

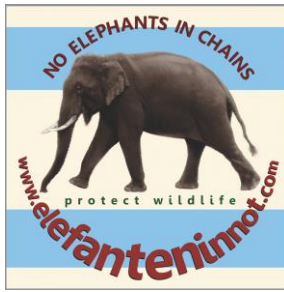


DAS ELEFANTEN IN NOT-JAHR 2025

Wir danken unseren Unterstützern für ein weiteres Elefantenjahr, in dem wir diesen grossartigen Tieren helfen können. Ohne Ihre Hilfe wäre unsere Arbeit nicht möglich. Und so, wie wir das Jahr beginnen konnten mit der 1. Phase unserer Waldapotheke für die heimatlosen Elefanten in Assam, enden wir es mit Beginn der 2. Phase. Bitte lesen Sie unseren interessanten Bericht. Wir wünschen allen ein gesundes und glückliches neue Jahr 2026. Ein grosses Dankeschön für Ihre weitere Unterstützung. Hier der Rückblick auf das Jahr 2025 und unsere Projekte.

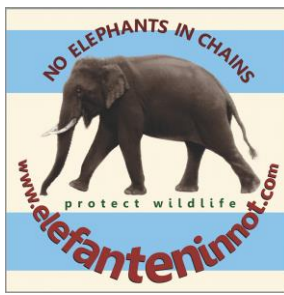
Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky

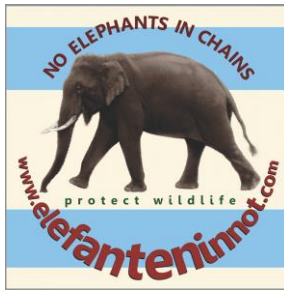
Präsidentin Elefanten in Not, INT. BOTSCHAFTERIN ELEFANTEN IN GEFANGENSCHAFT, FIAPO, INDIEN



Overview. The most important topics in a glance

- The year starts with [A suitcase of Kaffir Lemon](#) arriving in Switzerland with the content for sale to help the elephants. Thank you, Elena Baumann, for this beautiful sale in your BioTerra Shop in Wattwil. Page 4
- A Project by Elefanten in Not. [Reclaiming the Freedom of Elephants: Legal and Constitutional Perspectives on Captive Elephants in India](#). Page 5-9
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- A Project by Elefanten in Not. [THE HUMAN-ELEPHANT-CONSERVATION-PEACE-PLAN, Phase 1](#) By Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky-Myburg and Daniel Myburg. Pages 34 - 55
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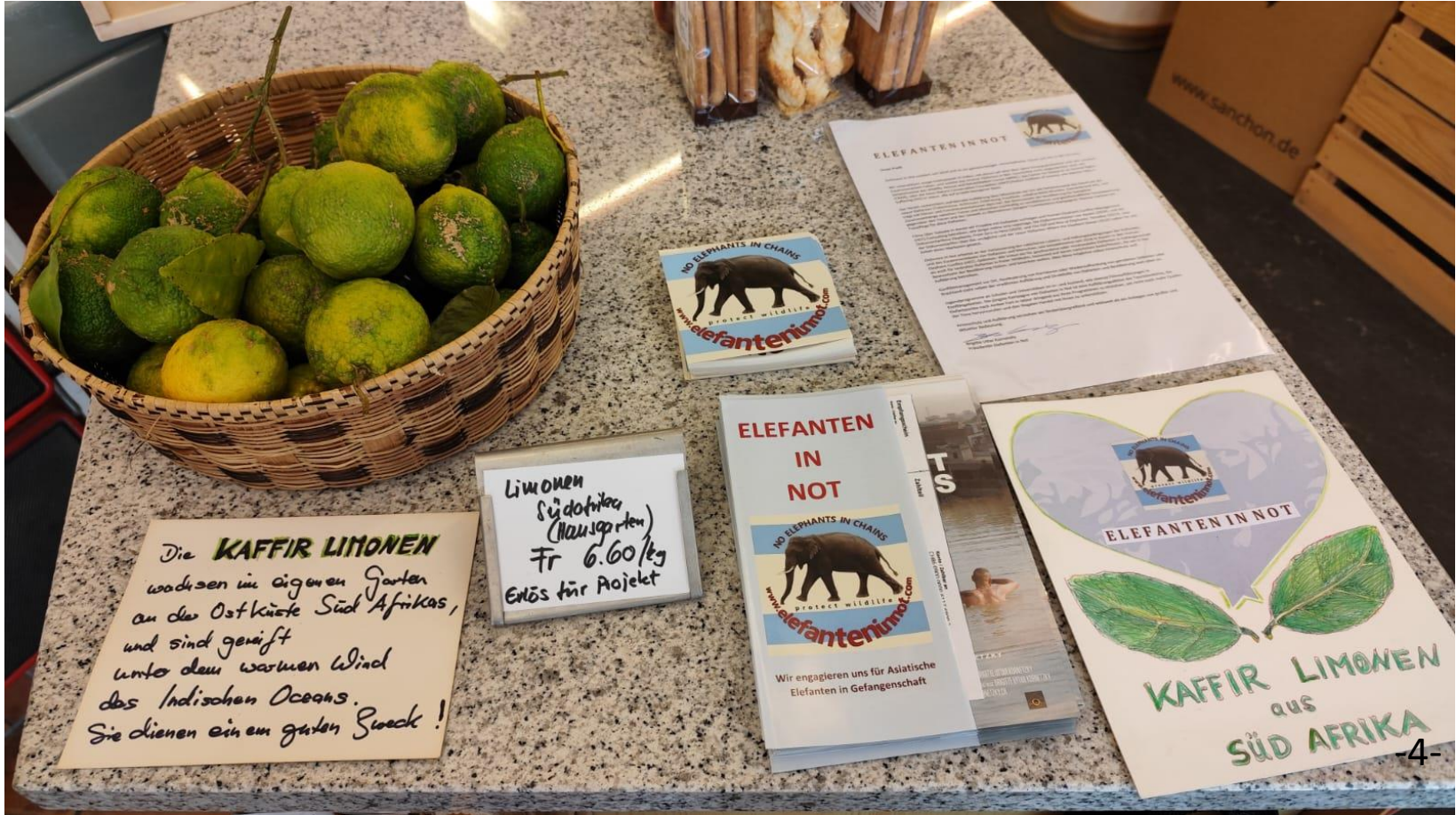


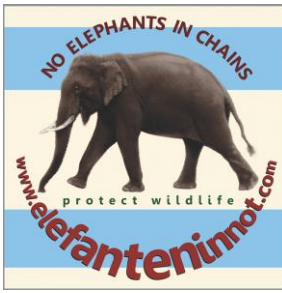


Ein Koffer voller Kaffir Limonen

Das Jahr 2025 beginnen wir mit einem sauren Exkurs: mit ein Koffer voller Kaffir Limonen, die Brigitte aus Südafrika mitgebracht hat. Was Elefanten normalerweise nicht mögen, weil zu sauer und zu stachelig, kommt Ihnen hier mit einem Erlös von 200 CHF zu Gute. Elefanten in Not dankt Elena Baumann von BioTerra in Wattwil für Ihre Bereitschaft, die "von-weit-her-gereisten Früchtchen" in Ihrem Laden zu verkaufen. Und sie haben sich offensichtlich grosser Beliebtheit erfreut.

Vielen Dank, liebe Elena!





**A Project by Elefanten in Not
in collaboration with Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center (WRRC)
and Centre for Research for Animal Rights**

Reclaiming the Freedom of Elephants: Legal and Constitutional Perspectives on Captive Elephants in India

By Alok Hisarwala Gupta

They are the only wild animals in India legally permitted to be privately owned. This exception undermines the object of wildlife protection laws and conflicts with constitutional commitments under Articles 48A and 51A(g), which require the state and citizens to protect wildlife and show compassion for living beings.

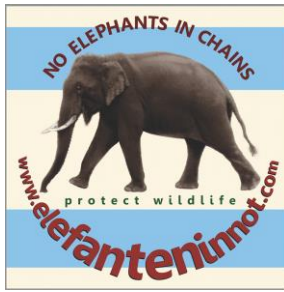
In short, there is no humane version of lifelong captivity for elephants.

Project Summary

Reclaiming the Freedom of Elephants: Legal and Constitutional Perspectives on Captive Elephants in India

1. Project Overview and Rationale

This project examined the legal, constitutional, and ethical status of captive elephants across India, with particular attention to the systemic contradictions that allow elephants—recognised as highly intelligent, sentient, and endangered wild animals—to be privately owned, traded, and exploited. While India is home to the largest remaining population of Asian elephants in the wild, it also has one of the highest numbers of captive elephants globally, estimated at approximately 2,600– 2,800 individuals.



Elephants in captivity are used across states for a range of purposes: religious festivals, temple rituals, tourism, begging, weddings, logging (historically), circuses, and commercial entertainment. Although practices vary regionally, the legal architecture governing captive elephants is uniform at the national level, anchored in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, under which elephants are classified as Schedule I species, **affording them the highest level of statutory protection.**

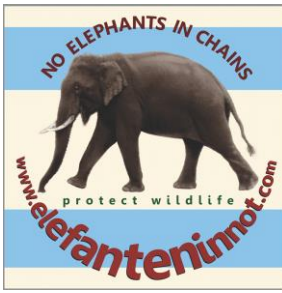
The core paradox animating this project is that elephants are simultaneously treated as wild animals deserving absolute protection and as commodities capable of private ownership. This contradiction has enabled a culture of routine violence, illegal trade, administrative evasion, and moral normalisation of captivity.

