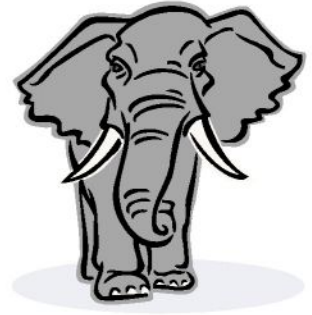


Elephant reporting

Read this report on elephants thoroughly.

Elephants



Elephants are the largest land-dwelling mammals on earth and they can live up to 70 years.

Elephants are brown to dark grey in colour and have long, coarse hairs sparsely covering their bodies. They have very thick skin that keeps them cool. Elephant trunks serve as another limb and they may contain more than 40,000 muscles that help the elephant use it to gather food and water. They also have large ears and thick tree-trunk-like legs to support their weight.

There are two species of elephants: the African elephant and the Asian elephant. There are a number of differences between the two species: overall size, ear size, tusks and shape of the back and forehead among others.

The basic diet of the elephant includes grasses, leaves, bamboo, bark and roots. Also they are known to eat crops like banana and sugarcane which are grown by farmers. Adult elephants eat 300-400 lbs of food per day.

African savannah elephants are found in savannah zones in 37 countries south of the Sahara Desert. African forest elephants inhabit the dense rain forests of west and central Africa. The Asian elephant is found in India, Sri Lanka, China and much of southeast Asia.

Elephants form deep family bonds and live in tight family groups of related females called a herd. The herd is led by the oldest and often largest female, called a matriarch. Herds consist of eight to 100 individuals depending on terrain and family size. When a calf is born, it is raised and protected by the whole matriarchal herd. Males leave the family unit between the ages of 12 and 15 years and may lead solitary lives or live temporarily with other males.

Habitat loss is one of the key threats facing elephants. Increasing conflict with human populations taking over more and more elephant habitat and poaching for ivory are additional threats that are placing the elephant's future at risk.