

Conservation Corner

Global Elephant Conservation

Wild Asian elephants live in some of the most densely human-populated regions of the world. They also require large areas of habitat and lots of food, which puts them in frequent and sometimes deadly conflict with people. Logging, development and agriculture to produce crops such as oil palms have drastically reduced elephant habitat throughout Asia. Poaching for ivory, meat and other products also takes a significant toll on elephant populations. In 2012, more than 35,000 African elephants were killed for their tusks.

What is the Oregon Zoo doing to help? The Oregon Zoo, recognized worldwide for its Asian elephant program, supports a broad range of conservation activities to help wild elephants. Over the past two years, the zoo has ramped up efforts to combat the illegal ivory trade by partnering with the Wildlife Conservation Society on its [96 Elephants](#) campaign. The Oregon Zoo is also supporting new legislation to end the trade of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn in Oregon.

Chendra is helping too! Population and Conservation Genetics Group sought blood samples from Chendra, the western hemisphere's only Borneo elephant, for a study on the impact of fragmentation on the patterns of genetic diversity, social structure, and dispersal of Borneo elephants. Borneo elephants—the world's smallest—are critically endangered, and believed to be genetically distinct from other Asian elephants.



When we try to pick out anything by itself,
we find it hitched to everything else in the universe. John Muir



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Take Action In the Classroom

Wild Writing

Asian and African elephants are endangered animals and need help to keep from becoming extinct. If these animals could talk, what might they say to persuade you to help save them? Have students write a paragraph about what they might say.

Elephant Homes

Elephants need protected habitats. Discuss the habitat needs of Asian or African elephants. Have your students create a diorama of an elephant's home.

Elephant Rescue

Have students create posters that will help persuade people to protect endangered elephants. Posters can include information about what people can do to help, as well as facts about elephants.

Public Service Announcement

Have students work in groups to create a public service announcement that explains why elephants are endangered and what can be done to protect them.

Take a field trip to the Oregon Zoo

Registration information can be found at www.oregonzoo.org/discover/field-trips-and-school-programs

Small Actions

To learn more about how people can help protect Asian elephants and other threatened wildlife visit Small Actions, an easy-to-use online tool launched by the Oregon Zoo this fall that empowers everyone to become a wildlife defender:

www.oregonzoo.org/converse/small-actions/orangutans.