The project sought to move beyond a narrow welfare lens and instead situate elephant captivity as a civil liberties, constitutional, and justice issue, raising questions about dignity, freedom, and the permissible limits of human domination over non-human life.

2. Objectives of the Project

The project pursued five interlinked objectives:

1. To analyse the national legal framework governing captive elephants, tracing the evolution of statutory provisions, amendments, and administrative practices that created and sustained the “captive elephant exception” in Indian law.
2. To document the violence inherent in captivity, demonstrating that abuse, psychological trauma, and premature death are not aberrations but structural features of elephant captivity across states.
3. To expose the persistence of illegal elephant trade, including disguised transfers, forged ownership records, inter-state movements, and informal leasing systems that circumvent statutory prohibitions.
4. To examine judicial responses to elephant captivity, mapping a growing body of jurisprudence that increasingly recognises elephants’ cognitive complexity, emotional lives, and interest in freedom.
5. To build a rights-based narrative, capable of supporting litigation, advocacy, and policy reform aimed at phasing out private ownership of elephants in India.



Rather than focusing on a single state, the project intentionally adopted a pan-India lens, drawing examples from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Rajasthan, Goa, Gujarat, Bihar, and Delhi, while highlighting how regional practices are sustained by a common national legal anomaly.

3. Methodology and Research Approach

The project employed a doctrinal, documentary, and narrative research methodology, combining legal analysis with case-based storytelling.

Key components included:

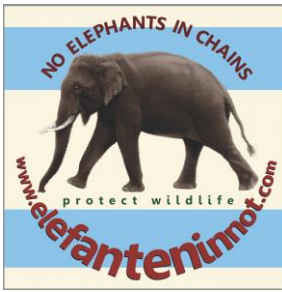
- Statutory and constitutional analysis of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; state captive elephant rules; and relevant amendments that continue to permit private ownership of elephants.
- Judicial mapping of Supreme Court and High Court decisions addressing elephant captivity, trade, welfare, and animal dignity, including cases that explicitly question the legitimacy of private ownership.
- Compilation of secondary data, including NGO investigations, government reports (such as the Gajah Report), RTI-based findings, forest department records, and media documentation of elephant abuse and deaths.
- Narrative reconstruction of individual elephant lives, using biographies to illustrate how law and policy translate into lived suffering.

This mixed methodology allowed the project to remain rigorous while avoiding abstraction, grounding legal critique in the material realities of elephants' lives.

4. Key Findings and Thematic Insights

a. Captivity as a Condition of Structural Violence

The project demonstrates that elephant captivity in India is inherently violent, regardless of the context in which it occurs. Elephants are subjected to prolonged



5 chaining, social isolation, sensory deprivation, forced obedience training, and chronic stress.

Welfare rules, even when formally complied with, are incapable of mitigating the fundamental harm caused by confinement and domination.

b. Illegal Trade and Paper Legality

Despite clear statutory prohibitions on commercial trade, the project documents the continued existence of robust illegal elephant markets, sustained through forged ownership certificates, sham leases, and opaque inter-state transfers. Administrative complicity and weak enforcement allow elephants to be treated as high-value movable assets.

c. The Legal and Constitutional Contradiction

A central insight of the project is that elephants occupy a unique and unjustifiable legal position. They are the only wild animals in India legally permitted to be privately owned. This exception undermines the object of wildlife protection laws and conflicts with constitutional commitments under Articles 48A and 51A(g), which require the state and citizens to protect wildlife and show compassion for living beings.

d. Culture, Commerce, and Moral Blindness

While cultural and religious justifications are frequently invoked to defend elephant use, the project shows that many such practices are deeply commercialised,

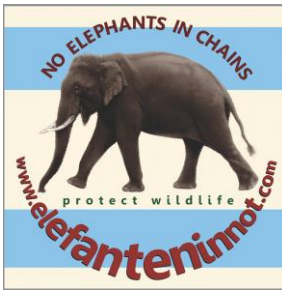
6 involving sponsorships, tourism revenue, and state funding.

Culture, in this context, functions as a moral shield that obscures exploitation rather than a neutral tradition.

6. Narrative Case Studies: Lives Behind the Law

To avoid reducing harm to statistics, the project foregrounds individual elephant stories.

Abhayambigai, a female elephant held by a temple in Tamil Nadu, became emblematic of the failures of welfare-based regulation. Despite repeated warnings about her health and temperament, she was continuously used in rituals until she collapsed and died. Her death highlighted how compliance on paper often masks sustained neglect and overwork.



Thechikkottukavu Ramachandran, one of India’s most famous temple elephants, illustrates the paradox of privilege in captivity. Celebrated, adored, and heavily guarded, he nonetheless spent decades in chains, repeatedly involved in fatal incidents involving humans and other elephants. His life demonstrates that even the “best-treated” captive elephants are denied autonomy, social freedom, and the ability to live as elephants.

These narratives underscore the project’s core claim: **there is no humane version of lifelong captivity for elephants.**

7. Outputs and Value Generated

The project produced substantial intellectual and advocacy value, including:

- A comprehensive research archive on captive elephant law, trade, and jurisprudence across India.
- Draft chapters, thematic outlines, and analytical frameworks suitable for publication, litigation support, and policy submissions.
- A coherent rights-based critique that moves beyond welfare management toward questioning the legitimacy of captivity itself.
- Material capable of informing NGOs, lawyers, courts, and policymakers engaged in elephant protection.

Importantly, the project laid the groundwork for future strategic interventions, rather than functioning as a closed academic exercise.

. Conclusion and Forward Path

This project reframed captive elephant protection in India as a question of constitutional morality, legal coherence, and justice, rather than administrative efficiency alone. It showed that the persistence of captivity is not an accident of enforcement failure, but the predictable outcome of a deeply flawed legal exception. By consolidating dispersed information, exposing systemic contradictions, and centring elephant lives within legal analysis, the project offers a strong foundation

8. for future reform efforts — I

- including litigation challenging private ownership, advocacy for phased abolition, and the promotion of non-violent cultural alternatives. The funder’s support enabled a serious, evidence-based interrogation of one of India’s most entrenched and under-examined animal justice issues, positioning this work as a credible platform for continued engagement and long-term impact.

From Whispers of the Past through the Algorithms of the Present: Elephants, A Mammoth Task for Conservation

Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky

TODAY, our planet's majestic giants—elephants—face unprecedented threats from poaching, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflict. In a fascinating twist of modern innovation, one of our most advanced technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), is emerging as a critical ally in their survival. Furthermore, this same technology is unlocking secrets from their ancient past, creating a powerful feedback loop between paleontology and contemporary conservation.



A wild elephant enjoys a meal in a rice field in Nagaon, Assam © Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky, 2023

This leads us to a pressing question, posed by Prof. Mahesh G. Thakkar: How can paleoscience contribute to today's most pressing issues, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem restoration?

To explore this, we must ask: how do we understand ecosystem–climate shifts? Rising temperatures are contributing to extreme weather events worldwide, displacing communities, compromising safety, and increasing health risks. The past holds the key to understanding these changes.

When we see flesh around a skeleton, we see a living being. A skeleton alone takes us back in time. The puzzle becomes even more complex when we find only fossil fragments or chamber fillings scattered across different geological layers. It is our task to assemble this evolutionary jigsaw puzzle.

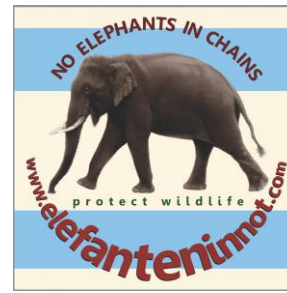
Places like the Department of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum in Vienna are gateways to the past. Here, Earth's memory is numbered, registered, and stored in boxes, with reconstructions of dinosaurs, mammoths, and other ancient creatures reaching for the ceiling, millions of years of history locked in bones, reconstructed bodies, mummies, and fossils.

Today, equipped with stunning technologies, we sit at our modern desks, trying to decode our past from these fragments to understand our present. And that present is defined by a critical challenge: what is being done for endangered elephants and other species? What will their future be if we do not act now?

From Whispers of the Past through the Algorithms of the Present: Elephants, a Mammoth Task for Conservation

by Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky

Birbal Sahni Institute for Paleoscience,
Lucknow



PALAEOSCIENCE TODAY

TRACING TIME, TELLING STORIES
Volume 1 Issue 2 2025



Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences

53 University Road, Lucknow 226 007, U.P., India

This urgency forces us to reflect: Do we truly need everything we produce? Could a major shift in our habits make a significant contribution to sustainability? One thing is certain: we must protect the remaining elephant species on both the African and Asian continents.

A CLOSER LOOK

The discovery of deep-frozen mammoth proteins that have survived for thousands of years in the ice is not, in itself, surprising. But it raises deeper questions about evolution.

Why do some species diverge dramatically from their mammalian counterparts, while others remain

loyal to their lineage? For instance, mammoths and mastodons are similarly related to modern Asian and African elephants, while manatees, rock hyraxes, and aardvarks, though demonstrably descending from the same ancestral giants, have taken a different evolutionary path.

