



(864) 467-4300
150 Cleveland Park Drive • Greenville, South Carolina 29601

25th May, 2005

Mike Keele
Oregon Zoo
4001 SW Canyon Road
Portland, OR 97221-2705

Dear Mike:

This is an official request from the Greenville Zoo, to change our elephant TAG/SSP Institutional Liaison. Currently the IL is John Davis.

We feel this change would be in the best interest of all concerned.

We are continuing to attempt to find a companion for our female "Joni".

Sincerely

S. Nigel Platt
General Curator

CC: Kristin Vehrs, AZA
Lee Sims, GZ Director



(864) 467-4300
150 Cleveland Park Drive • Greenville, South Carolina 29601

25th October 2004

Mike Keele
Assistant Director/General Curator
Oregon Zoo
4001 SW Canyon Road
Portland, OR 97221-2799

Dear Mike

I'm sure you are familiar with our institution and our situation in regard to elephants. Although, I've spoken to several committee members individually, I just wanted to remind you and the SSP committee, that we are continuing to search for a compatible African cow as a companion animal for our single female.

We plan to continue our search until the appropriate animal is secured.

We will keep the committee informed of any developments.

Sincerely

S. Nigel Platt
General Curator

From: azalistserver@lists.aza.org
To: "Nigel Platt" <platts@greatergreenville.com>
Date: 3/25/05 7:13PM
Subject: Draft Elephant Recommendations

From: "Mike Keele" <keelem@metro.dst.or.us> 21f303
To: "Nigel Platt" <platts@greatergreenville.com>

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Send questions, email address changes and requests to unsubscribe from
this listserv to:

"Mike Keele" <keelem@metro.dst.or.us>

The draft recommendations for both African and Asian elephants were sent out to each Institutional Representative from AZA Population Management Center by Mark Mitchell. If you did not receive them, please let me know. The drafts were also posted on the AZA website in the "Members Only" section.

We believe that the drafts may have been made available to Peta or like groups by an AZA member. If this is true, all recommended transfers would be known and those facilities where transfers are recommended may have communications from these groups. Because of this, the drafts have been removed from the AZA website.

I am requesting that the draft document which was sent to each Institutional Representative be used strictly as an internal planning document. I further request that these documents not be distributed to others without my authorization. If any of you have distributed these documents beyond your facilities, would you please notify me?

Thank you,
Mike

From: John Davis <jdavis@riverbanks.org>
To: "S. Nigel Platt" <platts@greatergreenville.com>
Date: 5/17/05 12:50PM
Subject: RE: Letter of commitment

Nigel,

Sorry for the delay, I spent last week doing some catch-up after being away.

The highlights of the two day meeting were spent finalizing the AZA Elephant Guidelines review. We have been working on these for quite some time now and they should be submitted to AZA board members for approval soon. We felt the revision were necessary to clarify the guidelines and not to change. Also, we are sorting out actions to reach our new vision. As you may know, the TAG met last December to be more proactive with elephant management, mainly due to the scrutiny our profession has been receiving from Animal Rights groups. We are doing our best at formulating positive PR and the benefits of all animals being housed in captivity. This vision has created a great deal of work for the TAG, although, as you are aware, very necessary.

The information I'm sure you are really interested in is available elephants for Greenville. At the present time, I'm sorry to report, there aren't any available elephants in our AZA managed collection. However, if it means anything, there was a great deal of conversation regarding Joni's well-being and the need to find her some companionship. Also, with the pounding elephant management is receiving these days; we want to keep your institutions off of the PETA radar screen. Those people gain momentum every day of the week.

I'll keep you posted

John Davis
Curator of Mammals
Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
P.O. Box 1060
Columbia, SC 29202-1060
Phone: 803-779-8717 ext. 1246
Fax: 803-253-6381
Jdavis@riverbanks.org

-----Original Message-----

From: S. Nigel Platt [mailto:platts@greatergreenville.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2005 10:04 AM
To: jdavis@riverbanks.org
Subject: Re: Letter of commitment

John

What news from the meeting in CA?

Regards
Nigel

>>> John Davis <jdavis@riverbanks.org> 04/29/05 02:03PM >>>
See attached letter and let me know if I can help.

Pre-survey for the AZA Directors' Elephant Workshop
To be held January 20-22, 2005
Disney's Animal Kingdom, Orlando, Florida

1) Some zoo directors have suggested that AZA Accredited zoos explore collaborations with non-AZA elephant facilities (including private holders, circuses and sanctuaries). Do you approve or disapprove of exploring partnerships/collaborations with non-accredited facilities?

Approve

Disapprove

Comments:

2) Is your zoo planning to build a new elephant exhibit or renovate your existing elephant exhibit? If so, when:

No plans at this time

Yes, we plan to build or renovate in the next:

2 years 5 years 7 years 10 years or more

How many animals will your new/renovated exhibit accommodate? bulls cows

3) Zoos with elephants may be at risk of public criticism if they have one or more of the following situations. Please check any factor that currently applies to your institution:

a zoo with only two elephants

a zoo with two elephants and one or more are over 40 years old

a zoo that does not meet the new AZA Standards for Elephant Management and Care
(Zoos must be in full compliance by May 1, 2006)

4) When, if ever, do you estimate that you will need to add one or more additional elephants to your zoo's elephant exhibit?

