It seems like only yesterday that we welcomed Maia and Guida to Elephant Sanctuary Brazil. The progress they have made since they took their first tentative steps off of the truck last October has been so rapid and dramatic it is hard to believe that a year has passed. The elephants they have become in this safe and nurturing environment, Guida with her nearly constant rumbles and Maia with her playful spirit, epitomize the importance and the impact of sanctuary.

Maia and Guida’s journey to sanctuary started long before we found them chained in place, separated by an electric fence on a rural farm in Paraguacu, Brazil. While difficult to contemplate, the abuse and neglect that they experienced beginning in infancy, serves as a tragic reminder of the lifelong hardship endured by performing elephants, and the critical need for life restoring sanctuary. Maia and Guida share a history heartbreakingly similar to that of many captive elephants. They were captured in the wild at less than two years old. Still suckling from their mothers, they were torn away from their families just as they were starting to learn what it means to be an elephant. Isolated from one another and packed into wooden crates, Maia and Guida were shipped overseas. They arrived terrified, broken hearted, cold, hungry and alone. Only momentarily freed from confinement, they were immediately shackled with the chains they would carry with them over the next thirty years spent in servitude.

After more than three decades of being forced to perform demeaning circus tricks, and more than 300,000 hours chained to the ground, in 2010, it seemed that Maia and Guida’s luck had changed when a Brazilian court ruled that their performing days should come to an end. continued on page 4
Dear Friend,

It’s been an amazing year since we first welcomed Maia and Guida to Elephant Sanctuary Brazil. As the ESB herd continues to grow and we realize our vision for a more humane world where every elephant matters, we are so grateful to have you by our side on this journey to freedom. We know that it’s been a long time since our last newsletter and we’ve got a lot of exciting news to share.

It’s easy for us to become so completely immersed in not only caring for the elephants but doing everything in our power to rescue others, so they too can experience the healing of sanctuary, that we don’t reach out as often as we’d like. Because our team is small but mighty this sometimes means that time behind the computer is sacrificed for extra time spent helping Maia and Guida learn to trust, working with the keepers to improve the condition of an elephant waiting for rescue, or expanding a habitat to bring more elephants to sanctuary. The next thing you know a year has gone by. Sharing the true story of elephants rescued from captivity is extremely important to us. It is the only way to do justice to their species and their journey. We would like to thank you for your patience in hearing about all of the wonderful happenings at ESB.

We also want to express what a privilege it is to once again spend our days in the absolutely awe-inspiring company of elephants. With their every joyful squeak and rumble, every enthusiastic roll in the mud and peaceful nap time shared, Guida and Maia remind us of one very important thing. It’s never too late. It’s never too late to have hope. It’s never too late to live the life you were meant to live. It’s never too late to open your heart and believe that this time it really will be different. Because they never give up, neither do we. And neither do you. We can’t thank you enough for helping us keep hope alive for captive elephants in South America and around the world.

For the love of all elephants,

Meghan Hoover
Hermano Rocha
Dr. Rinku Gohain
Richard Holman
Gert Zagler
Advisory Board

About GSE

Founded on the principle that we must create a positive future for elephants in captivity, Global Sanctuary for Elephants is dedicated to the development and long term support of expansive sanctuaries for captive elephants worldwide. Captive elephants have endured years of suffering, neglect and unathomable trauma and now it’s time to give back, to return their dignity through nurturing protection and uncompromising respect. In sanctuary, for the first time in decades, their lives will belong to them. With your support, GSE will continue to share our 40 years of expertise in compassionate elephant caregiving beyond Brazil; helping to create a global network of safe havens for rescued elephants.

Advisory Board
Scott Biais - GSE President/Co-founder
Dr. Joyce Poole - Elephant Voices Co-founder
Kat Biais - GSE Co-founder/Director of Elephant Health
Jill Darcy Moore - GSE Secretary/Treasurer
Junia Machado - President of Elephant Sanctuary Brazil

Global Sanctuary for Elephants is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – EIN 46-35564818

Learn more: GlobalElephants.org

Contact GSE: PO Box 2426 Brentwood TN, 37024 Phone: 615 435-9523 Email: Contact@GlobalElephants.org

Progress in Brazil

The fences continue...after more than a few delays, we are approaching the end of the first phase for Asian female elephants then on to the second phase - Africans.

