

Elephant Aid International 2014 Annual Report



One World...One Elephant at a Time



A Carol Buckley Project

ELEPHANT AID INTERNATIONAL

One World...One Elephant at a Time

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Elephant Aid International provides education and hands-on assistance to improve the lives of captive elephants worldwide.



Message from the Founder

In 2014, I facilitated the unchaining of 48 captive-held elephants who had spent their entire lives chained to the ground.

It was such a joy to watch as mothers and suckling calves, juveniles, tuskers and grandmothers, shed their chains and solitary lives. **No matter how many times I experience this, it never gets old.** Each elephant is an individual but there is a profound similarity in each release.

Some elephants dart away from their chains. Others amble tentatively, while a few actually freeze in place, expecting to hear a bellow from their mahout signaling them to stop.

No matter their initial reaction, each elephant quickly disappears into the enclosed acre of nature that is their new home. They scratch on trees, dust with abandon, forage through the diverse vegetation, interact with each other and relax.

Every elephant—young or old, sick or healthy, aggressive or compliant, tusker or female—responds in the same positive way. They are calm and comfortable in their chain-free corrals. They know their corral is their safe haven.

In the following pages you will read more about EAI's exciting accomplishments in 2014. EAI:

- Reached the halfway mark in our Chain Free Means Pain Free initiative, converting 13 hattisar (elephant facilities) and releasing 31 elephants owned by the government of Nepal from chains.
- Converted the first privately owned hattisar in Nepal to chain free.
- Designed and consulted on the construction of the first solar powered chain-free enclosure at a zoo in India, fencing 122 acres for rescued bull Sunder and his new 14-member family.
- Was instrumental in convincing Nepal's government to discontinue its elephant-back safaris and regulate those in the private sector to improve elephant welfare.

The last year has seen the beginnings of a powerful culture shift in Asia. Two years ago, EAI had just introduced the concept of chain-free enclosures. Now, chain free has gone mainstream. Throughout Asia, building chain-free enclosures is a real alternative to traditional methods.

Also in 2014, we launched a search for land on which to create a new sanctuary in the United States. Using lessons learned by both U.S. sanctuaries and my experience working with captive-held elephants in Asia, we will create a new generation of sanctuaries that will take elephant welfare to its next level.

None of our work would be possible without the kind support provided by our loyal donors, our business and funding partners, our board, staff, interns, volunteers—and you.

Carol Buckley



*For Tarra,
who inspires
and
guides me
every day.*



Achievements

Chain Free Means Pain Free: Phase One Completed

On June 24, 2014, EAI reached the halfway point in its conversion of Nepal's government-owned hattisars (elephant facilities) to chain free.

In only four months, EAI, Chitwan National Park Chief Conservation Officer Kamal Jung Kunwar and technicians from IBEX-India completed 31 solar-powered chain-free enclosures at 13 hattisars, permanently releasing 31 elephants from chains (meet the elephants on pg. 8-9).

Even at the halfway point, the Chain Free Means Pain Free project clearly marks a shift in Asia's elephant management culture. The young mahouts, a new generation of Asia's elephant keepers, stand at the cusp of change. The prospects are very exciting.



EAI Designs and Oversees construction of First Chain-Free Enclosure in India

In May 2014, after a seven-year international campaign led by PETA India, India's Supreme Court ordered the rescue of a badly abused bull named Sunder.

Sunder is a 15-year-old wild-caught elephant bull who spent six solitary years as a temple elephant. Abused and neglected, Sunder spent his days begging in the street and his nights shackled in spiked chains. Beaten daily, denied adequate nutrition and water, he developed deep, painful wounds on his legs from his chains.

In June, Sunder was moved to the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), which is located in Bannerghatta National Park in Bangalore

PETA India and BBP asked EAI to design and consult on the construction of a 122-acre solar powered chain-free enclosure—the first of its kind at any zoo in India—for Sunder and the 14-member family he joined at the park.

The 122 acres have all the desired components for captive elephants: open pasture, dense forests and ponds. The elephants are free to roam and play during the day and at night have access to the adjoining national park forest for foraging and exploration.

In addition, EAI designed an emergency corral inside the enclosure to contain a bull in musth safely and securely. The corral, constructed of steel pipes, comprises nearly one acre of land, with plenty of natural vegetation. The goal is never to have to use it but, in the event containment becomes necessary, Sunder will still remain chain free.

While at BBP, Carol also introduced mahouts to Compassionate Elephant Care (CEC) techniques.