In 2005

In the next 3 years

In the next 5 years

In the next 10 years

Will not need any additional elephants

5) Approximately how much does your zoo spend per elephant for care each year? (Be sure to consider food, routine vet care, staff time and utility costs.)

\$ 30,000 per elephant

6) What do you consider your biggest challenge(s) regarding keeping elephants at your zoo? (If you have more than one, please rate by placing a 1 beside your biggest challenge, a 2 beside the next, etc.)

- Annual costs to keep elephants (food, medical, facility costs)
- Physical square footage space available now
- Lack of space availability for future exhibit expansion
- Keeper safety
- 1 Meeting AZA's new Standards for Elephant Management and Care
- Animal rights groups, protests, campaigns
- 2 Acquiring enough elephants for either replacement or herd expansion
- Having success in breeding elephants
- Other challenges: _____ (please be specific)

7) For what, if any reason, would your zoo consider not continuing to have elephants on public display?

Reason(s): Unknown

8) On a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being strongly committed) rate your zoo's present commitment to keeping elephants as part of your animal collection.

Not strongly committed 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Very strongly committed

10

Greenville Zoo, Greenville, SC

From: azalistserver@lists.aza.org
To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>
Date: 5/23/05 9:41AM
Subject: An important message from Pete Hoskins

From: "Barbara Pueschel" <bpueschel@aza.org> 1b1db9
To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>

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"Kristin Vehrs" <kvehrs@aza.org>

[attachment below: elephant projects arcs sorted.doc]

Dear Colleague:

As part of AZA's ongoing commitment to manage elephants responsibly, the Elephant Field Conservation Task Force is charged with making recommendations to the AZA board for field conservation commitment guidelines for zoos holding elephants. As part of that process, and a follow up to the elephant retreat, we are evaluating the current situation - what do zoos do now for elephant conservation?

Please review the attached ARCS document for accuracy. It shows institutional support for elephant projects in the year 2003, based on an ARCS summary, listing zoos and the elephant projects they supported. I don't think its complete - I think we did more! Forward this email to the appropriate person at your institution to review your 2003 elephant field conservation support. Does it accurately reflect your work? Please have that person reply directly to Jayne with confirmation or corrections as soon as possible, including the number of elephants at your institution. If you have any questions, please contact Jayne by email.

The Task Force will be recommending a particular level of field funding commitments based on the number of elephants in your collection. Please let us know what you think - is spending \$2000 per elephant in your collection on elephant in situ projects enough? Is \$5000 per elephant too much? Would you agree or disagree to such an approach to fulfilling our field project obligations for elephants?

I look forward to continuing to work for improving conditions for zoo elephants, and thanks for your support and cooperation.

Note: Jayne Gerson is the Philadelphia Zoo's Sr. Conservation Associate. She can be reached via e-mail at gerson.jayne@phillyzoo.org.

<<Elephant Projects ARCS sorted.doc>>

From: azalistserver@lists.aza.org
To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>
Date: 5/26/05 2:25AM
Subject: directors@lists.aza.org Digest

To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>

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"Barbara Pueschel" <bpueschel@aza.org>

1 sbutler@aza.org
Member Alert/Elephant Situation in El Paso

Message 1 202a57

| From: <sbutler@aza.org>
| Date: Wed, 25 May 2005 17:10:59 -0500
| Subject: Member Alert/Elephant Situation in El Paso

| [attachment below: dear mayor wardy and council members.doc]

| Dear Colleagues,

| It has just come to our attention that early next week the City Council of El Paso may likely consider a resolution to send the El Paso Zoo's two Asian female elephants to a sanctuary.

| Early tomorrow morning I will send the attached letter to Mayor Joe Wardy and City Council members. I know that Zoo Director Lee Hutchinson, and Zoological Society Executive Director Kathleen Mason, would also greatly appreciate your further e-mail letters of support. Mayor Joe Wardy's e-mail address is mayor@elpasotexas.gov. Council members e-mail addresses can be found in the link
| <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/council/about.asp>

| You may wish to use my letter as a model, or use the information provided by the Zoo and Society at
| <http://www.elpasozoo.org/zoelephants.htm>

| We will keep you apprised as the situation develops.

| Syd

| <<Dear Mayor Wardy and Council Members.doc>>
| Syd Butler
| Executive Director

| 301-562-0777 x222
| 301-562-0888 fax
| sbutler@aza.org

| The American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) envisions a world where all people respect, value and conserve animals and nature. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats.

Dear Mayor Wardy and Council Members:

I understand that you and the Council may next week consider a resolution to send the El Paso Zoo's two elephants to a sanctuary. On behalf of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, which represents 211 accredited zoos and aquariums in North America and overseas, I want express my support for the Zoo, as well as to voice my serious concerns.