Basing such findings on a 40,000-year-old protein may seem adventurous, challenging traditional arguments based on similarities in teeth and tusks. Drawing hypotheses from fossil materials over 50 million years old broadens our kaleidoscopic horizon of knowledge. We can now study molecular evolution using both living and extinct species.



The Coryphodon, a gentle giant of the Paleocene, was not the direct ancestor of elephants, but it shared their spirit. It roamed swamps and tropical forests—a massive body built for calm movement, an herbivore's appetite, and a life shaped by water and vegetation. It resembles an early sketch of what nature would later perfect with the Proboscideans. © Benigno Perez, 2025

This progress even raises the fascinating, and perhaps dangerous, possibility of reviving extinct species from frozen carcasses. The cloning of a mammoth, for example, by implanting a viable mammoth egg cell (which has not yet been found due to permafrost damage) into a living elephant, raises serious conservational and ethical concerns. Such an act could undermine species conservation with unforeseeable consequences.

Creating an elephant with long eyelashes, a mammoth-like tail, or back hair does not mean the mammoth has been reborn. We would be creating a new, hybrid species. Its viability and adaptability to existing ecosystems are highly questionable. Would a

newborn individual possess the necessary biogenetic substance to survive, reproduce, and establish a continued existence?

AI AS A CONSERVATION ALLY

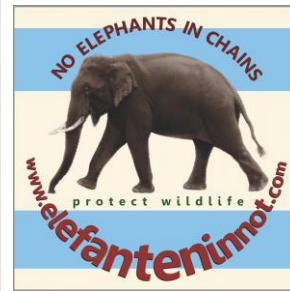
The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in conservation is transforming how we protect elephant populations in real time.

DETERRING POACHING WITH PREDICTIVE PATROLS

AI now analyzes vast datasets, historical poaching incidents, weather patterns, animal movement data



The Deinotherium, a Miocene giant, belonged to the same family as modern elephants, though its lineage vanished two million years ago. Recognizable by its downward-curving tusks on the lower jaw, it roamed the forests of Africa and Eurasia in search of roots and foliage. Powerful yet peaceful, it represents a forgotten branch in the evolution of the great proboscideans. © Benigno Perez, 2025



from collars, real-time satellite imagery, and aerial drone surveillance. By processing this information, AI can predict where poachers are most likely to strike. This allows conservation organizations to proactively deploy rangers to high-risk areas, shifting from a reactive to a preventative model. It is a high-stakes chess game, and AI provides the decisive next move.

SILENT SENTINELS: AI-POWERED IMAGE RECOGNITION

Camera traps are invaluable for wildlife observation, but sifting through millions of images is a monumental human task. AI-powered image recognition models, trained on thousands of elephant photographs, can now analyze this data in minutes. They identify individual elephants based on unique characteristics like ear patterns, tusk shape, tail cracks, and trunk pigmentation. This allows researchers to track individuals, monitor population health, and understand social structures with unprecedented precision.

ACOUSTIC MONITORING FOR INSTANT ALERTS

Networks of acoustic sensors placed in forests continuously listen for danger. AI algorithms can be trained to distinguish between natural forest sounds and the specific noises of gunshots or chainsaws. Upon detection, the system can immediately alert ranger stations, enabling a rapid response to poaching or illegal logging, potentially preventing tragedy.

EARS AND VOICE: AN AI STRATEGY FOR DETERRING ELEPHANTS

Rising human-elephant conflicts, driven by habitat loss, agricultural expansion, and climate change, require innovative solutions. Artificial intelligence is now being deployed to address these challenges directly.

By analyzing the complex vocal repertoire of elephants, AI can interpret their rumbles, squeaks, and trumpets to determine a herd's specific behavior—whether they are calmly foraging, mating, or, most

critically, if they are agitated or issuing a warning. This allows for alerts, such as “agitated herd approaching village X,” which is far more valuable than a simple “elephants detected.”

Furthermore, AI can act as a deterrent by playing credible, unpredictable sounds like tiger roars or buzzing bees. This “surprise” element prevents intelligent elephants from becoming habituated to the warnings.

In summary, AI-driven acoustic monitoring provides the “ears” for an early-warning system, while bio-acoustic deterrence offers a “voice” to guide elephants away or to direct herds in a specific direction to prevent them from plundering the rice fields. Together, they form a promising, high-tech strategy for fostering peaceful human-elephant coexistence.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PAST AND FUTURE

AI's ability to process gigantic data collections provides powerful access to the analysis of both current and historical paleontological data, a task beyond the capacity of the human brain alone. It bridges the gap between past and future, offering critical insights for modern conservation strategies.

Paleontologists use machine learning to analyze fossil pollen, plant microfossils, and isotopic data from mammoth tusks and teeth. AI recognizes complex patterns in this data that might elude humans, allowing for the detailed reconstruction of prehistoric landscapes and climates. By understanding the habitats that supported vast populations of ancient proboscideans, we can identify optimal habitats for their living relatives and work to conserve and restore similar ecosystems.

MAPPING MIGRATION AND EXTINCTION

Why did the woolly mammoth vanish? What caused the extinction of the Mediterranean dwarf elephants? The answers are complex. Was it climate change, human hunting, or a combination? Extinction can only be explained by complex changes in the interaction between species and their environment—

climatic shifts impacting food and water availability, temperature extremes, desert expansion, and more.

AI models can run complex simulations to test various extinction scenarios. By processing data from ice cores, the archaeological record of human arrival, and fossil distribution over millions of years, these models help us understand the dynamics of past population collapses. They provide both a cautionary tale and a predictive framework for assessing the vulnerability of modern elephant populations facing similar pressures. Whatever the reasons for the extinction of their ancient cousins, we must spare no effort to save our two remaining species: the African and Asian elephants.

MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND EVOLUTION

How did the elephant get its trunk? AI-driven geometric morphometrics can analyze 3D scans of hundreds of fossilized skulls, jaws, and teeth from elephant ancestors. By algorithmically comparing these shapes, AI helps map the evolutionary trajectory of key adaptations, such as the development of tusks and the trunk. This deep understanding of their evolutionary biology highlights the unique and irreplaceable niche elephants occupy, revealing precisely what we would lose if they were to disappear.

AI can visualize these evolutionary bridges in clear, accessible steps, making this knowledge available to a wider public.

IS A SYMBIOTIC FUTURE POSSIBLE?

The relationship between AI, paleontology, and conservation is inherently symbiotic. Paleontology

provides the long-term data that trains AI to understand the rules of ecology and extinction. AI, in turn, gives paleontologists powerful new tools to interpret the fossil record. Together, the insights they generate form a more informed, evidence-based foundation for conservation action.

Elephants have roamed the earth for millennia, leaving their footprints not only in the mud, but in the very fabric of our planet's history. We are no longer just trying to save elephants; we are using the entire history of their lineage to intelligently secure their future.

Yet the challenges are immense. Asian elephants, in particular, face severe habitat fragmentation, leaving small, unsustainable populations vulnerable to genetic impoverishment and local extinction. A complex web of persistent poaching, illegal activities, massive habitat loss, and climate change is not only reducing populations but also weakening them.

The central conflict is the competition for space and resources between a growing human population and a species that requires vast territories for its migration and sustenance.

Trophy hunting, which targets the largest bulls with the most impressive tusks, genetically deprives populations of their strongest individuals. This leads to population depletion and disrupts social structures, as the older, experienced bulls are removed before they can pass on their genes.

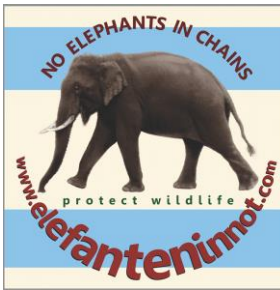
Successful elephant conservation in the 21st century, therefore, requires not only combating poaching, but, above all, finding solutions for human-elephant coexistence, protecting habitats, and addressing the economic needs of local people.

We must ensure that the mighty footsteps of elephants continue to resonate into the future.

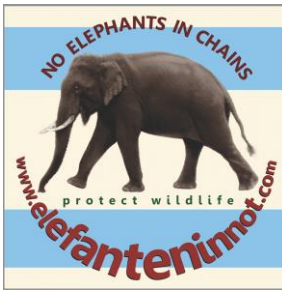
About author



Ms Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky is a dedicated documentary film director, writer, and conservationist who has committed her life's work to the protection and understanding of elephants in India. Her work spans numerous publications, award-winning documentary films, and grassroots efforts to mitigate human-elephant conflict in Assam.



Urgent Welfare Concern Regarding A Female Elephant with a Severe Tumor and Likely Blindness. Our request for immediate intervention



**Subject: Urgent Welfare Concern Regarding a Female Elephant with a Severe Tumor and Likely Blindness
– Request for Immediate Intervention**

To
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Shri Sandeep Kumar, IFS,
and Dr.Vinjay Gupta, IFS

We are writing to you today with deep concern and a sense of urgency regarding the welfare of a specific female elephant in the Numaligarh area of Golaghat district.

For nearly a decade, our group/local observers have been monitoring this identifiable individual. She has been living with a prominent tumor near her right eye.

