



WALT DISNEY Parks and Resorts U.S.

April 28, 2010

AZA Awards Committee
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
8403 Colesville Rd Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear AZA Awards Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter of support for the Elephant Population Management Program to be considered for the AZA International Conservation Award. The Walt Disney Company has supported this work for the last six years and has enjoyed watching it grow from an initial concept into a valuable tool. Each year the interest in and applications of this program have grown and grown. I believe that one of the unique pieces which AZA institutions can contribute in regards to *in situ* conservation is bringing new technologies to faraway locations. This project is a great example of how technology, financial resources and multi-institutional collaborations can come together and help resolve a complicated conservation issue.

Disney is very proud of the Elephant Population Management Program and plans to continue its support in the future. This population management tool has already made a difference at several reserves in Southern Africa. As the in-country capacity building continues and as the program's efforts around conservation education expand, we anticipate the impact of this program will continue to grow in the years ahead.

Elephants are often a lightning rod for animal welfare discussions, and, because of their charisma, can bring out a variety of emotional feelings. The Elephant Population Management Program is a wonderful example of how we can balance the individual welfare of an animal along with the larger conservation issues of an ecosystem. By reducing the need to cull elephants, ensuring the ecosystem remains healthy and nurturing the long-term local community support of this work, this program is a great example of how we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Ogden'.

Jackie Ogden, Ph.D.
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