El Pasoans have supported and enjoyed the Zoo for over 60 years. They now have the opportunity to be inspired by expertly cared for elephants in a multimillion-dollar state-of-the-art facility, and to learn about and support elephant conservation in Asia. This is no vacant concept. Through their support of the many programs like the Zoo's annual elephant festival, inspired visitors provide critical funds for the Zoological Society and the World Wildlife Fund's conservation of endangered Asian elephants in Sumatra. This is community support linked to conservation at its best.

This example is clearly confirmed by a recent nationwide opinion poll--conducted by Harris Interactive-- which found that 95% of U.S. adults agree that seeing elephants in real life helps to promote education and conservation. Further, 86% agree that visiting accredited zoos and aquariums encourages people to donate time and money to animal conservation efforts. I am confident that El Pasoans would agree with these and other findings, including the finding that most adults (95%) agree that seeing live animals in zoos and aquariums gives children a greater appreciation for animals. The resolution, if passed, would deny millions of El Pasoans the chance to see, to be inspired by, to learn about and to support elephant conservation.

Passage of this resolution could also very well lead to other quite serious consequences. One of the central criteria for AZA accreditation is that the zoo director must have the authority to make all animal management decisions. In this case, it certainly appears that the resolution--apparently being rushed for Council passage without Zoo support and any reasonable time for real evaluation of facts or consequences--could directly affect the care and welfare of the animals, as well as the Zoo's future as an AZA accredited institution.

There are many, many critical questions that must be asked and answered before a major decision to move animals can be made wisely and safely. The existence of ongoing and onsite veterinary care, the stress of long-distance transfer, the animals' current health and ages--to name just a few. These questions must be answered by experts based on science and careful evaluation, and cannot be rushed to judgment.

I therefore urge you to reject any precipitous consideration of the current resolution. The elephants, your accredited Zoo, and your citizens depend on you for careful inquiry and decision-making. The AZA stands ready to provide further facts and information as you request.

Sincerely,

Sydney J. Butler
Executive Director
American Zoo and Aquarium Association
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Sbutler@aza.org

From: azalistserver@lists.aza.org
To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>
Date: 5/27/05 3:11PM
Subject: Update--Elephant Situation in El Paso

From: "Syd Butler" <sbutler@aza.org> 202d35
To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>

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[attachment below: dear mayor wardy and council members.doc]

See link below for the story that appeared this morning in the El Paso paper. Director Lea Hutchinson called me this morning to thank me and those of you who have already sent e-mails to the Mayor and Council. He says he needs our help and asks that you please send e-mail messages to the Mayor and Council. PETA is generating a campaign, and we need to work hard and quickly. The Council hearing has been postponed until June 7th, but don't delay sending an e-mail.

<http://www.borderlandnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050527/NEWS/505270366/1001>

For your reference, I am also attaching my message to the full directors' list serve yesterday, which contains contact numbers for the Mayor and Council, as well as my letter.

Dear Colleagues,

It has just come to our attention that early next week the City Council of El Paso may likely consider a resolution to send the El Paso Zoo's two Asian female elephants to a sanctuary.

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You may wish to use my letter as a model, or use the information provided by the Zoo and Society at <http://www.elpasozoo.org/zooelephants.htm>

We will keep you apprised as the situation develops.

<<Dear Mayor Wardy and Council Members.doc>>
Syd Butler
Executive Director

301-562-0777 x222
301-562-0888 fax
sbutler@aza.org

The American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) envisions a world where all people respect, value and conserve animals and nature. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats.

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June 12, 2005, 12:44AM

[Printer-friendly format](#)**OUR ZOO STORY**[E-mail this story](#)**Elephant domain****Critics of their captivity oversimplify problems and solutions**

By RICK BARONGI

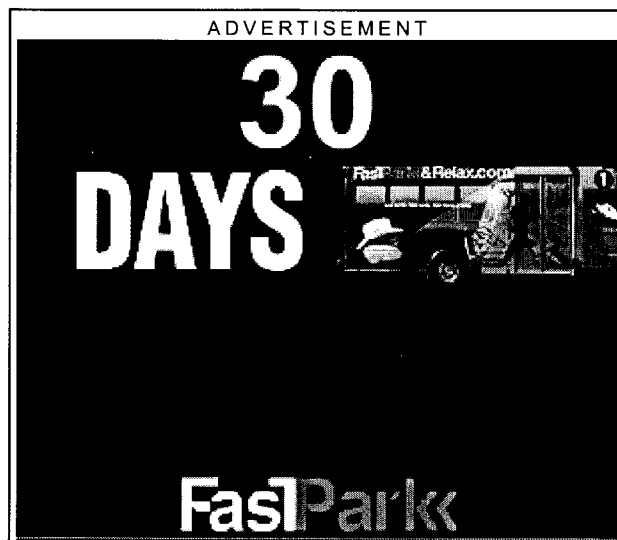
Elephants are one of the largest and most intelligent animals on our planet. No other animal, except man, can dominate and change a landscape as quickly and dramatically as a herd of elephants. Imagine a bulldozer working 18 hours a day, consuming 300-400 pounds of vegetation (and redistributing it in quite a different condition). Now imagine a herd of them! They are enormously adaptable, successfully living in Southwest Africa's hot dry deserts, East Africa's woodlands and savannahs, Central Africa's steamy swamps and the high cold forests of Kilimanjaro and the Ruwensoris. Revered and loved by many cultures, they are harassed and slaughtered by others. Elephants are one of the most beloved, controversial and misunderstood animals, and their management in the wild and captivity has drawn the attention and fire of numerous radical animal rights groups.

