

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to share the latest developments in the ongoing implementation of the AZA Elephant Strategy. As we step into 2024, I am pleased to report that ten strategic activities in furtherance of the Elephant Strategy are actively in progress, and an impressive six are on the verge of completion. To keep you well informed and engaged with our progress, I've outlined a few key updates below:

**Principles of Elephant Management I:**

- The Principles of Elephant Management I (PEM-I), held recently in Leesburg, Virginia, showcased meticulous planning and alignment with key standards. Preceding this course, the dedicated instructors completed comprehensive curriculum planning sheets for PEM-I (and PEM-II) course materials, outlining the alignment of each topic with the AZA Standards for Elephant Management and Care, the AZA Accreditation Standards, and the AZA Elephant Strategy.
- Sharon Joseph, Project Manager, along with Matthew Krcmarik, AZA, and Taylor Gilley, Professional Development Committee, conducted a thorough audit of the PEM-I course, providing valuable insights and feedback on the lesson plans, presentations, and content. This collaborative effort not only ensures the highest quality in our educational offerings but also reflects our commitment to continuous improvement. Both course reviewer and student feedback were collected and will be thoughtfully reviewed and integrated by our instructors into future PEM courses, enhancing the overall education experience.

**Elephant Strategy Webinar Series:**

- In 2024, we have initiated an engaging series of webinars designed to disseminate crucial information on elephant strategy-related topics to a diverse audience. The inaugural webinar, titled "Navigating Elephant Transitions: A Webinar on Effective Communication Strategies," promises to be an insightful exploration into the nuanced art of communicating significant elephant transfers, set against the backdrop of the AZA Elephant Strategy.
- This webinar is scheduled for March 11, 2024, at 1 PM (EST). It provides a unique opportunity for participants to gain valuable insights and perspectives on effective communication strategies within the context of the elephant strategy. We encourage you to register for this event through [AZA Learn](#). Your engagement will contribute to the success of this initiative and foster a collaborative approach to elephant conservation and management.

**Elephant Animal Care Manual:**

- Norah Fletchall is working with the Elephant TAG to identify subject matter experts for each section of a comprehensive Elephant Care Manual. This strategic collaboration ensures that the manual benefits from the wealth of knowledge and expertise possessed by individuals who excel in specific facets of elephant care. Through this process, we aim to create a manual that meets the highest standards in elephant care, contributing to the overall success of our elephant management efforts.

**AZA Standards for Elephant Management and Care:**

- A working group has been assembled to undertake a comprehensive approach to updating the AZA Standards for Elephant Management and Care. Members of this team include

representation from AZA staff, Accreditation Commission, Board of Directors, Elephant TAG, and the AZA Elephant Strategy Project Manager. This group brings a wealth of perspectives, expertise, and experience to the table, ensuring a robust and forward-thinking evaluation of our standards for the optimal management and care of elephants.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing commitment to the success of our AZA Elephant Strategy initiatives. Your support and engagement are vital as we collectively work to advance the standards and practices for the management and care of elephants.

We look forward to updating you on further progress and milestones in the near future. Should you have any questions, suggestions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,

Lisa New  
AZA Board Chair  
APMC Board Liaison