



Hello and welcome to the Global Sanctuary for Elephants podcast, Global Rumbings. Global Sanctuary for Elephants, or GSE for Short is a nonprofit organization with a mission to create vast safe spaces for captive elephants where they are able to heal physically and emotionally, often from very traumatic pasts. I'm your host, Nadia Mari, and I'll be taking you to the lush jungle of the Mato Grosso region in central Brazil, home of GSE's initial project Elephant Sanctuary Brazil, currently home to six female Asian elephants, lovingly referred to as the girls.

Nadia: 00:56

Hello and welcome to episode number eight of Global Rumbings. Today we are going to find out what was the fish house. We are again joined by Kat and Scott Blais from Global Sanctuary for Elephants down in Brazil. And we will be continuing traveling around Brazil looking for suitable properties for their first sanctuary, their pilot project in the Mato Grosso region.

Hi, Kat. Hi, Scott.

Scott: 01:21

Hey, Nadia. How are you doing?

Kat: 01:23

Hello.

Nadia: 01:24

I'm fine. Spring is still in the air. Days are getting lighter, so. Yeah, well, fantastic.

Kat: 01:29

Things are getting darker over here right now. We have some storm lingering off to the south, but we'll see how it goes.

Nadia: 01:38

Okay.

Scott: 01:39

It's beautiful right now. Yeah, we could sit here for a long time looking over this. The sanctuary valley.

Kat: 01:46

We can make a drinking game out of how many times you say, "it's beautiful", with each podcast. (everyone laughs)

Scott: 01:53

It's stunning

Nadia: 01:55

We can have a bingo. Yeah, we can have bingo. Sanctuary bingo.

Scott: 01:59

Yeah, it's, it's amazing here. It really is spectacular for everybody. We just received a small deer, also with some of the wildlife that we rehab here in Mato Grosso. So it's one of the largest states in Brazil, and they do not have any official wildlife rehab release program. They do have some impromptu, they do have, the state regulatory agency has a small project, but they don't have good sites to release them or anybody that needs any sort of long term care.

So we have right now a baby tapir and a baby deer that just arrived. Who is just too cute for words.

Kat: 02:42

They're so cute. I was going to say beautiful, but then somebody would have to drink again. So I didn't say it.

Scott: 02:47

They really are precious.

Nadia: 02:47

So where do they come from then? If you say that they haven't got very good areas to release them back into. So where they come from then?

Scott: 02:55

There's a lot of places, they don't have anywhere... They have a lot of areas to just do a hard release. If you're just going to go release something somewhere. But they don't have a lot of, anybody that needs long term developmental care like this young deer. You know, it's either here or, you know, somebody's basically bedroom. You know, they ended up being very much humanized and and raised by humans and fed inappropriate and nutritional supplements and stuff.

So we're trying to amplify our program so we can actually work with the state more, work with some of the local folks in the main cities a little bit more. This little one came from the capital city of Cuiaba, the little deer. But we don't know. The only history we know is somebody reported it as being orphaned, but highly likely, as we see around the world, is

somebody happened upon a baby deer who its mom had told him to hide somewhere and was hiding for the day and they just assumed that he had been abandoned. Even though mom's out getting herself nourished so she can keep raising this little baby. And unfortunately, probably when mom came back, the baby had already been picked up and moved to Cuiaba. And the place they have there is just basically a concrete holding pen. So they sent him to us as quickly as possible and he's he's doing pretty well.

Nadia: 04:16

Well, it was great then that the word is spreading, that you are only that you are not only taking care of elephants, but also that you have this wildlife rehab program. Then the deer and the tapir, then, like other animals, will then be released into your property?

Scott: 04:33

Yeah. Well just once they go through a few different stages of rehabilitation and adaptation. Then we just open up the gate and they just walk out and they will be greeted by many other wild tapirs in deer in the area.

Kat: 04:45

And of course, it's not that simple. They start in smaller pens where we can monitor them closely and adjust their diets. Their space expands. As they get better with feeding themselves, I mean, because they're both milk babies. And then we have I think it's a two acre yard. That is the last step before they're release into the property so that we can watch them but make sure that they can also live off the land and do what they're supposed to.

