

ELEPHANT ECHOES

Updates from the International Elephant Foundation (IEF)

INTERNATIONAL
ELEPHANT
FOUNDATION.ORG

November 2022

The International Elephant Foundation is the catalyst for creating a sustainable future where elephants thrive by linking people and elephants for their mutual long-term benefit.

Founded in 1998, IEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation of individuals and institutions dedicated to the conservation of African and Asian elephants worldwide. IEF creates a sustainable future for elephants by generating and effectively investing resources to support elephant conservation, education, research, and management programs worldwide. Through our passion, expertise, knowledge, and partnerships, we inspire and engage people to ensure a vibrant future with elephants everywhere.



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Follow IEF online:

www.elephantconservation.org



Wonderful Website Sneak Peek!

Have you visited our website lately? Click www.elephantconservation.org for a sneak peek of the incredible new design! The IEF team has been working tirelessly to create a new website focusing on the work IEF does, educating the reader and improving the user experience. Interact with our new dynamic map showing current and historic conservation projects. Explore the full collection of #EleFunFactFriday memes. Play around with the kids activities, coloring sheets, and puzzles. There is so much to explore and learn!

We are excited to share this great resource with you! Of course there are still things to fine-tune, but we just couldn't keep it under wraps any longer. Check it out!



Send Your Holiday Cards with a Roar!

Consider sending your holiday cards with the Save Vanishing Species stamp this year. Also known as the Tiger Stamp, the Save Vanishing Species Stamp is a program supported by the United States Postal Service where funds raised through the sale of this stamp support international wildlife conservation and the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. Funds support African and Asian elephant conservation, as well as great apes, rhino and tiger, and marine mammals. Order your stamps by [clicking here](#).



EMA x IEF BREW OFF

The Elephant Manager’s Association (EMA) and IEF recently teamed up for the first ever Beer Representing Elephants Worldwide, or BREW Off! Inspired by the elephant conservation-themed beer developed by our friends at Turning Point Beer in Bedford, Texas and Christine DelTurco of the Fort Worth Zoo, we decided to share the fun across the country. We encouraged elephant keepers, trainers, and enthusiasts to work with their local breweries to create special elephant brews in order to compete in an epic tasting competition at the annual EMA conference, held this year at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

All EMA members in attendance were given samples of each beer, without knowing who entered what. They were asked to vote for Best Label and Best Brew—Public’s Choice. For the overall Best Brew Award we were honored to have EMA Executive Director and IEF Board Member Daryl Hoffman, Smithsonian National Zoo’s Brian Amaral, and local Milwaukee Beer Expert Brian Welter serve as judges. Six beers from across the country competed:

- Oh Mai! created by Mad Tree Brewery entered by Van Nastold Jr. of Cincinnati Zoo.
- Beta Flash created by Nocterra Brewing Company entered by David Lemkau of Columbus Zoo.
- Vanilla Wafer Porter created by Mob Craft Beer entered by Ryan Taylor of Milwaukee County Zoo.
- Ermahgerd! created by Ope! Brewing Company entered by Hanna Kaiser of Milwaukee County Zoo.
- Elephant Valley Lager created by Mike Hess Brewing Company entered by Kristi Burtis of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.
- Elephantastic created by Meier’s Creek Brewing Company entered by Ashley Sheppard of Rosamond Gifford Zoo.



After fierce competition, enthusiastic tastings, and thoughtful scoring and deliberation, three winners were chosen! Elephant Valley Lager won for Best Label with an idyllic elephant design. Oh Mai! took home the Best Brew—People’s Choice whose flavor notes included orange, lime, cinnamon, and vanilla. Epic bragging rights and the grand prize of Best Brew went to Ermahgerd! which was a stout with vanilla, chocolate, peanut butter and marshmallow notes.

Congratulations to all of the winners and participants! Every single entry was delicious and we were thrilled to see so much support. Our sincere, heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who participated and a special thank you to Milwaukee County Zoo’s Erin Downgillo and Emily Salentine who were integral to making this event a success!



In Memoriam: Dida

One of the majestic matriarchs of Tsavo has left us. Dida, also known as F-D1, was one of the Iconic Female Tuskers in the Tsavo Conservation Area in Kenya. She was one of many who are monitored by the aerial surveillance of the Big Tusker Project operated by Tsavo Trust which is a joint operation with the Kenya Wildlife Service. Her body was spotted from the air on October 31, 2022.

