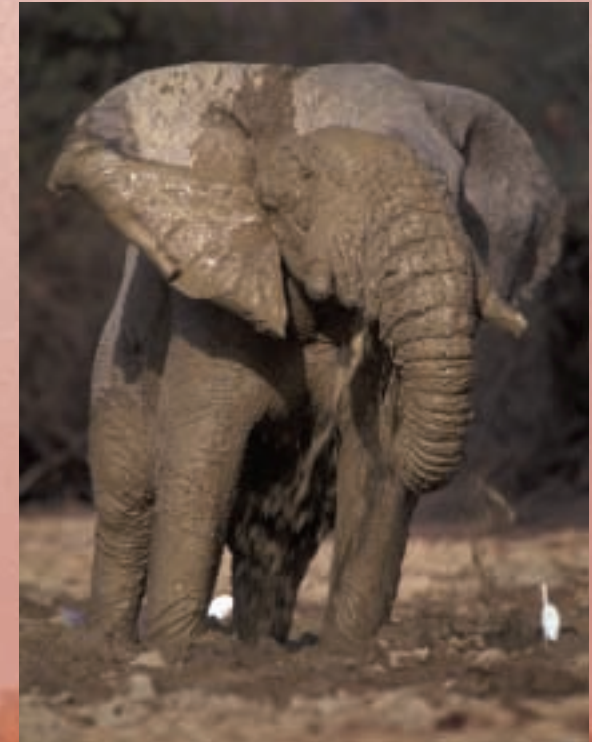


Save Mali's National Treasure...



For more information on how you can help, contact:

SAVE THE ELEPHANTS
Save the Elephants
www.savetheelephants.org

THE WILD FOUNDATION
The WILD Foundation
www.wild.org


The Environment and Development Group
www.edg.org.uk

UICN
Union mondiale pour la nature
UICN Mali
www.uicnmail@iucn.org


DNCN
DIRECTION NATIONALE DE LA
CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE
Centre Commercial • Rue Du 18 Juin • BP 275 Bamako • Mali
Phone: +223 2233695 • Fax: +223 2233696
E-Mail: conservationnature@datatech.net.ml

Before it's too late!

Mali's desert elephants must be protected...

Why?

In the past, elephants roamed throughout Mali. Apart from a few individuals, the “Gourma Elephants” are the only ones remaining, and they are pushed to the edge of survival. Without help they will soon die—they have nowhere else to go.

Approximately 450 elephants are on a constant search for food and water in the desert. The only way they can survive is to undertake a yearly migration of over 600 km, the **longest annual migration of elephants ever recorded!**

People want to see the elephants, take their photos, and—if done carefully—the elephants can help bring the benefits of tourism to local communities in Mali.

By protecting them we sustain them. By helping them they can help us!

How?

Elephants and people **can live together!** We just need to respect the elephants' needs and help assure them:

- Access to water and food
- Passage through critical areas
- Safety and reduced stress through freedom from harassment

Photos by Carlton Ward, Jr./www.LINC.us
Design by Patty Maher

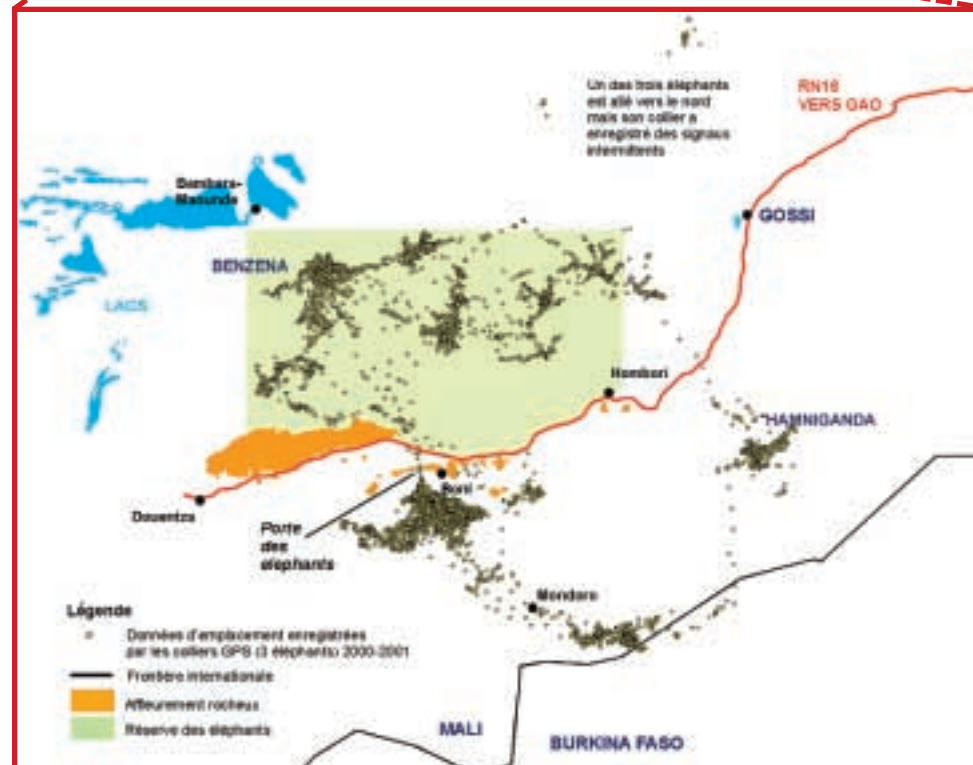
Where?

To live, the elephants make a remarkable circular migration each year, avoiding the towns and villages of the busy central area, and moving rapidly through ‘corridors’ between critical areas to find food and water. Although they spend a very small amount of their time in these corridor areas, blocking any one of them could cause the end of the elephants.

During the dry season, the elephants stay close to water, moving along watercourses and thickets that provide shade and cover. By the end of the dry season they congregate around **Benzena**, the last permanent water hole, and as soon as it rains, move south to find food, passing through

the **Porte des Elephants**—the last remaining ‘pass’ through the hills that has not yet been blocked by human settlement. As the rains diminish in September-October, the elephants move through the quieter areas of the international border pausing at **Hamniganda**—an important source of salt and essential minerals—before returning to the waterholes of the north.

The lake **Gossi** is an important permanent water source and was once frequented by hundreds of elephants. It is now surrounded by settlement and gardens and only used by a few males.



They are part of Mali's heritage, a National Treasure, and may become Africa's first “mobile national park!”



What we can do...

Local people—acknowledge the elephants' needs, and leave them in peace.

Local government—assist local villages and residents to agree on standards of interaction. Create “elephant committees”—“Amis des Elephants”—in each area that help local people to live with the elephants.

Tourism operators—develop and observe a code of conduct: approach slowly and quietly, keep a good distance away; keep noise to a minimum and not attract the elephants' attention. Create a small “elephant tourist tax” that supports the local Amis des Elephants.

Tourists and visitors—Help the elephants—assure that your guides observe the best code of conduct.

National Department of Nature Conservation (DNCN)—provide training for the Amis des Elephants; have a national elephant management plan; interact with all other government agencies to assure that this national treasure is protected and sustained, create an “Elephant Task Force” that reviews all development plans.

Development Agencies—apply “elephant awareness” to all development plans that include the elephant migration route, and mitigate any action or plan that threatens elephant movements and access to resources.

National Politicians—To emphasize the importance of the elephants to all, designate the Gourma Elephants a UNESCO World Heritage Site.