Scott: 05:16

One of the next projects, and I know we're a little off topic here, but this is one where you...

Kat: 05:21

This is what happens when you talk to us. (everyone laughs)

Scott: 05:25

This is what happens when you look at the property and see how beautiful it is. One of the things that both the- there's two is a state version of the federal agency called Ibama, and then SEMA is the just the state environmental agency. They have both asked us if we can take larger birds. And so we're in the process of trying to build two flight cages, one for smaller birds, one for larger birds, because they don't have that option either.

Right now they have a scissor tail hawk that has been there for a long time. But he they don't have any flight cage for him. They don't have anywhere that he can exercise for him to grow before he can be released. So we'll be working on that here soon.

Kat: 06:07

So it's not about keeping him permanently. It's about having a flight cage that is big enough for him to build up the muscle tone that he needs to be able to, again, live out in the wild world. And, you know, with certain birds of prey, you have to make sure they can catch their own food and so on and so forth.

So again, it's not an easy or quick process and you want to make sure you do best by them before you let them go to give them the best chance of actually surviving when you do let them go. So they don't have any flight cages in this state at all.

Nadia: 06:40

Okay.

Kat: 06:41

We are going to try to build two.

Nadia: 06:44

Wow. And talking of birds, I can hear a little well, not only today, but in all recordings, a little chirp noises. So you're just surrounded by wildlife. Well, it's just amazing.

Kat: 06:55

Yeah, it's kind of funny, but I left a message for Trish the other day, who's been here. She's one of our veterinarians, and she's been here for months at a time. And she was like, What is going on with the bird party? Because it was just one of those days where all the little parakeets were there and the macaws are in the trees. All the songbirds were out. It was very, very noisy, apparently in my message.

Scott: 07:16

Wait till we have males. And I think we did a video of Lady in the male yard recently that hasn't been published yet of all the little parrots coming back. There's a bunch of palm trees. There were several types of parrots and little parakeets and parolettes come back. And they are so noisy and so happy. And you know, at the end of the day.

Nadia: 07:37

But normally it's the roosters isn't it? That are noisy. So but it's the wildlife. But so as you said, we're getting off topic.

Kat 07:41

Refocus

Nadia: 04:42

I don't think anything at sanctuary's really off topic but to be able to offer wildlife rehab for deers and for baby deers and for tapirs and just to enjoy all the wildlife, the birds, you had to find this property.

So...(everyone laughs) a totally different topic than than the last episode.

Scott: 08:06

There is silence on our side when you talk about having to find this property, the trauma.

Kat: 08:13

We 'eeny, meeny, miny mo'ed it and we just randomly picked this place because it was easy. (everyone laughs)

Nadia: 08:19

Yes. So we had elephant trauma in the last in the last episode. And now obviously we're back to your trauma and about living next door to a school. And that was episode six and listening

Scott: 08:31

the drumline.

Nadia: 08:32

to the drumline, which is very deep in your heart somewhere that you said. So you will have to share, before we actually then set off to find this property, what was the story with the fish house? I mean, we had the non house trained mice who pooped everywhere. So what was the fish house?

Scott: 08:52

The drumline still makes me go into a little bit of a stereotypical pattern.

Kat: 08:58

Okay. Long story short, we, after being moved out of one house and being told they had somewhere else we can live, it was this, what used to be Casa de Peixe, which is a fish house. And it was closed down and there was nothing going on there. So there was a little apartment in the back. It wasn't an apartment. I mean, it was an office that had a desk, you know, like a full size desk that took up the whole one room that we turned into essentially our living room and a smaller office, which we made the bedroom and then like a tiny little pseudo kitchen. It only had a sink. It didn't have anything else. (Kat and Scott laugh) Stop looking at me and smiling.

So they told us it was closed. Not a big deal. We can live there, blah, blah, blah. There are all these little issues that we chose to ignore. We had like a little camping stove, but we couldn't cook in the house because it smelled like propane, so we had to take it out of the house, which is fine. The weather's nice, it's beautiful. We can manage. We had our little college fridge. And then they started to have people show up at the fish house. So we were like...