First Privately Owned Elephants in Nepal Go Chain Free

On June 22, two elephants who live at Supana Village Resort, one of Sauraha's privately owned hotels, moved into their new chain-free corral, the first in Sauraha's private sector. EAI partnered with Animal Nepal, IBX India and the Village to build it. In exchange, Supana Village received the seal of approval from Animal Nepal and ongoing advice from EAI on improving its elephant program.

Although there is much resistance from other private owners, the project is the start of raising tourists' awareness of the conditions in which working elephants live. That alone will add pressure on private owners who continue to exploit and abuse their elephants for elephant-back safari rides in Chitwan.



Second Baby Elephant Trained with Compassionate Methods

Samrat Gaj, a male calf who lives at Sapana Village, will not need to have his "spirit broken." He is one of the few lucky elephants being trained using EAI's Compassionate Elephant Care system, which uses positive reinforcement only.

In short 15-minute training sessions, Samrat Gaj's mahouts taught him all the commands he will need to know when he grows up: lie down, stand still, walk forward and backward and come here. All this was accomplished with no hitting, no intimidation, no pain, just sound training theory using positive reinforcement!



Foot Trimming in Sauraha and Bardia

EAI and its foot trimming team traveled 10 hours on rough mountain roads to give pedicures to elephants at a remote location in Western Nepal. The team worked diligently for two days, trimming the feet of 24 government and privately owned elephants. While there, Carol and team introduced the mahouts to sound foot care techniques and provided advice on improving housing and general husbandry practices.



EAI Wins New Government Curbs on Elephant Back Safaris

In August 2014, EAI successfully petitioned the Nepali government to discontinue its elephant back safaris and set guidelines for safaris run by private owners.

Elephants wear a howdah (saddle) to carry tourists on safari rides. Although elephants are not designed to carry weight on their back, the howdah is cinched down tight over their spine. Every time the elephant takes a step, the ill-fitting howdah rubs, creating debilitating subcutaneous abscesses along the spine. The wounds become systemic and difficult to heal completely.

In an effort to educate private owners and protect elephants from injury, the government issued guidelines for tourist safari rides. They:

- Limit total ride time to five hours per day per elephant
- Curtail overuse of the buffer zone forest by limiting the number of safaris to 50 per day
- Require working elephants to retire at the age of 70.

The government also reiterated that since elephants are an endangered species, smugglers who bring elephants across the border from India face stiff penalties.



EAI Supports Oakland, CA, Bullhook Ban

In December 2014, EAI CEO Carol Buckley testified in support of an ordinance to ban bullhooks in Oakland, CA. The measure succeeded, making Oakland the second largest California city to pass such a ban (Los Angeles passed its own ban in spring 2014). Both bans will take effect in 2017.

2014 Snapshots

Converted First Hattisar in Chitwan National Park to Chain Free

After nearly one month of construction, six elephants went chain free. Ranging in age from 10 years to 70, all displayed an overwhelming joy when they were released from their chains for the last time. They ran, played, dusted, vocalized and scratched every inch of their bodies on trees in their corral.



Mahouts Gear Up!

Releasing elephants from chains has an impact on the mahouts who care for them.

The mahouts must now work within a multi-acre fenced area, hauling manure and food longer distances. During the monsoon season, they wade through putrid standing water infested with blood-sucking leeches and poisonous snakes.

Thanks to EAI's devoted supporters, the mahouts who care for the 31 elephants released from chains in Phase One of the Chain Free Means Pain Free initiative have been outfitted with gear to protect them, keep them dry and make their jobs a little easier.

Carol distributed rain gear, boots, gloves, t-shirts, wheelbarrows and more to the appreciative mahouts.



Chain Free Means Pain Free Debuts at Media Event

More than 20 reporters attended a news conference held by Chitwan National Park to introduce EAI's Chain Free Means Pain Free initiative.

After Assistant Warden Vishnu Thapaliya introduced the project, the journalists had many questions about the construction of the corrals, how they operate and why they are necessary.

EAI CEO Carol Buckley answered their questions in detail and explained the concept behind the project.

"Creating a space, a corral, that can contain elephants safely and humanely," she said, "is the first step to improving elephant welfare."

When asked why EAI picked Nepal for the project, Carol responded, "For two reasons. First, the number of elephants living in chains. Second, the receptivity of the mahouts and administrators to the idea of change."

Chief Conservation Officer Kamal Kunwar wrapped up the event by praising the initiative for advancing elephant welfare in Nepal.



Once Wild, Always Wild

One day, as the EAI team was driving through the jungle, a hatti [elephant] appeared in the distance.

