

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

THURSDAY December 4, 2025

**ICE BREAKER
Fort Worth Zoo Event Center**

18:00 – 20:00

Doors open at 17:30

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!

Shuttles begin to pick up from hotels to Fort Worth Zoo Event Center at 17:30

21st INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

FRIDAY December 5, 2025

- 7:00** Fort Worth Zoo Event Center doors open for Registration
Shuttles begin from hotels to Fort Worth Zoo Event Center
- 7:30 – 8:30** Kick off your morning with breakfast bites and bold Texas spirit—complete with a cowboy roper dazzling the crowd with rope tricks and high-energy fun!
- 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 – 10:15** **Break**
- 10:15 – 10:30** Fighting poaching through efficient deep learning and cross-device communication
Naveen Dhar
- 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** African forest elephant conservation through large-scale passive acoustic monitoring
Bobbi Estabrook
- 11:15 – 11:30** The elephant in the room: Comparison of species distribution models for human-elephant conflict risk mapping
Carleen Schwarz
- 11:30 – 11:45** How Drones and AI are helping us decipher elephant behavior
Abhishek Jana
- 11:45 – 12:00** **Questions & Answers**
- 12:00 – 13:00** **Lunch**

VOICES FOR COEXISTENCE: COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND CONSERVATION

- 13:00 – 13:15** Rooting Coexistence: How youth and community action are rewriting the future of human-elephant conflict on Kenya's coast
Leigh Lane
- 13:15 – 13:30** The Conservation of the Sri Lankan Elephant: The need for bold and innovative actions
Ravi Corea
- 13:30 – 13:45** Sociodemographic and spatial landscapes of wildlife tolerance: The dynamics of attitudes, beliefs, and experiences around human–elephant coexistence
Chase LaDue
- 13:45 – 14:00** Addressing human-elephant conflict in India – Towards integrated and inclusive solutions
Prajna Paramita Panda

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

- 14:00 – 14:15** Space, the final frontier: Elephants in human care as an effective conservation tool
Carin Harrington
- 14:15 – 14:30** Metro to open range – mechanics and impacts of an Asian elephant herd move within Australia
Natalie Rourke
- 14:30 – 14:45** Rewilding captive elephants: Restoring autonomy and reintegration into wild ecosystems
Brett Mitchell
- 14:45 – 15:00** Movement patterns of two reintegrated African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) herds: Transitioning from captivity to free-living
Tenisha Roos
- 15:00 – 15:15** **Break**
- 15:15 – 15:30** Management of calf and juvenile Asian elephants in Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center
Navaneetha Roopan
- 15:30 – 15:45** DNA methylation differences by orphaned status in African savanna elephants
Daniella Chusyd
- 15:45 – 16:00** Elephant behavior and cognition considerations in human-elephant conflict: testing novel mitigation strategies based on elephant personality
Joshua Plotnik
- 16:00 – 16:15** One Health in Elephants: How Range Countries and the Western Hemisphere Can Learn from Each Other
Ellen Wiedner
- 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** Fort Worth Zoo CARES: Assisted reproductive technologies for elephant conservation
Wendy Kiso
- 16:45 – 17:00** **Questions and Answers**
- 17:00 – 19:00** **Shuttles return to the hotel**

21st INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

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 – 10:15** **Break**
- 10:15 – 10:30** Field realities and forest governance: understanding forest department's role and reflections on human-elephant interactions in Balasore, Odisha
Medha Nayak
- 10:30 – 10:45** Projected conservation outcomes of implementing transboundary wildlife legislation for forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) protection in the Nigeria–Cameroon Border Region
Akinleye Isaac Oyegbami
- 10:45 – 11:00** Patterns and conservation implications of elephant-train collisions in a tropical biodiversity hotspot (Sri Lanka)
Supun Lahiria Godage
- 11:00 – 11:15** Implementing elephant-friendly guidelines to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on endangered Asian elephants
Katie Deuel
- 11:15 – 11:30** Kidepo, Murchison Falls & the Uganda Wildlife Authority Digital Strategy
Mike Keigwin
- 11:30 – 11:45** Permits with Purpose: Supporting conservation through legal biological 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 IN RANGE COUNTRIES

- 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** Joining the dots: Making provisional and confirmatory diagnosis due to electrocution by lightning in an elephant herd in Assam, India
Bhaskar Choudhury
- 13:45 – 14:00** Understanding environmental contaminants as a conservation challenge for elephants
Nurzhafarina binti Othman
- 14:00 – 14:15** Investigation of cyclopiazonic acid toxicosis in Asian elephants in linked to fungal contamination
Karikalan Mathesh
- 14:15 – 14:30** Comparison of fecal metabolites concentrations of wild Asian elephants across four forests in Thailand
Chatchote Thitaram

FROM SAVANNAS TO FORESTS: ELEPHANT HABITAT USE AND ECOLOGICAL ROLES

- 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** Promoting community awareness on invasive species to protect Serengeti-Grumeti elephants
Gerubin Msaki
- 15:00 – 15:15** **Break**
- 15:15 – 15:30** Elephants-mediated seed dispersal: A keystone role in *Balanites maughamii* Regeneration
Lynn Njuguna

UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT: BEHAVIOR, LIVELIHOODS, AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS

- 15:30 – 15:45** The state of Borneo's elephants and the road ahead
Katerina Pirelli
- 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
- 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

17:00 – 19:00 Shuttles return to the hotel

21st INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

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 – 8:25** 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** Demanding rights for the killer: An alternative solution to human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka
Harshani Fernando
- 10:00 – 10:30** **Break**
- 10:30 – 10:45** Linking in-situ and ex-situ conservation -a holistic approach for saving the critical endangered Sumatran Elephant in Indonesia
Donny Gunaryadi
- 10:45 – 11:00** Moving beyond conflict: Evaluating elephant conservation for lasting coexistence in Sri Lanka
Samadhi Hansani Premasiri
- 11:00 – 11:15** Human-elephant coexistence strategies in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor: A community-based approach to conflict mitigation
Felician Ezekiel
- 11:15 – 11:30** Elephant conservation strategy to mitigate human-wildlife-wildlife conflict different corridors of Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, India
Prosenjit Sarkar
- 11:30 – 11:45** Building coexistence between humans and elephants through a community-participatory conflict mitigation approach at the Indo-Nepal border
Abhishek
- 11:45 – 12:00** **Questions & Answers**
- 12:00 – 13:00** **Lunch**

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

- 13:00 – 13:15** A novel technique for obtaining non-invasive ECG's in African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*)
Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer
- 13:15 – 13:30** Guidelines for tusk fracture treatment in elephants: An initiative of the Elephant Dental Vets
Willem Schaftenaar
- 13:30 – 13:45** Managing hyperanemia in an elephant calf (*Elephas maximus maximus*) via allogenic whole blood transfusion: clinical case study
Kalani P Samarakoon
- 13:45 – 14:00** Rehabilitation of gait abnormality in an elephant
Taweepoke Angkawanish
- 14:00 – 14:15** The population level impact of Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus-1 hemorrhagic disease (EEHV1-HD) mortality and treatment in Asian elephants in North America
Lauren Howard
- 14:15 – 14:30** Treatment of suspected tetanus in a Sri Lankan elephant calf (*Elephas maximus maximus*)
V.P. M.K. Abeywardana
- 14:30 – 14:45** Formulation of milk replacers for Asian elephants and products currently available
Ann Ward

ELEPHANTS ACROSS CONTINENTS: POPULATION STATUS AND CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- 14:45 – 15:00** Botswana elephant population dynamics, holistic conservation perspective and integrated approach to conservation medicine
Comfort Nkgowe
- 15:00 – 15:15** **Break**
- 15:15 – 15:30** Population status of forest elephant in the Bia Conservation Area, Ghana
Paul Tehoda
- 15:30 – 15:45** Creating coexistence for people and elephants along Africa's equator.
Max Graham
- 15:45 – 16:00** Community-based action for human-elephant coexistence in Ule Masen Forest
Helene Barnes
- 16:00 – 16:15** The Center for Species Survival: Asian Elephant
Adam Felts
- 16:15 – 16:30** Conserving African elephants through walking and talking - Ivory Belongs to Elephants Campaign
Jim Justus Nyamu
- 16:30 – 16:45** How to stop the impending extinction of Elephants
Kristal Lily Parks
- 16:45 – 17:00** **Questions and Answers**
- 17:00 – 19:00** **Shuttles return to the hotel**

21st INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

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 – 8:25** Fuel up with breakfast snacks while getting up close with Texas wildlife—an unforgettable glimpse into the Lone Star State’s wild side!
- 8:25 – 8:30** Welcome and house keeping
- 8:30 – 9:30** **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 presented by Yaduraj Khadpeka and Boon Allwin.

GLOBAL FRONTLINES OF EEHV: FROM PHYSIOLOGY TO PREVENTION

- 9:30 – 9:45** Advancement of the understanding EEHV through global collaboration
Lauren Howard
- 9:45 – 10:00** Studies on elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus hemorrhagic disease among Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) in India
Karikalan Mathesh
- 10:00 – 10:15** **Break**
- 10:15 – 10:30** Association between physiological and environmental variables and EEHV shedding in African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*)
Nuri Flores Perez
- 10:30 – 10:45** EEHV and dystocia: Health issue associated with captive elephant breeding program of Nepal
Amir Saduala
- 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** Exploring antiviral drug interactions with Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus through molecular docking simulation
Ayuko Morita
- 11:15 – 11:30** Challenging management of clinical Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus 4 (EEHV 4) infection in an adult Asian elephant
Narueporn Kittisirikul
- 11:30 – 11:45** Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus 6 viremia in three African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in North America
Abigail Brooks Hsu
- 11:45 – 12:00** Natural infection with Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV) after prophylactic antibody transfusion and subsequent recovery in an African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)
Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer

- 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** **Questions and Answers**
- 12:45 – 13:00** **Closing Ceremony**
Presentation of speaker certificates
Sign-up and scheduling of exclusive zoo tours
- 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.**