



## PREN STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

### 1. Background

The motivation for the “Taking Elephants Out of the Room” Conference in August 2019 was to unite like-minded individuals and to focus their expertise on African Elephants in captivity.

The natural progression from this conference was the formation of a formal network of such individuals to highlight concerns arising from African Elephants in captivity and developing strategies to free these Elephants. The network was named the Free Elephant Network (FREN).

Membership of the Free Elephant Network has broadened to include experts and specialists from around the world. The original focus has been enlarged to include not only African, but also Asian Elephants in captivity, and not only matters of freedom, but issues related thereto including wellbeing and freedom from harm and exploitation. The group was renamed and became the Pro Elephant Network (PREN).

PREN is a voluntary, collaborative initiative with a “flat” interconnected structure with no hierarchy. This allows all Members to provide input, participate in decision-making and significantly contribute to projects, with their knowledge and expertise. Accordingly, PREN will not have a Steering Committee and decisions will be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in this document.

Members may have specific and extensive, direct experience in ecology, research, care, medical treatment, protection, conservation, behaviour, psychology and the law in relation to Elephants. They may be involved in advocacy, education, research, conservation, campaigning, care, providing sanctuary, or other activities related to Elephant preservation and well-being. Members may also currently work or have worked in the past in professions involving critical expertise and knowledge that we deem essential to provide a voice for the protection of Elephants.

## **2. Communication and Media**

All members may freely share information, news and comments via the PREN Google Group called PREN GLOBAL and via the PREN WhatsApp group if sharing urgent or more informal information.

The PREN GLOBAL email platform is easily accessible by all Members, following the link <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/pren-global>

The EMS Foundation, as founding Member, may appoint a group Coordinator of PREN, who will facilitate the communication and actions of Members, collect inputs and votes from the PREN Members, maintain list of member contacts, post updates/news, finalise the PREN letter drafts and otherwise take relevant actions to co-ordinate efforts of PREN.

The Coordinator will always act in the interest of PREN and, as much as possible in respect of Members' requests relating to PREN activities, as long as those are clearly communicated.

The Media Office coordinates all media communication and publicity of PREN, maintains the PREN web site, manages all PREN social media platforms and interacts with Members for social media feeds.

The EMS Foundation covers the expenses of the Coordinator and the Media Office. The EMS Foundation owns the Website Domain and will in due course own the logo of PREN.

## **3. Actions**

Members may forward issues of concern regarding Elephants to the Coordinator. The Coordinator will share the matter with the PREN Network for comments and suggestions. Drawing on expertise of the particular subject different strategies and possible actions can be discussed via email or an online meeting.

When raising an issue, a Member should provide as much detail as possible including a concise summary of the situation, pertinent background and any visioned solution to the problem.

If applicable, the concerned Member, with the assistance of the Coordinator may create a working group focussed on this particular topic. This working group will identify key decision-makers within the particular field and possibly align their efforts with organisations that were previously or are currently involved in a similar situation.

Actions may be in the form of written letters / statements / affidavits which will be used to lobby, to advocate, to litigate, to create awareness and to amplify the need for change. These actions will be supported by the entire Network of PREN or by those within the PREN Network who choose to support the action using their signatures and names. PREN may not fundraise for projects.

#### **4. Signatures and Support**

Action draft Letters / statements and documents shall be circulated within PREN membership via the Google Group PREN GLOBAL, for vision and contribution, by the Coordinator.

Members will always have the option to remove themselves as a signatory / endorser at that time. The PREN Coordinator works according to the principle of silence-means-consent, this means that the PREN Members' names will automatically be added unless differently arranged with the Coordinator.

The action will always have a deadline.

If a Member wishes to support a particular action as an individual, rather than representing an organization, the Member shall contact the Coordinator via email to express their wishes.

In some instances, the proposed PREN action may directly or indirectly negatively affect a Member and care must be taken to limit their exposure.

A final copy of the letter / statement / document, will be shared with all Members via the Google Group PREN Global for their records.

#### **5. Decisions**

Decisions will be taken collectively. Any Member may request any matter be decided on by PREN Members and call for a vote.

When a vote decision is required, the Coordinator will share a summary of facts and will list a number of options. Members will indicate to the Coordinator the preferred option within a prescribed deadline. Members may abstain from voting in a decision, and their decision to abstain will not be counted as part of the quorum. There is no minimum quorum for decision-making. Those that participate in the decision will constitute the quorum.

Organizations with multiple Members will only be allowed one vote.

Of all votes collected, a 70% majority is required to take a decision.

The Coordinator will share the results of the decision with the Members.

#### **6. New Members**

PREN members may nominate or recommend prospective new Members who have the necessary expertise and a vision aligned with the PREN Mission and Objectives. The Member will propose the Nominee to the other Members for comments.

Supported objections can be shared with the group or sent to the Coordinator within a reasonable deadline. If there are substantial objections to the proposed Nomination and at least three members object against the inclusion of a Member, such nomination shall not be accepted to be a member of PREN.

In case of no substantial objections, or objections not based on sufficient evidentiary proof, the prospective new entry will be invited to join PREN.

## **7. Removal of Members**

If it emerges that a Member might have violated PREN Code of Conduct or Ethics or might be behaving in manner which diverges from this, the Coordinator will inform the PREN Members of such concerns.

A decision as to the removal of said Member will be put to the PREN Members. For removal of a Member, at least 50% quorum of existing Members is required. Abstentions shall count towards the quorum for these purposes. Members will be required to vote for or against the removal of such Member. Of all votes collected, a majority of 70% is required to proceed with the removal of a Member.

## **8. Amendment to Documents / Issues not Covered**

If it becomes necessary to amend the documents constituting PREN and to which all Members are bound, or if issues arise in the functioning of PREN that are not covered by the documents, any Member of PREN or the Coordinator may raise these issues with the Members and call for their input and a vote.

## **9. Dissolution**

The EMS Foundation might take the final decision to dissolve PREN or might negotiate for another organization to take over.

## **10. Endorsements**

- a. Members must agree to abide by the PREN Mission, Objectives and by the PREN Code of Conduct and Ethics, contained in a separate document.
- b. Members must agree with the PREN Structure and Operations, contained in a separate document.
- c. Members must agree not to use PREN for personal gain.
- d. Members must agree not to use the PREN logo without the written permission of the Coordinator.
- e. Members must be aware that all produced Actions, including statements and signed letters will be released in the public domain.
- f. Members must be aware that their names and titles will appear on PREN website and other social media.

I understand the contents of the aforementioned documents and accept and agree with the above membership criteria

NAME, SIGNATURE and LOGO

DATE .....