Provisional Program

21st INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

ICE BREAKER

December 4, 2024
18:00 – 20:00

Fort Worth Zoo

Kick off the Symposium with a wild welcome! Sip cocktails, savor light bites, and strike a pose with a Texas Longhorn for an unforgettable photo op. Conservation conversations and cowboy charm await!

DRAFT

21st INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
December 5-8, 2025
PROGRAM

FRIDAY December 5, 2025

7:00 **Shuttles begin from hotels to Fort Worth Zoo Event Center**
Fort Worth Zoo Event Center doors open for Registration

7:30 – 8:30 **Start your day with breakfast bites and big Texas energy—featuring a cowboy roper spinning tricks and a towering stilt walker bringing high-flying fun to your morning mingle!**

8:30 - 8:45 **Opening Ceremonies**

8:45 – 9:45 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS – Richard Moller, Tsavo Trust, Kenya - a seasoned conservationist and CEO of Tsavo Trust, with over 25 years of hands-on experience protecting Kenya's iconic wildlife. Tsavo Trust partners with the Kenya Wildlife Service to safeguard the Tsavo Conservation Area—home to 40% of Kenya's elephants, including the legendary big tuskers.**

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

9:45 – 10:00 Adoption of geographical information system technology for elephant poaching prevention in Tanzania National Parks
Abel Peter Mtui

10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 10:45 Detecting and locating Asian elephants using infrasonic communication: a low-cost, non-invasive approach for conservation and human-elephant conflict mitigation
W. G. Buddhika Lankara

10:45 – 11:00 Using predator and novel playbacks to understand individual variation between wild asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*)
Robbie Ball

11:00 – 11:15 Strengthening elephant conservation in Viet Nam: Field manual for camera trap-based monitoring and individual identification
Mai Nguyen Thi

11:15 – 11:30 AI work tracking elephants in Samburu?? (title)
Matt James

11:30 – 11:45 The elephant in the room: Comparison of species distribution models for human-elephant conflict risk mapping
Carleen Schwarz

11:45 – 12:00 **Questions and Answers**

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

VOICES FOR COEXISTENCE: COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND CONSERVATION

13:30 – 13:45 Rooting Coexistence: How youth and community action are rewriting the future of human-elephant conflict on Kenya's coast
Leigh Lane

13:45 – 14:00 Building coexistence between humans and elephants through a community-participatory conflict mitigation approach at the Indo-Nepal border
Abhishek

14:00 – 14:15 Sociodemographic and spatial landscapes of wildlife tolerance: The dynamics of attitudes, beliefs, and experiences around human–elephant coexistence
Chase LaDue

14:15 – 14:30 How to stop the impending extinction of Elephants
Kristal Lily Parks

14:30 – 14:45 Conserving African elephants through walking and talking - Ivory Belongs to Elephants Campaign
Jim Justus Nyamu

14:45 – 15:00 **Questions and Answers**

15:00 – 15:30 Break

ELEPHANTS IN TRANSITION: EXPLORING CAPTIVITY, COGNITION, AND CONSERVATION IMPACT

15:30 – 15:45 Space, the final frontier: Elephants in human care as an effective conservation tool
Carin Harrington

15:45 – 16:00 Metro to open range – mechanics and impacts of an asian elephant herd move within australia
Natalie Rourke

16:00 – 16:15 Rewilding captive elephants: Restoring autonomy and reintegration into wild ecosystems
Brett Mitchell

16:15 – 16:30 Movement patterns of two reintegrated African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) herds: Transitioning from captivity to free-living

DRAFT

Tenisha Roos

16:30 – 16:45 Management of calf and juvenile Asian elephants in Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center
Navaneetha Roopan

16:45 – 16:00 DNA methylation differences by orphaned status in African savanna elephants
Daniella Chusyd

16:00 – 16:15 Elephant behavior and cognition considerations in human-elephant conflict: testing novel mitigation strategies based on elephant personality
Joshua Plotnik

16:15 – 16:30 Bridging the Gap: Using wild African elephant metabolic, reproductive, and stress hormone profiles to enhance management in human care
Kari Morfeld

16:30 – 16:45 TBA
Ellen Wiedner

16:45 – 17:00 **Questions and Answers**

SATURDAY December 6, 2025

7:00 **Shuttles begin from hotels to Fort Worth Zoo Event Center**
Fort Worth Zoo Event Center doors open for Registration

7:30 – 8:30 **Start your day Texas-style with breakfast snacks and a lively line dancing lesson—no experience needed! Our friendly instructors will have you stepping, sliding, and spinning in no time.**

