



# ASIAN CAPTIVE ELEPHANT STANDARDS AUDIT REPORT

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**Camp's name: GTAEF**

**Camp's contact name: K. Maprang (Animal Welfare Coordinator & Camp Manager)**

**Audit's date: March 29-30th 2024**

**Final review date: May 28th 2024**



## AUDIT OVERVIEW

This report provides an overview of Asian Captive Elephant Standards on-site audit.

Asian Captive Elephant Standards is a Thai company created in 2019 to provide a professional independent and transparent expertise to the elephant welfare and human well being conditions in touristic elephant camps in South East Asia.

The standards consist of 225 criteria designed by Asian Captive Elephant Standards and advisors including world renowned veterinarians, zookeepers and researchers.

This new version of the standards was updated in January 2023 to include new criteria and practices.

**Asian Captive Elephant Standards is the only international certification focusing on Asian captive elephants.**

Certified camps can be found in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia.  
Check out our website for more details:

The purpose of this report is to show a comprehensive overview of the camp's performance.  
For more details, please contact the camp directly.



### Overall audit

#### Camp's description:

The Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation (GTAEF) in northern Thailand offers a natural environment for elephants, with about 65,000 square meters per elephant. A full-time veterinarian with over seven years of experience ensures regular health checks and comprehensive medical care. Activities like "Walking with Giants" focus on education and responsible interaction.

GTAEF prioritizes sustainability with energy-saving protocols, solar panels, and effective waste management. The camp is clean and minimizes plastic waste with refillable bottles. It supports local communities by hiring locally, purchasing food from nearby farmers, and offering educational programs for schools.

#### Details about the audit:

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## COMMENTS PER CATEGORY

### 1. Legal Requirements

The facility provided all legal documents such as company license and elephant identification books.

### 2. Facility Management

The facility has successfully met all the mandatory criteria in the Facility Management category, demonstrating a strong commitment to both elephant and staff welfare. However, there is room for improvement in the advanced criteria, particularly in areas related to mahout benefits and specific training documentation.

### 3. Elephant Management

The facility meets high standards in elephant management. Comprehensive policies and detailed individual profiles are maintained. Elephants have ample space, natural substrates, and alternatives to chains. Enrichment programs are robust, providing supervised roaming and socialization. The facility actively supports the well-being of compatible elephants, ensuring their health and comfort. Overall, the facility excels in both mandatory and advanced criteria.

### 4. Elephant welfare

The facility demonstrates a high standard of elephant welfare, excelling in medical care, dietary management, and overall well-being of the elephants. They maintain comprehensive veterinary logs, employ an experienced full-time veterinarian, and follow rigorous health check routines. The facility provides specialized care for geriatric elephants and ensures extensive foraging options and socialization opportunities. Only a few criteria were not met, such as specific veterinarian training (4.4) and certain health checks for new elephants (4.27).

### 5. Elephant activities

The facility excels in managing elephant activities by prioritizing natural behaviors and safety. There are robust protocols ensuring no harmful practices, and a notable balance between interaction and observation activities. The feeding protocol stands out as a best practice, emphasizing a nutritious diet. While documentation and adherence to training protocols need improvement, the overall management aligns with high welfare standards. The facility's emphasis on observation over interaction further highlights its commitment to elephant welfare.

## 6. Visitor safety

This category focuses on ensuring visitor and staff safety during interactions with elephants. Most criteria are validated, showcasing strong protocols, insurance, supervision, and safety measures. However, some mandatory criteria, such as evacuation drills and specific first aid training, were not validated due to insufficient evidence. The facility is encouraged to address these gaps to improve overall safety and compliance.

## 7. Visitor experience

The facility excels in enhancing visitor experience by providing comprehensive educational information about elephants, including detailed guide explanations on elephant behavior, history, and welfare. Visitors benefit from shaded areas, accessible drinking water, and proper sanitation facilities. The camp demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental sustainability by offering refillable glass bottles and drink dispensers, significantly reducing plastic use. However, the facility needs to improve its feedback analysis system and increase efforts in providing wheelchair-accessible toilets within the camp.

