

On the 16th of April, what began as a relatively typical interaction between an adult African elephant bull and a cow at Bioparc Valencia tragically resulted in the death of the female.

African elephants are the largest land mammals, and aggressive encounters between individuals are not uncommon—both in the wild and under human care. Unfortunately, some of these incidents can have fatal outcomes. Male and female elephants generally come together primarily for breeding, and it is impossible to predict whether such interactions will escalate into conflict. When animals are managed in a naturalistic way, there is often little intervention possible in these situations.

The loss of this female is not only an emotional tragedy but also a significant setback for the breeding program, as she was genetically highly valuable and held strong reproductive potential.

Nevertheless, maintaining elephants in conditions that reflect their natural behavior inevitably involves certain risks. We extend our sincere support to the dedicated team in Valencia as they cope with this difficult loss.

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