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The area of contention is whether or not seeing live elephants in zoos help to save their wild counterparts. A recent Harris Interactive poll confirms that 94 percent of the public believes that seeing elephants and rhinos in real life helps people appreciate them more and encourages us to learn more about how to protect them in the wild.

I have loved elephants since my first childhood visit to the Bronx Zoo and am deeply saddened both by their disappearance in nature and by the fact they are still so misunderstood, even by some people who mean to help them.

Nearly every time an elephant dies in a zoo, no matter what the circumstances, some extreme animal rights groups encourage their members to write letters and picket their local zoos pressuring them to stop breeding elephants and to send their remaining elephants to private institutions that prefer to call themselves sanctuaries. These sanctuaries have more space but also more limitations in other areas that are critical to optimal care of captive elephants. Bigger is not necessarily better, since the quality of the captive environment, staff expertise and financial stability are the real keys to any successful long-term program for captive elephant management.

A common tactic of animal rights organizations is to publish a list of all the animals that die in a zoo. Animal mortality in zoos and nature is ultimately 100 percent, and it is grossly unfair to evaluate a zoo just by listing the number of deaths and not citing the cause of death or age of the animals. Actually, most species live longer in zoos than they would in their natural environment, but that is also a misleading statistic unless you know more about the quality of life of the individual animal. As critics claim, elephants will eventually die in zoos, as they will in nature. But it does not take a population biologist to figure out that they are dying much faster in nature than in zoos. As with other natural wildlife populations, the vast majority of elephants born in nature die before they ever have a chance to reproduce.

Animal rights supporters will often quote that elephants walk 30 miles a day in the wild, so therefore zoos cannot be good for elephants because they can't roam large distances every day (which helps to alleviate foot problems). The truth is, elephants rarely travel such distances unless they absolutely have to in times of drought or in impoverished habitats. As anyone who has observed elephants in the national parks of East and South Africa will attest to, most elephants stay in close-knit groups, devoting most of the day to eating, drinking, resting and interacting with each other. They do travel three to six miles on average but

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mostly back and forth through a small daily range searching for different food items.

There are far too many false or unqualified accusations by animal rights advocates concerning elephant exhibition and management in modern zoos accredited by the AZA (American Zoo and Aquarium Association). Complex problems are deceptively simplified, and zoos and their supporters are all painted with the same brush. Animal rights extremists prey on people's emotions and misconceptions and have a very Pollyannaish view of what really is happening in nature.

I have worked in the zoo profession for more than 30 years and have made more than 40 trips to Africa. I have seen many changes — both in zoos and in the wild — during this short time. The wild is shrinking and zoos are improving, but these facts alone do not justify keeping the largest land mammal in small poorly managed exhibits. Even if the public expects to see elephants in zoos, we should only maintain them in captivity if it is in the best interests of the elephants.

While there is always room for improvement in the care and well-being of all zoo animals, the fact is that zoos have made tremendous strides in both exhibit design, animal care and enrichment. The Houston Zoo is now at the leading edge of all the positive changes in zoos. Since we privatized the zoo in 2002, we have made significant improvements to a number of old exhibits and hired additional animal care and veterinary staff.

While our elephant exhibits have remained the same size, we have made many improvements behind the scenes, including more shade, softer flooring, maternity modifications and a video system to monitor our elephants around the clock when needed. Future plans call for a major expansion of the existing exhibits that would give our elephants almost three acres of habitat, more than two and a half football fields and several times larger than their present facility. While this is still far short of the space that most wild elephants have, zoo elephants do not have to search for food and water everyday nor deal with drought, habitat destruction, ivory poaching and land mines in war torn countries. Life in the wild is not some idyllic paradise where every animal lives as if they were in a Disney animated nature film.

Wild elephant populations in Asia and Africa have been decimated by decades of illegal poaching and habitat destruction. In the past 25 years, the African elephant population has fallen from an estimated 1.6 million to less than 500,000 — a decline of more than 100 animals a day.

The plight of the Asian elephant is even more critical: Their numbers are now down to an estimated 50,000 scattered throughout several countries. Today, 15,000 Asian elephants that lived and worked in logging camps are out of work. Many of them live on the edge of Asian society and are forced, with their mahouts, to scavenge and panhandle on city streets. There seems little chance that these declines will stop until elephants exist only in a few tiny populations in parks and zoos — if at all.

