

Save the Elephants is a research organization at heart, investigating elephant behavior and population dynamics among other areas.

All information found at:

http://savetheelephants.org/



For more up to date information on Elephants go to... http://savetheelephants.org/blog/

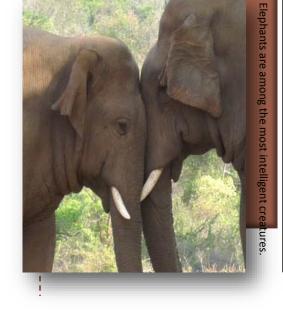
For more information on Statistics go to... http://savetheelephants.org/about-elephants/statistics/

# Save the Elephants

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## **Elephant Facts**

## What We Do...

#### Heat:

Elephants rely on the shade of trees during the hottest part of the day when they will often be found resting and trying to keep cool. Here the Spices family are making

use of a single Acacia tree, resting together in its shade before heading down to the river to drink. Thanks to their enormous size (and resulting low ratio of surface area to volume) elephants get hot. The ears of African elephants are large and full of blood vessels; when flapped they act as cooling

#### Safe Passage:

devices.

Elephants need big landscapes, but these are becoming fragmented by infrastructure development. Here is the highway underpass that makes up part of the Mount Kenya elephant corridor, allowing elephants to cross from the Ngare Ndare Forest to Mount Kenya. The underpass was officially opened on Jan 1 2011. Within 36 hours a bull elephant named Tony walked through the underpass into the elephant corridor where we were able to fit him with a GPS tracking collar.

#### Walking with Warriors:

Samburu people and elephants have long shared a special relationship. Various similarities between elephants and people have led to the belief that elephants and people were once from the same tribe. However, disrespect by people to elephants in the past led to the conflict that sometimes exists today between the species. There is a clan in the Samburu culture that is believed to still maintain close relations with elephants. Members of that clan can call upon elephants for help when in need.

#### **Birds Eye View:**

Save the Elephants' Cessna 185 airplane is used for many research activities. It's an essential tool for finding elephants and providing ground teams with a bird's eye view during complex collaring operations that can sometimes involve several vehicles and aircraft. We also conduct elephant aerial census work in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service to further our understanding of elephant population trends. Northern

Kenya is also a big place and we often need to use the plane just to get around especially during the rainy season when roads become impassable.



#### **Research and Monitoring:**

We conduct vital research on elephant behavior and ecology and pioneered GPS radio tracking in Africa to provide fresh insight into the life of elephants. After 18 years of intensive monitoring the elephants of Samburu are one of the world's beststudied populations. We also assist in implementing a UN-level program to monitor the illegal killing of elephants. Our solid scientific data has helped shift international policy towards a better future for the species.

#### **Elephant Protection:**

We work with wildlife departments, protected area managers and communities to assist their efforts to defend elephants against ivory poachers and traffickers. We develop and deploy cutting edge tracking systems to monitor and protect elephants. Through our <u>Elephant Crisis Fund</u> we support more than 37 partners in the implementation of over 50 different projects aimed at stopping the killing, stopping the trafficking and ending the demand for ivory.

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