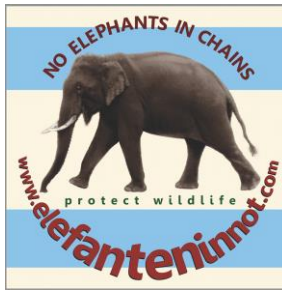
Sadly, over the past year, the progression of this growth has accelerated significantly. It has now enlarged to such an extent that we have strong reason to believe it has caused **complete blindness in her right eye**. This represents a severe escalation in her condition and a clear threat to her well-being, likely causing her significant pain and difficulty.

This situation was formally reported to the local Forest Department office last year. While we appreciate the department's constant efforts and challenges, we are deeply worried that no medical intervention has yet taken place, and her suffering has visibly increased.

We are now presented with a critical, time-sensitive opportunity. Currently, the main herd in the area has naturally split into smaller, more dispersed groups. This temporary dynamic would make a safe, selective separation of this individual for veterinary assessment significantly less disruptive than during times when the herd is tightly consolidated. Also, since a long time, her collar is not functioning and should be removed at this occasion.



tumor near her right
eye, pushing against
the eye nerve causing
her blindness



Therefore, we humbly yet urgently request your esteemed office to direct the necessary resources for:

1. An immediate veterinary examination of this elephant by a qualified wildlife veterinary team.
2. Her safe separation (utilizing the current herd fragmentation) for this assessment and any possible treatment.
3. A professional evaluation to determine the best course of action of medical treatment.

This picture is a screenshot from a reel by Rubul Ahmed.

We are also prepared to provide our detailed observational records and guide your field teams to her location. In this case we provide you the contact details of Dr. Rajeev Basumatary, D.R.College, 9401188854 who is very familiar with the herds in the area and can also fly the drone for localising the animal.

We have the utmost faith in your commitment to wildlife welfare. This elephant has endured this condition for years, and we believe the time to act is now, while the circumstances are most favourable for a safe intervention.

Thanking you for your valuable time and urgent consideration.

We are hopeful for your prompt action to alleviate the suffering of this animal.

Respectfully yours,

Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky

P.S.: I am working with wildlife specifically elephants in India since 2010, in the field of Human-Elephant Conflict mitigation, Elephant health and veterinary care, Habitat conservation, reforestation and corridor restoration, policy advocacy and research.

Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky

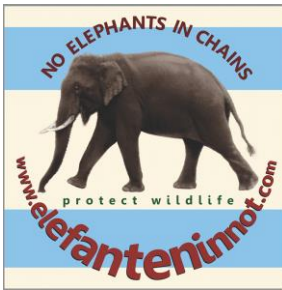
President, Elefanten in Not, Elephants in Need

www.elefanteninnot.com

9th Indian World Film Festival Official Selection of **THE FALL AND RISE OF ELEPHANTS' PARADISE**

Best Documentary Award and Certificate of Excellence





Donnerstag, 11. September 2025 | Nr. 37 | 21. JAHRGANG | AUFLAGE 31'634

druckt i da Schweiz

Toggenburger Zeitung

DANK IHNEN DIE MEISTGELESENE ZEITUNG DER REGION See & Gaster Zeitung

Christian Vogel ist gegen die Einführung einer digitalen Identitätskarte für alle.

Janine G. gibt mit viel Leidenschaft Yoga Kurse in Uznach.

Dario Lillo us Eichenbach fuhr an der Mountainbike-WM im Wallis mit.

Karin Rüegg spricht als Kopf der Woche über ihr Gartencafé Kaltbrunn.

20 JAHRE Toggenburger Zeitung See & Gaster Zeitung

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«Elefanten in Not»: Brigitte Kornetzky hilft in Indien

2014 gründete Brigitte Kornetzky den Verein «Elefanten in Not». Regelmässig reist die Vereinspräsidentin aus Brunnadern nach Indien, um den Tieren vor Ort zu helfen.

Brunnadern Der gemeinnützige, steuerbefreite Verein setzt sich speziell für Elefanten in Indien ein. Ein aktuelles Schwerpunktprojekt befindet sich in Assam im Nordosten des Landes. Dort drängen die Tiere vermehrt in Reisfelder und Teeplantagen ein, weil ihr Lebensraum zerstört ist. «Der Wald schrumpft und Teeplantagen und Reisfelder entstehen», sagt Kornetzky. «Da ist es nur logisch, dass die Tiere sich am Reis bedienen.» Das führt jedoch zu Konflikten mit den Anwohnern. Ziel des Vereins ist es, Wege für ein friedlicheres Zusammenleben zwischen Menschen und Elefanten zu finden. Dabei arbeitet «Elefanten in Not» eng mit lokalen Organisationen in Assam zusammen.

Seite 3 Vereinspräsidentin Brigitte Kornetzky hofft, dass sich die Situation der Elefanten weiterhin bessert.

TOGGENBURG

Rettung für die Elefanten

Brigitte Kornetzky setzt sich für die artgerechte Haltung von Elefanten in Indien ein

Der Verein «Elefanten in Not» unterstützt seit 2014 Elefanten in Indien. Gründerin Brigitte Kornetzky aus Brunnadern reist seit 15 Jahren dorthin, um zu helfen.

Brunnadern Aktuell läuft ein wichtiges Projekt in Assam: Weil ihr Lebensraum zerstört ist, ziehen die heimatlosen Elefanten durch Felder und Teeplantagen. Der Verein sucht nach Lösungen für ein besseres Zusammenleben zwischen den aufgewachsenen Menschen und den gefährlichen Dickhäutern. «Alles begann mit einem Versprechen», erzählt Brigitte Kornetzky, Präsidentin des Vereins «Elefanten in Not». Als sie im Jahr 2010 in Indien war, traf sie in Jalpur auf ein Elefantendorf. Die Tiere dort wurden unter schlimmen Umständen gehalten. Sie waren verletzt, angekettet und ständig der Sonne ausgesetzt. Der Profit und der Tourismus standen über dem Tierwohl. Darunter litt auch die schwache Elefantengruppe Sita. Als sie sich ablegte, kämpfte Kornetzky dafür, Sitas Leiden ein Ende zu setzen. «Wenn Elefanten nach vier, fünf Tagen nicht mehr aufstehen, sterben sie», erklärt sie. Erst nach einer erneuten Klage bei der CZA, der Zentralen Zoobehörde in Dehli, wurde bewilligt, Sita einschläfern zu lassen. Dies sollte die erste Einschläferung eines Elefanten in Indien werden. Doch bevor es so weit war, gab ihr Kornetzky ein Versprechen: So etwas sollte nie wieder geschehen. Von nun an würde sie sich um Sitas Artgenossen kümmern. Zwei Jahre später, im Jahr 2014, wurde dieses Versprechen Wirklichkeit – mit der Gründung des Vereins «Elefanten in Not».

Zu wenig Platz für die Elefanten Aktuell beschäftigt sich der Verein mit einem grossen Projekt in Assam, im Nordosten von Indien. «Dort leben aktuell über 32 Millionen Einwohner und geschätzte 5800 Elefanten», berichtet Kornetzky, «das sind einfach zu viele – und zu wenig Platz.» Der Wald, in dem die Tiere leben, wird durch Zuzug von menschlichen Siedlungen und deren Anbauflächen. «Der Wald schrumpft und Teeplantagen und Reisfelder entstehen. Da ist es nur logisch, dass die Elefanten sich an dem schmackhaften Reis bedienen.» Die Bauern versuchen mit allen Mitteln ihre Felder zu verteidigen. Sie werfen Steine und brennende Speere, und versuchen, mit Stacheldrahtzäunen und tiefen, unüberwindbaren Gräben die Wanderlust der Tiere einzudämmen. «Schwarztee und Reis aus Assam hat auch in der Schweiz einen Absatzmarkt. Niemand weiss von dem Desaster», sagt Kornetzky.

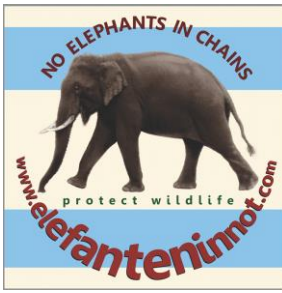
Gemeinsam statt Konfrontation All dies führt zu zunehmenden Konflikten zwischen Menschen und Tier. Wenn Elefanten Strassen überqueren, beweren vor allem Jugendliche sie mit Steinen und nehmen das Geschehen auf. «Je dramatischer und je provokativer die Situation, desto mehr Klicks gibt es auf Social Media, und womöglich auch ein bisschen Geld», sagt Kornetzky. Doch das birgt grosse Gefahren. Einmal tötete ein Tier einen jungen Mann, der in einer steinewerfenden Menge Jugendlicher ins Straucheln kam und stürzte. «Der Elefant zertrampelte ihn regelrecht», erinnert Kornetzky in ihrem jüngsten Dokumentarfilm «Elephants. From Zero to Hero». «Das zeigt, dass ein Elefant eben auch Gefühle hat. Er wollte damit klarmachen, dass er sich nicht alles gefallen lässt. Genug ist genug.» Ziel des Vereins ist es nun, die Lage in Assam zu entschärfen. Dafür sollen die Menschen dort zu einem Miteinander überzeugt werden. «Nur wenn wir es schaffen, dass die Leute die Anwesenheit der Elefanten respektieren, kann es funktionieren», betont Kornetzky. Deshalb soll Aufklärungsarbeit in den dortigen Schulen betrieben werden. Die Jugendlichen müssen lernen, für und nicht gegen die Tiere zu arbeiten. Zudem sei es wichtig, dass sich die Elefanten nicht mehr verletzen und genügend Futter zur Verfügung haben. Die Stacheldrähte müssen verschwinden, der Wald aufgeforstet und angrenzend an die Waldgebiete nährreiche Gräser für die Tiere angepflanzt werden. «Somit verhindern wir, dass die Elefanten überhaupt bis in die Reisfelder vordringen», erklärt Kornetzky. So sei Mensch und Tier gehalten. Um diese Ziele zu erreichen, arbeitet der Verein in Assam eng mit lokalen Organisationen zusammen. Dabei stösst er auf offene Türen: «Die Menschen vor Ort sind dankbar, wenn jemand helfen will, ohne eigene Interessen zu verfolgen», erzählt Kornetzky.