Elephant conservation is a complex endeavor. It is more social and political than scientific. While rare in some regions, elephants are overabundant and dangerous pests in other areas. They destroy agricultural crops in developing countries and kill hundreds of people annually. When their habitat is restricted but their numbers allowed to grow, they quickly exceed the carrying capacity of the area. This has such a detrimental effect on the entire ecosystem that many conservationists and wildlife managers are recommending the resumption of elephant culling in protected parks in South Africa and Botswana. The only other real alternative is to control human population expansion in these problem regions, which would be a far more politically unacceptable solution.

Meeting the physiological and psychological needs of elephants in captive situations is one of the most challenging and expensive endeavors any zoo can undertake. These animals have the capacity to live almost as long as people, requiring long-term commitment that typically spans several changes in zoo administration and animal staff. No one can predict the future for elephants, but we can certainly increase their odds of survival if we develop multifaceted strategies that are supported by all concerned organizations. The best things zoo critics can do for elephants are to help zoos provide better care and help zoo scientists protect them in nature.

It is the responsibility, and core mission, of zoos to display elephants in quality exhibits that inspire and educate the 134 million American zoo visitors a year about what is happening in the wild and how they can help ensure a brighter future for all elephants.

Most people will never have the opportunity to see these majestic animals in the wild. If they are also deprived of seeing them in good zoos, then their stories cannot be told as effectively and this could have grave implications for future conservation efforts. Human beings have a tremendous capacity to care for other species in need, especially when they can be inspired by firsthand experience. We are reminded of this every day when we connect with our living ambassadors at the Houston Zoo

and other dedicated zoological facilities across the country.

Barongi is the director of the Houston Zoo.

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Elephant Projects In 2003

Type of Project: C= conservation, D= donation, I= information provided, R = research

* Projects with Year began = "2000, 2001" were submitted in the first year of ARCS collection, when reports for both years were collected at once.

Zoo	Project Title	PI	Asian or African	Type of Project	In/Ex Situ	Year Began	Continued in	2003 Funding	# of elephants in collection
Bronx Zoo	Wildlife Conservation Society Africa Program: Development of elephant monitoring system in the Congo Basin for CITES	John Hart, et al.	Af	C	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Bronx Zoo	Wildlife Conservation Society Africa Program: Dzanga forest elephant demographics and social dynamics (WCS/USFWS)	Andrea Turkalo, Peter Walsh	Af	C	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Bronx Zoo	Wildlife Conservation Society Africa Program: Ecology and social organization of forest elephants in central Gabon	Kate Abernathy, Lee White	Af	C	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Bronx Zoo	Wildlife Conservation Society Africa Program: Elephant infrasound: how it relates to elephant demographics and social structure and whether it is a method of censusing elephants in forests	Steve Gullick, Katy Payne, Andrea Turkalo	Af	R	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Bronx Zoo	Wildlife Conservation Society Africa Program: Forest elephant migration ecology and protection (WCS/USFWS/Save the Elephants)	Steve Blake, et al.	Af	C	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Bronx Zoo	Wildlife Conservation Society Africa Program: Planning of an elephant migration corridor in the punye/ Muzarabani district	Ferrel Obsom, Guy Parker	Af	C	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Bronx Zoo	Wildlife Conservation Society Africa Program: The ecology and deterrence of crop-raiding elephants	Ferrel Osborn	Af	C	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Bronx Zoo	Wildlife Conservation Society Africa Program: The effect of poaching on elephant social systems, Tarangire	Charles Foley, Lara Foley, Sammy Sikombe	Af	C	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Bronx Zoo	Wildlife Conservation Society Asia Program: Conservation assessment for Sumatran elephants in Lampung Province, Sumatra	Margaret Kinnaird, et al.	As	C	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Calgary Zoo	International Elephant Foundation		Af, As	C	both	2003		- \$1,000	
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden	Sri Lanka Elephant Program	Debbie Olson	As	C	in	2003		- \$7,000	
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium	Human-Elephant Conflict around Tarangire National Park	Charles Foley	Af	R	in	2003		- \$3,000	
Denver Zoological Gardens	Ecology and conservation of desert elephants in Namibia	Keith Leggett, Dale Leeds	Af	C	in	2000, 2001	2002, 2003	\$0	
Detroit Zoological Park	African Elephant Conservation Trust	Scott Carter	Af	C	in	2003		- \$10,000	
El Paso Zoo	Donate-a-Phone Project to aid Sumatra's Tesso Nilo's elephants & their ecosystem	Dee Nelson	As	D	both	2003		- \$50	
El Paso Zoo	Petition Drive to aid in the preservation of Sumatra's Tesso Nilo Asian elephants & their ecosystem		As	C	both	2003		- \$0	
Fort Worth Zoo	Significant support and administration of the International Elephant Foundation	Michael Fouraker, Tarren Wagener	Af, As	D	both	2003		- \$30,000	

Elephant Projects In 2003

Type of Project: C= conservation, D = donation, I = information provided, R = research

