

**Organization:** Wildlife Conservation Network – Save-The-Elephants

**Project Location:** Samburu, Kenya

**Web Address:** <http://www.wildnet.org/>

**Title of Grant:** "Samburu Research Station Flood Restoration"

**Grant Amount:** \$20,000

**Principal Investigator:** Iain Douglas-Hamilton

**Organization Background:**

The Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) is dedicated to protecting endangered species, preserving their habitats, and defending biodiversity. It supports innovative strategies for people and wildlife to co-exist and thrive. WCN fosters an entrepreneurial spirit in conservation and partners with independent, community-based conservationists around the world to provide them with capital and tools needed to develop solutions for human-wildlife coexistence.

Africa has experienced a continent-wide decline in the number of elephants in the last few decades. Between 1979 and 1989, nearly half of Africa's elephants were killed for ivory. Expansion of human populations increasingly results in conflict between people and elephants. Human settlements limit an elephant's range of movement, while an elephant eating crops may destroy a farmer's livelihood and result in fatal retaliation.

One of the significant WCN programs involved in protecting elephants is Save-The-Elephants (STE) which is a leader in the pursuit of high-tech solutions combined with grassroots knowledge to secure a future for Africa's imperiled elephants. Its programs encourage traditional practices that follow a conservation ethic and involve local people in research and advanced monitoring. By promoting a tolerant relationship between elephants and humans, STE works to secure a place for all in the future.

**Grant Description:**

Much of STE's work occurs at its Samburu research station over 200k north of Nairobi. On March 4, 2010 a flash flood washed away the Samburu STE camp. Tents, elephant monitoring collars, cameras, kitchen facilities, food, research staff lodgings, some computers, and much equipment were lost. Staff members lost all their personal possessions, documents, ID's and clothes, as well as their personal research notebooks and sketches. Fortunately STE staff managed to reach safety within seconds of the flood waters surging through the facility. The JRS grant will help restore the destroyed research station.