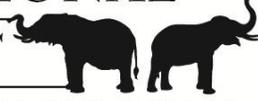


# INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT FOUNDATION.ORG



## INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT FOUNDATION STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

The International Elephant Foundation (IEF) is a U.S. based non-profit corporation formed in 1998 dedicated to the conservation of African and Asian Elephants. The goal of the IEF is to support conservation, awareness and scientific programs that enhance the survival of elephants and protect their habitats worldwide. Since 1999, IEF has provided support to over 100 elephant conservation projects worldwide and over \$2.6 million in direct financial assistance.



This demonstrates that those managing elephants *ex situ* are in an ideal position to impact elephant conservation. It is the belief of the IEF that captive elephants living outside of range countries are important ambassadors for the habitat and species in range countries. Wild elephants benefit through effective conservation

education activities and fund-raising programs developed and maintained through elephant exhibition. While IEF and the *ex situ* elephant management community have supported a variety of individual projects over the years, the IEF recognizes that there is a need to assess what our support has accomplished and how that support can be improved.



In the United States, almost 300 Asian elephants are currently managed in 68 facilities. Each facility has an established care and maintenance program for their elephants. This *ex situ* elephant management community of expertise is unique, and brings a collective wealth of knowledge that should be used to help address the issues of *in situ* Asian elephants in captivity and their impacts on wild populations.

Recent planning efforts by Asian elephant range country experts (Range States Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Human Elephant Conflict Task Force Workshop, Beijing, China and Range-wide Mapping Workshop for Asian Elephants, Cambodia) have focused on a more coordinated strategic framework to establish priorities for *in situ* Asian elephant conservation. These workshops identified 5 factors limiting Asian elephant populations: 1) lack of adequate status and threats assessment; 2) habitat fragmentation and loss; 3) human-elephant conflict; 4) illegal killing and trade; and 5) managing captive Asian elephants.



In March 2012, the IEF facilitated a workshop of experts from U.S. Asian elephant facilities and representatives from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with experience conserving Asian elephants in range countries to develop a strategy to support Asian elephant conservation. The workshop included a review of the stated conservation priorities developed by the Asian elephant range country experts and proceeded to identify the role IEF and the *ex situ* community can play in addressing those priorities. This resulted in the **International Elephant Foundation Strategy in Support of Asian Elephant Conservation**.

This plan suggests actions that will provide a more coordinated Asian elephant conservation strategy for the *ex situ* community - based on the needs stated by the range country experts - and making best use of the resources and experience of the *ex situ* community to support, enhance and conserve Asian elephant populations in the wild.



This plan will also be a forum to encourage additional non-range country facilities managing Asian elephants to become more actively involved in Asian elephant *in situ* conservation through direct participation in the plan, or through financial contributions for the implementation of the various management actions identified.

**The International Elephant Foundation invites all Asian elephant range countries to assist us in further developing and improving this Strategy in Support of Asian Elephant Conservation.**