Lincoln Park Zoo	<u>Population modeling of the Tarangire National Park elephant population</u>	Lisa Faust, Joanne Eamhardt, Steve Thompson, Charles Foley, Lara Foley, Elizabeth Lonsdorf	Af	C	<i>in</i>	2003			\$0
Lincoln Park Zoo	<u>The social and spatial structure of the Samburu elephant population</u>	George Wittemyer, Elizabeth Lonsdorf	Af	R	<i>in</i>	2002	2003		\$3,000
Little Rock Zoo	<u>Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust</u>	Kristin Harris	As	C	<i>in</i>	2003			\$250
Little Rock Zoo	<u>International Elephant Foundation</u>		Af, As	C	<i>both</i>	2003			\$2,083
Los Angeles Zoo	<u>Minimising the conflict between Asian elephants and local villagers</u>	Jayantha Jayewardene	As	C	<i>in</i>	2003			\$1,500
Lowry Park Zoo	<u>Ngwenya Rhino Fund</u>	Lee Ann Rottman	Af	C	<i>in</i>	2003			\$1,670
Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens	<u>Tarangire Elephant Project support</u>	Bruce Beehler	Af	D	<i>in</i>	2003			\$1,000
North Carolina Zoological Park	<u>The Elephants of Cameroon</u>	Mike Loomis	Af	C	<i>in</i>	2000, 2001	2002, 2003		\$0
Oakland Zoo	<u>Amboise Elephant Research Project</u>	Cynthia Moss	Af	D	<i>in</i>	2001	2002, 2003		\$20,348
Oakland Zoo	<u>Save the Elephants</u>	Colleen Kinzley	Af	R	<i>in</i>	2003			\$1,800
Philadelphia Zoo	<u>Community Education Program for Protecting Elephants in an Elephant-Human Conflict Area Near Yala East National Park</u>	Kim Lengel	As	C	<i>in</i>	2003			\$1,940
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium	<u>Spatial and genetic relationships in African elephant clans</u>	Russ Charif, Rob Ramey, William Langbauer	Af	R	<i>in</i>	2000, 2001	2002, 2003		\$0
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium	<u>The behavior and communication of translocated elephants in South Africa</u>	William Langbauer, Jozua Viljoen	Af	I	<i>in</i>	2000, 2001	2002, 2003		\$12,000
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium	<u>The effects of elephants on <i>Scutia myrtina</i> at Sweetwater's Game Reserve, Laikipia, Kenya</u>	Linus Gatimu	Af	R	<i>in</i>	2002	2003		\$2,000
Port Defiance Zoo & Aquarium	<u>Elephant Resource Center/Sanctuary in Indonesia</u>	Susan Mikota, Wahdi Amzi, Yudha Farhimal	As	C	<i>both</i>	2002	2003		\$2,617
San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium	<u>Adoption of baby elephant at Elephant Transit Home in Sri Lanka</u>	Terry DeRosa	As	C	<i>in</i>	2003			\$1,320
Smithsonian National Zoological Park	<u>Conservation status of remaining Asian elephant ranges in Southeast Asia</u>	Peter Leimgruber, Daniel Kelly, Melissa Songer, Chris Wemmer	As	C	<i>in</i>	2000, 2001	2002, 2003		\$0
Smithsonian National Zoological Park	<u>Deforestation mapping in Myanmar</u>	Peter Leimgruber	As	C	<i>in</i>	2000, 2001	2003		\$0
Smithsonian National Zoological Park	<u>Improving elephant reproduction</u>	Janine Brown, Elizabeth Freeman	Af, As	R	<i>in</i>	2000, 2001	2002, 2003		\$0
Smithsonian National Zoological Park	<u>Mapping Burma's Forest Losses—Using Satellite Imagery to Delineate Deforestation between 1990 and 2000</u>	Peter Leimgruber, Daniel Kelly	As	C	<i>both</i>	2002	2003		\$0
Smithsonian National Zoological Park	<u>Satellite tracking of wild Asian elephants in Burma</u>	Peter Leimgruber, Chris Wemmer, Daniel Kelly	As	C	<i>both</i>	2002	2003		\$0
Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum	<u>International Elephant Foundation</u>		Af, As	C	<i>both</i>	2003			\$250
Woodland Park Zoological Gardens	<u>Schools Awareness Program, Elephants in Sri Lanka</u>	Jayantha Jayewardene, Andrea Gates Sanford	As	C	<i>in</i>	2000, 2001	2002, 2003		\$2,250
Woodland Park Zoological Gardens	<u>Tarangire National Park Elephants project</u>	Charles Foley, Lara Foley	Af	D	<i>in</i>	2003			\$0

Elephant Projects In 2003

Type of Project: C= conservation, D = donation, I = information provided, R = research

TOTAL: \$105,078

***NOTES**

This table is based on one compiled by Melissa Yuen which included elephant projects reported to ARCs in 2000-2003. I have used Melissa's data, added some additional information from the ARCs reports (Zoo name, PI, Asian or Africa, 2003 Funding), and removed all "ex situ" projects and those not started or continued in 2003. PI column lists principal investigators, co-investigators, and other researchers; it does not include "collaborators."



