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# Precious Cargo

By: Menza Kazungu



*The giraffes in the carrying crate. Photo | Menza Kazungu*

***“Translocation is the movement of an item (in this case a Wildlife species) from one conservation area to another. Translocations are done to restock or to re-establish a specie population in a conservation area. Translocations are also done to mitigate against human wildlife conflict, prevent inbreeding amongst wildlife species in a conservation area and decongest a conservation area.”***

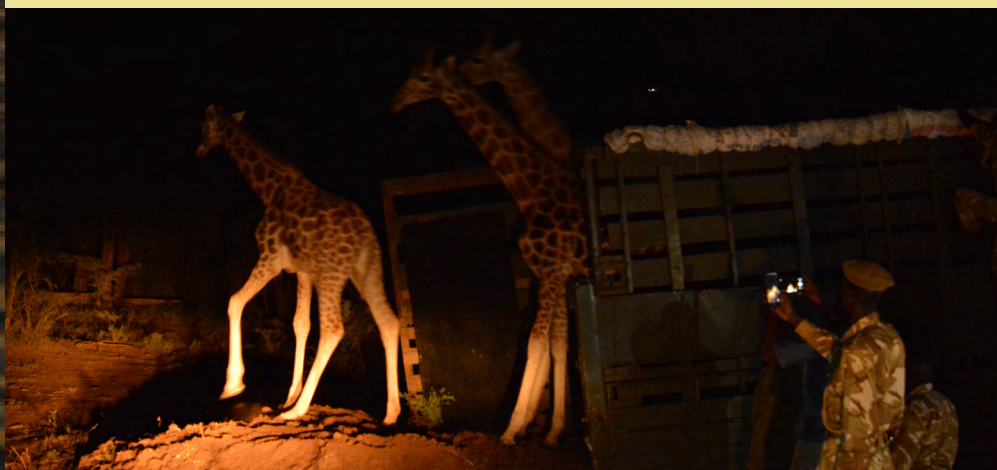
## The process

Unlike other large land mammals, giraffes are not immobilized during a translocation exercise; rather, they are carefully guided into a holding boma. The transporting truck is then strategically positioned at the boma's exit point. The giraffes are then expertly guided into a specially made carrying crate positioned in the truck, which is then securely locked for the journey.

The top of the crate is padded to prevent the giraffes from injuring themselves. Great caution is taken to prevent the precious cargo from coming into contact with loose or hanging perils such as power lines and tree branches.



*The giraffe being guided into the carrying crate. Photo | Liz Muthoni*



*The giraffe release at Rimoi National Reserve Photo | Liz Muthoni*

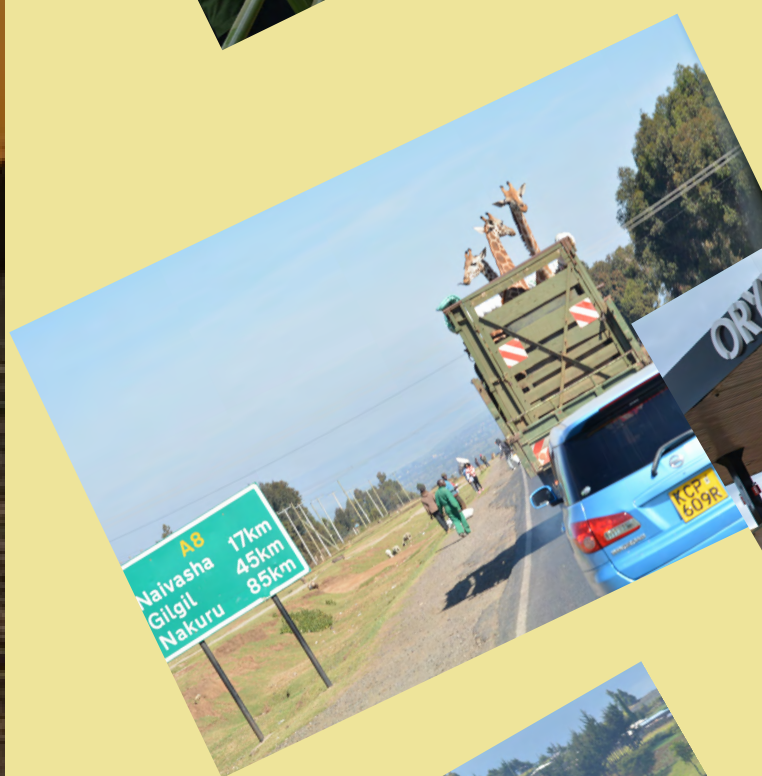
In bid to restock important traditional wildlife rangelands, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) on Wednesday October 19th translocated three Rothschild Giraffes - one male and two females - from Nairobi Giraffe Centre to Rimoi National Reserve in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

The translocation exercise was carried out by the KWS capture and translocation team led by Dr. Jeremiah Poghon.

