



GOLDEN TRIANGLE
ASIAN ELEPHANT FOUNDATION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

www.helpingelephants.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2005, the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation (GTAEF) has worked to protect elephants, support local communities, and promote sustainable conservation under three core pillars: Captive Elephant Welfare, Wild Elephant Protection, and Research & Education. In 2024, GTAEF achieved significant progress across these areas, aligning its efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while respecting the culture and traditions of mahouts and their families.



Captive Elephant Welfare

GTAEF upholds the highest welfare standards for 18 elephants, supported by 21 mahouts and their families. A dedicated veterinarian and six international veterinary interns ensured expert care, while nine local farmers provided sustainable food sources. The foundation also created employment opportunities for mahouts' wives and preserved traditional elephant care knowledge. Captive elephants are protected on 131 hectares of land at AGT. Monthly river cleanups further supported ecosystem sustainability.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Wild Elephant Protection

In collaboration with Freeland Foundation's Surviving Together programme and Wildlife Alliance's patrols based in our own 18,000 ha of wild elephant habitat in the Cardamom Concession and Botum Sakor National Park. GTAEF played a crucial role in reducing human-elephant conflict and disrupting illegal wildlife activities. Key achievements included **888 elephant relocations, 1,452 patrols covering 28,734 km, removal of 1,174 snares and illegal weapons, and the rescue and release of 36 live animals.** Legal action was taken against offenders, while watchtower repairs improved wildlife monitoring.



Research & Education

Research & Education

GTAEF remains committed to breaking generational cycles and expanding opportunities for mahout families. Key achievements include:

- 21 students from mahout families graduated, with 13 pursuing higher education.
 - 1 ongoing scholarship for English for Business studies.
 - 2 full-time English teachers are employed in Ban Ta Klang.
 - Internships for Thai Sustainable Tourism and Veterinary students.
 - Elephant education programs for local schools, integrating traditional mahout knowledge into conservation strategies.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Sustainable Development Impact

GTAEF's initiatives contribute directly to multiple SDGs, including Good Health & Well-Being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Decent Work & Economic Growth (SDG 8), Climate Action (SDG 13), and Life on Land & Water (SDG 14 & 15). By combining traditional mahout wisdom with modern conservation practices, GTAEF fosters a sustainable future for elephants, people, and the environment.



GTAEF continues to make a lasting impact by protecting elephants, empowering communities, and preserving cultural heritage. Through conservation, education, and sustainable livelihoods, the foundation remains a leader in ethical elephant care and wildlife protection while fostering a future where humans and elephants can coexist harmoniously.

VISION & OVERVIEW

Since its founding in 2005, the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation (GTAEF) has continually evolved to meet changing challenges, focusing on three core pillars: Captive Elephant Welfare, Wild Elephant Protection, and Research & Education.



The past year has been one of significant growth and progress for GTAEF, marked by key milestones in elephant welfare, conservation efforts, and educational initiatives. This report outlines the foundation's major achievements and ongoing dedication to sustainability, education, and the protection of both captive and wild elephants.

CAPTIVE ELEPHANT WELFARE



In 2024, we successfully achieved the Asian Captive Elephant Standards Certification, the Elephant Camping Standard for Tourism (Elephant Camp without Performances) from the Department of Tourism, Thailand, and the Elephant Welfare Standard from the Department of Livestock, Thailand.



Elephant Camp

The camp currently cares for 18 elephants, supported by 20 mahouts and 7 family members, with 1 veterinarian overseeing their health and welfare.



WILD ELEPHANT PROTECTION



The Wild Elephant Protection pillar saw significant progress in 2024, with the **Surviving Together** initiative reducing human-elephant conflict through strategic interventions and community collaboration. Meanwhile, the Wildlife Alliance ranger team based in an 18,000 ha concession within **Botum Sakor National Park** disrupted illegal activities, rescued wildlife, and protected key habitats using a mix of modern technology and traditional patrols. These efforts have strengthened coexistence and conservation, and GTAEF remains committed to scaling initiatives that ensure the long-term survival of wild elephants and their ecosystems.