AZA News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
18 February 2005

Contact: Jane Ballentine, AZA
301-562-0777, ext. 252

AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

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ELEPHANTS TO BENEFIT FROM AZA – IEF COLLABORATION

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and the International Elephant Foundation (IEF) have entered into a new partnership to help identify and fund critical conservation and research projects that will benefit Asian and African elephants.

Populations of both the African and Asian elephants continue to decline in the wild. Human encroachment, habitat loss, and poaching pose major threats to wild elephants. In 1970, biologists estimated 1.5 million African elephants in the wild, and by the 1990s the population plummeted 67 percent to a mere 500,000. The Asian elephant is faring even worse with only 40,000 roaming in the fragmented populations in India and Southeast Asia. Since 1997, the Asian elephant has been listed as an endangered species. Given these grim statistics, it is of utmost importance that institutions dedicated to elephant conservation join forces contributing expertise and funds to support elephant conservation programs worldwide.

“Last year, AZA-accredited zoos initiated or supported many elephant-related conservation and associated research and educational projects, some of them through IEF,” said Sydney J. Butler, executive director of the AZA. “While this support is very good, we want to do more.” In light of this, the AZA and IEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which provides for greater collaboration and addresses serious needs for programs assisting elephants in the wild and in AZA-accredited zoos.

“Both IEF and AZA recognize the value that North American elephant-holding facilities can provide to conservation through financial support and in-kind contributions of expertise and professional skills, and the value of collaborative efforts on behalf of field conservation and capacity building in elephant range states,” continued William R. Foster, DVM, president of the AZA Board of Directors and director of the Birmingham Zoo. “AZA has endorsed an aggressive new vision that focuses on ensuring elephants are part of the world’s future. The commitment highlights plans for increased support for programs that aid in the conservation of elephants in Africa and Asia and this dovetails perfectly with the work of IEF.”

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“Projects included in this agreement are consistent with the IEF Mission and identified as AZA Elephant Taxon Advisory Group/Species Survival Plan (TAG/SSP) elephant conservation priorities,” stated Deborah Olson, Executive Director of the IEF and member of the TAG/SSP Steering Committee.

Annually IEF advisors and a member of the AZA Elephant TAG/SSP will receive, review, and rank grant applications. The IEF Board of Directors will also review the grant applications. Applications will be selected for funding during IEF's annual Board of Directors meeting by a majority vote of the board. Selected applications will then be reviewed by the Elephant TAG/SSP Coordinator or designee and prioritized in the order of projects that most closely meet the AZA Elephant TAG/SSP's conservation and research objectives for funding.

“We are supporting work which has a global elephant focus,” said Dr. Foster. “This MOU will help AZA zoos understand where elephant research and conservation priorities lie and how we can best use our funds to make an impact on behalf of elephants.” AZA-accredited zoos will be able to select projects from the Elephant TAG/SSP approved list for funding through designated contributions to IEF or they may also make undesignated contributions in support of the entire list of IEF projects or of the IEF overall mission.

“We are excited about this partnership on behalf of elephants everywhere,” stated Michael Fouraker, President of IEF and Director of the Fort Worth Zoo, “It multiplies our impact and will allow us to expand our conservation and research efforts globally protecting habitat, contributing to human-elephant conflict mitigation and advancing the scientific investigation of both species.”

“The reality is, that what we call the ‘wild’ in Africa and Asia is quickly disappearing and what little wild is left is inundated with unresolved human-elephant conflicts,” said Dr. Foster. “Ironically, in some African countries elephant populations have increased; however, the increase has created management problems due to the lack of space for elephants. As wild space continues to diminish, there will be few places on earth where elephants are not managed in some way by humans.”

Founded in 1924, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. AZA currently has 214 accredited members in North America, Bermuda and Hong Kong. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats.

The International Elephant Foundation (IEF) is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of contributing expertise and providing funds to support elephant conservation programs worldwide. This includes protection of elephants in the wild and their habitats, scientific research, education efforts, and improvement in managed animal care facilities. The IEF board of directors are highly regarded experts affiliated with organizations internationally that work with and support elephant management, conservation and scientific investigation. Scientific advisors, from the fields of medicine, research, academia and

elephant management guide and support the IEF board.

Editor's Note: For a list of the 2005 AZA Elephant SSP/TAG Action Plan Projects that been provided and reviewed by the International Elephant Foundation, please contact Jane Ballentine at AZA.

###

From: azalistserver@lists.aza.org
To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>
Date: 2/23/05 12:59PM
Subject: Elephant PR Plan

From: "Jane Ballentine" <jballentine@aza.org> 1de566
To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>

PLEASE do not use the "Reply" button to respond to a posted message.
All messages to this listserv should be sent to elephinitiative@lists.aza.org
Send questions, email address changes and requests to unsubscribe from
this listserv to:

"Kristin Vehrs" <kvehrs@aza.org>

Dear Colleagues:

AZA is developing a comprehensive public relations plan to address elephant issues as they relate to AZA-accredited zoos. Part of the plan calls for developing some positive national elephant stories that we can pitch to the media about the excellent care and commitment to elephants provided by AZA-accredited zoos. We need your help in scouting these story ideas. Can you let us know if you anticipate any upcoming elephant news or events? Topics could include but are not limited to:

 ⌈ Events or announcements such as new exhibit openings, births, new technology or conservation tools being developed or implemented, etc.