## 8. Overall camp

The facility demonstrates strong environmental and operational standards in Category 8. They have effective energy-saving and waste management protocols, maintaining cleanliness and waste segregation with regular riverbank cleaning. The camp effectively reuses elephant dung and ensures waste bins are inaccessible to elephants. Essential vehicle traffic is limited in the elephant area, and parking is suitably distanced to minimize noise. While the facility uses some solar energy, it did not meet the 10% threshold. Overall, their commitment to sustainability and cleanliness is commendable, enhancing the camp's operational excellence.

## 9. Community relations

The facility demonstrates strong community relations by supporting local economies through the purchase of elephant food, and providing educational opportunities for local schools. Additionally, they offer a dedicated area for local handicrafts, ensuring that 100% of the revenue goes back to the local communities. Their collaboration with third-party conservation initiatives, such as the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation, further highlights their commitment to elephant protection and conservation.



# BEST PRACTICES



**Living area - Night time chain alternatives (barn)** - Providing alternatives to chains significantly enhances the elephants' welfare and comfort.

Animal Basic Info	
Individual	GAN_BST10-00011-Alex   Female   1
Local ID	(BEADOR)GT ABELEF
Preferred ID	BEADOR
Species	Elephas maximus (Asian elephant)   GUN   SV   GREY   OTSREU   A
Birth Location	L'NOrder mixed
Birth Type	Subadult female
Birth Age	~ Born Jan 05, 1978 to Dec 31, 1978   ~4 Years, 2 Months, 50 Days
Current Collector	Primary Animal Collector
Current Enclosure	Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation
Last Reported Owner	PRIVATE

  

Notes & Observations				
Date	Note Type/Subtype	Title/Keywords	Note	Authorised by
Aug 22, 2017	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Target Training Session	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Aug 22, 2017	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Comment - Target	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Aug 23, 2017	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Note - Sunflower seeds don't work well	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Aug 25, 2017	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Comment - Juice	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Aug 25, 2017	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Note - Sugar cane works very well	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Aug 26, 2017	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Comment - Juice	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Aug 29, 2017	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Comment - Juice	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Aug 29, 2017	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Note - Difficult in the beginning as she doesn't like to be touched on the tail	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Jan 08, 2016	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Subject in the best and elephant research project	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Jan 08, 2016	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Subject in the best and elephant research project	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Apr 07, 2016	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Subject in the best and elephant research project	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Apr 07, 2016	Translocation - Acquisition Note	Acquisition Note	Owner: Wildland Subgroup (Durrell) & Preparation Subgroup	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Apr 09, 2016	Enrichment - Activity	Activity	Play with enrichment	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Apr 09, 2016	Enrichment - Activity	Activity	Play with enrichment	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Apr 09, 2016	Individual Behavior (Behavioral Observation Note)	Behavioral Observation Note	Second time in the exercise fence. Walked through to get to the food on the other side. Then walked back to the other end of the fence. Concentration walking, but did not engage in play.	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
Apr 09, 2016	Management in Training/Conditioning (GT)	Animal Training	Research subject in the elephant and bee research study	Fiona Deane/doctor (GT) ABELEF
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**Medical care - Individual veterinarian log book:** The facility keeps detailed veterinary records on an online platform, ensuring efficient and paperless documentation.



**Elephant management - Space ratio** - Providing such a large area per elephant is crucial for their physical and psychological well-being. For the next audit, we would like to see the renting document of the land or the ownership document of the land





## FINAL DECISION

The camp Golden Triangle Anantara Elephant Foundation managed to comply with all the Mandatory criteria and 71% of the Advanced criteria. Considering this audit's results, the camp is awarded with SILVER level for 2024-2025