## The Journey

The thirteen hour journey saw the giraffes transverse through Kikuyu, Naivasha, Gilgil, Nakuru, Kericho, Eldoret, Iten and finally to their release site at Rimoi National Reserve. County officials, Reserve management and local residents were elated by the move and promised to protect the graceful giants for posterity.





Photos | Liz Muthoni



# A Hunter Hunted and Treated

*By: Joy Mtange*



*The sedated Leopard at KWS vet HQ. Photo | KWS vet*

A one (1) year old sub-adult injured leopard was recently captured at the Mt. Kenya Bongo Ranch, while trying to hunt and kill the preserved Mountain Bongos. The seasoned spotted hunter had formed a habit of breaching the ranch, which led their security forces to set up camera traps that captured footage of the four-legged suspect in the act.

However, when the keen wardens re-watched the video footage, they observed that the persistent predator had a noticeable limp on its right carpal joint on one of its paws. Apprehension quickly turned into concern and the rangers hatched a plan to ensure that the animal was captured and treated.

The active VET and Capture Unit at the Mt. Kenya Bongo Ranch set up a trap using tantalizing red meat to lure the animal in, and it was caught a few days later. Dr. Njoroge, the resident Veterinary doctor at the ranch, assessed the animal and observed that its paw was severed entirely; an injury caused by a snare locally made by the community that nears the park. The severity of the injury was due to the fact that these powerful solitary killers always struggle to be free when caught or confined.

Dr. Njoroge ascertained that the animal needed in-depth evaluation and medical attention, thus, he dutifully arranged for its relocation to the KWS Nairobi Headquarters for further diagnostics. The big cat arrived at the HQ Vet and Capture laboratories late in August, and has been on an upward healing trajectory since then.

Determined to ensure a complete recovery for the formidable predator through natural healing, the KWS veterinary Department has reached out to a number of facilities to house it. KWS

would however have to go and carry out thorough assessment of the accommodations. Owing to the fact that the Safari Walk and Animal Orphanage each have a leopard tenant, it could not be fostered there. Leopards cannot share enclosures either, as they are solitary and territorial.

In addition, the convalescing leopard is not yet ready for 'exhibition' or public viewing of any sort: only healthy wildlife can be showcased to the public. It is estimated that the transfer to another location would take several weeks 'preparation to allow the animal to fully heal and manage its stress levels. Further, there is the exorbitant cost of holistically caring for a wild carnivore - from constructing a dwelling which is a close imitation of its natural habitat, to its feeding and manpower.

This however does not deter from the fact that the gallant efforts of passionate conservationists – veterinary doctors, drivers and rangers – have saved yet another of Kenya's big five. We can never thank them enough for their sacrifices, caring hearts and wise decision making.



# Female Elephant Calf Rescued

By: Alice Wawira



*The Elephant calf being offloaded from an aircraft at Wilson Airport . Photo | Cornelius Kibet*

A two-month-old female baby elephant was rescued at Nasolot National Game Reserve by community members on Sunday, the 23rd of October, 2022. Nasolot Game reserve is located to the north of Mount Melo and its climatic conditions are described as hot and arid. The area has grappled with prolonged bouts of drought in the recent past and it is suspected the calf was unable to keep up with the rest of its herd, resulting in its being left behind, as commonly seen in Mother Nature's 'survival of the fittest' realm.

