

News from the Field ~ Chitwan, Nepal

Elephant Healthcare & Welfare Emergency Lifeline Fund*

Supporting the wellbeing of Asian elephants during the COVID-19 pandemic

Critical Nutritional Support for 40 Captive Elephants!

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Limited Resources. There are an estimated 200 elephants living in captivity in Nepal. Approximately half are privately-owned 'working elephants,' engaged in the country's tourist safari business. Others patrol Nepal's national parks to prevent wildlife poaching, monitor endangered rhino populations, and support wildlife conservation.

Sadly, Nepal's elephants are feeling the adverse effects of a lack of tourist income resulting from the ongoing global pandemic. Funding and other resources are in critically short supply, and the welfare of elephants is at risk.

Elephants at Risk. Sufficient food for elephants is scarce, especially for the privately-owned captive elephants that are not allowed to graze inside Chitwan National Park. Their diet is limited to rice, molasses, and salt; it is deficient in the protein elephants need to stay healthy.

A Lifeline. In consultation with elephant owners— and with a \$5,000 grant from the **Elephant Healthcare and Welfare Emergency Lifeline Fund*** – the National Trust for Nature Conservation recently purchased and distributed 1,200 kilograms (nearly 2,700 pounds) of supplemental chickpeas for 40 elephants in Sauraha.

A good, economical source of protein, chickpeas are mixed with rice to enhance the nutritional value of 'kuchi' (elephant food balls)...keeping elephants healthy.



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* A collaborative project of Elephant Care International, Work for Wild Life, and Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation