Funding Needs

Elephant Conservation Center

elephant conservation center

Summary

ELEPHANT WELFARE ..... Page 6

Food, mahout salaries, veterinary care, daily care supplies.
COST: $ 10,000 annually / elephant / COST: $ 280,000 annually (28 elephants)

ELEPHANT REPRODUCTION ..... Page 6

International veterinary expertise, mahout salaries, hospital and laboratory equipment, biologist fees, reproductive monitoring, and essential animal care supplies.
COST: $ 35,000 annually

SECURING THE FUTURE ..... Page 6

Purchase of a female elephant of breeding age.
COST: $ 50,000 - $ 100,000 per elephant

ELEPHANT REWILDING & MONITORING UNIT ..... Page 7

Salaries for mahout-rangers, equipment, mission costs, and administrative expenses.
COST: $ 110,000 annually

BACK TO THE WILD ..... Page 7

Purchase Dor Khoun Meuang, a 12-year-old rewilded bull.
COST: $ 50,000

KIDS IN CONSERVATION ..... Page 8

Food, transportation, educational posters' printing, tshirts.
COST: $ 2,000 per session

WILDLIFE VET COURSE ..... Page 8

Student transportation, food & accommodation, vet trainers' per diems, educational materials & supplies, coordination & logistics.
COST: $ 40,000 annually

ELEPHANT PASTURES' REGENERATION ..... Page 8

Mapping, agro-forestry / phenology survey, planting.
COST: $ 8,000 annually

WILDMED MOBILE ELEPHANT CLINIC ..... Page 9

Vet salaries, medication, equipment, lab analysis, field mission costs,insurances.
COST: $ 180,000 annually

ELEPHANT SOCIALISATION ..... Page 9

Electric fencing and alarm systems.
COST: $ 50,000



While tourism contributes to ECC's revenue, it doesn't fully cover these substantial expenses. Additional funding is crucial to maintain and enhance the quality of care provided to these elephants. Support from donors and partners plays a vital role in bridging this financial gap, ensuring that ECC can continue its mission of elephant conservation and welfare.

ELEPHANT WELFARE

ECC, Sayaboury

Ensuring the well-being of the 30 elephants at the Elephant Conservation Center (ECC) in Laos is a significant financial commitment. Each elephant requires approximately $10,000 annually for essential care, encompassing:

- **Food**: Around 300 kg per day.
- **Mahout Salaries**: Compensation for dedicated caretakers.
- **Veterinary Care**: Regular health check-ups and medical treatments.
- **Daily Care Supplies**: Necessary items for maintenance and well-being.

COST: $ 10,000 annually / elephant

COST: $ 280,000 annually (28 elephants)

ELEPHANT REPRODUCTION

ECC, Sayaboury

With only one to two elephant births for every ten deaths annually in Laos, the Asian elephant faces a critical risk of extinction within the next two to three decades. The ECC is actively addressing this alarming decline through a dedicated breeding programme aimed at increasing birth rates and ensuring the survival of this iconic species. Operating this programme requires resources, including international veterinary expertise, mahout salaries, hospital and laboratory equipment, biologist fees, reproductive monitoring, and essential animal care supplies.



COST: $ 35,000 annually



SECURING THE FUTURE

ECC, Sayaboury

Securing young female elephants of breeding age is critical for the future of the Asian elephant species in Laos, where population numbers are dwindling. The ECC's project to purchase female elephants, costing between $50,000 and $100,000 each, covers acquisition (based on age, health, and reproductive potential), transport, medical assessment, and herd integration. These females are vital for breeding, ensuring genetic diversity and population growth.

COST: $ 50,000 - $ 100,000 per elephant



ELEPHANT REWILDING & MONITORING UNIT

Nam Pouy National Protected Area
Sayaboury

ECC is pioneering the rewilding of elephants within the Nam Pouy National Protected Area (NPA), home to the country's second-largest wild elephant population. This initiative is vital for restoring elephant numbers and ensuring their long-term survival.

Rewilding and Monitoring Efforts

In March 2019, ECC made history by releasing four elephants into the Nam Pouy NPA. These elephants have been GPS-collared, and their former mahouts, now trained as monitoring rangers, track their movements using direct observation and GPS technology. This continuous monitoring ensures the elephants adapt well to their new environment and integrate with existing wild herds.

Mitigating Human-Elephant Conflicts

The monitoring unit plays a crucial role in preventing human-elephant conflicts. By tracking elephant movements, they can anticipate and mitigate potential encounters between elephants and local communities, thereby protecting livelihoods and fostering coexistence.

Empowering Former Mahouts

This programme offers former mahouts, previously employed in the destructive logging industry, an opportunity to transition into conservation roles. By becoming rangers, they apply their traditional knowledge in protecting and monitoring elephants, contributing meaningfully to conservation efforts.

Funding Needs

- Operating the Rewilding and Monitoring Unit requires substantial resources, including salaries for mahout-rangers, equipment, mission costs, and administrative expenses.
- Donor support is essential to sustain these efforts, ensuring the continued success of elephant rewilding and the professional reintegration of mahouts into conservation.
- Supporting ECC's pioneering programme not only aids in elephant conservation but also promotes sustainable livelihoods for local communities, setting a precedent for future rewilding initiatives.

