' with her – pushing her around and climbing on top of her if none of the other elephants will engage him. She, in turn, exhibits this same behavior with Limpopo and Kumbura, pushing them away from the food or charging them if they venture too close to her mother.

ZINDOGA



Zindoga – born to Bubi on 25 September 2007 – was the first male elephant born to the Camp Jabulani herd. He has a strong character, and loves to be the centre of attention. Zindoga is very entertaining, has a lovely personality – very much like his mother – and is popular with grooms and guests alike.

Zindoga thinks he's a big bull already and challenges the other young elephants in the group. He spends a lot of time with Mambo – the two young bulls wanting to do their own thing, unlike the young females that tend to stick with the herd.

SHAWU



Shawu was brought to HESC on 21 November 2016. He had been found wandering on his own on the reserve next to the R40 tarred road. No one knew the whereabouts of his mother or herd.

Dr Rogers darted the baby elephant so he could be transported to HESC. Upon his arrival at the centre, an intravenous drip was administered, as the calf estimated to be 4 months old calf was hydrated. Mrs Lente Roode named the little elephant Shawu, after one of the seven bulls which used to roam the Kruger National Park.

TIMISA



Timisa arrived at Camp Jabulani on 19 November 2016 as a thin 10-month old, with a strong will to survive. She was brought to Camp Jabulani by Michelle Henley from Elephants Alive after she had been found wandering on her own. It was speculated that her mother may have died two weeks prior.

She was introduced to the Jabulani herd the day after her arrival. During the introduction Timisa went straight to Fishan, who simply took his trunk and brought her under his burly physique in a protective gesture. Lundi and Tokwe soon joined in, and so did the rest of the herd, forming a hedge around the little elephant. She was given the name Timisa, which means courageous in XiTsonga, one of South Africa's local dialects.

FOSTERING OPTIONS:

- **Platinum Fostering Membership:** Annual contribution of R 25 000
- **Gold Fostering Membership:** Annual fee of R 1 500 and monthly R 600 OR Monthly R 730
- **Silver Fostering Membership:** Annual R 1 750

WHAT YOU GET AS A FOSTER PARENT:

With each fostering you will receive the following;

- A personalised certificate acknowledging your sponsorship
- Electronic updates twice a year with news and images
- The knowledge that you are contributing to a very special animal's survival

HOW TO FOSTER AN ELEPHANT:

Send your name, your preferred fostering option and the elephant you would like to support to:
campjabulani@campjabulani.com