

We, at Kenana Canada, are excited and inspired by a **recent partnership formed with the The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust** – an organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Africa’s wilderness and endangered animals. The trust runs a project called **‘the orphans project’** which fosters baby elephants and rhinos found abandoned in the wild – usually as a result of poaching or other man-made causes. It is a truly remarkable project and we encourage all of our supporters to check out their website and learn about how you can get directly involved. [www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org](http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org)

To do our part, we have dedicated ourselves to support 2 of the nursery babies cared for by the project. We have adopted a baby elephant named **Kudup** and a baby rhino name **Maaxim**.

Kudup is a female elephant rescued at 4 weeks of age from northern Kenya. She was found trapped in a collapsed well and rescued just before flood waters came down in early May 2009. There were no signs of her elephant family and she was very near death when she was miraculously found by local tribesman. She was rescued and flown to the elephant orphanage run by the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust just outside Nairobi. There she has been nursed back to health and is settling in well with the other 18 orphans and their keepers that make up her new family. Apparently Kudup enjoys the daily mudbaths she takes with her keepers – she is one of the first into the pool. She has several friends and shows signs of being a leader even though she is so young. Kudup will remain in the nursery until she is about 2 years old when she will be mature enough to be moved to one of two Elephant Rehabilitation facilities in Tsavo East National Park. In Tsavo she will be re-integrated into the wild herds at the park – a process that will take several years. Ultimately Kudup will be returned where she rightly belongs, among the wild elephant community that is her birthright.

**Maaxim is an adorable baby black rhino** found abandoned in December 2008 in a rhino sanctuary in Tsavo National Park. Black Rhinos have been poached to near extinction and great efforts have been made in Kenya to bring the rhino population back to healthy numbers – the 25 sq mile sanctuary was set up for this purpose. However, as rhinos are territorial, the environment in the sanctuary is volatile. It is believed the baby rhinos’ mother might have been forced to flee and abandon her baby when confronted by a predator. **Maaxim was only 2 days old when he was found. He was probably born prematurely as he weighed only 25 kilos and was 8 inches tall when he arrived at the nursery.** Over the past few months he has shown his keepers that although he is young and new, there is nothing immature about his rhino instincts and personality! He is a favourite among the visitors to the nursery, **enchanting everyone he meets with his tiny stature and bold character.** He has a definite mind of his own; huffs and puffs and charges the warthog piglets, whom he views as intruders to his domain, and who are twice his size. He knows his daily routine absolutely, which involves walking with his Keeper around the area of the Trust Headquarters, visiting other rhino dungpiles, and is firmly attached to his sleeping mattress. Just one whiff of the magic mattress attracts him like a magnet! Immediately he hurries to it, smells it carefully and instantly flops ready to fall fast asleep, closing his eyes and even taking priority over his bottle of milk. Usually he has to be woken up again a short while later, and removed from the mattress to take his milk. When overcome by drowsiness during his daytime strolls, the mattress has to be brought to him before he will lie down and take a nap.

To support our newest charges, the clever knitters at the Kenya workshop have made us knitted versions of Kudup and Maalim. We are branding these two knitted toys as our ‘rescue series’. **Profits from the sales of these two items will go directly to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and help in the support of Kudup and Maalim.** We encourage you to visit the website, get involved and spread the word of the great work this trust is doing to help protect and persevere Africa’s wildlife.

Our rescue elephant – Kudup

Our rescue Rhino - Maalim