Contrary to what Frederick may feel, this is the roof structure for the soon to be African Elephant Care Center.

Our deepest gratitude to our crew, working in all weather conditions and rarely slowing down.

Before the work begins...this sanctuary is a true paradise.

Rambo - Loving Her Enough to Let Her Go

This piece was written by Consu, one of Rambo’s two caregivers in Chile. There is a purity of emotion that comes through in her writing even more so knowing English is her second language. One thing that has brought us the most comfort while waiting for Rambo to come to Brazil is the heart that shines through Caro and Consu’s care for her, which is why we chose to leave the text unedited. Please read Consu’s words with the understanding that giving up an elephant that you love who has transformed you as a person is one of the hardest things she and Caro will ever have to do. But because it is what is best for Rambo, they move forward embracing each day they have left with her, looking forward to her new life while putting their own feelings aside. That is true love. As of this writing we don’t have a final date for Rambo’s journey to sanctuary but after her six year wait, her new life has almost arrived.

My beautiful teacher, Rambo. Looking after Ramita for me has been a constant growth, I can’t forget the first time I met her I couldn’t believe she was more beautiful and more wonderful than I could have imagined! In that moment I felt so small. I was full of fears and it was like that as day by day I began to walk this road full of learning and wisdom. Not only I was discovering things from Ramita also things about me and about life, that way my heart and my soul day by day grew and matured along with her. Ramita just filled my heart, taught me the true meaning of the word LOVE, in the same time I understood the simplicity of life filling my life with humility and discovered that with these feelings happiness can be absolute. The “now” takes an important meaning, because everything moves so fast and because of that sometimes we lose the things that are relevant in our life and experience, like stay with her every day that, is a true gift. continued on page 10
Maia and Guida

They were removed from the circus by the Brazilian government and placed in a zoo exhibit with green grass and a swimming pool, a virtual paradise compared to the life they had known. Unfortunately, that tiny stroke of good luck was only temporary. The zoo was unable to keep Maia and Guida and they were relocated to a farm owned by the circus lawyer, where they spent four more years in chains.

Over the course of many years in captivity, Maia and Guida’s true elephant nature was suppressed and distorted. They both developed coping mechanisms to deal with the unremitting chaos, abuse and total lack of control they had over their own lives, comfort and happiness. Maia externalized her pain, becoming the “bad girl” who hurt others before they hurt her, never letting anyone close, not even Guida. In contrast, Guida internalized her suffering, losing herself in the repetitive motion of stereotypical head bobbing, quite literally 24 hours a day, for years on end. Labeled the “good girl” by her caregivers, Guida found it easier to give than to fight domination.

After visiting Maia and Guida on their muddy patch of farmland, and witnessing their distress first hand, we knew that Elephant Sanctuary Brazil was the only real solution, the only way to dramatically change their lives forever. We immediately began working on their release, negotiating custody agreements with the circus, government authorities and our local environmental agency SEMA, while preparing for their relocation to sanctuary.

When we drove onto the farm with the transport containers, Maia and Guida remained true to character. Maia was very forward and slightly mischievous, while Guida sadly continued to rhythmically bob and sway. We always believed that Maia’s bold personality was just a mask hiding a gentle but broken spirit and hoped that she would be able to recover with relative ease. We were far more concerned about Guida. Only time would tell just how far within herself she had retreated. However, as we approached Guida to loosen her chain, allowing her to enter the container if she desired, her swaying slowed and we got the first real glimpse of a different Guida. She was not withdrawn, but actually very present and watchful, assessing the change in her environment with great curiosity. She immediately walked to the container, looked around, and then within an hour strolled right in. Guida spent the rest of the day hanging out inside of the container, no longer swaying, but contentedly munching her grass, bamboo and produce treats.

Maia, on the other hand, decided to remind us that she was in charge. Instead of investigating the container, she chose to raise a little havoc by dismantling the electric fence, and stealing Guida’s food. She waited for our reaction.

