

# 2026 Elephant Conservation Fact Sheet

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## The Big Picture: The 17% Crisis

Most people think elephants roam freely across Africa. However, science tells a different story.

- **The Statistic:** Human expansion (farms, roads, and cities) has pushed elephants into just **17%** of their potential habitat.
- **The Impact:** When elephants are crowded, they struggle to find enough food and water, leading to more "Human-Elephant Conflict" as they wander into farmland to survive.
- **The Solution:** We are mapping **Wildlife Corridors**—strips of protected land that act like "highways," allowing elephants to move safely between these 17% pockets.

## The Technology: How We Protect Them

Conservation in 2026 isn't just about fences; it's about data. Through our partners, Elephanatics supports the most advanced tech in the field:

- **GPS Smart Collars:** These trackers provide more than just a location; they show the specific speed and direction of an elephant's movement in real-time.
- **The "Stop" Algorithm:** If an elephant's movement suddenly ceases, an AI-driven algorithm flags it as an "Immobility Alert," signaling a potential emergency.
- **Real-Time Defense:** These alerts are sent to rangers immediately. In the past, it could take days to find a poached elephant; now, teams can respond in **minutes**.
- **EarthRanger:** This "Control Room" software integrates data from collars, ranger patrols, and weather patterns onto one live map to help teams predict and prevent poaching.
- **Ecoscope:** This is the "brain" behind the data. It is an open-source analysis tool that converts complex EarthRanger movements into **actionable insights** to help scientists protect migration corridors.
- **ElephantBook (AI Identification):** This digital ID database acts like a "Social Network" for elephants. Using AI facial and ear recognition, researchers identify individual elephants from photos to track their health and family history over decades.

## Did You Know? (Quick Facts for Classrooms)

- **Superhero Hearing:** Elephants use "infrasound" — noises so low that humans can't hear them—to talk to friends miles away.
- **A Trunk of 40,000 Muscles:** An elephant's trunk is strong enough to rip down a tree but delicate enough to pick up a single blade of grass.
- **Nature's Sunscreen:** Elephants don't just play in the mud for fun; it protects their skin from the harsh African sun and biting insects!



## How You Can Be a Conservationist (From Anywhere!)

- **Be a Tech Advocate:** Share the story of how GPS and data are saving lives.
- **Support Legal Change:** Help us advocate for the **UNTOC Protocol**, a global law that treats wildlife trafficking as a "serious crime" on par with drug smuggling.
- **Choose Ethical Travel:** If you visit an elephant site, look for "Observation Only" sanctuaries. If you can ride it or watch it perform, it isn't a sanctuary.



## Teacher's Discussion Corner

- **Critical Thinking:** If you were a ranger and received a "Stop Alert" on your phone, what would be the first three things you would do?
- **Geography Challenge:** Look at a map of your own town. If humans took up 83% of the space, where would the "corridors" for local wildlife (like birds or deer) be?



## Explore More: Our Partners in the Field

Want to see this technology in action? Visit our partners to see real-time maps and more elephant stories:

- **[Save the Elephants](#):** Leaders in elephant tracking and research. Check out their "Tracking Map" to see where herds are moving right now.
- **[Mara Elephant Project](#):** Protecting elephants in the Greater Mara Ecosystem. See how their "Rapid Response" teams work with local communities.
- **[Wildlife Dynamics](#):** The innovators behind the software that keeps elephants safe.