As they got closer, Carol recognized her: Mel Kali, a retired elephant owned by the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC).

Mel Kali, who is well over 70 years old, was captured from the wild as a baby and served most of her life working patrols that protect endangered wildlife from poachers. She nearly died of pneumonia in 2013. After intensive veterinary intervention, Mel Kali recovered and, upon Carol's request, was retired from duty.



Once Wild, Always Wild Continued:

Mel Kali is obviously having the time of her life. Released into Chitwan National Park every morning, she spends her day foraging and has been known to spend time with Renaldo, the area's dominant wild bull elephant. She returns to the hattisar on her own each evening. . . that is, unless she feels like staying out.

Mel Kali may have spent seven decades in captivity as a working elephant serving humans and her fellow wildlife but, even in her golden years, she is still a jungli hattī (wild elephant) at heart.

Chain Free Phase One Completed!

On June 15, Chitwan National Park held another media event to celebrate the completion of Chain Free Means Pain Free Phase 1. Media were invited to see the 31 completed corrals and EAI presented gifts to the delighted mahouts, including rain gear, boots and wheelbarrows.



Meeting Fans in Colorado

Carol traveled to Breckenridge, CO, to attend a fundraiser for EAI held by Beetle Kill Blues; speak to Upper Blue Elementary school students; and do a book signing at The Next Page bookstore. She met many fellow elephant lovers at the book signing and shared a new video about EAI's Chain Free Means Pain Free work at the fundraiser.



Sunder Has a Wild Visitor

A young jungli hattī (wild elephant) caused a stir among mahouts when he temporarily joined Sunder's family in their chain-free enclosure.

The 10-year-old bull was just a kid, probably making the transition to independence. He spent more than two weeks with Sunder and family, seeming quite comfortable in their company. He grazed with them, swam with them, dusted with them and good-naturedly allowed the baby Shiva to make a pest of himself.

Finally, when it was time for the jungli hattī to go on his way, it was the elephants themselves who escorted him out of the chain-free enclosure when they were released for their nightly exploration of the neighboring National Park.



Speaking Up for Nosey

Carol traveled to Washington, DC, to speak to media at a PETA demonstration at the U.S. Capitol urging the USDA to take action on behalf of an elephant named Nosey. Nosey's owner, a private exhibitor, takes her to venues all over the country to perform and give rides, even though she suffers from a number of medical conditions and is lame.



Photo Credit: Leigh Vogel/PETA

The New Baby Who will Never Know Chains

At midnight on December 2, an elephant named Vanashree who lives at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) in India gave birth to a male calf. Thanks to the combined efforts of BBP, PETA India and EAI, they live in the chain-free enclosure designed by Carol Buckley.

This beautiful baby will never know chains. He marks a new generation of captive-held elephants in India.



Meet the Elephants You Helped Free in 2014

Anti-Poaching Patrol Elephants, Chitwan National Park, Nepal

Kasara hattisar is located at the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation headquarters in Chitwan National Park. It currently houses five elephants between the age of six and 58 years. All were released from chains during March and April 2014.



Himal Gaj (male)



Tamor Kali (female)



Prayan Kali (female)



Laxmi Kali (female)



Khosi Kali (female)

Sukibhar hattisar is located in a remote grassland area of Chitwan National Park. In order to provide sufficient tree cover for the elephants, the corrals were built far from the existing mahout housing. As result, new mahout housing was built, underwritten by the Estate of Harrison Sanford Jackson. Both elephants are 10 years old and were released from chains in May 2014.



Trithaman Kali (female)



DamDami Kali (female)



Bagmara hattisar is located along the Reu River inside Chitwan National Park. Twelve-year-old Krishna Prasad lives alone, but socializes with elephants from neighboring hattisars every day. He was released from chains in March 2014.



Krishna Prasad (male)

Meghauli hattisar is located in the community forest adjacent to Chitwan National Park. Five elephants between the ages of 10 and 69 reside here. Upon their release in April 2014, the youngest elephants, Brahagani Gaj and Sarswati Kali, were placed in corrals with compatible adult female elephants. This signaled a shift in Nepali elephant management culture, which traditionally dictates that all anti-poaching patrol elephants must be housed alone.



Parvati Kali (female)



Prithibi Kali (female)



Kusha Prasad (male)



Brahagani Gaj (male)



Sarswati Kali (female)

Khoryahoman hattisar is also located on the Rue River, inside Chitwan National Park. It currently houses two elephants. Sher Bahadur Prasad, 35, is a one-tusked male, which carries significance in the Hindu religion. Himalaya Kali, 37, was named by Chief Warden Kamal Kunwar out of respect for the famous Himalaya Mountains. Both were released from chains in April 2014.



Sher Bahadur Prasad (male)



Himalya Kali (female)

Lamichaure hattisar is located along the Narayani River, inside the Western sector of Chitwan National Park. Forty-year-old Shankar Prasad is our first mature, ivory carrying tusker to be placed in a solar powered chain free corral. He lives alone but socializes with other compatible elephants when brought to graze on the opposite side of the river, where the grass is plentiful. He was released from chains in April 2014.



Shankar Prasad (male)

Ghidenighat hattisar sits on the bank of the Narayani River and is home to 52-year-old Sanochanal Kali. This area is known for its human-eating tigers so, in addition to building two chain-free corrals, solar powered fencing was built to protect the mahout housing, cooking hut and outhouse as well. Sanochanal Kali was released from chains in May 2014.



Sanochanal Kali (female)



Kujauli hattisar also sits on the bank of the Narayani River and houses two elephants. Moti Prasad, 54, is notorious for his aggressiveness. He and Rampyari, 52, had been kept in chains for five decades. They were released in May 2014.



Moti Prasad (male)



Rampyari (female)

Dibyapuri hattisar is located deep in the Western sector of Chitwan National Park. Internationally known captive-born twins, Ram Gaj and Laxmi Gaj, age 6, reside here. They were released from chains in May 2014.



Ram Gaj & Laxmi Gaj (males)

Belsar hattisar is located on the northern border of Chitwan National Park. It currently houses two elephants, ages 16 and 40. Both were released from chains in May 2014.



Rupa Kali (female)



Birkam Prasad (male)

Khachhuwani hattisar is located several miles inside Chitwan National Park's central sector. It is the newest hattisar and shares space with an army post designated for anti-poaching. A six-year-old male and 70-year-old female were released from chains in May 2014.



Churiya Gaj (male)



Sundar Mala (female)

Amriti hattisar is located in a remote area of the Eastern sector of Chitwan National Park along the Rapti River. It currently houses two elephants, both age 10. They were released from chains in June 2014.



Paras Gaj (male)



Loktantra Kali (female)

Khagendramali hattisar is located on the bank of the Rapti River in Chitwan National Park. It houses one 15-year-old elephant, who was released from chains in June 2014.



Gandaki Kali (female)

Privately Owned Elephants

Supana Village Resort hattisar is a tourist destination located outside Chitwan National Park in Sauraha, Nepal. EAI is encouraging private owners to improve elephant welfare by releasing elephants from chains. These, a 45-year-old mother and her five-month-old son, the first privately owned elephants to go chain free, were released in June 2014.



Srijana Kali (female)



Samrat Gaj (male)





Board of Directors



Carol Buckley

Carol Buckley is the founder, president and chief executive officer of Elephant Aid International. A visionary who has spent four decades creating sanctuary for captive elephants, Carol rescues, rehabilitates and provides hands-on care and compassion-based training for needy elephants worldwide.

Carol also advises governmental agencies and private organizations on strengthening regulations for the welfare of captive elephants; trains mahouts and caregivers in the use of Compassionate Elephant Care; and provides and teaches essential foot care methods.

She co-founded The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee in 1995, where she served as president and chief executive officer until 2010. She has raised global awareness of the needs of elephants in captivity, and her innovative holistic approach to elephant care and welfare has been a catalyst for change within the U.S. elephant industry.

Since the creation of EAI in 2010, Carol has focused on international collaborative efforts to improve captive elephant welfare in Asia.



A. Christy Williams

A. Christy Williams is program coordinator for Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy, a World Wildlife Fund conservation program in eight countries across Asia: Nepal, India, Cambodia, Laos, Bhutan, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. In addition to developing conservation programs he is involved in larger policy issues affecting pachyderms across the region.

Leslie PonTell-Schreiber has worked in the exotic management field for more than three decades. Before retiring, she served as co-director of Ontario's Bowmanville Zoo and was the assistant director of Moorpark College's Exotic Animal Training and Management program.



Leslie PonTell-Schreiber



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Elephant Aid International is built on the belief that small changes can make a huge difference. Whether you prefer to contribute funds, buy or underwrite items from our Wish Lists or offer your skills, we appreciate your support.

We welcome donations of any amount.

You can donate through PayPal on our website, www.elephantaid.org. Please make checks or money orders payable to Elephant Aid International and send to:

Elephant Aid International

P.O. Box 106

Hohenwald, TN 38462

Elephant Aid International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a registered California State Charity as required by law.