Likewise, if you have an idea for a story, please let us know.

Another element of the plan is to provide you with public relations support should you wish or, at a minimum, be prepared to answer any inquiries we receive from the media or general public. Therefore, we need you to identify the following:

- ⌈ Any potential crisis situations that could arise.
- ⌈ Are you preparing to transfer or accept an elephant?
- ⌈ Do you have an ill elephant?
- ⌈ Are any of your animals pregnant?
- ⌈ Is there anything on the horizon that we should be aware of at all?

We do realize that there may be information you wish to provide in confidence and certainly we will not put anything into a plan that you note is to be treated confidentially.

We are in the process of developing this plan, for presentation to the AZA Board of Directors on March 8. Therefore, we would appreciate any information you can provide as soon as possible, by 1 March preferably. Of course, if you can drop us a line during the year as things arise, that would be great as well - we certainly expect this to be a living document and a plan that will continue to evolve over time.

Please send the information to either Jane Ballentine (301-562-0777, ext. 252; jballentine@aza.org) or Alison Stevenson (ext. 248; astevenson@aza.org). And please feel free to call either Jane or Alison if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jane Ballentine

From: azalistserver@lists.aza.org
To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>
Date: 3/1/05 12:35PM
Subject: population analysis

From: "Kristin Vehrs" <kvehrs@aza.org> 1df009
To: "Lee Sims" <simsl@greatergreenville.com>

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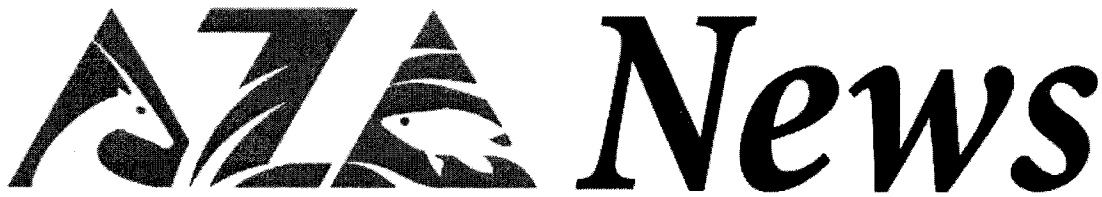
"Kristin Vehrs" <kvehrs@aza.org>

[attachment below: asian elephant modeling report - faust.pdf]
[attachment below: african elephant modeling report - faust.pdf]

Dear Colleagues:

Here is the population analysis information that Mike Keele presented at the January meeting.

Kris Vehrs



AZA News

AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
5 April 2005

Contact: Jane Ballentine
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AZA STATEMENT REGARDING WANDA AND WINKY'S MOVE TO PAWS

SILVER SPRING, MD – The Detroit Zoo announced this week that Wanda and Winky, the zoo's two aging, female Asian elephants, will begin their journey from Detroit to Galt, CA, to take up residence at the PAWS facility. Last year, American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) elephant experts worked with the Detroit Zoo and others to find a place for Wanda and Winky after Detroit Zoo officials decided they no could no longer properly care for these two elephants in their facility. Ultimately, the decision was made by Detroit officials to send them to PAWS.

“Animal care is the foundation for everything we do, and we hope Wanda and Winky have the safest of travels. Their journey, their acclimation to their new home, and their ongoing veterinary care present great challenges. As dedicated AZA professionals, we understand the great responsibilities involved, and wish the Detroit Zoo and PAWS success,” stated Sydney Butler, executive director of AZA.

“AZA has long been absolutely committed to the future of elephants in North America and the world, and that means a complete dedication to care, breeding, social groupings and conservation in the wild,” Butler continued. “Other organizations - like sanctuaries for elderly female elephants - play a role, but no one is more experienced and prepared to protect the future of all elephants - males, females, calves - than AZA and the hundreds of professionals who daily care for these wonderful creatures.”

In January, the directors of 78 American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) accredited zoos that care for elephants met and continued their commitment to an aggressive vision that focuses on ensuring elephants are part of the world's future. The commitment highlights plans for increased support for programs that aid in the conservation of elephants in Africa and Asia, as well as expanding efforts in four additional areas – scientific research, daily husbandry and care, facilities expansion, public awareness and conservation education.

AZA accredited zoos care for approximately 300 of the 500 elephants that live in North America. A survey of the 78 zoo directors showed that in the next 5 years, 40 facilities are planning to expand or build new elephant exhibits. “AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums are visited by more than 140 million people annually. According to a recent poll by Harris Interactive, 95% of the public says seeing elephants and rhinos in real life helps people appreciate them more and encourages people to learn more about them.

“We want our visitors to care for elephants, and to take action on behalf of elephants in the wild,” said Butler. “Public interest and support is critical to ensuring that elephants are part of the world's future.”

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Founded in 1924, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and its 211 member institutions and professional members envision a world where all people respect, value and conserve animals and nature. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats.

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