



INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT FOUNDATION, INC.

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IEF Announces 2007 Conservation Project Grants!

FORT WORTH, TX – The board of the Fort Worth-based International Elephant Foundation (IEF) has selected its conservation projects for 2007. IEF is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving elephants by providing funds and scientific expertise to support elephant conservation programs worldwide. “We have been able to increase our conservation funding support annually,” said Michael Fouraker, IEF president. “Tremendous support from throughout the elephant community is allowing us to expand our scope of elephant conservation at a more rapid rate than was originally projected.”

According to IEF Executive Director Deborah Olson, IEF-funded conservation projects in 2007 will include:

Support for Community-based Conservation of Elephants in the Ndoto Ranges, Northern Kenya

This project will improve security and monitoring of elephants in the Milgis Lugga and Ndoto Mountains, Kenya.

Project to Reduce Human/Elephant Conflicts in Benoue, Cameroon

This project will place radio/satellite tracking collars on two high-ranking cows from an established herd in Benoue National Park. Researchers will use the tracking data to monitor the herd's movements and to provide an early-warning system that disperses rangers into the field to divert the herd away from crops or from human settlements.

Support to the Enforcement of Poaching Control and Bushmeat Trade in and around WAZA National Park (WNP), Cameroon

This project will strengthen WNP personnel's ability to enforce wildlife protection laws, monitor and manage wildlife populations, carry out sensitization campaigns using local and national media, and gather baseline surveillance data for long-term monitoring of wildlife populations.

Elephants, Crops and People

The Uganda Conservation Foundation, along with the local community and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) have embarked upon hand-digging a 20-kilometer, 2 by 2-meter trench as the first part of a larger strategy towards mitigating crop raiding in the region. Work to-date has already contributed to a reduction in the incidence of crop raiding and illegal cattle grazing.



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Waterways

This project will reduce poaching capabilities (policing of the bushmeat trade, ivory trafficking and illegal fishing) in the Southern Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area, and protect wildlife and their habitats through waterborne law enforcement along the shore line, silently and without detection.

Support for the core activities of Save The Elephants

Save The Elephants (STE) operates in every African environment. IEF's support of core activities will allow STE to develop, launch and manage its varied wildlife activities such as: radio tracking elephants and other endangered species, monitoring the illegal killing of elephants for ivory and programs for predators, human elephant conflict, and human educations.

The Effects of Translocation on the Behavior and Habitat Use of African Elephants

This study will provide valuable conservation and management information regarding the factors that contribute to successful translocations. By monitoring the activities of elephants post-translocation, this study will enable an evaluation of elephants' success in a new habitat and provide important information regarding the conservation value of translocations as a management tool for solving human-elephant conflict.

Community-based Elephant Conservation in Cambodia

Results of this project will include protection of forest in targeted locations, improved crop yields, increased capacity of staff for implementing conservation activities, improved social cohesion of guarding groups of local villagers near elephant areas, and reduction in poverty while improving local attitudes toward conservation.

Sumatran elephant's dietary ecology, movement and habitat use: Using ecological approach to save endangered Asian Elephant and their habitat in Indonesia.

The specific goals of this project are to investigate elephant dietary ecology in various habitat types, determine elephant movement, home range behavior and habitat use within the area and corridor of Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP), and build a predictive model of crop raiding.

Mahouts and Their Elephants Working as Conservation Response Units (CRU) in Sumatra

The CRU model utilizes once neglected captive elephants and their mahouts for direct field-based conservation interventions to support the conservation of wild elephants and their habitat, mitigate human-elephant conflict, reduce wildlife crime, and raise awareness among local people of the importance of conserving elephants and their habitat.

Conserving Asian Elephants and Human-elephant Conflict Mitigation in Kaeng Krachen National Park (KKNP), Thailand

Pilot surveys have determined methods for an elephant population survey, to begin human elephant conflict reduction efforts, and to work with Thai authorities to improve law enforcement in KKNP.



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Saving Elephants by Helping People

The project will construct a 15-kilometer solar powered electric fence with local community participation, resolve human-elephant conflicts along the boundary of the Lahugala Kitulana National Park, establish a critical elephant corridor connecting the Yala National Park to the Lahugala Kitulana National Park, and provide GIS mapping of distribution and human-elephant conflict data to aid in management efforts.

Support for GAJAH the publication of the IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG)

GAJAH is a journal dedicated to issues specific to Asian elephants including the large percentage of captive/domestic elephants in Asia and dealing with government and non-governmental organizations while providing opportunities for capacity-building.

Using Hormone Field Kits to Improve Our Understanding of Ovarian Activity in Free-Living Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*)

Using feces collected from captive elephants, field-friendly progestin hormone kits to easily monitor estrous cycle activity in free-ranging elephants will be developed to investigate how age, social rank and precipitation affect the estrous cycle dynamics of individually identifiable elephants in Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa and on the Ndarakwai Ranch, Tanzania. Gaining knowledge about the factors that naturally control estrous cycle activity of elephants will aid captive elephant managers worldwide by finding ways to maximize reproduction and create self-sustaining elephant populations.

Study to reduce elephant deaths caused by Endotheliotropic Elephant Herpes Virus (EEHV)

EEHV is a serious threat to all populations of Asian elephants and the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of EEHV is a high priority for the international elephant community. A complete epidemiologic picture of EEHV and the clarification of the EEHV status of individual elephants and their potential for shedding the virus will aid in the prediction of future outbreaks, identify the mode of transmission, prevent the transmission of the disease, and identify predisposing factors that make specific elephants more susceptible to the disease.

IEF will evaluate and possibly adopt additional elephant-related conservation and research projects throughout 2007. As a non-profit organization dedicated to elephant welfare, IEF solicits donations to fund worthy conservation and research projects worldwide.

To learn more about IEF or to contribute to elephant conservation efforts, visit IEF's website at www.elephantconservation.org. With minimal administrative costs, IEF is able to dedicate more than 90 percent of its budget directly toward elephant conservation programs worldwide.