Nadia: 10:01

I thought it was closed.

Scott: 10:05

Yeah, it was like a little bit in front of where the office was.

Kat: 10:08

Yeah, it's attached to where we're living. So essentially what we made our living room has all glass windows that we covered up and in front of that is a bunch of freezers and a little like fish store. And they opened it and they said it was going to be open. What did they say? They said it's just going to be just weekends, not a problem, blah, blah, blah. And you can't really complain because you're living in a house for nothing and...

Scott: 10:36

It was owned by the mayor of the city. I mean, she's very generous to let us stay there because the reason why we had to move out of the other house was political. It was different political factions within the city. One wanted it for something else. One wanted us to be able to continue to use it. And there was internal dilemma with them. And because of that, the mayor offered up her fish house for us to stay in.

Kat: 10:59

Yeah, so we figured weekends wasn't a big deal. Although I have to say, I do slightly have privacy issues. (Nadia laughs) So I was like, okay. But then of course, just on weekends, went to every day. And then was the request of, you know the people that are working there, can they come in your place and use your bathroom because there's no other bathroom except for that one.

So again, not feeling like we really have the right to say no. I mean, because they're letting us stay in this place. We're like, okay, sure, you know, whatever. So that meant essentially keeping the door unlocked between where we were living and the fish house. And of course, they show up really early in the morning and leave whenever.

But then they started letting patrons of the store come in and use the bathroom. And then there were people who were working there that had their little kids there that they were letting them use the bathroom. And I mean, you would like literally go to walk past the bathroom. And this is amazing to me because I don't have children, (Scott and Nadia laugh) and there's like this little six year old boy with the toilet seat up peeing EVERYWHERE in the bathroom.

Nadia: 12:18

Oh no

Kat: 12:20

I mean, like door open, doesn't close the door (Scott and Nadia continue to laugh) like peeing on the toilet, the walls, the floor, like everywhere.

Nadia: 12:26

Picasso

Kat: 12:28

And then you're like, okay, this is awesome. (Kat laughs) This has gone slightly too far. But again, I mean, what are you going to do?

Nadia: 12:32

Well, there have to be boundaries. Okay, I'll go back on what I said in the introduction. It wasn't entertaining. It sounds like a nightmare. So before you revisit really any other trauma, let's move out of the fish house quickly. Out of the fish house quickly- that's a bit of a mouthful. And I don't know, pack our bags, go somewhere else, or continue traveling around until we finally find where we are now.

Although Scott once said, Oh, we're five episodes away from that. So I don't know how close we are to actually reaching the sanctuary where you are now, but I'll let you two decide.

Scott: 13:11

Yeah, before we started talking about the fish house, I think we had talked about finding a property just before going to a PAWS conference. That was really promising, and I don't remember the detail of how far we went into that, but it was really a remarkable property. Gorgeous. It was owned by friends of...

Kat: 13:27

You talked about it a little bit.

Scott: 13:28

Yeah. And then as that evolved, actually, when we got back from the PAWS conference and started digging a little bit deeper, we found out that it also had some long term permit issues. There would have been a way around that, but it was going to take a long time to get there as well. And that was kind of the last straw for us in that town. We had searched for, had been there for almost nine months at that point. Let's see... December, so about six months at that point and just dead end after dead end after dead end.

You know, even when things that seemed promising just weren't going to work. And we had already been in the process of looking nationally at various locations. We had talked about further up north. We had, you know, plotted some areas up near the Amazon, which would have been very problematic. Although in our attempt to be as diligent as possible and not close any doors, you know, that may actually be viable, we had to do the research. You had to look into all those options.

And there were some that had carbon offset projects where they were, the land was preserved for carbon offset, but they could still be developed in certain parameters. So we started looking to see if we could work with something like that that had a piece of land that we could then use and almost have this collaboration, this joint partnership. Continued to look online. We were looking way at the east of Brazil almost on the East Coast. Several times and the several properties there, almost to the point of flying there to look directly.

And then we started, I found this particular property that we purchased online, and it was just stunning. It was the pictures were absolutely amazing. And we said, we just have to go look at it and see what that region offers. A couple, we came here twice. I came here twice.