COST: $ 110,000 annually



BACK TO THE WILD

Nam Pouy National Protected Area
Sayaboury

ECC urgently needs financial support to secure the purchase of Dor Khoun Meuang, a 12-year-old bull (2024) elephant integral to its rewilding programme. Rescued from illegal trade and released into the Nam Pouy National Protected Area in 2019 alongside three others, this elephant thrives in the wild but remains government-owned, lacking official wild status. His acquisition would grant ECC the autonomy to maintain him in the wild, where he can enhance genetic diversity and bolster the dwindling wild elephant population in Laos.

COST: $ 50,000



Investing in Education: The Key to Long-Term Conservation

The “Kids in Conservation” programme at the ECC is shaping the future of environmental stewardship in Laos. By engaging young minds in Sayaboury province, this initiative fosters a deep understanding of ecosystems and the critical role elephants play as keystone species.

KIDS IN CONSERVATION

ECC, Sayaboury

- Through immersive one-day visits—including guided tours, interactive learning, and hands-on experiences—children gain the knowledge and inspiration needed to protect their country’s natural heritage.
- With 34 visits organized in 2024 thanks to donor support, this cost-effective programme is a vital investment in conservation’s long-term success.
- By supporting Kids in Conservation, donors help nurture the next generation of conservationists, ensuring a sustainable future for both Laos’ wildlife and its people.

COST: $ 2,000 per session

(20 children + 4 teachers)

WILDLIFE VET COURSE

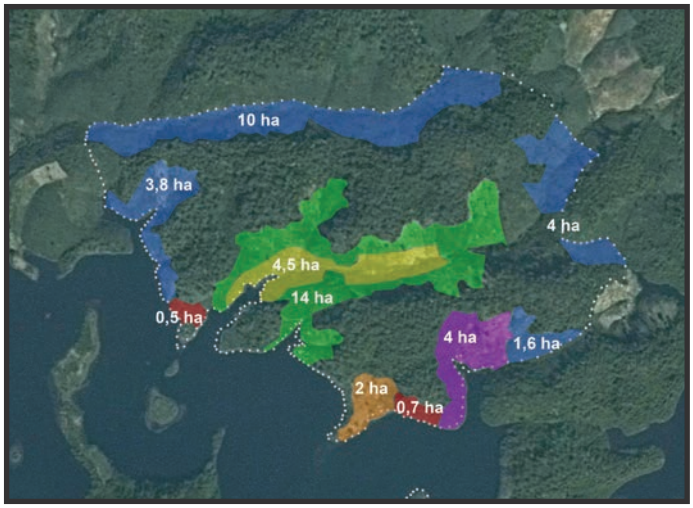
ECC, Sayaboury

Laos’ Future Elephant Vets

The Wildlife Course at ECC is crucial for training future Lao veterinarians in wildlife and elephant care. This 10-day, hands-on programme combines theory and fieldwork, giving 5th-year vet students the knowledge and skills to care for endangered species like elephants. Entirely taught in Lao, it builds national expertise essential for long-term conservation. Continued support is vital to keep developing a new generation of specialized elephant vets. Costs include: Student transportation, food & accommodation, vet trainers’ per diems, educational materials & supplies, coordination & logistics.



COST: $ 40,000 annually



ELEPHANT PASTURES’ REGENERATION

ECC, Sayaboury

Restoring Nam Tien: A Vital Mission for Elephant Welfare and Forest Sustainability

The Nam Tien Forest, home to ECC’s elephants, is not only a sanctuary for these majestic animals—it is also their primary source of food, shade, and freedom. As pressures from agriculture, past land use, and deforestation grow, restoring and regenerating this ecosystem has become critical. Careful management of grazing pastures and natural habitats directly impacts elephant health and welfare.

COST: $ 8,000 annually

(Mapping; agro-forestry / phenology survey; planting.)

WILDMED MOBILE ELEPHANT CLINIC

Laos

The WILDMED Unit is a pioneering mobile veterinary initiative in Laos, providing emergency medical care, disease surveillance, and health monitoring for the country's wildlife, with a special focus on elephants. Given the growing threats of human-elephant conflicts, illegal trafficking, and zoonotic diseases, this rapid-response team plays a vital role in safeguarding both wild and semi-wild elephant populations. Its One Health approach benefits both wildlife and communities, while training local veterinarians ensures the project's long-term capacity for wildlife care.



COST: $ 180,000 annually

(Vet salaries, medication, equipment, lab analysis, field mission costs,insurances)



ELEPHANT SOCIALISATION

ECC, Sayaboury

ECC emphasises the importance of socialisation for elephants' psychological and physical wellbeing.

To facilitate this, ECC wishes to develop nighttime socialisation enclosures, allowing elephants to interact safely after dark. These enclosures are equipped with electric fencing and alarm systems, with a dedicated team of mahouts on standby to manage any emergencies.

Supporting this initiative is vital, as it enables elephants to form natural social bonds, express normal behaviours, and enhances their overall welfare.

COST: $ 50,000



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