PATROLLING IN NUMBER



**486
patrols**

conducted ensuring continuous monitoring and protection of the area.

Patrol Distances Covered

28,734 km.



Wildlife Released in 2024



21 amphibious



3 reptiles



**29
Birds**



**2
Mammals**



**1,174
snares**

were removed throughout the year



The Botum Sakor Station's Wildlife Alliance patrol efforts in 2024 have been highly successful in disrupting illegal activities, rescuing wildlife, and maintaining the health of the ecosystem. The data reflects a comprehensive approach to wildlife protection

The Surviving Together initiative has made significant strides over the past year in addressing elephant-human conflicts (HEC) and promoting sustainable community and wildlife coexistence. The key achievements of the year are outlined below.

1 HEC Patrol Groups Formed



12 new patrol groups were successfully established, strengthening the overall monitoring and protection framework.



4 Community Engagement

The program engaged 3,227 community members through meetings and workshops, fostering a greater understanding of elephant conservation and conflict mitigation. Of these, 1,957 were men, and 1,270 were women.



2 HEC Patrols Conducted

A total of 1,452 patrols were conducted, actively preventing potential conflicts and ensuring elephants' safe movement.

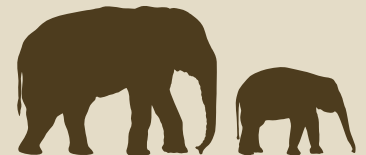
5 Zero Elephant or Human Fatalities

Remarkably, there were no fatalities involving elephants or humans during the year, demonstrating the success of proactive conflict mitigation strategies.



3 Elephants Moved Back to Park

Elephants were safely relocated back to the park 888 times, reducing instances of human-elephant interaction and minimizing risks of conflict.



6 Training of National Park Team Members

1,110 national park team members were trained, enhancing their skills in elephant monitoring, conservation practices, and community engagement.

RESEARCH & EDUCATION



Research Study

Three researchers conducted four studies on elephant behaviour and identification, contributing valuable insights to elephant conservation



Virtual Field Trip

Four virtual field trips (Online Elephant Education) engaged over 600 participants, expanding accessibility to elephant education.



Academic Visits

Around 300 students from local universities and schools participated in on-site learning programs, enhancing their understanding of elephant welfare and conservation.



Elephant Workshop

In 2024, GTAEF hosted two Elephant Osteopath workshops, providing specialized training to 33 participants and advancing knowledge in elephant healthcare.



Broadening Horizons

In 2024, we also employed 2 full-time English teachers in Ban Ta Klang and saw 21 students from mahout families graduate from school. Of these graduates, 13 pursued higher education, with only 3 choosing to become mahouts—a key achievement in offering alternative career paths and breaking the cycle of traditional mahout work. Lastly, we continued providing a scholarship for a student studying English for Business in Higher Education.



Internship Program

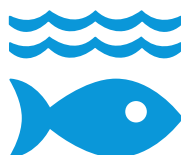
In the past year, we mentored six international veterinary interns from Australia, the USA, and Germany, as well as three Thai sustainable tourism interns from a local university.





