A man and a woman are sitting on the hood of a car in a savanna landscape. The man, on the left, is wearing a dark t-shirt, sunglasses, and a necklace. The woman, on the right, is wearing a white button-down shirt and light-colored pants. They are both looking off to the side. The background shows a vast, open landscape with some trees and a clear sky.

Into the Wild

"My husband, Sunnery [James], is a city boy who doesn't like bugs, let alone a herd of elephants," says Kroes, one of the world's top supermodels, here with James at Samburu National Reserve in Kenya. "Sitting on the hood of this car, I could feel his heart beating—and it wasn't for me."

Isabel Marant jumpsuit. **Melissa Joy Manning** earrings. **CVC Stones** necklace. **Jutta Neumann New York** belt. **Scotch & Soda** bracelet. **1-100** thick cuff. **Melissa Joy Manning** thin cuff. **The Frye Company** boots. On James: **Amiri** T-shirt, pants. **Ray-Ban** sunglasses.

In The Land of Giants

Model Doutzen Kroes' dream vacation isn't on a beach; it's a trek to Samburu, Kenya, with her family to help protect Africa's magnificent—and vanishing—elephants.

Photographs by **Nathaniel Goldberg** Fashion editor: **Jillian Davison**



Ready for Takeoff

"Save the Elephants' Frank Pope flies the plane so low over the reserve you can really see the elephants and giraffes," says Kroes. "It's like the Discovery movies. But in real life you do get a little nauseous!"

No. 21 shirt. **Bassike** pants. **Melet Mercantile** scarf. **Ralph Lauren** watch. On James: **Rag & Bone** T-shirt. **Amiri** pants. On daughter Myllena: **Nico Nico Clothing** tank. **Old Navy** shorts. **Crewcuts by J.Crew** boots. On son Phyllon: **Soft Gallery** shirt. **Sunchild** shorts.



Earth Queen

"When I woke up at the Elephant Watch Camp, where you sleep in a tent and 'shower' outside with a jerrican of water, I felt so close to nature," says Kroes. "I love that in Africa, nature rules."

Bottega Veneta dress. **Scotch & Soda** bracelet. **1-100** thick cuff. **Melissa Joy Manning** thin cuff. On hair: **L'Oréal Paris** Advanced Hairstyle Boost It Air-Spun Texture Mist (\$5, at drugstores).





Sharing the Love

"It was really important for me to bring my family and let my children see for themselves why it's so crucial to protect these beautiful wild creatures," Kroes says.

Joie jacket. **Inhabit** tank. **Acne Studios** pants. **Ralph Lauren** watch. On James: **Rag & Bone** T-shirt. **Zara** trousers. On Myllena: **Numero 74** top, shorts. On Phyllon: **Arsène et les Pipelettes** shirt. **Sunchild** shorts. **Polo Ralph Lauren** boots.



Kenya Photobomb

"The elephants were behind me, and all I could see were the faces of the crew," Kroes says. "Everyone had big eyes and shocked faces. It was so amazing."

Celine top, skirt. **CVC Stones** necklace. **The Frye Company** boots.



Generations With Purpose

Kroes' visit turns into a family reunion with the Save the Elephants clan. Clockwise from top left: Kroes and James, with son Phyllon, five, and Oria Douglas-Hamilton; Kroes' and Saba Douglas-Hamilton's kids have a picnic; Kroes with Saba and Iain Douglas-Hamilton; Saba's children taking a bath; a dance celebration with the Samburu warriors; resting by the organization's jeep.

Doutzen's Diary

The wilds of Kenya are about as far from a New York fashion runway as you can get. But on March 27, when I landed at the tiny airstrip in Samburu, Kenya, with my family, I just stood there and took a big breath. It was so amazing to be back.

I first came here with Save the Elephants this past winter, after I'd learned about the horrors elephants face: More than 100,000 were killed by poachers from 2010 to 2012, plus some 30,000 more last year. Between the thriving ivory trade and their shrinking habitat, only about 500,000 are left in Africa. I wasn't sure what to expect, but the moment I looked into an elephant's eyes, it was love. To think these creatures might become extinct? I can't let that happen.