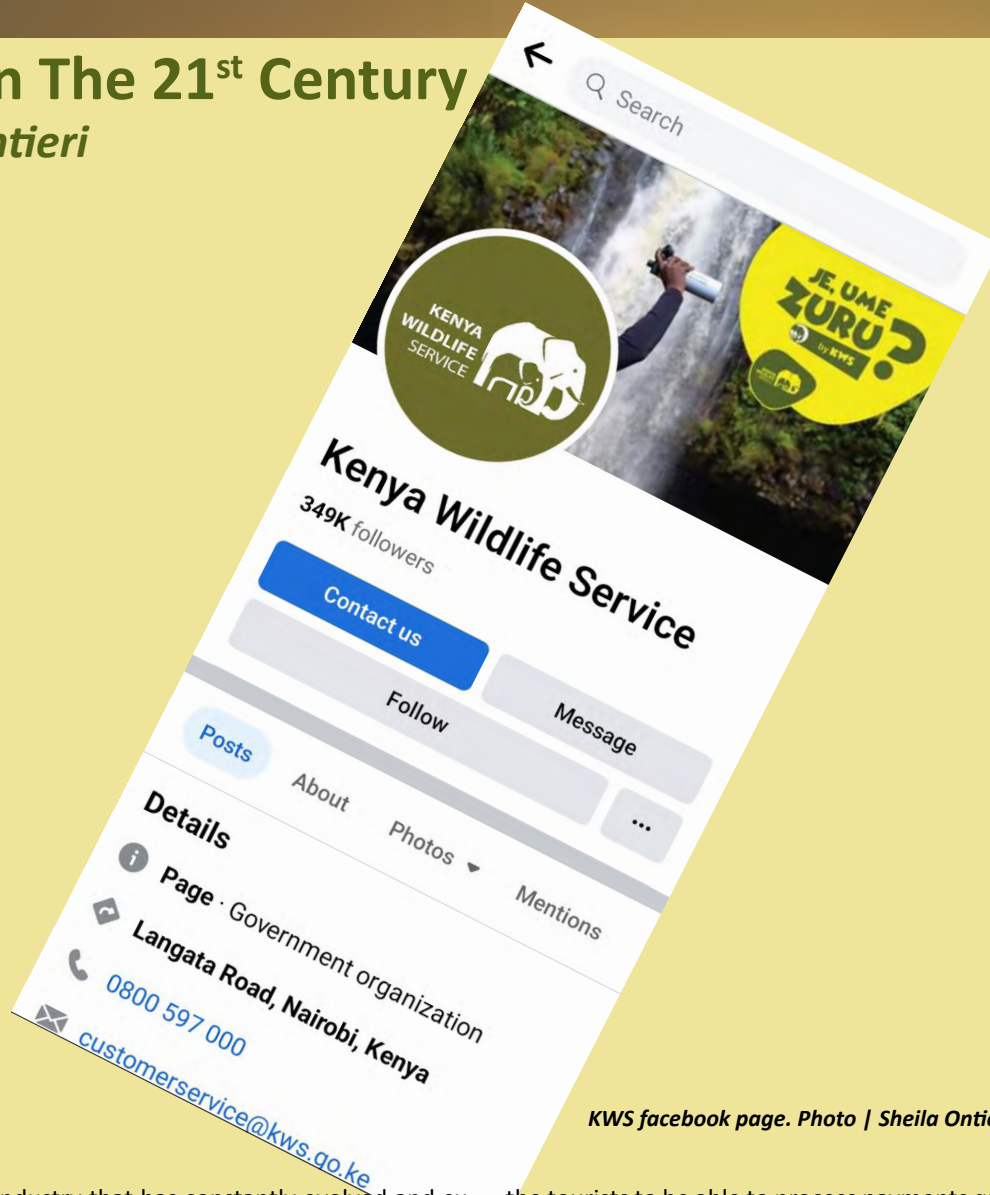
Herders rescued the helpless calf on Sunday and on Monday morning, Kenya Wildlife Service retrieved it from the community, after which it was flown to Wilson Airport. After a wildlife veterinary doctor determined the calf's overall health to be good, it was subsequently handed over to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (SWT) for further care. SWT operates the most successful elephant orphan rescue and rehabilitation program in the world.





# Tourism In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

By: Sheila Ontieri



KWS facebook page. Photo | Sheila Ontieri

Tourism is an industry that has constantly evolved and experienced growth over the years. Tourism and visitor statistics indicate that this industry will continue to grow, because human beings will forever be intrigued by adventure and also the desire to experience new things.

When talking about tourism in the 21st century, it is only fair to discuss the massive impact that technological proliferation has had on the industry. In the past, powerful technologies were only available to nations and governments, but in the present powerful technologies are available to the vast majority and also can be created without massive resources by any individual with the necessary skills. The world has become dependent on technology and social media for the completion of their day to day activities as well as a source of information on anything and everything. Personally, whenever I need some information my first thought is always to search for it on Google and 90% of the time I always find what I'm looking for.