8:30 - 8:45 **Welcome and house keeping**

8:45 – 9:45 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS – Sarah Maisonneuve, Wildlife Connection, Tanzania – the founder of Wildlife Connection, a nonprofit near Ruaha National Park in Tanzania that protects elephants while improving local livelihoods. With nearly two decades of global conservation experience, she blends ecological research, education, and community engagement to foster coexistence between people and wildlife.**

POLICY, PATHWAYS & PROTECTION: INFRASTRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE IN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

9:45 – 10:00 Asian Elephant Support's (AES) game plan without USFWS grants
Linda Reifschneider

10:00 – 10:30 **Break**

10:30 – 10:45 Field realities and forest governance: understanding forest department's role and reflections on human-elephant interactions in Balasore, Odisha
Medha Nayak

10:45 – 11:00 Projected conservation outcomes of implementing transboundary wildlife legislation for forest elephant (*loxodonta cyclotis*) protection in the Nigeria–Cameroon Border Region
Akinleye Isaac Oyegbami

11:00 – 11:15 Patterns and conservation implications of elephant-train collisions in a tropical biodiversity hotspot (Sri Lanka)
Supun Lahira Godage

DRAFT

11:15 – 11:30 Implementing elephant-friendly guidelines to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on endangered Asian elephants
Katie Deuel

11:30 – 11:45 Permits with Purpose: Supporting conservation through legal sample importation
Sarah Conley

11:45 – 12:00 **Questions and Answers**

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

CONSERVATION MEDICINE IN ACTION: DIAGNOSING AND PREVENTING ELEPHANT MORTALITY

13:00 – 13:15 Elephant death in Sabah : lessons learned & way forward in conservation medicine
Nur Nabila Sarkawi

13:15 – 13:30 Bisgaard taxon 45 and other causes of elephant mortalities in Zimbabwe
Laura Rosen

13:30 – 13:45 Investigation of cyclopiazonic acid toxicosis in Asian elephants in linked to fungal contamination
Karikalan Mathesh

13:45 – 14:00 Understanding environmental contaminants as a conservation challenge for elephants
Nurzhafarina binti Othman

14:00 – 14:15 Comparison of fecal metabolites concentrations of wild Asian elephants across four forests in Thailand
Chatchote Thitaram

14:15 – 14:30 **Questions & Answers**

ELEPHANTS IN THEIR ELEMENT: UNDERSTANDING HABITAT, MOVEMENT, AND MANAGEMENT

14:30 – 14:45 Landscape Lords: Habitat use and population management scenarios of Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus indicus*) in an anthropogenic mosaic landscape of Southern India
Souritra Sharma

14:45 – 15:00 The effect of drought on African savanna elephant habitat use and body condition in Southern Kafue National Park, Zambia
Halina Adrianna Malinowski

15:00 – 15:30 **Break**

15:30 – 15:45 Elephants-Mediated Seed Dispersal: A keystone Role in *Balanites maughamii* Regeneration
Lynn Njuguna

UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT: BEHAVIOR, LIVELIHOODS, AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS

15:45 – 16:00 Lower Adaptive capacity of subsistence farmers increases human-elephant conflicts
Ashok Kumar Ram

16:00 – 16:15 Understanding forest elephant crop depredation conditions within villages in and adjacent to Lope' national Park Gabon
Herve Roland Memiaghe

16:15 – 16:30 Understanding the individual behavioral variation of Asian elephants *(Elephas maximus)* as an indicator of human elephant conflict
Julia Brzezicki

DRAFT

16:30 – 16:45 The connection between Asian elephant diet and community livelihoods in Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia
Kelly Hogan
16:45 – 17:00 Questions and Answers

SUNDAY December 7,2025

7:00 Shuttles begin from hotels to Fort Worth Zoo Event Center
Fort Worth Zoo Event Center doors open for Registration

7:30 – 8:30 Start your day with delicious breakfast snacks and a strolling magician who'll dazzle you with close-up illusions and mind-bending tricks. It's breakfast with a side of wonder!

8:30 - 8:45 Welcome and house keeping

8:45 – 9:45 KEYNOTE ADDRESS – Rachel Harris, Elephant Human Relations Aid, Namibia – the founder and Managing Director of Elephant Human Relations Aid (EHRA) in Namibia, where she leads efforts to foster peaceful coexistence between desert-adapted elephants and local communities. Since relocating from the UK in 2004, she has built EHRA into an award-winning conservation and volunteer program focused on conflict mitigation, education, and sustainable development

FROM CONFLICT TO COLLABORATION: RETHINKING COEXISTENCE IN ELEPHANT RANGE STATES

9:45 – 10:00 From conflict to coexistence: rethinking policies and priorities for humans and elephants in Nepal
Ajay Karki

