



JOINT STATEMENT

Kariba, a female African elephant at Pakawi Park, is set to begin a new chapter at Pangea, a pioneering 1,000-acre sanctuary in Portugal.

Kariba was captured from the wild in Zimbabwe as a young calf in 1984 and spent many years in zoos across Europe. She arrived in Belgium in 2012 to join another African elephant, Jenny, at what was then Olmense Zoo. In 2019, under new management, the zoo was renamed Pakawi Park, marking a new commitment to improving animal welfare.

When Jenny sadly passed away in 2022, Kariba was left alone. Recognising that elephants are profoundly social animals who suffer in isolation, Pakawi Park began seeking a new home for her.

Earlier this year, GAIA, a leading Belgian animal welfare organisation, introduced Pakawi Park to Pangea, and the three organisations have since been working together to make Kariba's relocation possible.

Tommy Pasteels, Director of Pakawi Park, said:

"We have cared for Kariba for over 13 years, and she will be hugely missed, but we couldn't see her alone anymore. We believe she can have the best possible quality of life at Pangea, with space to be an elephant again and with the companionship of others."

Ann De Greef, Director of GAIA, said:

"We congratulate Pakawi Park for their compassion and foresight. Pakawi Park have done their very best for Kariba, but ultimately elephants have complex physical and emotional needs."

Kariba is expected to travel from Antwerp to Alentejo in early 2026. Preparations at Pangea are well underway to give her a spacious natural habitat in a warm Mediterranean climate and the chance for her to enjoy the company of other elephants again.

Kate Moore, Managing Director of Pangea, said:

"It has been a pleasure to work alongside our Belgian partners, with everyone united around Kariba's wellbeing. We're committed to a lifelong home that balances freedom to roam and socialise with the daily, specialist care she'll need in her later years."

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