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URGENT APPEAL

Dear *Pachyderm* readers,

Since 1983 *Pachyderm* has served as an excellent platform for disseminating information and sharing lessons learned from conservation of African elephants and African and Asian rhinos. However, it is perhaps a sign of the times that we are now finding it increasingly hard to raise the approximately USD 50,000 per year we need to produce and disseminate this journal in hard copy and free of charge to our readership. In fact, it is only because of the support of WWF International, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Santa Barbara Zoo and a private donation from an anonymous benefactor that we have been able to produce the present issue. Despite our greatest efforts, we have not yet managed to secure adequate funds for producing *Pachyderm* 44 or beyond. This means that we again must now seriously start considering all options to make production and dissemination of this journal more sustainable in the long term, including approaching a commercial publisher or shifting to a purely electronic format. However, the latter is clearly not a completely satisfactory solution, especially because many of our African readers still do not have reliable Internet access.

In light of this, we are turning to you, the readership, for suggestions as to any possible funding sources that we might be able to access to ensure the continued production of this journal in its present form. Any donation of USD 100 or more we will acknowledge in future issues. Any additional support, ideas, suggestions or other relevant information should be sent to Julian Fennessy, Programme Officer, IUCN SSC African Elephant Specialist Group, email; Julian.Fennessy@iucn.org; tel: +254 (0)20 890605-12; fax: +254 (20) 890615.

Yours sincerely,

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