But what really started the fire in me to help: Iain Douglas-Hamilton, a British zoologist, his wife, Oria, and their family. In 1993 Iain founded the nonprofit Save the Elephants, and Oria later founded Elephant Watch Camp, where travelers can stay; now their daughter Saba and her husband, Frank Pope, help run both. Together this family studies the animals in their natural habitat to learn their secrets while fighting relentlessly to protect them. I once asked Oria how she came to devote her life to this.

"I grew up on a farm in Kenya and met Iain at a party in Nairobi," she told me. "He was very serious, a scientist. I was exuberant. When I mentioned I was a photographer, he asked if I'd follow him with my camera into the field as he worked with wild elephants. I said, 'Yes, if you pay me.' I was really scared. I said, 'You're crazy. You don't go out in the bush with just a pair of binoculars.' And he said, 'I do.' But over time the elephants got to know us."

Now the roaming giants are like family to them. And I'm struck by how human these incredibly intelligent, emotional animals are. In elephant society females rule the herd and form deep connections with one another. When a member of their group is killed, they all grieve terribly. A mother cares for her babies for at least 12 years—the daughters often a lifetime. That's why it was heartbreaking to visit the orphanage at The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and see the babies struggling after their moms were killed for their tusks.


Being a mother, I think, is what drives both Oria and Saba to keep up the fight. Saba, who likes to say she was baptized by elephant breath and has three young daughters herself now, told me, "I don't want to leave my children on a planet where elephants can't survive. There's no other cause for me. It has to be that." That's exactly how I feel. When I look at my children, I want them to have a beautiful world too.

People are finally starting to pay attention to this issue; there are lots of ways you can help. First, don't buy ivory. And if you see someone wearing it, let her know: An elephant had to die for that. A lot of people just aren't aware that poachers kill the animal for the tusks. And, if you can, give to one of the organizations working to protect this species—rescuing animals that have been attacked, trying to stop poaching—like Save the Elephants. These animals have no natural predators, except for humans. So this is something we really *can* fix.

Doutzen Kroes is a supermodel and conservation activist.

To find out how you can help: Visit savetheelephants.org

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF DOUTZEN KROES (2); FRANK POPE, JILLIAN DAVISON (2); COURTESY OF DOUTZEN KROES, BOTTEGA VENETA (WHITE DRESS)

A romantic close-up of a man and a woman about to kiss in a savanna setting. The man, on the left, has short dark hair and is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. The woman, on the right, has long blonde hair and is wearing a dark blue top. They are both looking at each other with smiles. The background is a blurred savanna landscape with trees and a bright sky.

A Stolen Moment

"To be here, out in this exotic land, sharing my cause with my husband," says Kroes, "was incredibly romantic."

Nina Ricci dress. **Melet Mercantile** scarf. **Melissa Joy Manning** earrings. On James: **Kaufman's Army & Navy** shirt. On her skin: **L'Oréal Paris** Age Perfect Hydra-Nutrition Day Lotion SPF 30 (\$20, at drugstores).


When in Samburu...

"Dancing with these warriors is like nothing I've ever done before," says Kroes, with Sammy Lengila, right, and other Elephant Watch Camp staffers. "They don't have instruments; they just use their hands and chant. It was so beautiful: the sunset and the colors—pure joy."

Stella McCartney tulle dress, top, trousers.







A Mother's Touch

"We visited baby elephants who have been orphaned because of poachers," says Kroes, here at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Elephant Orphanage (**for more information, go to sheldrickwildlifetrust.org**), where you can also foster a baby elephant. "As a mother I couldn't help but feel sick about it."

Calvin Klein Collection dress,
Melet Mercantile scarf.

Joy Run

"The passion of the Samburu warriors for elephants is catching," says Kroes, with Peter Litus Lekalaile, right, and Serenoy Letoiye. "I feel like I'm passing that on to my son."

Sportmax dress. **Malia Mills** bikini bottom. **See Glamour Shopper** for more information. Hair: Rita Marmor at Streeters; makeup: Stevie Huynh at D+V; production: Jordi Devas at JDA Ltd. Special thanks to the Elephant Watch Camp, Samburu, elephantwatchportfolio.com, and Safarilink Airlines.