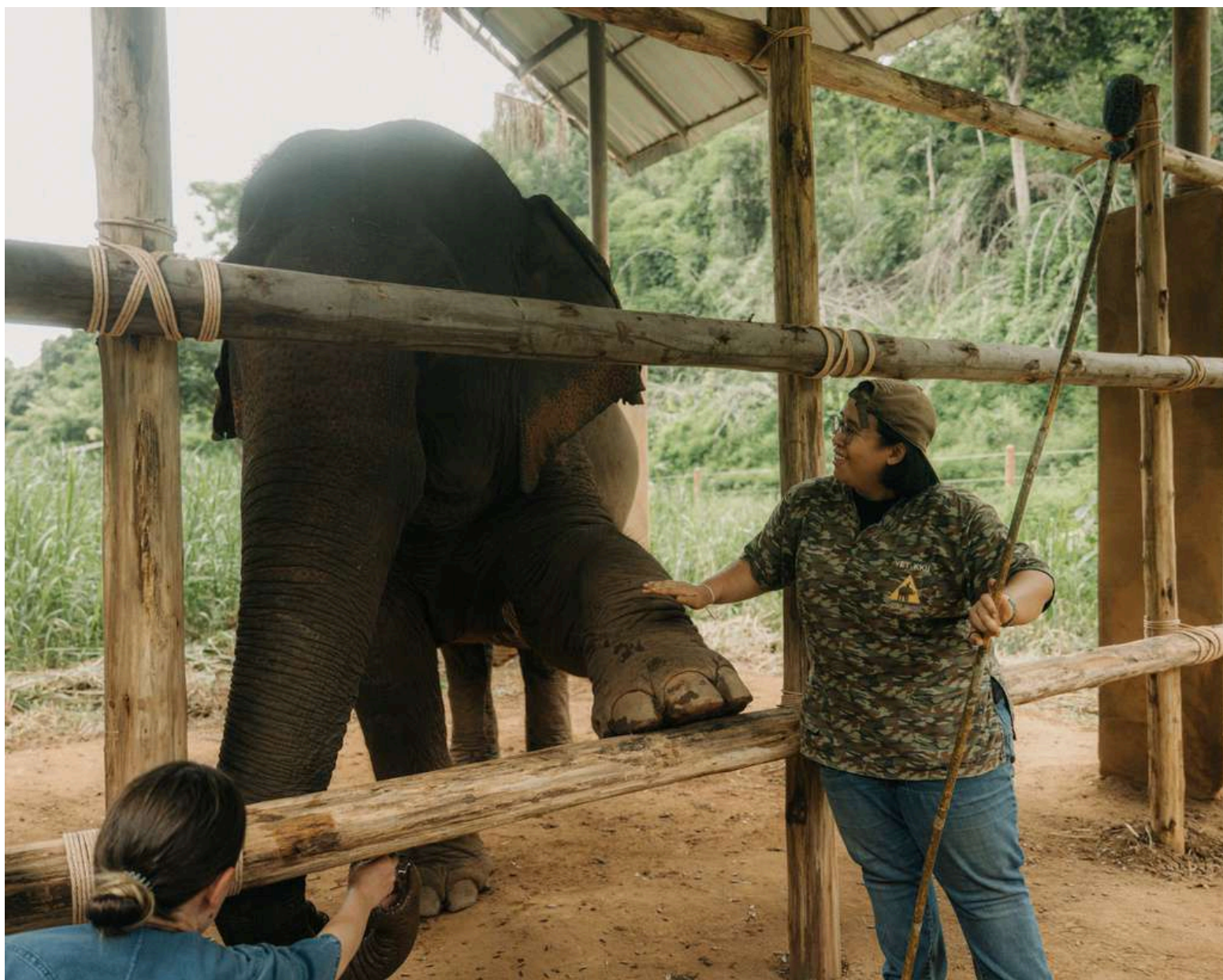
SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

The Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation (GTAEF) aligns its initiatives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its work in Captive Elephant Welfare, Wild Elephant Protection, and Research & Education.



