

## **Elephants Without Borders (EWB, Inc.)**

### **Profile**

Elephants Without Borders is a non-profit, tax-exempt, registered organization in the Republic of Botswana. Registered in the Deeds Office of Botswana, as the Somarela Trust under number MA 18/2004. Under number 91451 of the Business Names Act, the Trust operates as Elephants Without Borders.

Elephants Without Borders (EWB, Inc.) is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 public charity, registered in the State of New York, USA, incorporated under section 402, Type B, under section 201. Public Registered Charity # 41-30-49

### **History**

After Mike Chase received his PhD, he was determined to continue studying and conserving the world's largest elephant population, so he founded and established Elephants Without Borders (EWB). Appropriately, EWB is based in Kazungula, Botswana's border town where the boundaries of Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe meet along the Zambezi River. EWB operates its' projects and activities in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe under the official endorsement and full support of government authorities. With an estimated 151,000 elephants also calling the northern reaches of Botswana home, this wildlife hot spot is the ideal location for Elephants Without Borders researchers to study the migratory patterns, behavior, and ecology of pachyderms. EWB is the country's leading regional cross-border research project focused on elephant conservation and management.

### **Our Vision**

Since elephants don't use passports, the notion of elephants and conservation without borders is crucial for preserving biodiversity and a healthy landscape. Using African elephants as an inspiration, EWB strives to identify wildlife migratory corridors, secure wild habitats and elevate conservation of all wildlife. The largest mammal that walks the earth is now leading the way to help save vast areas of wild lands and the biodiversity they support.

The great paradox about elephant conservation is that while many African countries are experiencing rapidly declining elephant populations, others have to cope with rising elephant numbers. Both declining and growing elephant numbers present certain problems and concerns.

Botswana has the largest elephant population remaining on the African continent. Ironically, the recovery of this country's elephant population has led to growing concern about how to manage this large population. Some people are worried that elephants have recovered in greater numbers than the environment can sustain, and there is significant concern over increasing human-elephant conflict.

We use state-of-the-art technology, to monitor the movements, status and behavior of elephants, addressing complex issues regarding elephant ecology

through research studies and sharing the results with decision makers and local communities.

Better understanding elephant ecology and sharing this information allows us to work towards securing key habitats and migratory corridors for wildlife to flourish. EWB also provides advisory services to governments, private sector, local communities, researchers, journalists and film-makers.

At EWB, we believe elephants are of considerable economic, ecological, cultural and aesthetic value to many people in the world and are one of Africa's most valuable wildlife species. They are the flagships, providing motivation for raising awareness, stimulating action, encouraging funding for conservation efforts, and generating opportunities to reconsider the boundaries between conservation and rural development. Our vision, to open borders for Africa's wildlife through education and research will help ensure future generations share their lives with these great giants.

## **Our Team**

### **Director/Founder**

**Mike Chase, (PhD)**, has been studying the ecology of elephants in Botswana for nearly 15 years. In 2007, he was the first in Botswana to read for a doctorate specifically in elephant ecology.

Much of his childhood was spent in the bush accompanying his father on safaris. Eager to explore Africa's wildlife and wild places, Chase embarked on an academic career in conservation ecology.

After earning a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Natal, he returned to Botswana, where he spent eight years with Conservation International working to conserve the Okavango Delta and its rich wildlife. It was his passion for elephants, which, in 2001, ultimately led him to his ambitious study on the ecology and movements of elephants. He received his PhD from the University of Massachusetts in natural resources and wildlife conservation. During his studies he founded Without Borders to continue his lifelong endeavour.

Mike is continuously searching for novel and creative ideas for progressive research, which advances conservation in a timely and meaningful way. He has provided new data on the status of elephants and other wildlife, identified cross-border corridors, discovered new migration routes and has published his work in scientific journals, magazines and news articles. Presently, he is the principal researcher and coordinating the massive initiative of the Great Elephant Census, which will take place in 14 countries during 2014.

### **Director/Program Manager**

**Kelly Landen** joined Mike on the project in early 2003, together they built EWB into a successful operating organization. Her enthusiasm for wildlife inspired her to a dedicated career in conservation. She began as a volunteer, monitoring and collecting data on a variety of wildlife species for conservation projects, as well as, worked as a naturalist/field guide in Alaska, Central America and South America. Kelly is a licensed marine Captain, and crewed for several years as part of a fleet of oceanographic research vessels, including Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and the Institute of Oceanography. The variety of projects she has worked with, have given her a wealth of knowledge of field operations, organizational skills, and logistics.