10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:00 – 10:15 Demanding rights for the killer: An alternative solution to human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka
Harshani Fernando
10:30 – 10:45 Elephants of Sumatra
Donny Gunaryadi
10:45 – 11:00 Africa's largest elephant population – Botswana
Comfort Nkgowe
11:00 – 11:15 Elephant conservation strategy to mitigate human-wildlife-wildlife conflict different corridors of Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, India
Prosenjit Sarkar
11:15 – 11:30 Human-elephant coexistence strategies in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor: A community-based approach to conflict mitigation
Felician Ezekiel
11:30 – 11:45 Moving beyond conflict: Evaluating elephant conservation for lasting coexistence in Sri Lanka
Samadhi Hansani Premasiri
11:45 – 12:00 Questions & Answers

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 13:45 African forest elephant conservation through large-scale passive acoustic monitoring
Bobbi Estabrook

DRAFT

13:45 – 14:00 Population status of forest elephant in the Bia Conservation Area, Ghana
Paul Tehoda

FROM ECGS TO MILK REPLACERS: ADVANCING ELEPHANT HEALTH THROUGH VETERINARY SCIENCE

14:00 – 14:15 A novel technique for obtaining non-invasive ECG's in African elephants (*Loxodonta Africana*)
Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer
14:15 – 14:30 Guidelines for tusk fracture treatment in elephants: An initiative of the Elephant Dental Vets
Willem Schaftenaar
14:30 – 14:45 Managing hyperanemia in an elephant calf (Elephas maximus maximus) via allogenic whole blood transfusion: clinical case study
Kalani P Samarakoon
14:45 – 15:00 Rehabilitation of gait abnormality in an elephant
Taweepoke Angkawanish

15:00 – 15:30 Break

15:30 – 15:45 Treatment of suspected tetanus in a Sri Lankan elephant calf (*Elephas maximus maximus*)
V.P. M.K. Abeywardana
15:45 – 16:00 Formulation of milk replacers for Asian elephants and products currently available
Ann Ward

ELEPHANTS ACROSS CONTINENTS: POPULATION STATUS AND CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

16:00 – 16:15 Botswana
TBA
16:15 – 16:30 India
TBA
16:30 – 16:45 Sumatra
TBA
16:45 – 17:00 Questions and Answers

MONDAY December 8, 2025

7:00 Shuttles begin from hotels to Fort Worth Zoo Event Center
Fort Worth Zoo Event Center doors open for Registration

7:30 – 8:30 Fuel up with breakfast snacks while getting up close with Texas wildlife—an unforgettable glimpse into the Lone Star State's wild side!

8:30 - 8:45 Welcome and house keeping

8:45 – 9:45 Vantara - a groundbreaking wildlife rescue and rehabilitation initiative launched by the Reliance Foundation in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India. Spanning over 3,500 acres, it provides state-of-the-art care for rescued, injured, and endangered animals—including more than 200 elephants—while setting new global standards in conservation science and compassionate treatment.

GLOBAL FRONTLINES OF EEHV: FROM PHYSIOLOGY TO PREVENTION

DRAFT

9:45 – 10:00 Advancement of the understanding EEHV through global collaboration
Lauren Howard

10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 10:45 Association between physiological and environmental variables and EEHV shedding in African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*)
Nuri Flores Perez

10:45 – 11:00 EEHV Seroprevalence in Asian and African elephants in North America and effects of herd size on immune status
Jennifer Yu

11:00 – 11:15 Challenging management of clinical Elephant Endotheliotropic herpesvirus 4 (EEHV 4) infection in an adult Asian elephant
Narueporn Kittisirikul

11:15 – 11:30 Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus 6 viremia in three African elephants (*Loxodonta Africana*) in North America
Abigail Brooks Hsu

11:30 – 11:45 Natural infection with elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) after prophylactic antibody transfusion and subsequent recovery in an African elephant *(Loxodonta Africana*)
Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer

11:45 – 12:00 EEHV and dystocia: Health issue associated with captive elephant breeding program of Nepal
Amir Sadaula

12:00 – 12:15 Evaluation of elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) 1a MRNA vaccine in Asian elephants
Lauren C. Farris

12:15 – 12:30 Safety and efficacy testing of an EEHV1A subunit vaccine in Asian elephants.
Tabitha Hoornweg

12:30 – 12:45 Exploring antiviral drug interactions with elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus through molecular docking simulation
Ayuko Morita

12:45 – 13:00 Studies on elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus haemorrhagic disease among Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) in India
Karikalan M

13:00 – 16:00 Take your BOX LUNCH to eat now or while you enjoy a special visit to the Fort Worth zoo featuring the elephant exhibit and its newest arrival—a baby elephant! Then go behind the scenes to explore the reproductive science lab and EEHV serology lab, where cutting-edge research supports elephant health and conservation.

DRAFT