Kat: 15:17

I was going to say, you came by yourself initially.

Scott: 15:19

The first time I came here I looked at this property and I thought it was all too steep. And then I looked at other properties and it was a little bit more money than we had hoped to pay for per hectare. Looked at other properties as well, but nothing was ideal. But there were many more options available to us here and proximity to the state capital was going to be beneficial.

Where we were, where the fish house and the schoolhouse that was, we're in the middle of nowhere here. That was like way, way, way middle of nowhere. It is...

Kat: 15:52

Even for Brazilians. That is middle of nowhere.

Scott: 15:54

Yeah. Right now we're about three, two and a half to 3 hours from the nearest airport from the state capital airport. If we were, in the city we were in in the north, in Guaranta, the properties, many of the properties are about 2 hours away from the city, and the city was another 2 hours or 3 hours to the nearest airport. And that airport would get you to Brasilia or Cuiaba. You know, so you don't get very far from that airport. It's a really, really teeny closet of an airport. So all the things, all the logistics would have been much more difficult there. So when I came to visit Chapada dos Guimarães, the municipality, I went back, I said, I came here twice and Kat and I said, let's see, what do we have to lose? Let's move there and see if we can make something work. Because there were already, there were many more options. (Kat laughs)

Kat: 16:41

And it's not like we were getting anywhere where we were. Or that life was so stellar there that we couldn't tear ourselves away. We were gifted two kittens by that point, so we had us, a suitcase, maybe, of stuff, and two kittens. Easy enough to move.

Nadia: 16:58

Is that Bodhi and Saffy?

Kat: 16:59

yeah

Scott: 17:00

Bodhi and Saffron.

Kat: 17:00

Yeah, we had been talking about how we missed... we had been talking about how we were missing our dogs at home because we didn't want to bring them. They were older, you know, I think at that point we...

Scott: 17:14

Until we were settled.

Kat: 17:14

they were 11 and 13, so we wanted to make sure we had a place to stay before we brought them here because we didn't want to be shuffling around Brazil with our two older dogs. And somebody dropped off two kittens on our front step instead. And they were covered in fleas and covered in fungus, and being vegans we had nothing to feed them in our refrigerator or our house at all. We didn't have any milk and it was Sunday and in the area we were in everything is closed on Sunday, even the supermarket. So yeah, I don't even remember what we managed to feed them until the next day and then went out early.



Nadia: 17:52

Maybe an egg or something from the neighbor.

Scott: 17:55

I don't remember what we did. They ate, but I think they had a little bit of food in there. (Kat laughs)

Kat: 17:59

Yeah, probably not happy.

Scott: 18:00

They were covered in fleas. It was a mess. But all in all it worked out pretty well. It was a little bit tough to leave there, only because there was support from the city. The mayor really wanted the project. She had, you know, tried many ways to help us as well.

Kat: 18:12

Yeah, a lot of really nice people. You know, even our friends, Natieli and Paolo, we adore them. She had her babies by then who are so big now. But you know, yes, there were things that were really nice about being there. But as far as moving forward with Sanctuary, it just wasn't going to happen.

Scott: 18:31

It was actually after that last property, the one that was so gorgeous and didn't work out. I was talking to a realtor and he is the one that said, he also said to me when I told him we're leaving, he said, you need to. He said, this is not the place for you. He said, culturally, it's not going to work for you here. It's, you know, much too agricultural minded, you know, very much not the conservation region, conservationist protection region that we really had hopes to find up there.

Kat: 19:02

And Chapada is great. I mean it's touristy and that it, because of the caves and the waterfalls and the birdwatching and the Pantanal being 3 hours away, and everything like that you have a lot of biologists, a lot of tour guides, you know, along those lines. And people that are coming through here are very... environmental I guess, and appreciative of that sort of thing. So it ends up being a much better fit for having a project like this here.

Scott: 19:38

Yeah, there was actually concern when we started talking about there was concern of the impact of the elephants on the environment here, which that wasn't the case in up north. Which, you know, maybe that could be perceived as, you know, people being anti sanctuary. And it wasn't that they were just making sure the project had been thoroughly analyzed.