Dida was last sighted alive on September 3, moving about and feeding with ease, but appearing old and weak. She is estimated to have been approximately 60 years old and to have died of old age, perhaps hastened by the current drought in the area. She lived a long, productive life where she no doubt passed on her tusker genes to many sons and daughters. Prior to death she was the matriarch of a breeding herd of 12 elephants.

Since being initially identified in 2012, Dida had been spotted and monitored 111 times. Her ivory was found intact with each tusk weighing over 40 pounds (18 kilograms) and being 76 and 75 inches long (almost 2 meters each).

The International Elephant Foundation has supported the protection of Dida and the others Big Tuskers of Tsavo for many years, and even highlighted her in our Sponsor An Elephant program. We are saddened by her passing but heartened to know she lived a full life and did not meet an untimely death due to poaching.



Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust

Meet the Puppies!

The Lower Zambezi Area Management Unit (LZAMU) comprises almost 20,000 square kilometers including the Lower Zambezi National Park and adjacent Game Management Areas (GMAs) and is one of last strongholds for African Savannah elephants. Unfortunately, this area is experiencing rapid human population growth and along with it, large-scale poaching. Bordered by Zimbabwe (to the south) and Mozambique (to the east), LZAMU is a transit route for transboundary illegal trade and its remoteness makes law enforcement difficult.

To address the poaching and trafficking, a specialized detection and tracking canine unit (DNPW/CLZ K9 Unit) was established in 2016 which has bolstered law enforcement efforts within the LZAMU leading to notable reductions in the number of elephants poached. The DNPW/CLZ K9 Unit is based at the CLZ Basecamp and moves between trafficking 'hotspots' in the area surrounding the park to strangle channels of movement of illegal wildlife products, as well as act as a deterrent. Detection dogs play a critical role in searching vehicles, buses, trucks, and individuals for bushmeat and other illegal products along key transport routes.

The trained dogs are imprinted with the scent of ivory, pangolin scales, rhino horn, bush meat, cat skins, firearms, and ammunition, and along with their specialist handlers, they are deployed to detect these items while conducting searches of vehicles, border posts, individuals, and entire villages. Poachers and illegal wildlife traders rely on increasingly advanced smuggling techniques to keep their activities and commodities hidden from law enforcement authorities. Detection dogs can identify minute traces of these illegal wildlife products and have a highly evolved ability to discriminate between scents and are able to locate hidden contraband in vehicles, on individuals, or even in concealed compartments that would be extremely challenging to locate via other means.

DNPW and CLZ established the K9 Unit sourcing dogs from trusted vendors in Holland. In 2018 the International Elephant Foundation and The Berry Family Trust funded an additional dog and kennel expansion and improvements. Sourcing trained dogs from Holland, United States or similar western country is expensive for a conservation organization and it has been found that these dogs sometimes have difficulties with the heat, insects and diseases of Africa to which they have never been exposed. Illnesses and sometimes death of the dog, as well as mounting veterinary costs make such K9 programs a large financial burden for a critically important means of reducing wildlife crime, poaching and trafficking of wildlife products. With the impending retirement of the oldest detection dog due to age and ongoing health problems, it was necessary to look at options for his replacement.

In 2018, CLZ dog trainers adopted a village puppy and began training it for scent discrimination and to track. The puppy showed great promise but died early in its training. The puppy's success intrigued IEF's Executive Director as it is well documented in the United States that mixed breed dogs from shelters have been successfully trained for conservation activities in addition to Search and Rescue. The Berry Family Trust was similarly captivated with the opportunity to contribute to not only elephant conservation but also to the health and welfare of dogs living in communities surrounding CLZ. With the Berry Family Trust support, IEF approached CLZ to ask if they would be interested in IEF funding a pilot program demonstrating that "village dogs" have potential to make outstanding conservation law enforcement dogs.

Village dogs are dogs that live and breed (therefore mixed breed) in villages in southern Africa with little management by humans. Village dogs appear to have a natural resistance to local diseases such as Trypanosomiasis, are well adapted to the harsh, hot environment and have an excellent disposition and tracking ability. Village dogs are widely available, cheap to procure, and more familiar to the local community members who are being trained as dog handlers and therefore feel more comfortable working with them. DNPW/CLZ was thrilled with the concept and a pilot project was established in July 2022. Two village puppies were chosen—named Smoke and Skye—and are now being trained as detection and tracking dogs under the guidance of dog training experts of Resolve Wildlife. The goal is that they will be able to track suspects and detect illegal wildlife products including ivory, pangolin scales, rhino horn, bushmeat, cat skins, firearms, and ammunition.