During the three long but uneventful days spent traveling to ESB, Maia and Guida had already begun to relax and seemed to trust that their final trip in a transport trailer was going to change everything. When we arrived at the sanctuary, Maia was unloaded from the trailer first. She explored, quickly consumed some special treats and calmly settled into the second stall. When Guida exited the container, she tentatively walked over toward Maia, allowing her to reach through the pipe barrier and touch the very tip of her trunk. Checking in after the long journey was a sweet sign of desire for connection that spoke volumes. While Guida clearly sought Maia out for friendship and comfort, her posture and cautiousness indicated uncertainty given Maia’s long history of aggression towards her. After a reassuring quick, gentle touch from Maia, Guida retreated to the other side of her stall, but only briefly. Throughout most of their first night in sanctuary, they stood side by side, separated by the protection of a steel gate, touching, smelling and talking. The dark tranquility of the night was punctuated by rumbles, trumpets and raspberries, mixed with periods of gentle ear flaps and deep, soothing sleepy elephant respirations. They clearly sensed that they had come home.

With the first light the next morning, after a little rest and a lot of talking, there was already a visible difference in their behavior. Guida seemed more confident, Maia’s wide eyes had softened, and their near constant rumbles continued. After breakfast, we opened the gate between them. Without a barrier or restraints, this had historically been a time when Maia had been aggressive towards Guida, but the change in their behavior signified the beginning of a new relationship. They continued with more sweet interactions and soft rumbles. When we opened the barn to the habitat, they walked off to the grass together. Maia let out a soft trumpet and they never looked back.

Throughout the first critical days of adjustment, they continued to explore their new habitat, periodically returning to the water trough, not so much to drink as to chat and sing, rumbling, trumpeting, blowing raspberries and alternating trunk pops. With the first rainstorm later that day, they abandoned all inhibitions and took to the mud like joyful children. They climbed on one another, squishing mud into every crease of their brilliant smiling faces, undeniably content and clearly emotionally miles away from the memory of the rural farm.

In December of 2016, when the next enclosure was complete, doubling their area, they walked the perimeter and with an air of approval strolled to the middle to gaze on the most tantalizing foliage they could find. Over the course of the next three days in their new habitat, Guida would take three steps then rumble, take three more steps and rumble again. In the weeks that followed, she would rumble anytime we delivered food or simply because it was another day at sanctuary, earning herself the nickname “Sweet Rumbles.”

Throughout the next few months, their emotional health improved exponentially. Guida became more expressive, revealing more of herself as trust in us and in Maia continued to increase. With each new day Maia became a little more grounded and connected to life around her. Typically on high alert, wary yet always prepared for the next battle, Maia’s straight lipped expression softened and turned into a cheeky playful smile. For the first time in 40 years, Maia and Guida finally had the freedom to make choices and begin to understand how those choices could impact their own mood and the comfort of those around them. The importance of autonomy on the path to self-discovery can’t be understated. When elephants have the ability to decide for themselves how to respond to a situation and observe how others react to that response, their sense of self begins to emerge.

There were times when Maia and Guida would wander off to graze on their own, then return and reconnect throughout the day. There were other times when they would stay away from one another. This was often instigated when Maia would revert back to the ‘tough girl’ and Guida wanted nothing to do with her in that moment. More space and freedom of choice would allow Guida to simply walk away and in doing so, Maia was left to examine her own behavior. In the past, she would use Guida as a scapegoat, pushing her around instead of addressing her feelings. Typically, within a few days, Guida would inch closer and let her guard down, testing how Maia was progressing. Each of the three or four times this would occur, Maia gained an increased sense of self control, Guida learned to trust a little more and both seemed to have a greater appreciation for this new life.

Now, with over 40 acres to explore, their transformations continue as they leave their painful pasts behind. Within recent weeks we independently started to see significant changes in their emotional composition. The girls had transformed so drastically that these two elephants, were no longer recognizable as the sadly resigned beings that we met chained on a rural farm. Now, when we go out to care for these two girls, looking at them creates a warm smile that comes from within. They radiate a deeper sense of peace and a joy that we hadn’t felt from them previously. Everything seems in balance.
Pocha  
Born: 1973 (age 44 in 2017)  
Species: Asian  
Gender: Female  
Past: Imported from the wild

Guillermina  
Born: At the zoo on Nov 19, 1998 (age 19 in 2017)  
Species: Asian  
Gender: Female  
Sired: Both of Pocha’s offspring  
Past: Imported from the wild then circus elephant until Dec 1984

Tamy  
Born: 1970 (age 47 in 2017)  
Species: Asian  
Gender: Male  
Sired: Both of Pocha’s offspring  
Past: Imported from the wild

Kenya  
Born: 1985 (age 32 in 2017)  
Species: African  
Gender: Female  
Past: Imported from the wild

These four beautiful beings finally have a chance at a better life. They have all endured unimaginable hardship. Tamy and Pocha have spent decades in captivity and Guillermina an entire lifetime. They have gone years without seeing the horizon or feeling soft dirt and grass under their feet or having even a modicum of choice aside from which wall to stare at. For Kenya, her only elephant companion has been a mural painted on concrete. They are all starved for stimulation: something different to look at, a new voice, a gentle touch, toys or even branches to play with or eat. These simple things mean so much to intelligent sentient beings who instead spend their days staring at a cement enclosure. Their need for something, anything life affirming, is palpable.

