



ASIAN ELEPHANT
S U P P O R T

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

A Baby Update from Sumatra, Indonesia

The Sumatran elephant is now considered “critically” endangered, so every baby is even more important to the future of the species. We have some good news to share about two orphaned elephants that AES has helped support.

We are pleased to share that little Bona is not so little anymore! While she still enjoys the companionship of her “adopted mom”, Aswita, she is now completely weaned from the formula. She has a healthy appetite, especially for fruit.



Bona playing in the forest this past June

In our [April 2013](#) newsletter, we introduced you to Agam, the baby elephant that fell into the abandoned well. Thanks, in part, to your support, he is now in stable condition. He is 9-10 months old now and has begun to eat solid foods. His milk supplements can slowly be decreased, but he will still rely on the milk supplement for at least another 10 months.



Agam being fed

We are very encouraged by the progress of these baby elephants and we are hopeful for their future. Unfortunately, due to an increase in human-elephant conflict, there will be more babies that need our help. The ability to act quickly in these situations is critical, so please consider making a [donation](#) to AES or signing up for our [monthly giving program](#), so we can move quickly to help protect the future of Sumatra's elephant population.

Professor Raman Sukumar

**“The Asian Elephant’s Conservation Conundrum” – Sunday, 28 July 2013
Presented by the Saint Louis Zoo in Partnership with the Academy of Science-St.
Louis**

Dr. Raman Sukumar is a Professor of Ecology and Chair of the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India. Dr. Sukumar is an internationally acclaimed Asian elephant researcher and conservationist, founder of the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF) (<http://www.asiannature.org/>), and a recipient of the International Cosmos Prize.

Dr. Sukumar has authored multiple books on the ecology and history of the Asian elephant, including:

- *The Story of Asia’s Elephants* (2011) presents the ecological and cultural history of the Asian elephant, from ancient to contemporary times. The story of elephant and man is traced along successive periods in Asian history, and under major religious establishments. The final chapter presents a summary of the latest scientific knowledge of the elephant’s ecology and behaviour, and how we can plan for the conservation of the species.
- *The Living Elephants* (2003) is an authoritative resource on both Asian and African elephants. In this framework of evolutionary biology, Sukumar presents the behaviour, ecology, conservation, and human interactions with elephants. This book should be of interest not only to biologists, but also to field ecologists, wildlife administrators, historians, conservationists and all those interested in elephants and their future.

- *Elephant Days and Nights* (1994) is an account of Dr. Sukumar's experiences during ten years of research on the Indian elephant.
- *The Asian Elephant* (1993) provides an ecological analysis of elephant human interaction and its implications for the conservation of elephants.

Read more about these books at <http://www.asiannature.org/resources/books/33> .

Dr. Sukumar has collaborated with scientists from all over the world and has published many peer-reviewed research papers on a wide array of topics. You can download and read some of these publications on the ANCF website at: <http://www.asiannature.org/resources/rp/14>.

A sampling of his research contributions include:

- Populations, movement and habitat utilization of free-ranging elephants
- Population, reproduction and management of captive Asian elephants
- Demography of captive elephants in India
- Crop-raiding patterns
- Methods for census of wild elephants
- Parasite abundance and diversity in elephants
- Diagnosis of TB in captive elephants in India
- Vocalizations of wild Asian elephants and social context
- Pheromone in wild Asian elephants

Everyone was very excited to have this world-renowned elephant conservationist share his expertise during his visit to the United States in 2013. When our international advisor, Heidi Riddle, approached AES president, Linda Reifschneider, regarding the possibility of Prof. Sukumar participating in the St. Louis' Zoo lecture series, everyone quickly agreed.

July 26th through the 29th was a fun and educational weekend. Linda had an opportunity to talk with Prof. Sukumar about future collaborative opportunities with AES and there was even time to do a little site seeing to the St. Louis Gateway Arch, the Endangered Wolf Center, and Grant's Farm. In the evenings, Prof. Sukumar and the elephant staffs from the St. Louis Zoo and Grant's Farm had an opportunity to discuss elephant issues over dinner.



Sukumar with Bud at Grant's Farm



Sukumar Presenting

More than 125 individuals attended Prof. Sukumar's presentation, "The Asian Elephant's Conservation Conundrums" on Sunday, July 28th. He enlightened everyone on the history of the Asian elephant and the elephant's long relationship with man from ancient times through today. Most importantly, he expressed his concerns, hopes, and suggestions for the future of Asian elephants. His closing comments on the need for the East and West to work together and to share training and conservation knowledge, resonates with the AES board of directors. Now more than ever, collaboration is critical for the survival of Asian elephants.

Thank you to the St. Louis Zoo and the Academy of Science-St. Louis for presenting this exceptional opportunity to the St. Louis community.

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There's really no reason not to do this. It's easy, you're earning donations for AES by doing what you normally do, and the elephants get a better life. What are you waiting for? [Sign up today!](#)

THANK YOU

We at AES wish to extend a very sincere thank you to each donor who has voted their support with a financial gift. We value that confidence and will always do our best for the animals we all care for so deeply.

Please visit our website (www.asianelephantsupport.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) (Asian Elephant Support). If you have questions, please [contact us](#). We appreciate your support. Please consider a [donation](#) to help Asian elephants and those who care for them.

ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT

www.asianelephantsupport.org

4764 Brookton Way, St. Louis, MO 63128 USA

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