

Elephants, Rhinos & People launches Air Wing

Protecting endangered wildlife and people in Southern Africa

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OSHKOSH, WI: The Atlanta-based nonprofit Elephants, Rhinos & People (ERP.ngo) kicked off EAA AirVenture, the world's largest airshow, by accepting delivery of its first airplane, an NX Cub from CubCrafters.

The delivery is the first step in providing air cover to the vast ERP megafauna sanctuary areas in Namibia, established to protect elephants and rhinos and improve the economic wellbeing of impoverished rural people living adjacent to protected areas. The first airplane will soon be joined by another new NX Cub. Together they will be shipped to Namibia, where they will be put into service late this year. The Cubs will provide ERP rangers with a potent tool to combat poaching and to monitor endangered desert-adapted elephants and very soon, also critically endangered black rhinos to be located in a separate area in the southern part of Namibia.

"The tragic loss of elephants and rhinos to poachers is a daily occurrence in that part of the world," said Quintin Smith, Partner in Group Elephant primary benefactor of ERP, and a director of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit. "As a general aviation pilot, I'm delighted about the role these Cubs will play in protecting endangered elephants and rhinos in Africa," he added.

Pilots can participate directly in amplifying the impact of the ERP Air Wing through the "Signature Campaign," inviting 500 pilots to contribute \$1,000 apiece toward acquisition of the next aircraft, which will feature donor names on the fuselage.

"ERP's presence at AirVenture dovetails nicely with EAA's 'humanitarian flying' theme this year," said ERP Air Wing Lead Tom Haines, a longtime aviation journalist and aircraft owner. "It's a privilege to be joined by the likes of Samaritan's Purse, Air Care Alliance, and other organizations to showcase the great work that aviation can do to help others around the world."

Smith accepted the NX Cub at the Redbird Flight Simulations exhibit during a signing ceremony with Brad Damm, Vice President of CubCrafters. Redbird and CubCrafters are generous supporters of the Air Wing.

"When it comes to backcountry airstrips and off-airport landings, few airplanes can match the NX Cub," said Damm. "Having been to Namibia, I know the NX Cub's short takeoff and landing capabilities and ability to handle rough surfaces will be well utilized by the rangers who fly these day-in and day-out," he added.

The ERP NX Cub will be on display at the Redbird exhibit (Booth 301) throughout AirVenture. "We share ERP's vision for a world where these magnificent animals can thrive safely and away from human conflict," said Charlie Gregoire, Redbird CEO. "At Redbird, not only do we make

simulators, we're also pilots and aircraft owners who understand how effective general aviation airplanes can be on missions such as this."

ERP plans to invite Signature Campaign pilots to fly ERP Air Wing aircraft in support of fieldwork and to interact with local communities and view wildlife. Such experiences will be offered more broadly to other pilots later, as part of ongoing fundraising in support of ERP Air Wing operations.

For more information on the Signature Campaign and the Air Wing project go to <https://tinyurl.com/erp-airwing-signature-campaign>.

REPORTERS: Visit the ERP Press Site for access to high-resolution photos, videos, and background material: <https://www.erp.ngo/press-release/erp-air-wing>

See ERP.ngo and groupelephant.com.

About ERP: Elephants, Rhinos & People's strategy is to protect Southern Africa's wild elephants and rhinos by alleviating poverty in rural communities, in areas adjacent to these threatened species. We also implement tactical interventions to combat the poaching problem, such as sustainable alternatives as a source of community income, elephant relocations and drought relief programs. ERP brings over 30 years of experience in community relations, poverty alleviation, and impact investment in infrastructure, to achieve sustainable, non-lethal wildlife conservation. ERP's primary benefactor, Group Elephant, donates 1% of its own revenue to cover all of ERP's operational expenses, and to fund projects. 100% of private donations are used for ERP projects. For more information, visit: erp.ngo