Kat: 19:59

They just didn't want people coming in here and destroying the place.

Scott 20:03

Sure.

Kat: 20:04

I mean, unfortunately, there have been many poor relationships, especially with U.S. NGOs coming into Brazil and not doing right by Brazil, whether it be with the money they've made and took off, or ruining projects, or whatever it is. So there was definitely a little bit of concern with it, but that's fine.

Scott: 20:25

And there's a lot of land degradation in the area because of agriculture here. It has changed a lot and all over in Mato Grosso. It's one of the continents, one of the states I think we talked about before. It's one of the states that when they show the progression of Amazon devastation, you mostly see Mato Grosso. Also, not anymore, because they've actually started to progress further.

Scott: 20:45

(Bird makes shrill noise) Do you hear that little bird?

Nadia: 20:46

Yeah, I did. (bird continues to squawk)

Scott: 20:47

It's a woodpecker.

Kat: 20:49

He just landed on the house.

Nadia: 20:52

A woodpecker?

Kat: 20:54

He's beautiful. He almost flew into the house. Our house is very open, clearly. But now he's

Nadia: 20:59

Oh, you still have got windows?

Kat: 21:01

No, we don't have windows. We don't have doors that are closed right now. So it's very open.

Nadia: 21:07

So how did you then find... you can see I was nudging you in that direction. So how did you then find the property where you are now? Was it was it a private property? So you moved away from the fish house down to the region where you are now, And then you just set off talking to realtors again? Although you said you had mentioned that part of the property you found accidentally online.

Scott: 21:28

Yeah, this property, the property we ended up purchasing was online. It was 600 hectares privately owned. Stunning compared to most of the properties that we had seen. We had some contacts, some friends of friends, who were in the area. So what I ended up doing is, you know, we came here, down here for these two trips. A friend of a friend put us up at a hotel and got us in contact with a couple of realtors, and they started showing me different things, different properties. During those two little, I think it was two or three days that I came each time. And then that's when we decided, okay, let's just move there because there's a lot more options.

We found somebody in, through a friend of the hotel that I was staying at. His name was Julio. Julio is a really, really nice guy and so grateful that we got to meet Julio. He's a tour guide, but also by trade he's a lawyer. Although he said he got tired of fighting all the time and became a tour guide. Just a brilliant, really kind person. And one of those where we'd be walking down the street with him and somebody would randomly walk up and he say, "You're Julio." And he'd say, "Yes". He said, "I'm sorry, I don't remember who you are." He said, "You helped my mom when no one else would."

And there's these multiple stories of this guy just pouring his heart out and helping really anybody. And anyway just a really genuine person. And he knew everyone. He was, they joked about him being the town mayor. If I went to the Sunday, the Saturday morning little farmer's market, I could go by myself, and you know, 30 minutes and I could buy our week's full of groceries, all fresh stuff. If I went with Julio it's going to be two and a half hours because you have to talk to every single person. Because he is the town mayor. Just a really good guy. He's opened up a lot of doors for us and made additional contacts and he rented, he had a house for rent that we stayed at in the in the main city, which has its own stories, but it...

Kat: 23:22

All good, let's just skip right through that.

Scott: 23:25

Another time because let's get to the property. (bird squawks, Nadia laughs) You know, and we started looking at more and more properties. And this property, although it was ideal in many ways, is still was not 100%. You know, it was larger than we really could afford, much larger than we could afford and much more money than we could afford. But it was ideal.

Kat: 23:47

Yeah, it was just with every property he went and saw, we still ended up coming back to this one over and over and over again. And it's one of those-at some point you have to realize you just have to stop fighting clearly what the planet is trying to push on you. What the universe is shoving down your throat, I guess.

Scott: 24:06

But it also wasn't you know, we said it wasn't a done deal. It took a long time. You know, there was the title search and the titles here, it was, it's very convoluted here. The owner of this 600 hectares, we told him what we were looking for and we were concerned about some of the neighboring lands because two of the neighbors had to go through our property to get

to their property. And we were concerned about how that would work because we couldn't buy all of them. You know, there's no way we could do that. So he actually took the initiative, the owner took the initiative and said, "What if I organize those contracts in my name, I'm the one that purchases them for you, and I sell everything to you directly?" So it was not only his title, which was six different parcels all looped into one. There was also...

