

# Successful infrasound test with elephants

We supported Chances for Nature e.V. in a bioacoustic preliminary study on the protection of wild elephants in Myanmar. To collect data on the wild elephants, special recording devices are to be placed in the forest of the project area in Myanmar. To test the devices in advance, the team from Chances for Nature e.V. visited us and our elephants in the Serengeti-Park Hodenhagen at the end of June 2021 for two days. With our support, it has been possible to use the devices and to record the sounds of the elephants successfully. The experiment also served to find out how good the quality of the recordings is and at what distance they work best. Due to the size and natural terrain, the Serengeti-Park Hodenhagen is a very good test scenario.



## Our elephants help to protect their wild relatives

Together with the Burmese organization Friends of Wildlife, Chances for Nature e.V., takes care of the protection of Asian elephants in the Indawgyi Lake Biosphere Reserve in the north of Myanmar. Since the northern part of the biosphere reserve is regularly visited by wild elephants and arising conflicts with the local population are to be avoided, effective protective measures for humans

and elephants are very important. To realize these protective measures, the collection of information is crucial.

Due to the difficult-to-access terrain in Myanmar, reliable data is not easy to collect. Therefore, an attempt is to be made to track down the elephants via their vocalizations. In fact, some of the elephant communication takes place in the infrasound range outside the human hearing range, carrying the sounds over several kilometers.

Even though our animals are African elephants, whose communication differs from the Asian elephants living in Myanmar, both types of elephant exchange sound in the infrasound range, hence it is assumed that the devices can be used successfully in Myanmar. In this way, our elephants help to improve the protection of their wild relatives in Asia.



## Wild elephants in lake Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve

There are currently fewer than 2000 free-living elephants left in Myanmar. Until about 30 years ago, wild elephants were widespread in today's Indawgyi Lake Biosphere Reserve. Since the northern part of the reserve is still regularly roamed by wild elephants, there are always encounters and dangerous situations with the local people (human-elephant-conflict). However, too little is known about the number of wild individuals, group composition and hiking routes. For this reason, an investigation by means of interviews with the local villagers, camera traps and novel bioacoustic methods, will be carried out, providing a more accurate picture

of the situation. An emergency phone will also connect the villagers with the Chances for Nature e.V. elephant team, allowing for sightings and possible problems to be reported. These findings are intended to develop a concept for conflict prevention and the protection of humans and elephants. Further information can be found at [Chances for Nature e.V.](#)