



ASIAN ELEPHANT S U P P O R T

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

Elephant Managers Association Conference

Two of our directors attended the Elephant Managers Association (EMA) 2010 conference, which was held in Pittsburgh, Sept 30 through Oct 3. The EMA is an international non-profit organization of professional elephant handlers, administrators, veterinarians, researchers and elephant enthusiasts.

Our president, Linda Reifschneider, gave a presentation on the role of AES in elephant conservation and her personal history in the conservation of Asian and African elephants and other wildlife in range states. Her presentation walked through her early years of being an elephant enthusiast and highlighted how her visits to the zoo, her involvement as a zoo volunteer, what she learned from elephant keepers, and her participation in the global elephant community gave her the tools she needed to make a difference in the future of the species. Her presentation touched the hearts of many at the conference and sparked new ideas for collaboration.



AES President giving presentation at EMA

The EMA has a very active conservation committee that supports mahouts and elephants in both African and Asian range states. Together we can make a difference. To learn more about EMA, please visit <http://www.elephant-managers.com/>.

Update from Sumatra, Seblat Camp

We are delighted to share an August update from Dr. Christopher Stremme, the wildlife veterinarian working with Vesswic in Sumatra.

"Hello!

We are just back from ECC (Elephant Conservation Center) Seblat in Bengkulu. Things are going well in Seblat, we conducted the quarterly elephant training standard evaluation which we started almost 2 years ago aiming to improve general training and handling standards, especially for health care needs, medical intervention and general handling reliability. Following a standardized scheme and number of

commands and skills, this evaluation has become a main trigger for the mahouts to keep focusing on improvement of elephant training needs for medical and health care management. The better the training levels are getting now, the slower the progress. But at least improvement is still slowly increasing and I think the mahouts and camp management have confirmed that Vesswic should keep following this up for maybe one more year to at least stabilize the reached standards. Besides general health checks and treatments of some minor problems, the regular de-worming and tetanus vaccinations of all 18 ECC Seblat elephants were conducted.

The management of the revitalized elephant food plantation, which was started several months ago and supported by Vesswic, is going very well. For about a month now, king grass is harvested regularly and contributes to improved nutrition for the Seblat elephants.



Harvesting king grass at ECC Seblat



14 year old Robi eating king grass from the plantation

It is a special joy for me to again see the male elephant [Harris](#) now being in very healthy and well fed condition, after he was in such a poor and fragile condition when he was rescued with the help of your supporters the end of 2008. Due to his very good condition now, ECC Seblat has started to use Harris for protected habitat patrols and, for this activity, he has been based now alongside 5 other elephants at the 14.00 hectare nature reserve, Bukit Kabar, in central Bengkulu.



Harris with mahout Saparudin

It is also good news to report that we got approval from the USFWS (United States Fish & Wildlife Service) for a proposal for funding support for the utilization of mahouts and captive elephants from the ECC Way Kambas for forest patrols and HEC (human-elephant conflict) management in and around Way Kambas National Park. So, funding for these activities, which have been started almost 2 years ago, initiated and supported by Vesswic and Asian Elephant Support, and which have become a vital part of the Way Kambas National Park management strategy, is secured for at least one more year.

Best wishes and many thanks from Sumatra,

Christopher”

Purchase of Two Scales for Vesswic

In view of the USFWS funding to keep ECC Way Kambas elephants and mahouts in the field for the next year, our Board voted to use funds we thought might be needed for that work to instead purchase two portable scales for Vesswic's use in caring for elephants in the Way Kambas ECC and other camps in Sumatra. We know this equipment will be appreciated and well cared for, and, without a doubt, the hours saved in measuring elephants to formulate an estimate of weight will be available for other constructive activities.

A portable scale allows elephants to step up on a base, stand still for just a few seconds then walk off. Such a scale provides accuracy and efficiency for safe and effective dosing.



Setting up the portable scale



Male elephant steps on scale

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. More requests for support are arriving for our consideration. This is a challenging time for all NGOs, and even more so, for the men and women doing the difficult and important work that is so important to securing the future for elephants and other endangered animals that share our space.

Please consider making a [donation](#) so that we can remain in a position to help projects that need support in their work for the future of Asian elephants.

You can [contact us](#) for more information, go to our website (www.asianelephantsupport.org), and follow us on [Facebook](#) (Asian Elephant Support).

Thank you for your Support!

ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT

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