Der Verein soll weiterleben «Elefanten in Not» ist gemeinnützig und steuerbefreit. «Wir verdienen kein Geld mit unserer Arbeit», erklärt Kornetzky. «Trotzdem brauchen wir finanzielle Mittel, um die kostspieligen Projekte zu stemmen. Wir sind auf Spenden angewiesen.» Es gibt aber auch andere Wege, um den Verein zu unterstützen. Etwas durch Aufklärungsarbeit: Ein konkreter Vorschlag von Kornetzky: Unterrichtsstunden an Schulen, Aufklärung über Wildlife und Elefanten. «Wenn Kinder lernen, warum sie in den Ferien nicht auf diesen prächtigen Tieren reiten sollten, wäre das bereits ein grosser Schritt», sagt sie. Ausserdem plant Kornetzky derzeit ein besonderes Projekt: Künstig sollen Interessierte die Möglichkeit erhalten, die Situation in Indien hautnah mitzuerleben und den Verein eine Woche lang vor Ort zu begleiten. Für die Zukunft von Elefanten in Not hat Kornetzky klare Wünsche: «Der Verein soll mich hinaus weiterleben und seinen Ichweizene mit, das mal sprechen an Sita auch in Zo eingehalten werden kann.» braucht es engagierte Unterstützung – nicht nur in Indien, sondern auch im Hinterland: Die sucht Mitarbeiter für Bürote, die bei der Organisation, münikation und Verwaltung und so einen wichtigen Beitrag Fortbestehen leisten können.

«Elefanten in Not» Der Verein ist ein gemeinnützig steuerbefreiter Verein und a de Form der Unterstützung: wiesen – ob durch Spenden traktfähige Mitarbeit.

Mehr Informationen und Ko daten online unter: www.elefanteninnot.com

Spendenkonto: **CH86 0900 0900 6117 6809**



Der Verein «Elefanten in Not» hilft seit 2014 Elefanten in Indien.

Gründerin Brigitte Kornetzky aus Brunnadern reist seit dem Jahr 2010 regelmässig dorthin, um zu helfen.

Aktuell läuft ein wichtiges Projekt in Assam: Weil ihr Lebensraum zerstört ist, ziehen die heimatlosen Elefanten durch Felder und Teeplantagen. Der Verein sucht nach Lösungen für ein besseres Zusammenleben zwischen den aufgebracht Menschen und den gefräßigen Dickhäutern, die ihre Nouvelle Cousine aus jungen Reispflanzen lieben.

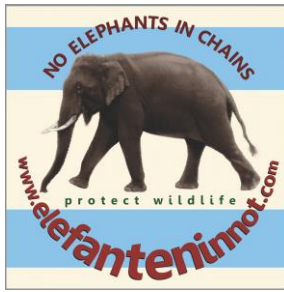
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Darunter litt auch die schwerkranke Elefantenkuh Sita. Als sie sich ablegte, kämpfte Kornetzky dafür, Sitas Leiden ein Ende zu setzen. «Wenn Elefanten nach vier, fünf Tagen nicht mehr aufstehen, sterben sie. Der Druck auf die inneren Organe ist zu hoch. », erklärt sie.

Erst nach einer zweiten, erneuten Klage bei der CZA, der Zentralen Zoobehörde in Dehli, wurde bewilligt, Sita einschläfern zu lassen. Dies sollte die erste Euthanasie eines Elefanten in Indien werden. Doch bevor es so weit war, gab es ein gegenseitiges Versprechen zwischen Kornetzky und der Elefantenkuh:

Sita versprach nicht ohne offizielle Papiere zu sterben, und ihre Erlöserin versprach, diesem Leiden ein Ende zu setzen. So etwas sollte nie wieder geschehen. Von nun an würde sie sich um Sitas Artgenossen kümmern. Vier Jahre später, im Jahr 2014, wurde dieses Versprechen Wirklichkeit – mit der Gründung des Vereins «Elefanten in Not».

Aktuell beschäftigt sich der Verein mit einem grossen Projekt in Assam, im Nordosten von Indien. «Dort leben aktuell über 32 Millionen Einwohner und geschätzte 5800 Elefanten», berichtet Kornetzky, «das sind einfach zu viele – und zu wenig Platz.» Der Wald, in dem die Tiere leben, wird durchzogen von menschlichen Siedlungen und deren Anbaufeldern.



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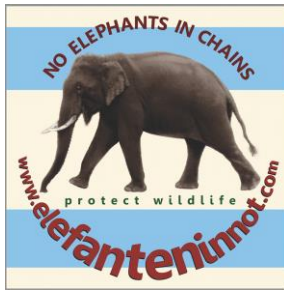
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Zusammenleben statt Konfrontation

All dies führt zu zunehmenden Konflikten zwischen Mensch und Tier. Wenn Elefanten Strassen überqueren, bewerfen vor allem Jugendliche sie mit Steinen und videographieren das Geschehen. «Je dramatischer und je provokativer die Situation, desto mehr Klicks gibt es auf Social Media, und womöglich auch ein bisschen Geld», sagt Kornetzky. Doch das birgt grosse Gefahren.

Einmal tötete ein Tier einen jungen Mann, der in einer Steine-werfenden Menge Jugendlicher zu straucheln kam und stürzte, als letzter in der Reihe, vor meiner laufenden Kamera! «Der Elefant zertrampelte ihn regelrecht», erinnert Kornetzky in ihrem jüngsten Dokumentarfilm «Elephants, From Zero to Hero». «Das zeigt, dass ein Elefant eben auch Gefühle hat. Er gibt damit ein klares Signal, dass er sich nicht alles gefallen lässt. Genug ist genug!»

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Um diese Ziele zu erreichen, arbeitet der Verein in Assam eng mit lokalen Organisationen zusammen. Dabei stösst er auf offene Türen: «Die Menschen vor Ort sind dankbar, wenn jemand helfen will, ohne eigene Interessen zu verfolgen», erzählt Kornetzky.

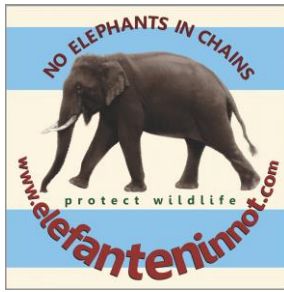
Der Verein soll weiterleben

«Elefanten in Not» ist gemeinnützig und steuerbefreit. «Wir verdienen kein Geld mit unserer Arbeit», erklärt Kornetzky. «Trotzdem brauchen wir finanzielle Mittel, um die kostspieligen Projekte zu stemmen. Wir sind auf Spenden angewiesen.»

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Es gibt aber auch andere Wege, um den Verein zu unterstützen. Etwa durch Aufklärungsarbeit. Ein konkreter Vorschlag von Kornetzky: Unterrichtsstunden an Schulen, Aufklärung über Wildlife und Elefanten. «Wenn Kinder lernen, warum sie in den Ferien nicht auf diesen prächtigen Tieren reiten sollten, wäre das bereits ein grosser Schritt», sagt sie.

Außerdem plant Kornetzky derzeit ein besonderes Projekt: Künftig sollen Interessierte die Möglichkeit erhalten, die Situation in Indien hautnah mizuerleben und den Verein eine Woche lang vor Ort zu begleiten.



Für die Zukunft von «Elefanten in Not» hat Kornetzky einen klaren Wunsch: «Der Verein soll über mich hinaus weiterleben und wachsen. Ich wünsche mir, dass mein Versprechen an Sita auch in Zukunft eingehalten werden kann.» Dafür braucht es engagierte Unterstützung – nicht nur in Indien, sondern auch im Hintergrund: Der Verein sucht Mitarbeitende für Büroarbeiten, die bei der Organisation, Kommunikation und Verwaltung helfen und so einen wichtigen Beitrag zum Fortbestehen leisten können.

Infobox:

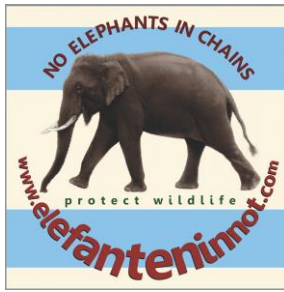
Der Verein «Elefanten in Not» ist ein gemeinnütziger, steuerbefreiter Verein und auf jede Form der Unterstützung angewiesen – ob durch Spenden oder tatkräftige Mitarbeit.