This closely managed and documented pilot program using village dogs is the first of its kind in Zambia and more than likely in all of Africa. The ultimate expectation of this project is to demonstrate that village dogs will be more resilient to local diseases and the environment while being equally effective as the expensive, trained, imported dog making dog detection units more accessible and practical to conservation organizations throughout Africa. In addition, training a dog from puppy to adult will build capacity of the K9 handlers who have been chosen from the community. As they learn alongside the dogs they are training, they will improve their skills and ability reducing the need and expense for outside training experts except for in a consulting role.

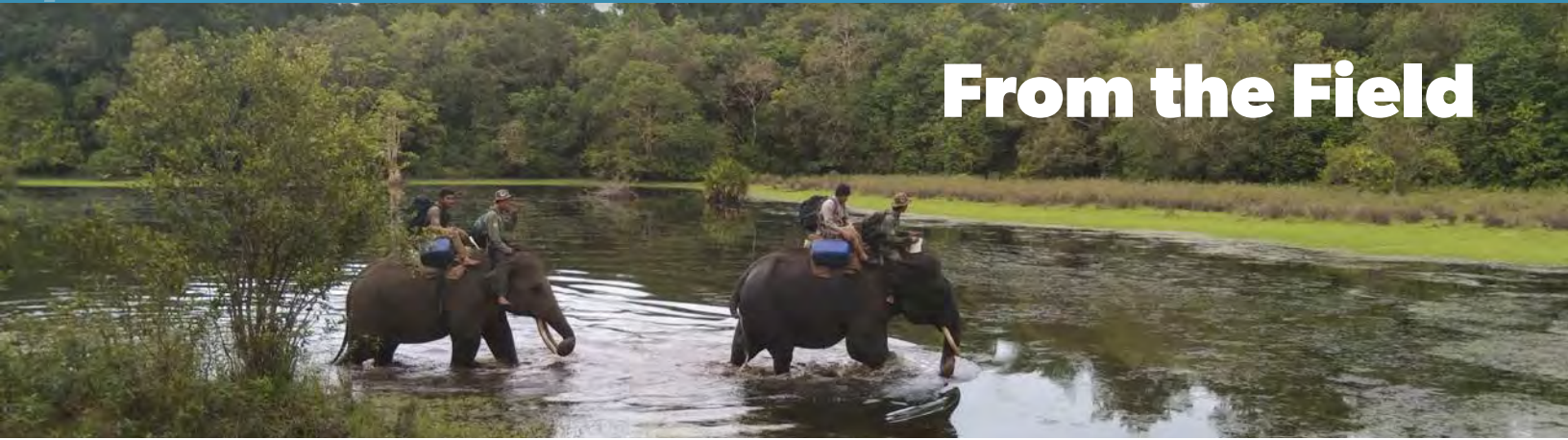


Photo Credit:
Conservation Lower Zambezi

Recent Update

The puppies have just passed the first test in their training. Individually they each tracked a scent that was 15 minutes old for 500 meters. We are cautiously optimistic that Smoke and Skye will be joining the two adult dogs as apprentices on patrol in 2023!

From the Field



When a donor gives to IEF they are supporting projects for Asian elephants, African savannah elephants, and African forest elephants. In 2022 that means each donation reaches 13 projects in 14 countries! Their work is still ongoing, but here are some quick updates from the field:

- **Elephant Response Units (ERUs) in Sumatra's Way Kambas National Park:** During the first half of the year the 4 ERU teams conducted and assisted with a total of 332 crop guardings including 45 cases where wild elephants were driven out of farms and back into safe habitat. They also conducted 247 patrols covering 2643.76 kilometers in which they found, removed, and destroyed 69 snares and extinguished 5 active forest fires.
- **Collaring Forest Elephants-Ziama:** Two forest elephants were successfully fitted with GPS tracking collars and are being actively monitored to learn more about habitat utilization and begin to establish an early detection and warning system to mitigate human-elephant conflict. With less than 40,000 African forest elephants estimated to be left in the wild, this transboundary collaboration between Guinea and Liberia is a significant step towards securing the population.
- **Mount Kenya Horse Patrol Team:** In the first half of the year, the HPT found and removed 90 snares, including cable snares, string snares, wire snares, and other cutting tools. They also detected 39 cases of illegal logging, destroyed 6 illegal shelters and expelled nearly 2000 illegally grazing domestic animals—all activities that degrade habitat and threaten ecological balance.
- **PEACE Project Eastern Area Conflict Mitigation Program:** PEACE stands for People and Elephants Amicably Co-Existing, and this year this project in Namibia has thus far reached 55 community members from 3 human-elephant conflict (HEC) prone rural villages teaching them tools to avoid conflict with elephants, basic elephant behavior, and safety principles. 80 women who run households attended a day-long HEC mitigation workshop. A 3-day Elephant Safety course was taught at Okongwe Primary School including thought-provoking workshops about conservation.
- **Using Social Network Analysis to Achieve Faster Conservation Education Outcomes:** A new elephant education curriculum was developed and tested in 4 schools. This curriculum is being used to teach "key influencers" within the school communities to spark a deeper level of tolerance and understanding about wildlife and safely coexisting with them.