Kat: 24:54

Which again is typical for Brazil, that's just the way it is.

Scott: 24:57

There is the 48 hectares in the middle, which is a very small plot right in the middle. But most fundamental. It had two different titles and then the two properties in the back on the other side of the river, they also had multiple titles. So all those had to be researched and analysed to see if the titles were actually clear because it's a big issue here in Brazil.

And then the other issue was funding and money. And you know, this was a property that was a million U.S. dollars and we had nothing.

Kat: 25:26

And they don't do bank loans for properties.

Scott: 25:30

They don't do bank loans for nonprofits for really anything. Even financing for like a vehicle or a tractor or anything like this. You can't get financing as a nonprofit unless you have somebody that can fully back the loan. A private individual that will cosign and can fully back the loan. Which is really hard to find when you are new nonprofit in Brazil and...

Kat: 25:54

and you want to buy a property that costs \$1,000,000. (Kat laughs)

Scott: 25:57

So the other thing that happens here is financing isn't a 30 or 40 year loan. It's normally 2 to 5 years.

Nadia: 26:06

What? 2 to 5 years? \$1,000,000? Wow.

Scott: 26:08

So we were like, okay, this is the perfect property, but how can we possibly make this work? So we were talking to the landowner who was a really, really good person, a very, very kind person, very generous with his considerations. He should have walked away. Everything business minded, any logical person would have said, "Sorry, we're out. I'm not going to sell this property to you."

But a couple of things came into play. One of them was he was willing to owner finance for five years. He was willing to take 10% down payment. And we had 2% down payment. (Kat and Scott laugh) Actually, I think we had 1% down payment to be truthful. So he was willing to do a 10% down payment and do a series of parcels. And we ended up finding a way to

make this contract work where he took a very small down payment. We were able to do payments over five years and he signed a contract. In the contract that stated if we had to forego payment or were not able to conclude the purchase of the property, anything that we have paid for, we keep.

Nadia: 27:20

Wow

Scott: 27:21

So that gave us the security to be able to move forward as a nonprofit that is young, that had two elephants waiting. We needed to get something started. You know, we didn't know how financing was going to work out. We just knew we needed to start getting elephants here and didn't have time to wait. And so we ended up moving forward. He took, you know, a huge leap of faith in us. And our board of directors asked us, "Are you sure you want to do this?" And it's like, we really had no choice because we're here for now, you know, nine months, almost a year at that point. By the time, I think it was almost a year when the contract was finally signed, it was middle of June or July, maybe so 12 or 13 months.

Kat: 27:59

I don't know what month it is now.

Scott: 27:59

We really had to move forward and the property was perfect. The property was absolutely perfect. The money was really, really scary and it was very stressful for a long time. But that was the start of getting here and and making this happen.

Kat: 28:14

It can be really hard to get support for buying a property. You know, people want to donate to rescue elephants and that sort of thing. But, you know, when it comes to hey, donate so we can buy this piece of property that's \$1,000,000 and then put million dollar fencing on it. You know, it's not, you don't generally get the same level of excitement.

But what we did have was a very small but solid base of followers who knew Scott from his work in Tennessee and trusted in the vision for elephants and what that would mean here. And that grew little by little.

Scott: 28:54

I know we're running out of time. And let me just say, because, you know, we have so many details to talk about other episodes, but this million dollar property is now fully paid for.

Nadia: 28:59

Fantastic

Scott: 29:00

We were incredibly fortunate, thanks to a beautiful contact from Petter and Joyce from ElephantVoices. They actually contacted friends of theirs and supporters of theirs and said, "Can you help us out?" We were at the end of the payments. This was a couple of years ago now, and we need \$400,000 to finish all the payments. And they did. And they made, two

members of the family donated \$200,000 each to conclude the property payments. So right now we have no more property payments. It's a beautiful place to be for a young nonprofit, and I never would have imagined it worked out this way. But the land is fully secured and for the sanctuary for the rest of its existence.