Mehr Informationen und Kontaktdaten auf www.elefanteninnot.com

Spendenkonto: CH86 0900 0000 6117 6809 2

Toggenburger Zeitung, 11. Sept 2025

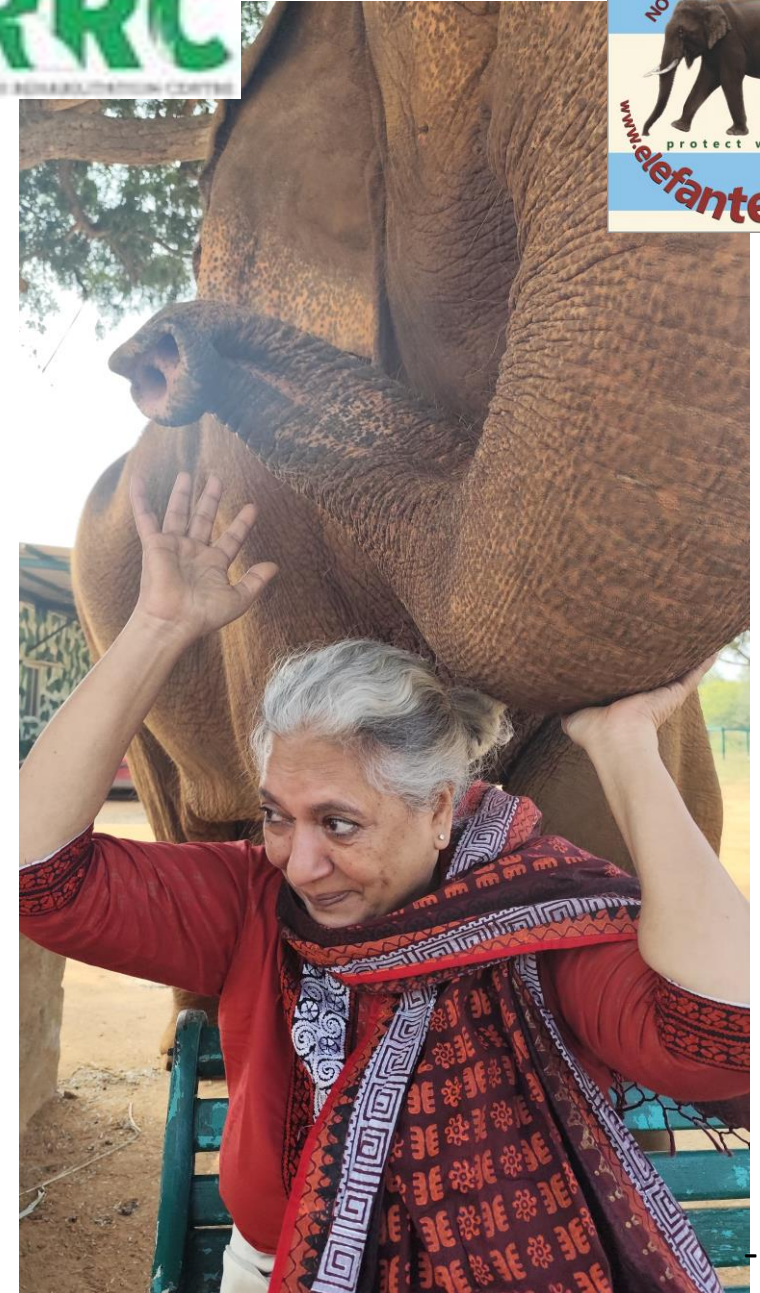
Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center (WRRRC). Our Visit at the Elephant Facility Lakshmisagar



Durga listening into discussion on diet changes with Doctor and Managers.



WRRRC
WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION CENTRE



Our elephant mummy, Ms. Suparna Ganguly, managing trustee of the LAKSHMISAGAR WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION CENTRE (WRRRC) with one of her babies, Lakshmi.

Lakshmi has the urge to get as close as possible. She thinks there must be always bananas, somewhere hidden. And the elephant is always right: I had nuts in my bag 🤗



With one eye only, Lakshmi sees everything. Even through my pocket where the nuts are 😊



We delivered one more foot care set to WRRRC. Foot care is arguably **the most critical aspect of captive elephant welfare and health management.**

•**Weight Distribution:** An elephant's foot is a complex structure designed to carry immense weight (up to 5-7 tons for an adult African elephant). The foot is not a solid hoof; it's a flexible, fatty, connective tissue pad encased in a keratinous sheath, which acts as a natural shock absorber.

•**Constant Pressure:** Any small injury, crack, or infection in the foot is under constant, tremendous pressure, making it slow to heal and prone to worsening rapidly.

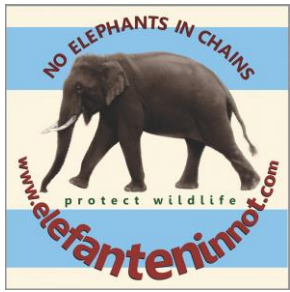


•**Abscesses and Infections:** Dirt and moisture can enter cracks (often starting in the cuticle/nail line), leading to painful abscesses deep within the foot. These are extremely difficult to treat.

•**Osteomyelitis:** A bone infection. If a foot infection penetrates deep enough, it can reach the bones of the phalanges. This is a chronic, debilitating, and often incurable condition requiring lifelong treatment and causing severe pain.

•**Arthritis and Joint Issues:** To alleviate pain in one foot, an elephant will alter its gait. This abnormal posture places excessive stress on other feet and joints (shoulders, hips, spine), leading to chronic arthritis and degenerative joint disease.

•**Lameness and Immobility:** Ultimately, severe foot problems cause lameness. An elephant that cannot walk properly cannot forage, exercise, or engage in normal behaviors. It may become recumbent, which can lead to fatal circulatory and respiratory-25-issues.

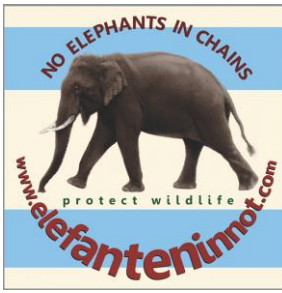


With the support of *Elefanten in Not* we could finalise the bathing pool for the elephants at the WRRRC.

Now, the only thing missing, is a sewage clearing filter system for the water.

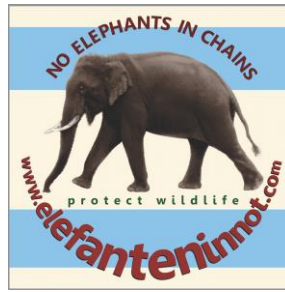
Rani, Indu, Lakshmi and Durga are waiting for her bathing pool to be finished.





Lakshmi

Lakshmi, a 28-year-old elephant with chronic limb deformity and blindness in one eye, was entrusted to WRRC for specialized care. With sustained veterinary intervention and a supportive environment, she has shown remarkable improvement, demonstrating resilience and adaptability.



Champa

At 58 years of age, Champa was transferred to the ECF due to severe abscesses and chronic epilepsy. Her care focuses on pain relief, seizure management, and providing a calm, age-appropriate environment. Her story highlights the importance of dignified geriatric care for aging elephants.



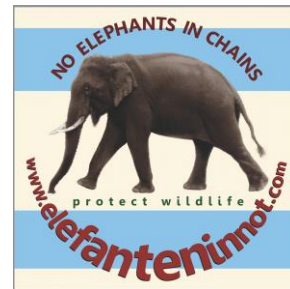
Janu Mani

Janu Mani was rescued from illegal captivity in Goa's tourism industry, where she was used for tourist rides after being unlawfully transported from Kerala. Following directions from the Goa High Court, she was transferred to the ECF. Since her arrival, she has shown a gentle and curious temperament, gradually adjusting to her new environment.



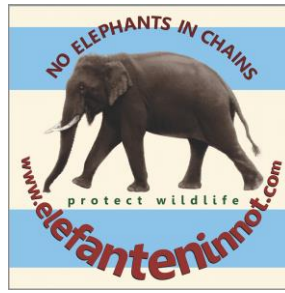
Kasturi

Kasturi, a 35-year-old elephant rescued from Gadag in March 2023, arrived with chronic lameness, arthritis, and a painful hip abscess. Years of untreated conditions had severely impacted her mobility. She now receives ongoing pain management and veterinary care, enabling her to live with improved comfort and dignity.



Durga

Illegally confined in a small concrete enclosure in an urban setting, Durga suffered from severe nutritional deficiencies, foot abscesses, and emotional trauma. Since her rescue, she has been adapting to life at the ECF, benefiting from open ground, mud baths, and interaction with the other elephants. Her recovery reflects the possibility of healing after prolonged neglect.



Gowri

Gowri was rescued from a religious institution nearly 150 km from Bangalore, where she lived in unsuitable conditions and suffered from foot ailments, dental issues, and high blood sugar. At the ECF, she receives specialised veterinary care, a balanced diet, and physical rehabilitation, allowing her to gradually regain strength and mobility.



The Center has ongoing Care and Habitat Support Needs

The elephants at the ECF require continuous nutritional and veterinary support to manage chronic conditions and maintain overall well-being.

In addition, the physical infrastructure of the facility requires regular upkeep and the movement of large animals within enclosures and sheds.