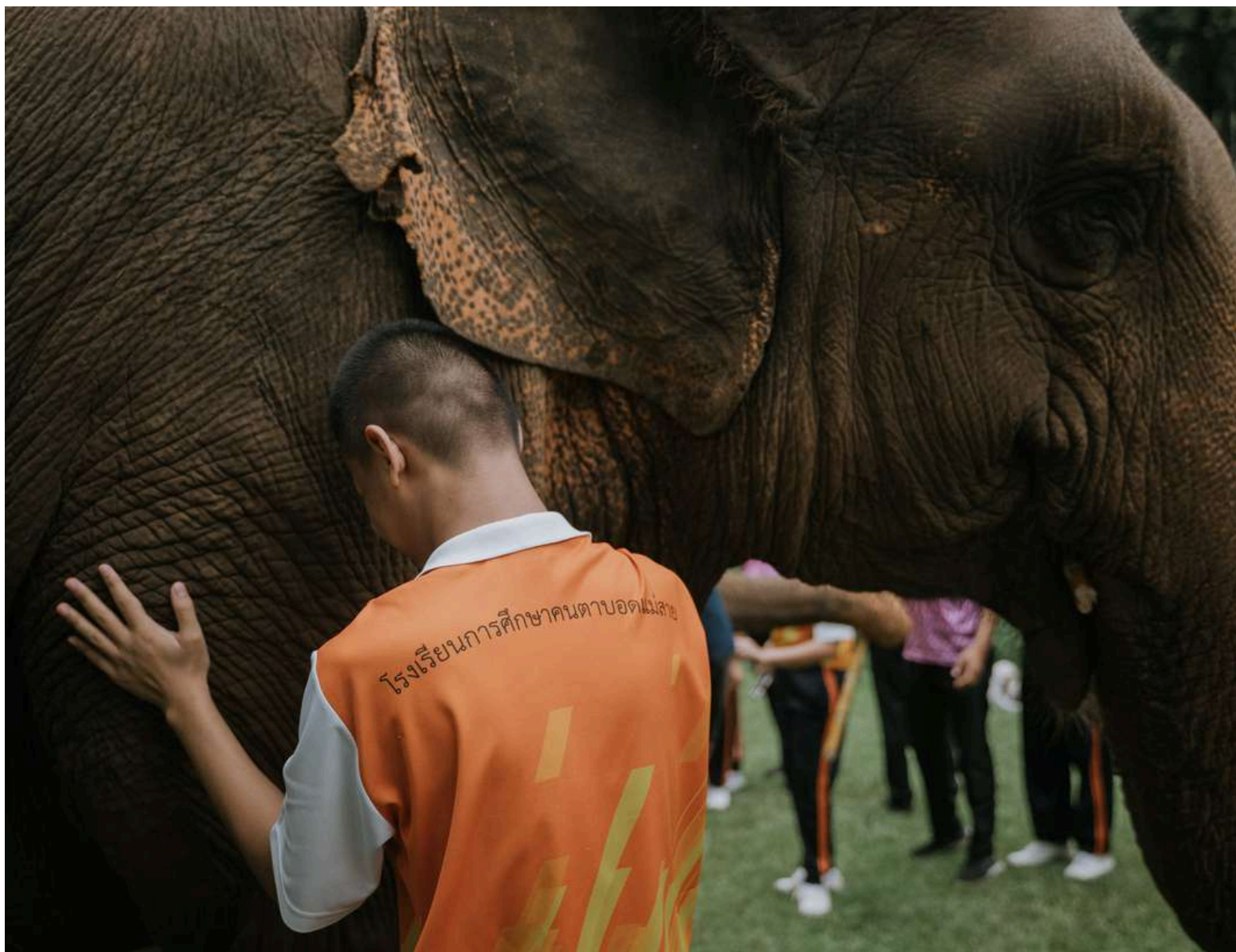


- Veterinary care and welfare programs for 18 elephants in the camp.
- 6 international veterinary interns mentored, enhancing global veterinary expertise.
- Zero elephant or human fatalities in human-elephant conflict zones.
- Mahout families' traditional knowledge incorporated into elephant care and conservation efforts.





- 2 full-time English teachers employed in Ban Ta Klang.
- 21 students from mahout families graduated, with 13 pursuing higher education.
- Internships for Thai Sustainable Tourism students and veterinary interns, fostering conservation-focused careers.
- Elephant education programs conducted in local schools to raise awareness.
- Respect for mahout traditions integrated into conservation education, ensuring cultural preservation.



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



- 21 mahouts and 7 family members supported, ensuring ethical employment.
- Employment opportunities for mahouts' wives in community projects.
- 9 local farmers' families supply elephant food, creating sustainable income sources.
- The Sustainable Wang Nam Khieo Safari launched, promoting ecotourism as a livelihood alternative.
- Efforts to break the cycle of forced mahout work, providing educational pathways for mahout children while preserving the profession for those who choose it.





- Integrated farming projects introduced to shift from monoculture to sustainable herb crops.
- 28,734 km covered in anti-poaching patrols, reducing environmental threats.
- Monthly river cleanups conducted to protect local water sources.