Technological advancements have helped in the growth of the tourism sector. They have been essential in improving customer experiences and ensuring their satisfaction. Technology has enabled tourists to efficiently complete several tasks at a go - find and book air tickets and arrange for game drives, as well as booking hotel rooms and other forms of accommodation. Making payments has also been made easier as one can use contactless payments from all over the world and this has helped the service providers as well as

the tourists to be able to process payments quickly. This is beneficial especially in the aftermath of a deadly pandemic, which rendered some people hesitant to handle cash.

Social media has played an important role in the industry as it provides a platform for tourists to discover new places of interest, source of income especially for travel influencers, creation of employment opportunities for social media managers, cheaper marketing for related industries as well as the tourism industry itself. With social media, one is able to share and preserve memories from their travels and this also promotes advertising of lesser known areas. This, in turn, creates interest in the place and promotes tourism.

Use of technology and social media is also important when it comes to planning for tours. By viewing other people's posts and a variety of promotional materials, one is able to make decisions on which places to visit, and also be aware of the things they might need in order to make their experience a memorable one. With the development of Artificial Intelligence, there has been use of AI chat-bots that are being used to provide 24-hour customer service and assistance.

Technology has been substantial in the growth and advancement of the tourism industry as well as other related industries like: transportation, hospitality, travel services, food and beverage, entertainment and recreation.



# Collaborative Conservation:

## Africa Wildlife Foundation Donates Towards KWS's Conservation Mandate

By: Alice Wawira



**KWS Director Security, Nancy Kabete receiving the donations from AWF Director counter Wildlife trafficking Didi Wamukoya at KWS HQ Photo |Cornelius Kibet**

Kenyan and Tanzanian wildlife authorities' efforts to maintain security along the border continue to be challenged by the trafficking of high-value wildlife products such as pangolin scales, rhino horn, and elephant tusks, among other contraband harvested from keystone species.

The Kenya Wildlife Service's (KWS) Strategic Plan (2019-2024), built on three pillars -Con-

servation, Collaboration and Enterprise – ensures that The Service delivers her conservation mandate by continuous partnerships with other stakeholders, to increase the capacity of law enforcement and to detect, interdict, seize and transfer to investigatory agencies, any illegal wildlife products recovered during sting operations.

In keeping with the above agenda, the 28th

of September, 2022, saw the Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF) hand over eight (8) motorcycles, four (4) cameras, four (4) GPS devices and 125 forensic DNA bags to KWS at the latter's headquarters. These donations will expedite the war against perennial wildlife crime. Additionally, AWF will facilitate the specialized training of 16 rangers on motorcycle safety riding.

KWS Director of Security, Nancy Kabete, flagged off the motorbikes which are slated to be distributed to various KWS field stations, where they will be deployed in the fighting of wildlife crime.

Efforts to curb the illegal wildlife trade have been met with a plethora of challenges, spanning from the vastness of landscapes, lack of equipment - including transport - and weak investigative and prosecution capacity, among others. These generous donations will be instrumental in improving the capacity of law enforcement officers to invoke wildlife laws and prosecute wildlife crimes.

KWS is intent on partnering with allies in combating the illegal wildlife trade and has partnered with countless NGOs in times past, including AWF and IFAW, to design and implement impactful conservation projects.





# What is a Conservation Library?

By Cornelius kibet



*The Library at KWS HQ Photo | Cornelis Kibet*

Did you know that:

- Learning never exhausts the mind? and
- Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours!

/ˈlaɪbrəri, ˈlaɪbri/

Noun (Library; plural: libraries)

A library can be a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for use or borrowing by the public or the members of an institution/organization, or even a room in a private house where books are kept.

A Conservation library is a collection of resources (whether print or electronic materials) in a variety of formats that is organized by information professionals or other conservation experts who provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and offer targeted services and programs with the mission of educating, informing and persuading the public to conserve what is around them. They remind us to conserve our wild, our environment, our heritage. A conservation library includes basics such as Librarians who help learners find information they need, a wide array of books on various topics, available for borrowing for specified time periods to staff and the general public, free access to computers and the internet, quiet study spaces for adults and children, programs and classes for children and teens, research resources such as documentaries or video clips, free databases, job/employment and ca-

reer resources that mentor you.

Did you know that KWS has a well-equipped conservation library located at the Chui Court (HQ basement)? Or visit the Nairobi Education Centre's photo and video gallery that is equipped to enable nature and wildlife lovers, students, conservationists, zoophili-ists, tutors, wildlife champions, researchers and expertise, philozoic and nemophilists, among other naturalists.