WRRC undertakes **regular JCB work** for:

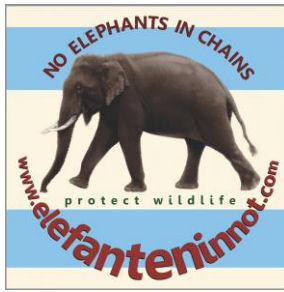
- Loosening compacted soil within enclosures
- Creating and maintaining sleeping mounds inside elephant sheds
- Refreshing enclosure and shed floors to ensure comfort and safety

To further improve habitat quality, WRRC proposes an **expanded tree plantation programme** within and along the periphery of the Elephant Care Facility.

Increased tree cover will:

- Provide natural shade and cooling
- Strengthen green barriers along fence lines
- Improve soil stability and micro-habitat conditions
- Enhance long-term ecological value of the facility

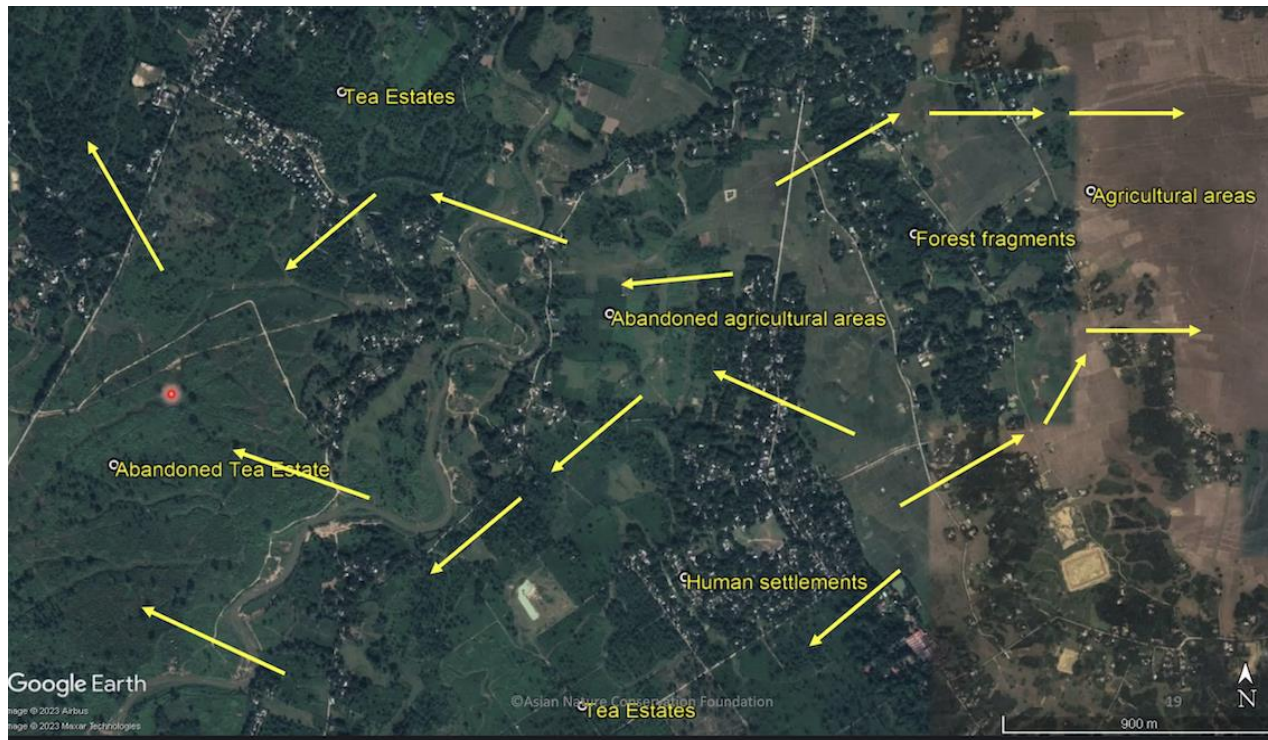
We are very grateful for your continuous help and support.



A Project by Elefanten in Not: **THE HUMAN-ELEPHANT-CONSERVATION-PEACE-PLAN, Phase 2** by Brigitte Uttar Kornetzky-Myburg and Daniel Myburg

We have entered the Phase 2 of our HEC-Project in Assam. This is not a war room; it is a negotiation table carved into the very soil of Assam.

The elephants—architects of the forest, gardeners of the ecosystem—have been rendered refugees in their own land. Their ancient corridors, the verdant highways their ancestors traversed for centuries, have been silently annexed. In their place now stretch endless emerald quilts of tea plantations and shimmering paddies of rice, a human-dominated landscape that is both bountiful and, for a five-tonne herbivore, a labyrinth of danger and scarcity.

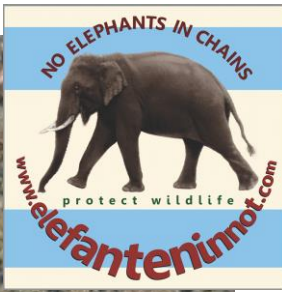


A landscape, shrinking under the pressures of deforestation, settlement creep, and the gruesome scars of illegal sand mining from riverbeds. The result is a profound, collective restlessness. The elephants are not invading; they are *remembering*. They walk paths coded in their memory, only to find a homestead, a concrete wall, or a startled farmer where a mango grove once stood. Their confusion turns to desperation, their foraging to raiding. The conflict is rampant, and with each passing year, the stakes—measured in lost lives, both human and pachyderm, and ruined livelihoods—grow terrifyingly high.

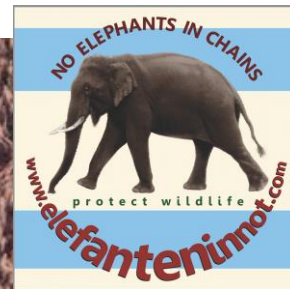
Elephant herds, homeless, without forest, and without food. Their sustenance now comes from the crops of their human hosts: rice.



Gathering...



... Thinking

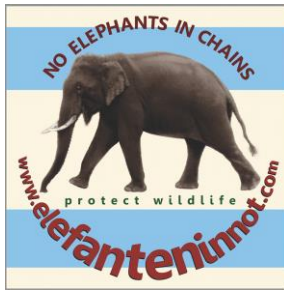


... and let`s go !



Electric fences are a poor choice. Elephants quickly figure out when the wires are live and when the battery fails. Then they trample the fence and enter the rice field. It follows the motto: gather, think, and let`s go!

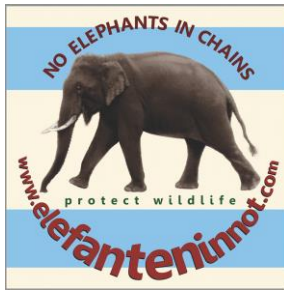
As beautiful as the herd may be to watch, once they have breached the electric fence, the elephants leave behind fields of devastation (as described earlier). A year's worth of work is destroyed in a few hours, and the farmers' animosity toward these wondrous animals becomes immeasurable.



Our drone is performing invaluable work, including its pilot, Dr. Rajeev Basumatary.

REBUILDING A FOREST PHARMACY FOR ELEPHANTS

This second phase focuses on establishing the necessary logistics for a project of this scale. To this end, we created two test plots in November/December 2025: the one to deter elephants from paddy, and the other to reforest barren elephant land.



An elephant-selected plant might later become part of human herbal medicine.

Brigitte calculates the tree growth while her husband, Dan, analyzes the aerial footage.

Test Plot I

In the very first days of Phase 2, we were able to secure the foundation for the first cultivation area with a handshake agreement.

It is relatively small, located on both sides of the Dhansiri River, but it is an excellent area for a pilot run.



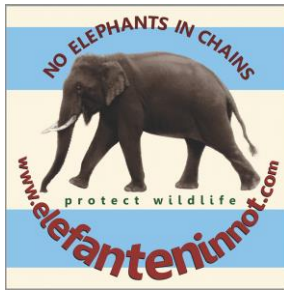
Furthermore, this river area is an elephant crossing point. From here, they come across the river and march straight through the tea plantation and onward into the settlements. The planting, once the trees have grown, will deter them.

Because they have a new **Forest Pharmacy!**

Handshake with Biswa Bora, Dr. Rajeev Basumatary, and Papul Konwar at the Dhansiri River, near Buddha Temple, Rongbong Bokial.

Our young zoologist, Bonoshri, was also present. Her task is to monitor the number of casualties.

The new DFO, Mr. Mukut Das sir has equally welcomed our project and pledged his support. However, the department's capacities are limited. There are no dedicated funds for wildlife like elephants within the Golaghat Forest Department, meaning he relies on our assistance.



The new DFO, Mr. Mukut Das, is discussing the way forward with us and Dr. Rajeev Basumatary.



***Safety is not the absence of threat.
Safety is the presence of connection and awareness.***

We have successfully managed to install all twenty road crossing signs of elephants on ten identified crossings with the presence of the Forest Department.

More to read on
<https://elephanteninnot.com/documentation/>



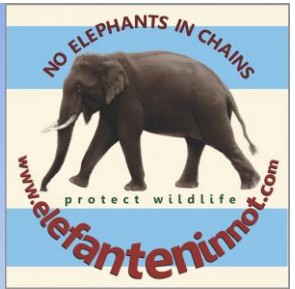
The local magistrate, Mr. Rananmai Baradway, is an enthusiastic nature lover and promised to support us actively. We were very proud about his visit at our cultivation area where we planted 120 trees and 13 different species along the Dhansiri River for the elephants. Rananmai sir planted several trees with his own hands.