Kelly oversees all of EWB's project operations, supervises the office and Research Station, manages collaborations, and manages public relations. She participates in most aspects of fieldwork, survey observer, and conducts the photo analysis of surveys. Kelly is a professional photographer and her work has been featured in a number of prestigious magazines, web sites, scientific publications, journals and news articles

### **Assistant Manager**

**Robert Sutcliffe** recently was welcomed to the EWB team and comes with a variety of experience. He has a range of projects under his belt, operating from South Africa to the Seychelles. He has been working in Botswana for several years already. The research projects he has studied include a diversity of species from bacteria, vegetation, sea life, marine turtles, terrestrial birds, meerkats to mongoose and now large herbivores and elephants. His responsibilities include assisting in the coordination of field research, data collection and laboratory work and collaborative student projects and supervise staff in the field.

### **Field Support**

EWB's field support & staff have many years of varied bush experience. They are vital to the success of our operations and ensure comfort and security while operating in very remote areas, often under difficult conditions.

**Gagoope Tsukotsuko**

**Kabo Kakana**

**Ronnie Ndjavera**

**Shoni Nyoni**

**Patrick Moyo**

**Frank Nkiwani**

**Gababonwe Ntema**

### **Elephants Without Borders (EWB)**

**Paul G. Allen Introduces Major Initiative to Conserve African Elephant Population Without Borders will lead the Great Elephant Census, largest pan-Africa aerial survey to generate data critical to species' survival**

Responding to the highest rate of elephant mortality in history, investor and philanthropist Paul G. Allen is advancing a major elephant conservation initiative in Africa to provide new information on the status of the species' future survival. The Great Elephant Census is the largest pan-Africa aerial survey since the 1970s and will be managed by **Elephants Without Borders**.

Ivory trade and poaching pose serious threats to African elephants, and experts predict there is a real possibility that the elephants could disappear from many parts of the continent for good. The two-year census, which kicks off in February 2014, will provide accurate data about the numbers and distribution of the African elephant population, including geographic range, forming an essential baseline that will inform conservation efforts.

"I've spent enough time in Africa to see the impacts of poaching and habitat loss on the elephant population," said Allen. "By generating accurate, foundational data about African elephants, we are hopeful that this project will significantly advance the conservation efforts of this iconic species."

The census continues Allen's history of supporting global initiatives with the potential to catalyze ideas and solutions that accelerate progress on both scientific and social fronts. Allen's strong ties to Africa include his investment of more than \$10 million since 2008 to help support wildlife and conservation efforts, and community and economic development projects.

Historically, counts of Africa's savanna elephants have varied in quality and some have been incomplete, which can lead to incorrect conclusions about population status and trends. An accurate census of the African elephant population using up-to-date scientific techniques is a vital step in managing conservation efforts, identifying poaching hotspots and guiding law enforcement interventions, and assessing the impact of threats, such as habitat loss.

"Over the past few years, I have documented with regret the slow retreat of elephants from habitats that were rapidly repopulating," said Dr. Mike Chase, director and founder, **Elephants Without Borders**. "The threat of local extinction feels very real. In October 2013, **Elephants Without Borders** flew a plane over a park where we had previously counted more than 2,000 elephants. We counted just 33 live elephants and 55 elephant carcasses. That is why this research is so important."

**Elephants Without Borders**, which has developed a reputation for providing novel and valuable information for the conservation of African elephants, conceptualized and will conduct the survey in collaboration with in-country conservation organizations and governments. The survey is scheduled to take two years. In the first year, the team will survey the population of elephants and other herbivores in 22 countries representing between 95 percent of Africa's savanna elephants. In the second year, researchers will analyze the data and package findings. Preliminary survey results are expected in mid-2015 and will be shared with academics, NGOs, and governments championing animal conservation.

The survey will comprise 18 planes, 46 scientists and about 19,000 transects, totaling 600,000 miles. It will be flown in 18,000 hours over 7 months of flyovers, and will involve African governments including the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, Frankfurt Zoological Society, African Parks Network and Save the Elephants.

### **About Paul G. Allen**

Paul G. Allen is a leading investor, entrepreneur and philanthropist who has given more than \$10 billion to charitable causes over his lifetime. He founded Vulcan Inc. in 1986 with Jody Allen to oversee his philanthropic activities. Today, that Seattle-based company oversees a wide range of Allen's investments and projects throughout the world. In 2003, he created the Allen Institute for Brain Science to advance the understanding of the human brain in health and disease and, a decade later, launched the expanded Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence to explore opportunities for development in the field of AI. He is the founder of The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, which has awarded more than \$475 million to nonprofits in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. His commitment to the long-term sustainability of Africa includes support for conservation and anti-poaching, community development and education, and sustainable economic growth. Through his foundation and direct gifts, Allen has given about \$10 million since 2008 to support key conservation and technology initiatives across the continent. His \$26 million gift to Washington State University's Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health is fueling critical research that will mitigate and prevent zoonotic disease in Africa. For more information, go to [www.paulallen.org](#) and [www.africanwildlife.org](#)