A library contains several sections, they include: Acquisition Section - which is responsible for the selection and purchase of materials or resources, Technical Section, Circulation Section, Reference Section, Periodical Section, Bound Volume Section, Repro-graphic section and Computer Section in some libraries. Different types of libraries use different classification systems of their choice to organize the books on the shelves or other learning materials.

Now You know, never stop learning because if you want to attain knowledge, add new knowledge every day, since wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.

Today I shall behave as if this is the day I will be remembered. As the saying goes, 'The more that you read, the more things you will know.' Find time visit the library now and learn, for in learning, you will teach, and in teaching you will learn. I am a reader, and each new day presents me with fresh opportunities to learn new things. Do you read?



# Focus On Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*)

By: Menza Kazungu



*Elephants at Amboseli National Park Photo | Liz Muthoni*

Elephants, or pachyderms, are large bodied animals with long, highly flexible and sensitive trunks, extremely large ears, and two tusks extending from the upper jaw. Some individuals however, may lack tusks.

The largest tusks on record - weighing 102.3kg and 97kg respectively - were removed from an elephant in Kenya.

The large ears serve as decorative and signaling devices, as well as being used to cool the blood as it circulates through numerous vessels on the inner surface. Elephants cool themselves by sometimes squirting water behind the ears using their trunks.

Home range sizes vary considerably and usually relate to the abundance of food and access to water, with matriarchal or family groups ranging from 15km<sup>2</sup> to 50km<sup>2</sup>. Those of bulls may go up to 1500km<sup>2</sup>. Large herds consist of related cows and their calves of varying ages. At certain times, usually at watering points or at abundant and localized food sources, several of the matriarchal families may gather to form temporary herds - sometimes up to several hundred - but each family unit retains its integrity. Adult males move freely amongst the matriarchal groups seeking for receptive cows. On reaching maturity, the

young cows remain with their birth group but as the unit grows, subgroups of young adult cows separate to form their own family units. On reaching puberty, young bulls voluntarily leave the birth group but reluctant males will be driven off by the matriarch. As young bulls are unable to compete with larger and more established bulls, they seldom mate before their twentieth year.

Elephants have complex and intricate means of communication including visual signals, touch and sounds - both audible and inaudible to humans - which can carry over several kilometres.

An elephant female gestation period is 22 months, with calves born weighing approximately 120kgs. Mature cows give birth in intervals of three to four years, with intervals largely depending on prevailing con-

ditions and increasing in times of drought.

Amboseli National Park and its ecosystem is renowned for its abundant elephant populations. With over 52 families (Courtesy of ATE), the ecosystem hosts over 1,645 elephant individuals (KWS aerial census report -2018) which are easily spotted both inside and outside the park. The ecosystem once hosted the biggest elephant in Africa, a gentle giant named TIM, who passed away peacefully in February 2020. The massive Tim's remains were preserved through taxidermy and interred at the National Museums of Kenya (NMK).

Between 2018 and 2020, the Amboseli ecosystem has witnessed the birth of three sets of twins - a rare phenomenon in the life of elephants.



*An Elephant at Amboseli National Park Photo | Liz Muthoni*



# KWS scoops top award at Nairobi Show

By: Paul Udoto



*The NITF exhibition team displaying their prize Photo | Menza Kazungu*

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has scooped a top award at the recent one-week Nairobi International Trade Fair.

It emerged top in the Energy and Conservation category at the annual event organised by the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK).

The fair at the Jamhuri Park Showground in Nairobi was on the theme: 'Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture & Trade'.

KWS Director General, Brig (Rtd) John Waweru, toured the KWS exhibition stand while accompanied by the Security Director, Nancy Kabete.

The stand bringing together several key departments was coordinated by the Senior Assistant Director for Conservation Education & Extension, Mary Kirabui.

The stand highlighted various ways the organisation harnesses modern technology to discharge the conservation mandate while contributing to agriculture and trade.

For instance, the team showed how the Earth Ranger System supports the core mandate through real-time monitoring of wildlife incidents. To support food security in agriculture, the KWS stand showed how it mitigates human-wildlife conflict

through technological advances such as electric fences, predator-proof bomas, lion lights, monitoring collars and digital radios. Wildlife farming through e-permitting, which enables interested farmers to apply for permits at the click of a button, was also on display at the stand. Some of the farmers that KWS supports to rear tortoises, ostriches, as well as farm aloe were at the stand.