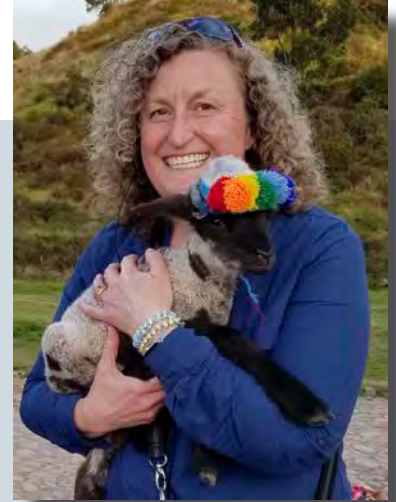


Advisor Spotlight

DR. ELIZABETH FREEMAN

One of the incredible things about the International Elephant Foundation is the connections we are able to make with inspiring, knowledgeable people around the world. IEF is fortunate to have some of these individuals serve as Advisors, including Dr. Elizabeth Freeman.

Dr. Freeman is an Associate Professor of Conservation Studies in the School of Integrative Studies at George Mason University (GMU). Elizabeth received a B.S. in Biology from Vanderbilt University, a M.S. in Biology from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University. She is a behavioral endocrinologist whose interests involve conducting innovative research that generates data that can be used to enhance the reproductive success of endangered species and aid conservation management of both in situ and ex situ populations. As such, she has over 10 years of experience conducting behavioral analyses on a wide range of species from a parasitic wasp to elephants and rhinos—including conducting elephant and black rhino research in Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa. Dr. Freeman is an affiliated faculty member of the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation and the Environmental Science & Policy department at GMU. She also holds a Research Associate position with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI). Elizabeth enjoys teaching conservation courses and sharing her passion for wildlife while mentoring undergraduate and graduate students.



We caught up with Dr. Freeman and were able to learn a little bit more about her:

How did you get inspired to work with animals?

Like a lot of people, I grew up loving animals and had strong bonds with my pets. I also had a natural love of the outdoors and science. Those passions combined inspired my interest in a career working with wildlife.

What was your first job with animals/how did you get started in your field?

My first animal job was working at a veterinary office while I was in college. Doing that alongside of my college courses helped to show me that I was more interested in learning about animals than trying to treat them medically. That experience definitely helped to shape my future career.

Besides elephants, what other species are you passionate about?

Big cats, particularly tigers, were my favorite animals before I got into our field. I still love the cat species, but as a professional I have become really interested in red pandas. They're such a unique and fascinating species that we know next to nothing about.

What are your interests/hobbies outside of your professional work with animals/research?

My biggest interest/hobby outside of animals/research these days is pottery. I enjoy throwing things like mugs and bowls on the wheel and I have a studio space where I sell my wares locally. As might be expected, a lot of my pieces have an animal theme. I also love to cook as well as get exercise – particularly exercise outdoors.

What role has IEF played in your career?

IEF has been an important part of my career since I was a graduate student. It provided me great opportunities to learn and network at conferences, as well as financial support for my research. I enjoy being an Advisor as it provides me an opportunity to give back to IEF and the greater elephant community.

Anything else you think might be interesting to our readers?

I've been fortunate to observe elephant behavior in Asia, Africa and many North American zoos. The more I learn about them, the more they continue to amaze me.

Thank you, Elizabeth! We are honored to consider you a friend and advisor.

Board Member Spotlight

TOM SCHMID

Did you know that the IEF Board of Directors has over 300 years of collective elephant experience? IEF has a dedicated Board of Directors who live and breathe elephants and conservation! None are compensated for their work, rather each brings significant financial support to the organization as well as important expertise that helps guide us into the future.