When we visited the Mendoza4, our hearts dropped when we saw the stark, sterile confines. We’ve seen countless elephants in zoo enclosures, but this is definitely one of the worst. These remarkable elephants were standing, despondently leaning their heads against the wall or draping their trunks over the top in search of any stimulation to help them through another day. We wondered just how many people walked by, oohed and aahed, laughed and giggled, took their photos and didn’t consider for a second what it would be like to be one of them. And how many others walked away brokenhearted having seen the misery that is clearly written on their faces, and felt helpless, voiceless to fight for change? How many times did Kenya or Tamy or Pocha or Guillermina wonder if anyone cared?

Fortunately for each of these magnificent beings, some compassionate souls who witnessed their suffering spoke out on their behalf and the local Argentinian officials intervened and contacted our sanctuary. With the creation of ESB, the Mendoza4 now have a solution that will remove their concrete walls forever.

Help us show the Mendoza4 that we are here and we are listening

The zoo in Mendoza has agreed to send Kenya, Tamy, Pocha and Guillermina to Elephant Sanctuary Brazil, but we need to expand and build our facilities in order to be able to rescue them. This is where your help comes in to ensure that these four elephants get to experience life as more than zoo exhibits.

Our first phase of construction for Asian female elephants is complete and ready for Pocha and Guillermina. But now we must construct new areas for Kenya, an African female, and Tamy, an Asian male. Each species and gender has a unique spectrum of needs and to fully recover and embrace who they are as individuals and as elephants, it is imperative for them to be surrounded by others of their own kind. For males, this becomes a little more complicated, because they are often misunderstood, feared and usually segregated.

Our goal is to also offer male elephants a proper social life, to allow them to be fully integrated with other males and possibly females, with the introduction of birth control. Preparing for the integration of both genders and species will be a new adventure for everyone at ESB. But these next two phases are important, not only for Kenya and Tamy, but for the many others who will follow. Completing the remaining construction is a tall order, but it’s the only way to ensure that both genders and species of captive elephants can regain some of the precious life that was taken from them so many years ago. These four deserving elephants aren’t the only ones waiting for sanctuary, there are numerous others that are waiting to benefit from your giving spirit.

Imagine each of these four elephants surrounded by nature, free to live their life. This precious vision is not a dream; it’s the reality that awaits.

From the sterile isolation, to the big, wide world of sanctuary, with your support, the walls will be removed forever.
Elephants x6 - The Tangible and Intangible Changes to Come

The New Year will bring tremendous change to ESB: six new elephants, including one very handsome male, two different species and three separate habitats. The work required to complete this major expansion and welcome new residents is daunting but ultimately the changes that will come will be extraordinary for everyone at sanctuary. In October of 2016, Maia and Guida blessed ESB with their first footsteps, embraced their newfound freedom and immersed themselves in the restorative joys of sanctuary living. Over the past year, feeling the reverence that we have for them, they have evolved, learned to trust and as a result, become more whole. The one essential ingredient of sanctuary that Maia and Guida have missed has been the beautiful and complex relationships that form in a herd. With every elephant welcomed into the sanctuary family, each relationship will be transformed as a new healing journey begins.

Like Maia and Guida, the six new rescues will experience a reawakening, a second chance at a new and better life. New friendships will be forged and new lessons will be learned as they become part of an elephant society. There will be opportunities for Maia and Guida to mentor and provide loving support and friendship and there will be opportunities for new arrivals to finally find a kindred soul, that special companion whose spirit resonates. Throughout this amazing process of change and growth, both old and new ESB residents will become stronger, more self-confident and more trusting as they begin to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for life and family. Preparing for the arrival of six new elephants is a major undertaking. We will spend weeks navigating layers of bureaucracy to obtain the required permits and permissions, designing and managing the construction of three separate facilities, including three elephant care centers and fencing and coordinating across three countries with different cultures and languages, not to mention the biggest challenge of all, which will be transporting Ramba across the Andes. We will also create unique plans for each elephant based on temperament and personality to prepare them for their first steps on sanctuary grounds and ease their integration into herd life.

