



# A hippo in Africa

## Part 1: The rescue

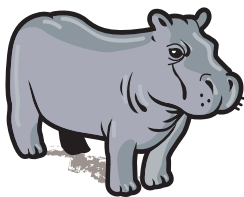
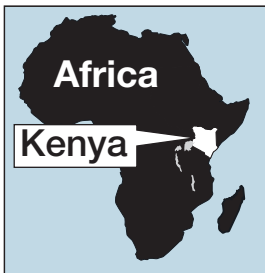
### Baby hippo lost his mother

It was December 2004.  
There was heavy rain in Kenya.  
Then big waves hit the coast.  
A baby hippo lost his mother.  
He got stuck near shore.

### People rescued the hippo

Many people helped to save  
the baby hippo. They caught him  
in a net and pulled him to shore.  
They named the hippo Owen.

People took Owen to Haller  
Park near Mombasa.



People found  
the hippo here.



The hippo was stuck near shore.



People rescued the hippo  
with a net. Then they put him  
in the back of a truck.

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## Part 2: New home



### Owen's new home

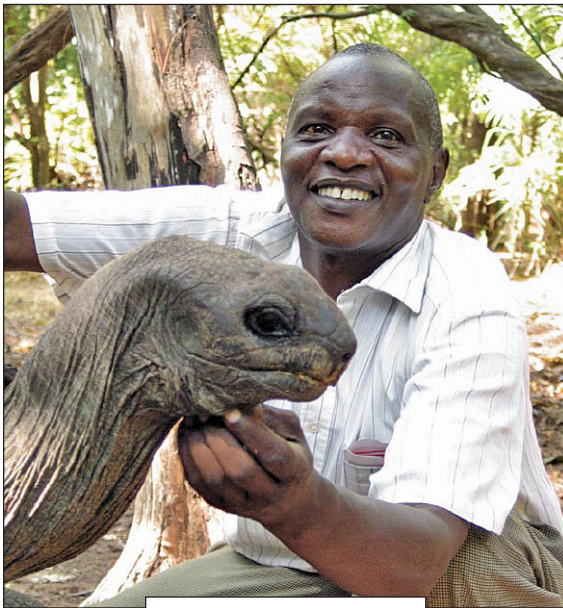
Owen was too small to be with other hippos at the park. So workers put him with some giant tortoises. Owen walked over to a tortoise and stood beside him.

The tortoise's name was Mzee (say: em-zee). He was about 130 years old.

### The first few days

On the first day, Mzee hissed at Owen and tried to run away. But soon the tortoise started to accept Owen.

The next morning, Owen was sleeping beside Mzee! A man took a picture and put it on the Internet.



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## Part 3: Amazing friends

### Together all the time

Owen and Mzee became friends. People are very surprised because the two animals are so different.

Owen and Mzee are together all the time. They sleep, walk, eat and swim together.



### Owen's future

Owen is getting bigger! When he is an adult, he will weigh about 3,000 kilograms (6,600 pounds).

One day, Owen will live with other hippos in the park.

Adapted from <[www.lafargeecosystems.com](http://www.lafargeecosystems.com)> and *Owen & Mzee* (a free e-book)  
Photos by Peter Greste from *Owen & Mzee* (a free e-book) and from <[www.lafargeecosystems.com](http://www.lafargeecosystems.com)> • Hippo art: Guy Parsons