

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

2011 INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT & RHINO CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM Hosted by The Rotterdam Zoo and the International Elephant Foundation 10 – 14 October 2011

This was my first European International Elephant Foundation (IEF) Symposium and the first time I participated in a symposium that included elephant and rhino conservation and research papers. The Symposium began the day after the Elephant Managers Association Conference (EMA) in Rochester, New York, so I missed the last day of the EMA activities and had to hit the ground running in Rotterdam.

There were approximately 115 participants from 16 countries and featured 4 days of papers, a total of 58 presentations in all. The papers were equally divided among elephant and rhino papers, except for the second day, which consisted of a half-day of papers and half-day workshop on the endotheliotropic elephant herpes virus (EEHV). Black rhinos are the endearing creatures that convinced me to do my first volunteer travel more than 15 years ago. I didn't believe the poaching situation could possibly be any more horrific than what is happening to elephants in Africa today. I was wrong. This year, African rhinos are being poached at the rate of *one every 20 hours* and the methods used to take the horns have become more barbaric with technologic advances. For more details on rhino conservation, I recommend visiting the websites of Save the Rhino (www.savetherino.org) and the International Rhino Foundation (www.rhinos-irf.org).

As always, I was impressed and honored to be among such a talented and dedicated group of wildlife champions. One of AES' colleagues in Asia, Dr. Arun Zachariah, gave a riveting presentation on the EEHV in elephants in Southern India. He has documented 15 cases of EEHV in young elephants representing both the captive and free ranging Asian elephant populations. This extremely important research project is a collaboration between researchers from the viral oncology program at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, the National Elephant Herpes Virus Laboratory at the Smithsonian Zoo (both in the U.S.) and the Wildlife Disease Research Laboratory in Kerala, India. This is the first report of EEHV infections in free ranging elephants, which highlights the need to study EEHV diseases in the world's largest population of Asian elephants. While finding cases of EEHV would not be considered good news, the importance of knowing what is happening regarding potential diseases cannot be understated. There can be no hope of victory if we do not know the enemy! We are grateful for the work Dr. Arun and his colleagues are doing and we are thankful AES has been able to fund a portion of his work.

Asian Elephant Support also gave a presentation about our mission, goals, and ongoing collaborations to benefit Asian elephants. We received positive feedback from elephant scientists, veterinarians, field researchers, and elephant managers and, as a result, our supporters can be assured that their financial contributions are being put to work most efficiently and effectively. **You are making a difference!** I thank you and I hope you will continue your support for Asian Elephant Support. The coming year promises to be another difficult year for Asian elephants and they will need all the help we can give them.

Sincerely,

Linda Reifschneider, President

Denver Zoo Photo Contest

As a fundraiser, AES submitted photos to the Denver Zoo's photo contest on behalf of the Veterinary Society for Sumatran Wildlife Conservation (VSSWIC). Four of the photos were selected for Denver Zoos new Asian Tropics exhibit, and AES sent the \$400 in proceeds to VSSWIC to support their work in wildlife medicine and conservation. To learn more about VSSWIC, go to our project page and see [Elephants Helping Elephants in Sumatra \(CRU\)](#).

As with many zoos, a major focus of the new [Denver Zoo Asian Tropics exhibit](#) is conservation. Since 1996, the Denver Zoo has participated in more than 500 projects in 57 countries, and this exhibit should offer visitors a glimpse into the significance and impact of such projects. Denver hopes visitors will gain an understanding of how people manage animals in natural, protected habitats, and some of the issues they face. Highlighted are innovative projects where local people and conservationists have partnered to create solutions to conservation problems and challenges. Through the actual stories of Denver Zoo conservation/biology research staff who work with elephants and native peoples in Sumatra, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, you will learn about the strategies being used in Asia to promote and ensure coexistence between human and animal populations. Please visit [Denver Zoo Asian Tropics exhibit](#) and see for yourself the positive impact they are making in wildlife conservation.



*Conservation Response Unit (CRU) mahouts
and their charges
(Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra)*



*CRU herding wild elephants out of HEC
and back into the park,
(Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra)*



*CRU patrolling boundaries
(Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra)*



*Using captive elephants for tracking and sedating a wild
elephant to fit a GPS collar
(BBS National Park, Sumatra)*

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If you are purchasing something on the Internet, use GoodShop and choose AES as the organization you want to support, and AES will automatically receive a donation! GoodShop.com works with more than 2,500 stores (including Target, Apple, Petsmart, etc.) which have agreed to donate a percentage of sales to us at no additional cost to shoppers! GoodShop also offers over 100,000 of the most up-to-date coupons and free shipping offers so you can save money at the same time. Visit <http://www.goodsearch.com/> to see how easy it is to shop online and support AES at the same time!

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THANK YOU

We at AES wish to extend a very sincere thank you to each donor who has voted their support with a financial gift. We value that confidence and will always do our best for the animals we all care for so deeply.

Please visit our website (www.asianelephantsupport.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) (Asian Elephant Support). If you have questions, please [contact us](#). We appreciate your support. Please consider a [donation](#) to help Asian elephants and those who care for them.

ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT

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