- Wildlife Alliance patrols rescued 36 live animals, dismantled illegal camps, and removed over 1,174 snares.
- 3 field researchers employed for conservation studies in Kanchanaburi.
- Court cases submitted & offenders arrested, strengthening wildlife law enforcement.
- Watchtower repairs for elephant monitoring, enhancing protection measures.
- Traditional mahout knowledge incorporated into conservation strategies, ensuring a balance between culture and modern science.



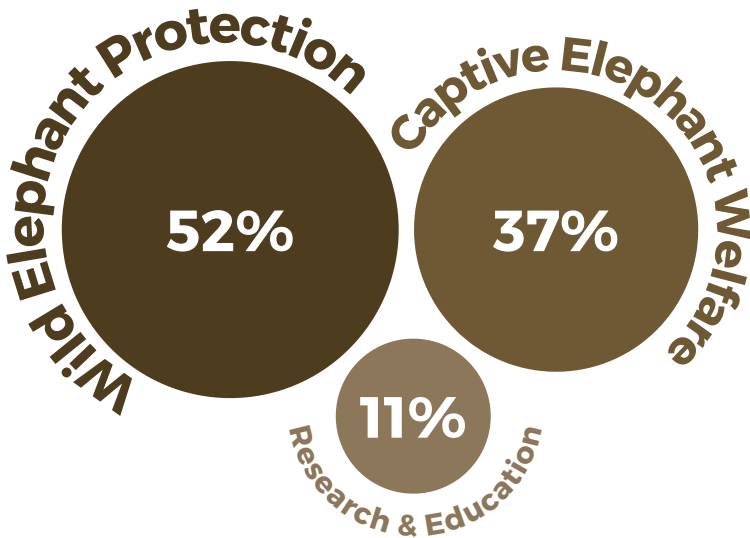
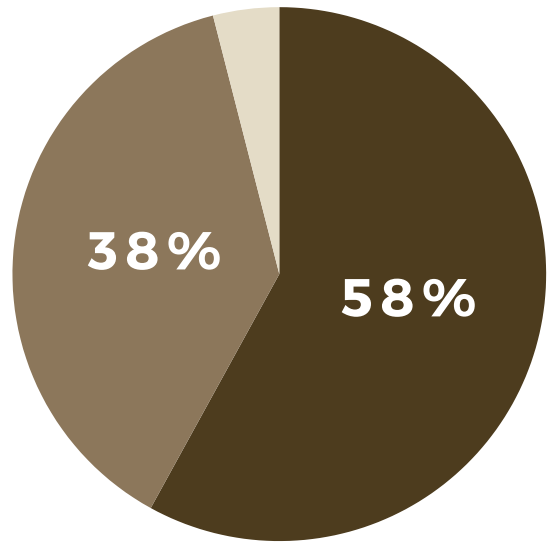
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2024

In 2024, GTAEF successfully maintained its projects while rebuilding its contingency fund after years of financial strain due to COVID-19.

9.7M

TOTAL DONATIONS (THB)

Total donations reached 9,76 million THB, with 58% from guests and the public, 38% from Minor Hotels and partners, and 4% from anonymous sources.



6.4M

TOTAL EXPENDITURES (THB)

Expenditures totaled 6.41 million THB, with 52% supporting wild elephant protection, 37% for captive elephant welfare, and 11% for research and education. Some research-related costs were included in the education budget, slightly adjusting allocations.

OUR PARTNERS

Thanks to partners and project sponsors plus many other individual donors without whom our work would be impossible



MR. & MRS. STEIGER

MR. ED STORY

MR. PAUL NAISMITH

VISION FOR 2025

In 2024, GTAEF advanced elephant welfare, conservation, and education while preserving mahout traditions and fostering sustainability. Looking ahead, we aim to:

- Strengthen human-elephant conflict mitigation.
- Expand research and conservation partnerships.
- Enhance community-led initiatives in ecotourism and farming.
- Increase education and career opportunities for mahout families.
- Reinforce sustainability and eco-friendly practices.

By aligning with SDGs, GTAEF remains committed to a future where elephants, people, and nature thrive together.