Managing all these simultaneous projects can be overwhelming, but also exhilarating. To go from two to eight elephants will be an extraordinary team who work under all conditions and navigate all hurdles, our generous supporters who make rescue possible by believing in the magic of sanctuary, and remembering to breathe between each giant elephant step we take on the road to rescue.

As our to-do list becomes shorter, our excitement grows with the anticipation of expanding the GSE family. When the chorus of rumbles, trumpets, chirps, squeaks, trunk pops and raspberries echoes through the valleys of ESB, eight lucky elephants will be singing the song that brings the true meaning of sanctuary to life.

The Uphill Battle of Restoring Health

It is now widely accepted that captivity can have a tremendously negative impact on the mental and physical well-being of elephants, which makes achieving full recovery in sanctuary an uphill battle. Because we take in old, sick, suffering and sometimes unwanted elephants who have lived in dilapidated and inadequate enclosures, often receiving only the minimum level of care needed to keep them alive, we face enormous challenges every day. The odds of a positive outcome are stacked against us as we work to repair the essential life essence that was damaged as a result of decades in captivity. Because the psychological and physical are interconnected, true recovery requires a mind-body holistic approach. We provide comfort and care to severely physically compromised elephants sometimes suffering from irreversible damage, while also addressing the psychological damage that often runs the deepest and requires the most time, dedication, empathy and patience. In the safe, nurturing environment of sanctuary, with specialized care and the loving companionship of the herd, an empty shell of an elephant can experience a miraculous and profound level of healing. We have come to realize that even just a few weeks in sanctuary can restore a sense of wholeness that a captive elephant would have never otherwise known. The rumbling warm presence and loving support and friendship of another elephant to lean on for support can help soothe anxiety and eliminate the emotional barriers built up over a lifetime in captivity.

We recognize that as much as we strive to create a perfect world for rescued elephants and help them to find renewed strength and a will to live, for severely damaged elephants sanctuary also offers a place of peace to heal the soul and help let an aching body go. In those cases where we have exhausted all options, and the very difficult decision has been made to shift to hospice care, we offer love, veterinary support and most importantly the reassuring presence of other elephants. This is never an easy time. The unimaginable joy that we feel in their presence is overwhelmed by the sorrow of suffering and loss. Whether an elephant's first steps in sanctuary are the beginning of a long glorious journey or their time with us is relatively short, being in a safe, healing environment frees them to trust again and gain the confidence they need to take that final step. We make sure that the precious weeks, months or years at GSE are their best. We fight the uphill battle alongside them every day because we know that to a captive elephant sanctuary is everything – a place of love and respect, optimal care and diet, but most importantly, a place of celebration and of reverence for life.

Meet Pelusa - A Gem Within an Ailing Body

Pelusa is a stunning elephant, stoic with a strong presence, but her playful name, which in Spanish means ‘fluff’, does not disguise her sadness. She is spectacularly tall, yet what should be an imposing, majestic figure is now frail and weakened. The negative impact of decades in a small zoo enclosure is undeniable. Her beauty is overshadowed by exhaustion, yet there is a light emanating from this old soul that makes it impossible to turn away from her. We met Pelusa a year ago, when the La Plata Zoo said they may be interested in sending her to Elephant Sanctuary Brazil (ESB). She has spent her entire life in isolation; loved and cared for, yet never having her most basic needs for space, freedom and companionship met.