One of our newest Board Members is Tom Schmid. Tom serves as the President & CEO of the Columbus Zoo Family of Parks, which, in addition to the Zoo, includes Zoombezi Bay Water Park, the Safari Golf Club, and The Wilds, a 10,000-acre wildlife conservation center located in Muskingum County in Ohio. With a team of 350 full time and over 2000 part time staff, Tom and his teams inspire people by connecting them with wildlife. Born in Miami, Tom grew up in South Florida and received his Bachelor's degree in Biology from Stetson University, and his Master of Science degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Central Florida. Tom has served as the President and CEO of the Texas State Aquarium, a wildlife conservation and marine education institution and served as the Director of Operations for NAUTICUS- the National Maritime Center, located in Norfolk, Virginia.



We caught up with Tom to learn a little more about him and his passion for animals.

How did you get inspired to work with animals?

Growing up along the water in South Florida inspired me to study marine biology. And I have always been fascinated with sharks, so that became my focus as I entered college and graduate school.

How many years have you worked with animals/in conservation?

35 years.

What was your first job with animals/how did you get started in your field?

While I was in graduate school I was recruited by Sea World in Orlando to help manage the shark collection there. I also had the opportunity to conduct research on the Bioenergetics of captive sharks.

What are your interests/hobbies outside of your professional work with animals?

My wife and I enjoy traveling and exploring. We enjoy hiking. I also enjoy motorcycling and snow skiing.

How has it been being a part of the IEF Board?

In the short time that I have served as a director, I have been impressed with the passion and commitment of the staff and board. Early in my tenure as a CEO, Mike Fouraker [founding IEF Board Member and current President] was a mentor for me, and now I consider him a friend as well. His passion for conserving wildlife, including wildlife rescue, and bringing in diverse, and in some cases non-traditional partners to achieve successful outcomes has been an inspiration for me in my professional career.

IEF is lucky to have Tom on our team!

Donor Spotlight: Jim Tulio

Our donors are the engine that makes all of IEF's elephant conservation work, education, and outreach possible. We are thankful for every single person who gives their support and time for elephants and want to celebrate them. Today we celebrate Jim Tulio, a donor since 2021. Being retired U.S. Air Force, Jim is no stranger to service and currently is the lead for Google Cloud professional services supporting the Federal Government. Let's learn more about him in his own words:

What inspired you to care about elephants?

I have always had a fascination with elephants and had a passive awareness of elephant poaching, but it was probably the 2021 story about Cher rescuing Kavaan [a male Asian elephant in Pakistan who was relocated to Cambodia] that really inspired me to dig into elephants and elephant conversation. My curiosity very quickly helped me develop a deeper understanding of elephants, their challenges for survival, and the challenges in managing human-elephant conflict. I find elephants to be a magnificent species and I am really drawn to their human-like emotions. We must do all we can to protect and preserve them.

What led you to IEF?

I must admit that I have never been particularly philanthropic, but I knew I wanted to do more and simply admiring pictures and reading stories was not enough. I began researching those organizations whose primary mission is to support elephant protection and help elephants and humans to successfully coexist. I also wanted to support a charity that has a low administrative cost overhead and applies a significant portion of their donations directly to elephant support. IEF met those criteria for me and my continued experience with the foundation tells me I made the right choice.

What is your experience with IEF been like?

My experience with IEF has been better than I expected. I do donate to other charities and although I believe my donations are going to good causes, I don't see and experience the direct connection with those charities like I do with IEF. Julie and the IEF team do a phenomenal job of keeping supporters connected in a direct and meaningful way. Although I am not able to participate in all the sessions that IEF schedules with their elephant experts, I am very appreciative of the invitations to be a direct partner in this important conservation community. I feel very connected to this cause because IEF facilitates and supports this intimate partnership.

Thank you, Jim. We are lucky to have you as a supporter and partner in conservation!



Elephant Gift Shop

This Holiday season show the animal lover in your life that you support their passion by giving them goodies from the IEF store (www.IEFstore.org). We have hot and cold tumblers, coffee mugs, loungewear, tote bags, pint glasses, and more! Our special multispecies graphic visually shows how protecting elephants benefits every species who share their habitats, from tigers to giraffe to hornbill and beyond. Not only will the elephant enthusiasts and animal lovers in your life love these gifts, but you will be helping to support elephant conservation around the world with every purchase! Shop the IEF Store today!