The Veterinary Department displayed how it supports livestock farming by deploying state-of-the-art technology to monitor and manage zoonotic diseases,

which can be transmitted to both human beings and livestock. With regard to trade, KWS showed how it's the custodian of the diverse wildlife products and services for safari tourism, which accounts for the country's 70 % total tourism earnings.

Through the Wellness Program, KWS showed staff welfare through the display of wheelchairs, braille and sign language for people living with disabilities as well as the pilot program for lactating mothers. The Airwing presence was one of the show's crowd pullers with the gyrocopter



*KWS DG, Brig (Rtd) John Waweru, touring the stand Photo | Menza Kazungu*





*Inside the KWS stand at the NITF. Photo/ Menza Kazungu*

The guest of honour, Mr John Maina, who is also the Director of Livestock, visited the KWS exhibition stand.

The show, which ran from September 26 to October 2, was officially opened by the Deputy President, H.E Hon Rigathi Gachagua. Also present during the official launch of the exhibition were Nairobi Governor, H.E Hon Johnson Sakaja, Agriculture CAS, Hon Anne Nyaga, and Nairobi ASK Branch Chair, Mr Joseph Mugo.

The agricultural show has made a comeback after two years break, occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

as a sample of the equipment used to support wildlife census and aerial patrols, among other activities. The KWS Band entertained guests at the show's arena.

With 350 local and international exhibitors, participants learned about various technologies in the food and agricultural production value chain, financial solutions and transport.

The exhibitors included 300 locals and 50 from countries such as China, Tanzania, Egypt, Botswana, India, Iran and Pakistan.

They came from the agriculture, manufacturing, housing, small and medium enterprises, banking, technology, public and private technology and hospitality industries.



*Capt. June Walker displaying the gyrocopter at the NITF. Photo/ Menza Kazungu*



# Help Save Rhinos

*By: Sheila Ontieri*



**NSW Senior Warden Muraya Githinji and Animal Keeper Timothy Wambui feeding the Rhino calf.**  
*Photo | Liz Muthoni*

In a heart-wrenching example of how cruel life can be, especially for weaker members of any species, a Southern white rhino calf was rescued in Meru after its mother was found dead. The bewildered calf was still alive right next to its mother's carcass. Veterinary experts concluded that the deceased rhino died of natural causes. Due to the lack of the necessary resources and facilities needed in order to take care of an orphaned animal in Meru, it was transported to the Nairobi Safari Walk (NSW) at the Kenya Wildlife Service headquarters. The calf is approximately seven months old now.

The rangers and the animal keepers at NSW attempted to feed it with milk, but this was unsuccessful since it refused to take milk. Thereafter, they attempted to administer it with medication as well as some glucose, which would ensure that it did not suffer from any underlying conditions and also boost its lagging energy levels, respectively. The calf was corralled in a small enclosure because it was accustomed to life in the wild and there was concern that any movement would cause it to be jittery. This was also for the purposes of ensuring that it could be monitored in order to observe how it would react to a new environment.

A maximum of two people were allowed to interact with it in this enclosure.

These were the person in charge of cleaning the enclosure and the one in charge of feeding.

The calf was later moved to a larger enclosure after two weeks because it had been determined that it was already accustomed to its new environment. The major challenge that the keepers are facing at the moment is establishing routines for the calf, such as training it on how to get to the sleeping shed whenever it is time for it to sleep. Its keeper, Mr. Timothy Wambui, added that it has been feeding well on a twice-daily diet

of hay and lucerne.

The rhino is guarded 24 hours a day due to concerns of poaching, a clear indication of how seriously the Service takes the conservation and protection of the animals in its care.

"Help save Rhinos" is a saying that I have heard quite a number of times since I was very little and I am sure that a good number of us have as well. Rhinos are one of the most endangered animals all over the world and this is due to the shrinking of natural spaces (habitats) and also due to the rising cases of poaching across the world.

White rhinos are said to be the second-largest land mammal and are also known as the square-lipped rhinoceros since they have a square upper lip. This is one of the characteristics that make it easier to distinguish them from black rhinos.

Different subspecies of white rhinos can be found in different parts of Africa, namely: Northern and Southern white rhinos. There are only two female rhinos from the Northern white rhino species remaining in the world. These two are under 24-hour surveillance and security at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. This just goes to show how rare this species that is on the verge of extinction is.



**Timothy Wambui, animal keeper at NSW giving the Rhino calf a bath.** *Photo | Liz Muthoni*





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