

Dr. Rajesh Gopal
Member Secretary
CZA
Annexe-VI
Bikaner House,
Shahjahan Road
New Delhi-110011
India

19th November 2009

Dear Dr. Gopal,

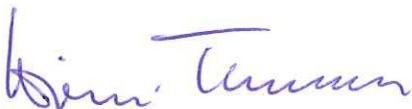
It gives me great pleasure to write to inform you about the enclosed statement, endorsed by a wide range of NGOs and experts from around the world, following the announcement of the Decision by the Central Zoo Authority on behalf of the Government of India to relocate all the elephants from India's zoos. The number and diversity of signatories goes some way to demonstrate how much the global animal welfare and conservation community welcomes the Decision.

I would like to offer the assistance of the Born Free Foundation and our colleagues to assist in the detailed development of the relocation plans for the elephants. There is a great need to ensure that all the options for relocation can guarantee the welfare of all the elephants by fully meeting their physical, social and psychological needs, without impacting the ecology of relocation sites.

I would also like to highlight the call for the plans to be extended to include elephants in circuses in India.

Furthermore, I understand that there are several African elephants currently in zoos in India. Several of the groups and individuals endorsing the enclosed statement have considerable experience in the care and relocation of African elephants. In our opinion, African elephants would make wholly unsuitable candidates for relocation within India, and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss other options for them with you at your earliest convenience, and to bring this considerable body of expertise to the table.

Yours sincerely,



Will Travers
CEO, Born Free Foundation

Born Free Foundation
3 Grove House
Foundry Lane
Horsham
West Sussex
RH13 5PL
United Kingdom

T 01403 240170
F 01403 327838
E wildlife@bornfree.org.uk
www.bornfree.org.uk

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

William Travers

FOUNDER

Virginia McKenna OBE

FOUNDER PATRON

Joanna Lumley OBE

THE CHARITY IS A CHARITABLE COMPANY
LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

CHARITY NO. 1070906
VAT NO. 528340551

KEEP WILDLIFE IN THE WILD

Statement on Elephants in Indian Zoos and Circuses

It has been confirmed that the Central Zoo Authority, the Government agency responsible for India's zoos, has recognized that zoos cannot provide a suitable environment for elephants and has taken the momentous step to order, through a CZA Directive, the relocation of all elephants in zoos to sanctuaries, national parks and reserves. The decision of the CZA reflects the growing concern expressed by many citizens, animal welfare groups and elephant experts* about the inadequacy of the zoo environment for elephants.

The Directive will have a significant and potentially positive impact on up to 150 elephants currently in Indian zoos.

Provided that certain safeguards and animal welfare measures can be guaranteed, we* welcome the decision of the CZA. Further, we call on the Indian Government to extend the decision to include elephants in circuses, and call upon governments in other countries to follow India's example and end confinement of elephants in zoos and circuses.

Importantly, the CZA also confirms that there is little or no benefit to the in situ conservation of wild elephants derived from keeping elephants in zoos and the like.

***Current signatories:**

Advocates for Animals (UK)
Amboseli Trust for Elephants (Kenya and USA)
Animal Defenders International (UK)
Animal Public e.V. (Germany)
Animal Rights Africa (South Africa)
Animals Asia Foundation (Hong Kong)
Animals Australia (Australia)
BNHS - Bombay Natural History Society (India)
Born Free Foundation (UK)
Born Free USA (USA)
Dr. Gay Bradshaw, The Kerulos Center (USA)
CAPS - The Captive Animals' Protection Society (UK)
Captive Animal Welfare Finland (Finland)
Care for the Wild International (UK)
CAT - Conservation Action Trust (India)
CATCA - Campaigns Against the Cruelty To Animals (Canada)
Circus Watch Ireland (Ireland)
CMEPS - Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society (Canada)
Co-Habitat (UK)
Coalition for No Whales in Captivity (Canada)
EIA - Environmental Investigation Agency (UK)
The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee (USA)

ESPA - Estonian Society for the Protection of Animals (Estonia)
FAADA - Fundación para la Adopción, Apadrinamiento y Defensa de los Animales (Spain)
Friends of the Elephant (Netherlands)
David Hancocks, Zoo planner, designer, and former Zoo Director (Australia and USA)
HSI - Humane Society International (International)
HSI - Humane Society International (Australia)
Humane Society of Canada (Canada)
HSUS - Humane Society of the United States (USA)
IDA - In Defense of Animals (USA)
International Animal Rescue (UK)
IPPL - International Primate Protection League (USA)
Lifeforce Charitable Trust (India and UK)
Lisa Kane, JD (USA)
Prof. Phyllis Lee, University of Stirling (UK)
Libera! (Spain)
Dr. Keith Lindsay, Amboseli Elephant Research Project (Kenya)
Amy Mayers, Communications Consultant (USA)
NAPA - Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance (Norway)
NCSA - Nature Conservation Society Amravati (India)
NSPCA - National Council of SPCAs (South Africa)
OceanCare (Switzerland)
PAWS - Performing Animal Welfare Society (USA)
PETA - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (USA)
Dr. Joyce Poole, ElephantVoices (Norway and Kenya)
ProFauna Indonesia (Indonesia)
Ian Redmond OBE, African Ele-Fund and co-founder, EleFriends (UK)
Dr. Mel Richardson, Veterinarian (USA)
RSPCA - Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (UK)
SAEN - Stop Animal Exploitation Now! (USA)
Satpuda Foundation (India)
Peter Stroud, Zoological Consultant (Australia)
Betsy Swart, Amboseli Elephant Research Project (Kenya)
TRACT - Tiger Research and Conservation Trust (India)
Wild Futures (UK)
Wildlife SOS (India)
Chris Wold, Lewis & Clark Law School (USA)
WSPA - World Society for the Protection of Animals (International)
WTI - Wildlife Trust of India (India)
ZNSPCA - Zimbabwe National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Zimbabwe)
Zoocheck Canada (Canada)