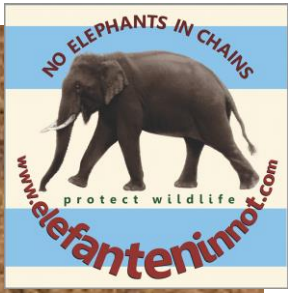
We at the same time honoured Zubeen Garg (18.11.1972 – 19.09.2025) with this project and plantation. Zubeen was a true legend, singer, actor, performer and profound humanitarian. We joined the peoples grief about this young artists mysterious death in Singapore.

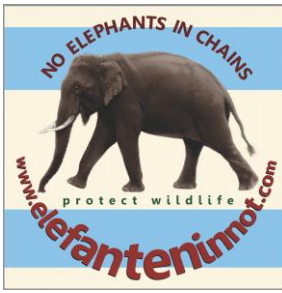
We will begin our collaboration with the Magistrate immediately, starting with the procurement of saplings for the big reforestation project in April 2026,

A Forest Pharmacy for Elephants.









We have succeeded. The first plot is planted for the elephants with our Forest Pharmacy. 120 trees for elephants are planted in the ground with the help of Dr. Rajeev Basumatary's students. The logistical pilot run has been successful. Thanks to all involved.

Please read on how we continue with our project [A FOREST PHARMACY FOR ELEPHANTS](#), and about our efforts to deter the elephants from croplands under this link:

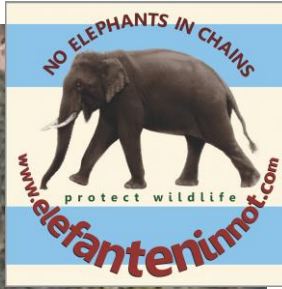
<https://elephanteninnot.com/documentation/>

Elephants are self-medicating animals. They are known to seek out specific plants, bark, soils, or fruits to treat ailments—like eating certain leaves for parasites, chewing specific bark for digestion, or consuming mineral-rich clay for toxins. The forest acts as their natural pharmacy, stocked with remedies passed down through generations of elephant knowledge.

Elephants shape their environment. By pushing over trees, creating clearings, dispersing seeds over long distances, and digging for water, they essentially “cultivate” the forest. This could imply that the pharmacy isn't just *for* them—it's partly *maintained* by them, promoting biodiversity that benefits countless other species.

In many cultures, humans have learned about medicinal plants by observing animals. An elephant-selected plant might later become part of human herbal medicine. We are entering and rebuilding the path of ancient, cross-species wisdom—the forest as a shared repository of healing knowledge. The forest is a living, healing entity.

In essence, “**A Forest Pharmacy for Elephants**” intertwines the practical reality of animal behaviour with our deeper, almost mythical view of nature as an interconnected web of care, wisdom, and survival. It reminds us that wild places are not just landscapes but living libraries and pharmacies, evolved over millennia.



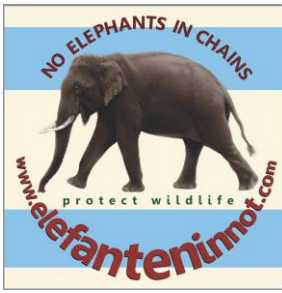
For temporary irrigation until the monsoon rains arrive in April 2026, we had to devise a solution.



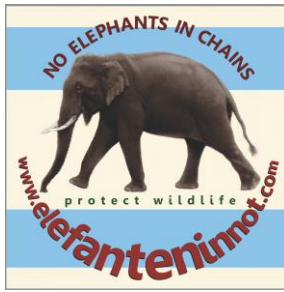
Plastic bottles, abundant in India, are intended to serve as a steady drip irrigation system to bridge the dry season, essentially from now until early April 2026.

Test Plot II This experiment is a testament to our commitment to finding harmonious, non-lethal solutions. We are hopeful that the humble chilli, one of nature's fiercest defenders, can help us safeguard both crops and giants.

Please read on about test plot 2 : <https://elefanteninnot.com/documentation>



Papul and Brigitte mixed a blend of cow dung, 6 kg of ground chili powder, and some clay with water, and then soaked the rope in it for three days.



A fiery start to an important experiment

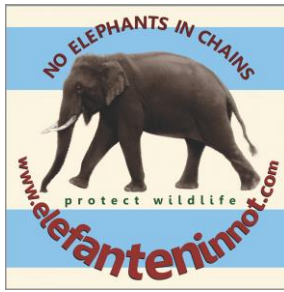
Today marks the beginning of a decisive new chapter here in Assam: 6kg of fiery Naga chilies, 200 meters of rope, and a reliable mill. By securing the most crucial components, we have taken a significant step forward.

Currently, we have encircled a mature rice paddy with a rope soaked in cow dung and the hottest chilies to test the deterrent effect of extremely spicy Naga chili on elephants—a method already proven effective elsewhere.

Nevertheless, it is essential to successfully conclude this test with the local elephants. Absolutely nothing must go wrong.

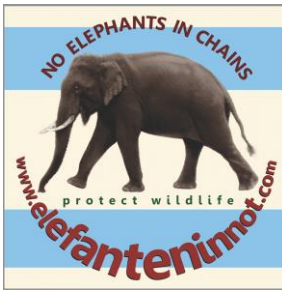


The elephants, however, are very clever. They have not shown themselves at this designated test site in recent days, forcing us to relocate our test plot to another area where the elephants now appear daily. Here, we have replaced the electric fence with the chili rope.

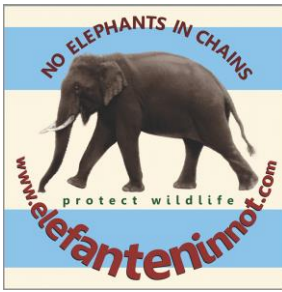


If the stake is already crooked in the ground, the weak point has been identified. It doesn't take long before the elephants then enter the field. The delicious rice is just a stride away.

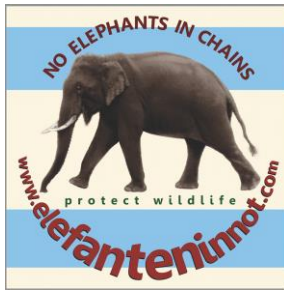
Electric fences are a poor choice. Elephants quickly figure out when the wires are live and when the battery fails. Then they trample the fence and enter the rice field. It follows the motto: gather, think, and go!



Our mixture requires rubber gloves, a large tub that barely fit into the car, and a lot of skill to untangle the knotted rope.

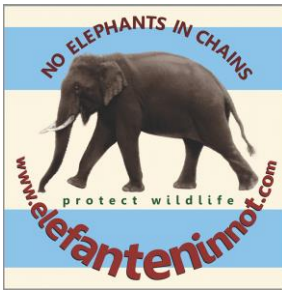


Unfortunately, all the work done without nose clips and mouth protection 😊.



For five days, the field has been surrounded by the chili-soaked rope. It appears as though the elephants have avoided the field. However, we intend to repeat the trial during the next harvest season on a much larger field to confirm its effectiveness. Nothing must go wrong. We had to promise the farmer compensation to prevent him from harvesting the field prematurely.

Thorny matters are not an elephants` affair



Our strategy employs a multi-layered approach to reduce human-elephant conflict. First, we establish **productive buffer zones** around fields using citrus, thorny, and aromatic plants like citronella and chili to physically and olfactorily deter elephants, while providing farmers with an alternate harvest.

Second, we **divert elephants nutritionally** by placing mineral salt stones in forest areas to reduce their need to seek supplements from crops. Critically, these measures are paired with **active habitat restoration**, replanting lost forests with elephant fodder to rebuild their natural "food pharmacy."

In essence, we combine **deterrence, diversion, and restoration** to create a sustainable, long-term coexistence.

The forest food pharmacy needs to be rebuilt.

Thus, our holistic strategy is explained: it is a **three-pillar approach** of **Deterrence** (through sensory buffer zones), **Diversion** (through nutritional supplementation), and **Restoration** (through habitat recreation).

The goal is to rebuild the natural "food pharmacy" of the forest, making it more attractive than the farmers' fields, while simultaneously protecting those fields with intelligent, productive barriers.

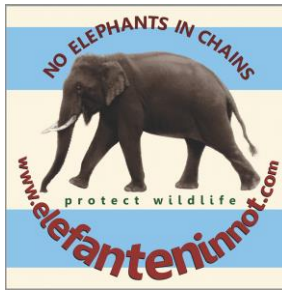
This creates a sustainable coexistence where both elephants and human communities have their core needs met.

Und wie geht es weiter? Kleiner Ausblick auf grosse Arbeit.

Mit Beginn der Regenzeit werden wir im April 2026 aufregende 240.000 Hektar einer grossen Teeplantage an den Rändern mit der Waldapotheke für Elefanten bepflanzen.

Wir haben dazu die Unterstützung des Magistrats, namentlich Herrn Rananmai Baradway ... als auch die des Forest Departments in Golaghat.

Das Land hat uns Teeplantagenbesitzer Herr Sudhir Roy zur Verfügung gestellt.



ELEFANTEN IN NOT dankt den nachfolgenden Organisationen für die treue Zusammenarbeit, und ihren Freunden und Förderern für die hilfreiche Unterstützung unserer Arbeit, die ohne diese Unterstützung nicht möglich wäre. Vielen Dank.

