

Asian Nature Conservation Foundation

ANCF is a multi-disciplinary group of professionals working to support the conservation of biological diversity using the Asian elephant as an iconic species. ANCF believes that the conservation of this flagship species, entailing the protection of the rich tropical landscapes, would also help a host of other species that share this habitat across Asia.

ANCF was established in 1997 as a charitable trust by Raman Sukumar of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and is governed by a Board of Trustees. While ANCF is constituted as an independent group of conservation professionals, it works closely with government agencies, sister research and education institutions, civil society groups and community organizations, in implementing its programmes. ANCF facilitates knowledge generation through scientific research, surveys and assessments which, in turn, form the basis for the formulation of effective policies and strategies for nature conservation in a socially responsible manner.

Board of Trustees

Prof. Raman Sukumar - *Chairman and Managing Trustee*

Raman Sukumar is Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science. He has studied elephants for over three decades, contributed extensively to their conservation, and authored 4 books and over 100 articles.

Prof. N. H. Ravindranath - *Trustee*

N.H.Ravindranath is Professor at the Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and an expert on climate change mitigation, alternative energy and rural livelihoods.

Mr. Thomas Mathew - *Trustee*

A biochemical engineer and environmental scientist by training, Thomas Mathew has over three decades of professional experience in planning and implementing programmes for conservation and environmental planning.



Our Conservation Partners

ANCF has been supported by and collaborates with :

John D and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation
Dr Scholl Foundation
US Fish and Wildlife Service
The Whitley Fund for Nature
Rotterdam Zoo
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CITES/Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants
Mr and Mrs Richard Levinson
Wildlife Trust of India
Wildlife Trust (now the EcoHealth Alliance)
Elephant Care International
WWF -Vietnam
Planet Action
RajarataUniversity of Sri Lanka
Project Elephant (Government of India)
State Forest Departments (India)
Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science

Contributions are welcome

Asian Nature Conservation Foundation is registered as a Trust at Bangalore. It is also registered as a charitable trust under section 12AA of the Indian Income-Tax Act, 1961, and its main objectives fall within the ambit of specified charitable activities given under section 2(15). Donations to ANCF are eligible for tax benefits to the donors under section 80G of the Indian Income-Tax Act, 1961.

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*Towards Conservation of
Asian Elephants and Bio-diversity
In Sustainable Landscapes*

Asian Nature Conservation Foundation





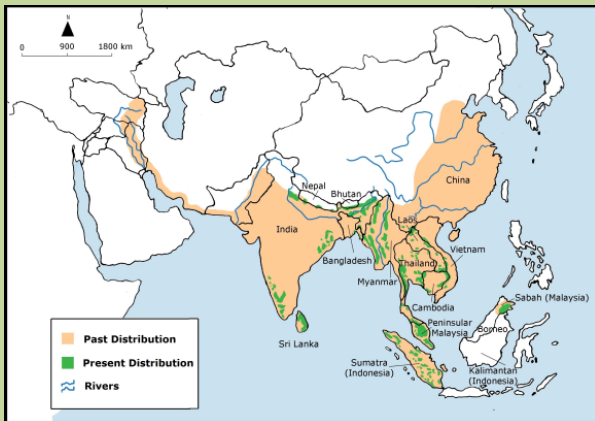
"If the tiger is the spirit of the jungle, then the elephant is its body, large, majestic, making its presence felt with authority"
- Raman Sukumar

The Asian Elephant: a flagship for conservation

The present-day distribution of the Asian elephant covers only a tiny fraction of its extensive historical range from West Asia eastwards up to northern China. The elephant is presently distributed in fragmented landscapes across 13 countries India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia. Anywhere between 37,000 and 52,000 wild elephants are present in about half a million square kilometers of tropical dry and moist forest, and grassland habitat.

The decline of the Asian elephant is due to the historical loss of habitat and to the capture of the animal in large numbers for human use, especially in ancient armies. Today, elephant habitats are further fragmented due to development in the form of commercial plantations, mining, dams, canals, roads, and railway lines that impede the natural movement of elephants. Elephant-human conflicts are on the rise locally. The selective poaching of male elephants for ivory and hunting for meat and other products have also depleted elephant populations locally.

Over 15,000 Asian elephants are maintained in captivity, mostly in the range states but also in zoos and other facilities elsewhere. In many parts of Asia, the elephant has long been venerated as a cultural and religious symbol. This tradition of respect and a growing awareness of the animal's plight have led the governments of some Asian countries to develop specific conservation programmes to save their elephant populations.



Our Conservation Programs

Land of the Elephant Program

The key to the long-term conservation of elephants lies in the maintenance of the integrity of its habitat landscapes. An important component of this strategy is the preservation, strengthening and augmentation of wildlife corridors. ANCF carries out field surveys of elephant distribution and maps elephant habitats along with land-use patterns in detail using GIS tools. Extensive research is being undertaken to scientifically delineate and strengthen existing corridors. ANCF has a programme for identifying and mapping corridors as well as raising funds in collaboration with our partners, for securing or augmenting corridors in a manner acceptable to local people and the authorities.

Monitoring Elephant Populations & Poaching

ANCF actively monitors elephant populations at several sites across India and maintains scientific databases that can be used in long term planning for management of elephants in the wild. The aim is to assess population size and demography in the light of impacts of ivory poaching. Additionally, ANCF conducts workshops on elephant census techniques in order to build capacity among managers and field level staff of the state Forest Departments, as well as assist states in estimating wild elephant population. Outside India, ANCF has contributed to elephant population and habitat evaluations in several countries including Vietnam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Elephant-Human Conflict Mitigation

Elephants regularly come into conflict with people by damaging agricultural crops and even killing people. Such conflicts are rooted in a complex set of ecological, behavioural and climatic factors. Both people and elephants suffer as a result of conflict, creating animosity among people towards elephants and eroding support for elephant conservation. The mitigation of this conflict is critical to the long-term survival of elephants. ANCF undertakes several projects from developing models of low cost elephant barriers with community participation, to using technology as early warning systems, in addressing this conservation issue in southern and north eastern India.

Education & Training

ANCF assists various forest departments and other key stakeholders in designing and executing the national elephant census, problem elephant management, and captive elephant welfare and management. ANCF has also conducted workshops for wildlife staff from India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and China.

Environmental Surveys

To address various environmental concerns at local and national levels, ANCF participates in inter-disciplinary research projects that assess the effects of anthropogenic pressures such as mining and infrastructure development projects within elephant habitats.



Captive Elephant Programme

With about one-fourth of all Asian elephants being presently in captivity, the welfare and management of this population is important to the conservation of the species. ANCF maintains a database of elephants in temples, circuses, forest department camps and zoos in India. ANCF has brought out a number of publications documenting captive elephants including "The Elephant Code Book" intended as a handy reference tool for wildlife officers, conservationists and activists, private elephant owners, temple trustees, circus managers, zoo directors, veterinary doctors, traditional mahouts, elephant keepers and all those involved in the care and management of elephants.