Pelusa now has a chance at the life only sanctuary can offer, yet we are not sure that she will make it to ESB. Willingness of the zoo to send to take her now may be coming years too late. The trip here may simply be too much for her body to handle. Severe and chronic infection in her back feet are the key to her debilitated condition. She has lost weight due to the energy needed to try and heal and lost muscle due to her reluctance to move because of pain. Everything about Pelusa tells a story of discomfort, shifting her weight oddly to take the strain off of her back feet as she slides into stereotypical patterns to help escape this reality. Yet there is a magic about Pelusa that draws you in the second you see her, creating an immediate desire to love and care for her. Because at this point her fate may not be up to any of us, we are fighting an internal struggle of heartbreak as we work to find a way to fix decades of damage. continued on page 11
Ramba continued from page 3 - To be able to admire her calm every day is something that I will miss too much, her little eyes halfway close, when the days are too warm, her smell so special that I carry with me wherever I go, I could recognize it anywhere. All this way that we have gone through has not been easy, behind there is a lot of work and effort from many people who place trust in this dream; that will soon become a reality. One of those people who has been part of this path is “la Carito” Together we have built our home in here, we are a nice family the three, we work together and also grow every day observing our weaknesses and strengths, each training is a challenge and Rambita give us in that moment a little of her trust that is something we built only with patience and respect. We create an environment where egos do not exist, we create a moment full of complicity and it is in those moments that only word to comes to my head is Gratitude.

I know that Rambita change our lives, we have a star inside of our hearts now. Today she wrote one of the most beautiful chapters in the book of my life. It’s like that how each story has an ending but each ending is also a new beginning. Today Rambita start to write the path to her true family, open her heart and trying to leave behind a past full of sadness and loneliness, giving way to the process of healing her soul and spirit.

Te amo! Is already time to start and live the best of the stories of your life.

Pelusa continued from page - At our first meeting with Pelusa last December we felt that her feet were in the top three of the worst we have ever seen. While we weren’t sure that she would ever come to sanctuary, we immediately started to work, with her vets to improve her condition. Due to anti-inflammatory medication, her liver values were elevated, her diet needed to be changed and we also discussed changes to her barn and habitat, essentially anything to offer her some relief. Her team at the zoo was very open to our suggestions and we’ve maintained daily contact.

Over the next few months her blood values improved and returned to normal, her pain seemed to diminish and her appetite increased. Unfortunately, even though her food intake increased and her diet was more appropriate, she didn’t gain weight. The improvement in her foot pain was consistent with extremely developed foot disease and her moments of reprieve were followed with a more vicious cycle of swelling and fluid retention.

Euthanasia has been discussed. Although we feel and have witnessed that death is an important process for elephants, there is always a consideration for their quality of life—not whether it makes us uncomfortable or not, but the effect it truly has on her. It all comes down to Pelusa’s spirit, she will guide us.

As of this writing Pelusa’s future is still uncertain. If she fights, and her team chooses to continue on, we will fight with them. In our hearts we feel ESB should be her home, and we will try our hardest to get her here. Because of her deteriorating health, Pelusa has been placed on the short-list for sanctuary. She and Ramba were given the top two sanctuary spots that we were given permission to fill. We will continue to assess her health and aid in her care as her paperwork goes through, hoping that when all is said and done, we will be able to give the go ahead and fly to Argentina to bring her home. Although Pelusa’s damage is too severe for her to ever be fully healed, it’s impossible not to wish for her to live out the rest of her days being supported by the love and compassion only a heart as big as an elephant’s could offer. Follow Pelusa’s progress - Facebook.com/GlobalSanctuaryforElephants

Sanctuary - Extending Well Beyond 2800 Acres

Our outreach work typically involves gathering details on the elephant’s overall mental and physical health, and developing a plan designed to reduce stress and increase comfort prior to rescue. Building trust and rapport with zoo and circus officials and caregivers throughout this sometimes very lengthy process is critical to opening minds and hearts that may be closed to the idea of losing an elephant to sanctuary.

For elephants identified for relocation to ESB, when possible, we include a site visit to more closely evaluate their capability and potential. Developing a plan designed to reduce stress and increase comfort prior to rescue. Building trust and rapport with zoo and circus officials and caregivers throughout this sometimes very lengthy process is critical to opening minds and hearts that may be closed to the idea of losing an elephant to sanctuary.

Elephant Sanctuary Brazil

Ramba’s wait is almost over

Ramba’s rescue process has quite the journey and although she’s close to coming to Elephant Sanctuary Brazil, there are still a few more steps along the way.

• The next step is to finalize the CITES export and import permits.
• Ramba will have to undergo a 30-day quarantine period in her current location, where required testing for import will be performed.
• The transport container will have to be driven to Chile, along with our veterinarian, to spend a few days with Ramba before the final loading and travel begins.
• Once all of the paperwork has gone through and Ramba’s quarantine is completed, Scott will fly to Chile, along with our veterinarian, to spend a few days with Ramba before the final loading and travel begins.
• The trip involves a short drive to the airport in Santiago, Chile, a six-hour flight to Brasilia, Brazil and then a 20-hour drive to the sanctuary. The entire trip will take approximately three days.
• Caro and Consu will come to the sanctuary to help ensure that Ramba’s transition is smooth and to finally see her with other elephants.