Other ways you can support EAI include:

- Funding items on the EAI Wish List or individual Project Wish Lists by purchasing items and shipping them to us at 4128 Buffalo Road, Hohenwald, TN 38462
- Making in-kind donations.
- Arranging planned giving.
- Shopping in the EAI online shop at www.cafepress.com/eaishop.

For more information, please visit www.elephantaid.org or write us at elevisions@gmail.com.

Summary of Financial Activity 2014

Public Support & Revenue\$276,484.27

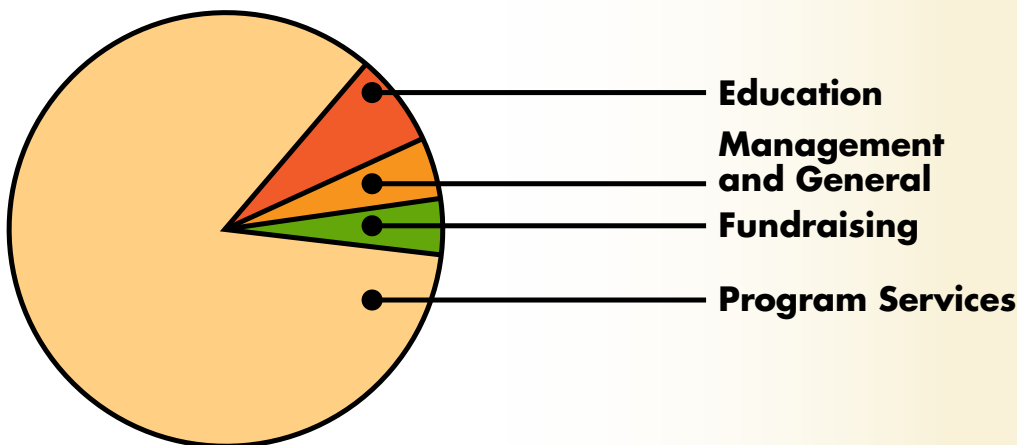
Expenses & Losses

Program Services.....\$236,704.22
 Education\$ 12,377.27
 Fundraising.....\$ 9,593.84
 Management and General.....\$ 9,735.22

Total Expenses \$268,410.55



Breakdown of Expenses & Losses



Thank you!

Elephant Aid International thanks its many supporters and partners for their incredible generosity in 2014. Our work would not be possible without you. Listed below are our current supporters—individuals, businesses, foundations and partners—who made gifts or provided services or support between January 1 and December 31, 2014.

If we have incorrectly listed or omitted your name, please accept our apologies. Your support is deeply appreciated.

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*And a special thanks to all of our
mahout friends, with whom we had the
great pleasure of working.*



ELEPHANT AID INTERNATIONAL

2014 Annual Report



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Our Mission

Elephant Aid International (EAI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded by Carol Buckley in 2010 to create a paradigm shift that will foster change in beliefs and approaches to the care and management of elephants throughout the world.

With the combined international efforts of scientists, veterinarians, mahouts (elephant handlers), elephant caregivers and elephant welfare supporters, EAI is helping to change how the public relates to elephants; how mahouts and elephant caregivers train elephants; and how captive elephants are cared for worldwide.

EAI has pioneered a new system, Compassionate Elephant Care, which will eliminate antiquated, dominance-based training and result in improved elephant welfare.

By providing education and hands-on assistance, EAI is working to end the worldwide suffering of elephants...one elephant at a time.

Our Goals

- Improve the conditions of captivity in which elephants live and eliminate abusive training and management.
- Create alternatives to the use of chaining as a form of management.
- Train mahouts in positive management techniques so they can better care for and manage their elephants.
- Improve the social status of mahouts through education and job advancement.
- Remove begging elephants from the streets of Asia by finding alternative livelihoods for mahouts and their families.
- Facilitate the establishment of lifetime care centers (sanctuaries).

Our Projects

- Building chain-free enclosures to eliminate the antiquated and physically harmful practice of chaining elephants' feet to the ground.
- Providing elephant pedicures and training mahouts in the skills necessary to support foot health and prevent life-threatening osteomyelitis.
- Increasing mahouts' knowledge of elephant biology, psychology, behavior and learning style to help them develop more positive interpersonal relationships with their elephants.
- Working with government agencies and NGOs to create permanent elephant care and retirement facilities.
- Improving elephant stable sanitation.
- Establishing a new elephant sanctuary in the United States.



A Carol Buckley Project

ELEPHANT AID INTERNATIONAL
One World...One Elephant at a Time

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