



Indianapolis Zoo

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Out of Africa and into Indiana

*Elephant expert and Indianapolis Prize winner Iain Douglas-Hamilton
kicks off public appearances at the Indianapolis Zoo*

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*Deceased

INDIANAPOLIS --- In a series of lectures this month, premier elephant expert and recipient of the 2010 Indianapolis Prize presented by Cummins Inc., Iain Douglas-Hamilton, Ph.D., will speak to the conservationists of tomorrow about his pursuit to save endangered species.

As president and CEO of Save the Elephants, Douglas-Hamilton has been recognized for his relentless protection and preservation of the African elephant. Four decades ago, Douglas-Hamilton pioneered the first in-depth scientific study of elephant social behavior that has set the standard for every study to follow. He led emergency anti-poaching efforts in Uganda to bring the elephant population there from the very brink of extinction. He has testified before Congress on behalf of his beloved elephants multiple times, leading to the African elephant bill, to date the most successful funding program for the species. His pioneering Global Positioning System (GPS) elephant tracking, widely emulated in Africa and Asia, has become a model survey technique.

The plight of the African elephant is intensely personal to Iain. He has studied, named and nurtured thousands of African elephants for generations, and it is this intimate understanding of and love for these magnificent mammals that drives Iain's forceful efforts to secure a future for endangered African elephants.

Indiana special events open to the public include:

- **Saturday, Sept. 25, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT – Meet a Hero, Be a Hero Day at the Indianapolis Zoo**

Douglas-Hamilton, as well as George Schaller, the past laureate of the Indianapolis Prize, and other finalists, will meet the public and sign Indianapolis Prize conservationist collector cards that include details about the conservationists' work and successes in the field. This event is free for Zoo members and included with regular Zoo admission. In addition, there will be conservation-related activities for children. Educational programming is presented by Cummins Inc.

- **Monday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. EDT – Woods Science Lecture Series**

Douglas-Hamilton will speak at the Reilly Room on the Butler University campus in Indianapolis as part of its Woods Science Lecture Series. Students and the public will learn more about the fascinating life and research of Dr. Douglas-Hamilton as this "rock star" of conservationists blazed the trail in Africa's wild places. This event is open free to the public. Educational programming is presented by Cummins Inc.

- **Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. EDT – Simulcast: A Life with Elephants**

Broadcast live from the high-tech David Letterman Communication and Media Building on the Ball State University campus in front of a studio audience, the program will be webcast to universities, zoos, aquariums and other educational institutions around the country and air on selected PBS stations. To host a group or view the webcast from the Indianapolis Prize website, contact Heather Grisham of the Indianapolis Zoo at hgrisham@indy zoo.com or (317) 630-2069. This special program is presented by Endangered Species Chocolate.

More...

Ball State University is proud to partner with the Indianapolis Zoo to help tell Iain Douglas-Hamilton's inspiring story to the conservationists of tomorrow. As a leader in emerging media in Indiana and across the nation, Ball State is evolving the use of technology and digital content to enhance work and learning, to broaden access to information, and to enrich personal connection by eliminating the constraints of time and location. We are pleased to share our expertise in emerging technologies and our top-flight facilities to make possible the 2010 Indianapolis Prize telecast, which opens from the David Letterman Communication and Media Building.

The final stop on Douglas-Hamilton's schedule includes a speaking engagement at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

For more information about the lecture series, visit www.indianapolisprize.org. Video production for the 2010 Indianapolis Prize Gala is presented by The Heritage Group.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:
Downloadable jpg images are available
on the Indianapolis Prize website:
www.indianapolisprize.org.**

The biennial \$100,000 Indianapolis Prize represents the largest individual monetary award for animal conservation in the world and is given as an unrestricted gift to the chosen honoree. The Indianapolis Prize was initiated by the Indianapolis Zoo as a significant component of its mission to empower people and communities, both locally and globally, to advance animal conservation. This award brings the world's attention to the cause of animal conservation and the brave, talented and dedicated men and women who spend their lives saving the Earth's endangered animal species. It was first awarded in 2006 to Dr. George Archibald, the co-founder of the International Crane Foundation and one of the world's great field biologists. In 2008, the Indianapolis Prize went to Dr. George Schaller, the world's preeminent field biologist and vice president of Panthera and senior conservationist for the Wildlife Conservation Society. The Eli Lilly and Company Foundation has provided funding for the Indianapolis Prize since 2006.