Although Ramba has now been alone for decades, we believe she is ready to be part of a herd. With the healing that Maia and Guida have experienced in the past year, and their past history of circus life, we think they are the perfect elephants to welcome Ramba and take her under their wings.

At Global Sanctuary for Elephants, our mission extends far beyond our 2800 acre property. Improving the lives of captive elephants begins long before rescue day. Because we have a deep and abiding belief in the sanctity of elephant life and a clear understanding of the impacts of captivity, we feel it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to ease their suffering as we simultaneously work to gain their freedom.

In between feeds, wildfires and fencing, we work both locally and globally, responding to requests for help from various groups dedicated to elephant rescue. We partner directly with South American organizations to bring elephants to Elephant Sanctuary Brazil as well as provide remote guidance on rescue and sanctuary development in other countries. We have practical conversations about poop counts, pain management and transport container size. We also evaluate rescue strategies, provide expert testimony and offer support to help manage the frustratingly slow process of negotiating release. In Ramba’s case, following her government confiscation from the circus in 2010, we formed a rescue partnership with Chilean NGO Ecopolis, which includes financing her care and training and maintaining daily contact with her caregivers until we can bring her home to ESB.

Sanctuary spots that we were given permission to fill. We will continue to assess her health and aid in her care as her paperwork goes through, hoping that when all is said and done, we will be able to give the go ahead and fly to Argentina to bring her home. Although Pelusa’s damage is too severe for her to ever be fully healed, it’s impossible not to wish for her to live out the rest of her days being supported by the love and compassion only a heart as big as an elephant’s could offer. Follow Pelusa’s progress - Facebook.com/GlobalSanctuaryforElephants
Sanctuary Community Coming Together

We are well into the rainy season here in Mato Grosso, Brazil, which begins in November and runs through May. As we experience the now frequent downpours, it is hard to believe that just a couple of months ago this lush, green landscape was threatened by wildfires. In August, a neighbor lost control of an unauthorized fire that was set to open up more pastureland on his property. Dry conditions coupled with strong winds caused the fire to spread rapidly in all directions consuming a remote area of sanctuary property and over 80% of our neighbor’s farm. Thanks to a dedicated team of firefighters, proactive neighbors, a caring community and a fortunate shift in wind direction away from the property, there was minimal risk and damage to the sanctuary.

While our neighbors took it all in stride, we remained a little anxious. Just as we were settling back into a normal routine, 3 days later a new fire started and rapidly gained momentum. This time, it was moving directly toward us. The fire stretched nearly three kilometers on the border of the sanctuary, in virtually inaccessible terrain and within 24 hours had descended down the cliff and into the sanctuary. Firefighters, employees and neighbors monitored the firebreak, while roads were cleared and more breaks were opened with a front-end loader. Thankfully, as our local fire season veterans had predicted, the flames died out when they reached the damp palm forests. While the sanctuary is not immune to the potential risk of fire, the topography, which includes a vast number of fresh water springs, offers a level of natural protection that we had under-appreciated.

We feel truly blessed to have found this near perfect, safe and sacred nest for rescued elephants. There was never a risk of either fire reaching the girls’ valley and they took all of the frenzied activity in their stride. As we worked intensely to cut off and beat back the flames, Maia remained relaxed and silly and Guida proceeded with her daily rumble fests. We should know by now to simply follow their lead. If they are not worried, then all will be well.

This was the beginning. This photo was taken from the top of the northern edge of the sanctuary property, looking westward, into our neighbor’s farm.

Help an elephant- Share Our Newsletter
Visit our website- GlobalElephants.org

Help Return the Joy to the Lives of Elephants:

Donate
Online at: GlobalElephants.org
Text: “elephants” to 50155
Call: (615) 435-9523
Or mail your donation to:
PO Box 2426,
Brentwood, TN 37024

Have Questions? Please e-mail us at any time:
contact@GlobalElephants.org

A New Life for Captive Elephants in South America Is Just a Trunk’s Reach Away. This Is Just the Beginning!

Sign up for monthly email updates: GlobalElephants.org