



ELEPHANT AID INTERNATIONAL
One World...One Elephant at a Time

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

Suzanne Carr 229-465-3115

suzanne@elephantaidthinternational.org

**MUNDI THE ELEPHANT MARKS THREE YEARS OF FREEDOM
AT ELEPHANT REFUGE NORTH AMERICA**

ATTAPULGUS, GA, May 7, 2026: This May, Elephant Aid International (EAI) celebrates a milestone three years in the making: the third anniversary of Mundi the elephant’s arrival at Elephant Refuge North America (ERNA), where she is now living the life she was denied for decades.

On May 12, 2023, Mundi—a wild-born African savanna elephant—arrived in southern Georgia following an unprecedented international rescue effort that captured global attention. Her transfer from the now-closed Mayagüez Zoo in Puerto Rico marked the end of nearly 35 years of isolation and the start of a life with room to roam, other elephants by her side, and the freedom to choose how she spends her days.

Born in Zimbabwe and orphaned during a mass culling in the early 1980s, Mundi was brought to the United States as a young calf before being sold into a lifetime of captivity. She spent decades alone in a small enclosure, a stark contrast to the complex social lives elephants are meant to live.

Today, at ERNA’s 850-acre refuge, Mundi is rediscovering what it means to be an elephant—roaming wooded pastures, foraging freely, and forming meaningful bonds with fellow elephants Bo and Tarra.

“Although Mundi has a strong independent nature, her desire to be with elephants is her primary drive,” said Carol Buckley, Founder and CEO of Elephant Aid International. “She wanders off to browse while Bo naps and returns to graze alongside him as soon as he wakes.”

Mundi’s integration into her new herd has been one of the most powerful markers of her recovery. “From day one of her rescue, Mundi showed a powerful attraction to Bo and

Tarra,” Buckley added. “Three years later, they are inseparable. Mundi finally has an elephant family again.”

Elephant Refuge North America, located just north of Tallahassee, was designed to provide elephants with a naturalistic environment that supports both physical and emotional healing. The refuge offers an 850-acre habitat, individualized care, and the freedom for elephants to make their own choices—something Mundi was denied for most of her life.

Mundi’s journey—from the wilds of Zimbabwe to decades of isolation and, finally, to sanctuary—has resonated deeply with people around the world. Her rescue, widely covered in national media, became a symbol of both the cost of captivity and the possibility of change.

Three years later, her story continues to unfold—not as one of survival alone, but of connection.

Marking this anniversary is a chance to reflect on Mundi’s journey—and to think about what a different future could look like for elephants still in captivity.

To learn more about Mundi and the Refuge, visit

<https://elephantaidthinternational.org/projects/elephant-refuge-north-america/>

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About Elephant Aid International (EAI): EAI is a nonprofit organization that develops innovative approaches to caring for and managing elephants worldwide. We unchain elephants in Asia, teach humane methods of training and handling elephants, and provide a natural habitat refuge for retired elephants in the U.S. Learn more at <http://elephantaidthinternational.org>.