

elephant rescue, rehabilitation and release in Burkina Faso

6,800

elephants left in Burkina Faso

12

years needed on average to rescue and rehabilitate an orphaned elephant

16

liters of milk (2 liters every three hours) that Nania drank every day until her weaning

► Nania walks alongside her keepers during her trek to the new boma at the soft release site in Deux Balés National Park.



Saving one forest elephant calf can make a big difference

An orphan elephant calf was just two months old when she got separated from her herd in Burkina Faso. She was found alone, dehydrated and wandering in a small village near a national park that is home to a small group of elephants. Local villagers found the calf and wanted to help, so they raised money to build her a temporary enclosure and buy her formula. The villagers knew that they didn't have the skills or the resources to properly care for her, so they contacted IFAW.

Elephants need feeding every 2-3 hours at this young age.

Since IFAW received the call for help in October 2017, we've been working with the local authorities and communities to help the calf. The four keepers who take care of her have become her surrogate mothers. They fed her and gave her formula until she was weaned in June 2020 and was able to find food by herself.

Nania

The calf was named Nania by the pupils of a class in the village, the word for "will" in Dioula, one of the local languages.

Whisty the sheep

IFAW arranged for a sheep companion called Whisty to keep Nania company and minimize solitude. Whisty has become her friend. Watch a video of [Nania and Whisty](#).



Photo: Ghislain Some/IFAW



Photo: Ghislain Some/IFAW

600

kilograms Nania weighed at 18 months of age

0.25

hectares (0.5 acre) of the rehab enclosure that IFAW has built for Nania

- ◀ Nania and her sheep friend Whisty forage for food together inside their new boma in Deux Balés National Park.
- ▶ Wild elephant dung samples to carry out DNA analysis.

Learning necessary survival skills

In February 2019, IFAW organized the move of Nania and her rehabilitation companion Whisty to an enclosure called a boma within the national park, where her keepers can walk her into the forest and help her learn the survival skills necessary to thrive in an elephant herd.

Nania and the treasure hunt for her native elephant herd

Through wild elephants’ dung samples and DNA analysis, IFAW is now trying to confirm the presence of Nania’s original herd and prepare her for reintegration into the wild. If it is not possible to find her family, IFAW will work to ensure she is accepted and integrated into a new herd once she is ready for release into her natural habitat.

Twenty years ago, more than 100 elephants roamed on the national park’s 56,000 hectares of land where Nania comes from, but today only a few dozen elephants are left because of poaching, overgrazing and conflicts with neighboring settlements. We know that saving even one of them makes a big difference.

About the project

- ▶ Nania needs at least eight hours of walking each day in the park to develop her geographic cognitive abilities, locate best places of food and water according to seasons, and identify where wild elephants spend time
- ▶ Boma cost: 21 500€ (+ 500€ maintenance /year)

About forest elephants

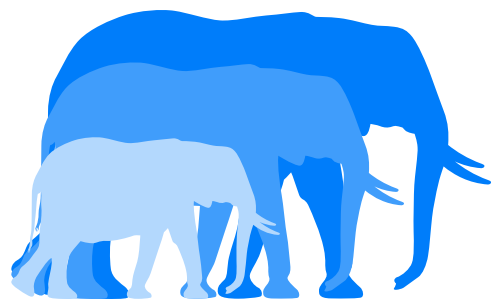
- ▶ Forest elephants’ population declined by 65% between 2002 and 2013 mainly due to poaching for ivory
- ▶ Nania may start reproducing at 20 years old and give birth every 5 to 6 years (Savannah elephant females start reproducing at 12 years old and give birth every 3 to 4 years)
- ▶ Nania’s tusks will grow pointing downward, a pattern of forest elephants
- ▶ Elephants spend 16 to 18 hours exploring vast areas to feed, drink and find congeners

▶ **see how at ifaw.org**



#RescueAnimalsInNeed

Nania’s growth



2018 She was a little over 3 feet tall	2019 She grew to a little over 4 feet	2020 She was 4 1/2 feet and growing
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