Nadia: 29:49

That is so wonderful.

Kat: 29:50

Which is actually a huge thing. I mean, we, I just had somebody email a couple of days ago asking if we owned the property because she had said that she was following a different organization and the land they use is leased and the owner doesn't want to lease it to them anymore. And now they're talking about having to rehome elephants. And she didn't realize that was even a thing. And she was so concerned and she wanted to make sure that our girls, you know, weren't going to be uprooted and so on and so on. And I was able to tell her, nope, this land is paid for and owned by Elephant Sanctuary Brazil, and it's theirs forever.

Nadia: 30:28

It's not only buying the property, but you obviously have to develop it as well because Guida and Maia were your first elephant. So they don't just come off the lorry and just wander around. You needed fences, so you had like double the amount of money you really had to raise. Oh that is just amazing. How wonderful that you met all these like minded people who were just supportive of what you were doing. That is just so very heartwarming. Lovely.

Kat: 30:50

Yeah, it is one of those things that we talk about, you know, it's so hard for people to get up and running with these type of projects because it's not logical and it's daunting. I mean, we definitely lost sleep over land payments and, you know, loads of steel that cost \$40,000 for one load when you know, you need 30 to build the fence that you're doing. It's a lot. But, you know, as we mentioned earlier, it's so hard to walk away. Especially after being in the US and working with rescuing elephants for so many years and knowing how hard it is. You know, people working 15 years to get one elephant out of a zoo and it doesn't even happen. Yet, on our first visit, people asked us to take their elephants. And, of course, Ramba. So, there really, although there were a lot of questions, it wasn't a question as to whether we could at least try and see what we can make happen.

Scott: 31:50

Somebody recently asked me why is the, why are the female Asian yards, the initial yards, smaller than the initial yards for the Africans and the male Asian? And the simple answer was we could only afford one load of steel. And that one a of steel had to build the corrals and the barn (Kat laughs) and the first yard to receive Maia and Guida. I think we had, you know, an extra three meter piece when we were all done with that. We had just enough to do it. And that's why, you know, at that time in development, the priorities shift and it's challenging. The financial challenges continue and it's daunting, as Kat said. But you know we can get more into that. The nuances of what it means to actually run a sanctuary and build a sanctuary in the coming episodes.

Nadia: 32:32

Definitely. So after episode eight, we have finally arrived at the sanctuary. (Kat laughs) Next time we can then talk about building the fences, preparing everything, and then welcoming your first two elephants, Guida and Maia. We did talk about them in the last episode as well, when we talked about stereotypical behavior and the trauma of elephants.

So yeah, so a couple of minutes left. We're right on time. So thank you for your time out of your busy schedule. Just briefly, what are you going to be doing today? Is it elephant feeding time again, Elephant dinner?

Kat: 33:02

I don't know what time it is.

Scott: 33:05

We're running, (Scott and Kat laugh) we're running through the long list of things that still need to be done today. No, I think the next thing is going to be elephant care, elephant feeding, checking on everybody.

Kat: 33:15

I have to go get some vines and branches for the deer. Trying to find his favorite stuff to make sure he eats what he needs to be strong. I am a deer chef this week.

Scott: 33:25

Nadia, thanks again for this. We appreciate the opportunity to chat with you and looking forward to continuing through the next episode to share more of the many nuances. As you have...(Kat laughs)

Kat: 33:37

I think the word nuances can be actually the drinking game. (Nadia laughs)

Nadia: 33:43

That's a great idea. Okay, catch up next time. Have a great week..

Scott: 33:48

Thank you, Nadia.

Kat: 33:49

Bye Nadia.

Nadia: 33:49

And that concludes episode eight. We have finally arrived at the magnificent property, which is home for six female Asian elephants currently at Elephant Sanctuary Brazil. More to come. Do send us an email. The email is [podcast@globalelephants.org](mailto:podcast@globalelephants.org) and like and subscribe to the podcast to make sure you never miss another episode. Take care and catch up in two weeks time. Bye.