

Everything Elephants!

Helping More Than 200 Elephants in Nepal & Myanmar

A Special Fundraising Project of Work for Wild Life International
To Benefit
Elephant Care International & Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp



Report Prepared by:

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Summary

In 2019, [Work for Wild Life International](#) (WfWL) raised \$21,000 cash plus \$8,000 in veterinary supplies to support two elephant healthcare projects in Nepal and Myanmar. These projects include the *Nepal Elephant Healthcare and Tuberculosis Surveillance Program* carried out by [Elephant Care International](#) and the [Green Hill Valley Mobile Elephant Veterinary Unit](#) in Myanmar, which together contribute substantially to the health and welfare of more than 200 Asian elephants.

Funds raised by WfWL for included: (1) foundation grants; (2) general donations; and (3) income from WfWL's 2019 "[Everything Elephants](#)" philanthropic travel program (*see list of major contributors below*).

NEPAL Elephant Healthcare and Tuberculosis (TB) Surveillance Program

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented any in-situ work from taking place in Nepal in 2020 (as originally planned) and in 2021 as well. It was not until May of 2022 that Dr. Susan Mikota, Director of Veterinary Programs and Research at Elephant Care International (ECI), was able to safely travel to and throughout Nepal to carryout her work.

Finally! In Nepal Again. TB Testing Completed in Conjunction with Elephant Health Camps

Elephant Care International and partner organization National Trust for Nature Conservation (a Nepal NGO) conducted a series of health camps, which included TB testing, from May 23 to June 16 of 2022 for captive elephants in the Chitwan area of Nepal. A total of 166 government and private-owned elephants were tested for TB.

For most of the private-owned elephants the exams were conducted at a designated area near the Rapti River. Because of the heat, exams started at 6 AM and were usually completed by 10 AM. Four elephants were examined in the morning and two or three in the evening when it was cooler.

In cases where elephants were too far away to walk to the site, our team traveled to their respective stables. All of the government-owned elephants were examined in their home stables.



ABOVE: 2022 Elephant Health Camp & TB Testing team (left to right): Dr. Kamal Gairhe, Dr. Susan Mikota, Dr. Amir Sadaula, Kirin Rijal, Hira Lal, Gandhari Mahato.

Healthcare team members included ECI's Dr. Susan Mikota and the following staff from the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC): Dr. Amir Sadaula, chief veterinarian; Kirin Rijal, veterinary technician; and Dr. Lasta Shrestha, volunteer veterinarian.

Dr. Kamal Gairhe (Chief wildlife veterinarian for Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation/DNPWC, retired) also assisted. Additionally, two mahouts with foot care skills were hired (Hira Lal and Gandhari Mahato) for the duration of the health camps. Dr. Sadaula organized the daily schedule.

Each elephant was given a physical exam and body score. Chest girth was measured to estimate weight. Blood was collected for TB testing and for routine hematology and chemistry testing.

Worming medication was administered in molasses balls or fruit. Hira and Gandhari trimmed all the nails and worked on the pads as needed. Vitamins and wound care supplies were dispensed to each mahout for his elephant.

In most cases the TB tests were performed in the lab after the morning exams and before the evening session. Results were reported to the individual owners and to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (government-owned elephants). The TB test used is a screening test and elephants that are reactive will receive follow-up testing and monitoring.

TB-related Elephant Deaths During the Pandemic / Reconstituting the TB Surveillance Program

The Nepal Elephant Healthcare and TB Surveillance Program had lapsed because of funding shortages and the pandemic, and during this interim period, several government owned elephants died of TB. This was very concerning to NTNC and DNPWC as these elephants are used to patrol and protect the national parks. Each individual elephant is an important resource. As elsewhere, Asian elephants in Nepal are endangered.

Prior to her departure back to the U.S., Dr. Mikota met with Dr. BabuRam Lamicchane, Dr. Amir Sadaula, and Dr. Bijaya Kumar Shrestha, DNPWC veterinarian to discuss preliminary findings, plans to retest TB-suspect elephants, and the future of the TB program in Nepal.

Nepal is the only Asian elephant range country to have a TB management program for elephants but the program document expired in 2015. The plan is to revisit this document and revise the TB testing, management, and treatment algorithms as needed. Completing this task was not possible during Dr. Mikota's May/June 2022 visit.



ABOVE: Blood was collected from each elephant for TB testing and routine hematology and chemistries.



ABOVE: TB screening tests in the lab. A total of 166 tests were conducted on elephants in the Chitwan region.

Dr. Mikota briefly discussed the on-going need for financial support for this program, which will need to come from the government and NTNC with additional assistance from organizations such as ECI. In cases where private-owned elephants need to be treated for TB, owners will be expected to cover those costs.

Creating Goodwill for Future Success in TB Mitigation and Other Elephant Welfare Work

The May/June 2022 TB testing work and health camps (and two other health camps previously funded by the [Elephant Healthcare and Welfare Emergency Lifeline Fund](#)) has created a tremendous amount of goodwill in the Chitwan area. Private owners, deprived of tourist income to support their elephants during the difficult years of the pandemic were especially appreciative and Dr. Mikota was thanked by several owners who attended the camp with their elephants.

The health camps benefitted the elephant directly but also served to establish trust with the owners. Dr. Mikota believes the rapport established will facilitate positive, collegial work with owners in the future to improve the health and welfare of elephants used in tourism.

MYANMAR ~ Green Hill Valley Mobile Elephant Veterinary Unit

For much of 2020, Green Hill Valley's staff members were in and out of COVID-19 lockdown mode, with intermittent periods of time allowing regional travel. During these times (and in 2019), GHV's Mobile Elephant Veterinary Unit (MEVU) was able to help many elephants that needed both emergency and routine veterinary care as seen in these images. MEVU care included deworming, vaccinations, wound treatment, digestive, nutritional and general consultation and treatment.

Through this project, GHV was awarded funds to support its MEVU services and veterinary supplies, which are provided free of charge to elephant owners. In addition, medications, supplements, supplies, and foot care tools were donated* to support the MEVU's work. These items included:

1. Assisi Loop
2. Frost hoof knives #6
3. SaveEdge 14 inch wide rasp #3
4. Blood collection set 21 gauge 100
5. Wonder Dust Powder #6
6. Boiron Calendula Ointment 1 oz #3
7. Urinalysis Multistix diagnostic strips
8. Syringe 60 ml hard pack 20 count
9. Syringe 35 ml hard pack 50 count #3
10. Syringe 6 ml soft pack 100 count #2
11. Needles 18 gauge x 1 ½ “ 100 count box



**ABOVE: Dr. Betsy Coville and Dr. Susan Mikota review veterinary care items donated to GHV with Sayar Ba—GHV's lead vet. All items were purchased, delivered, and donated by Dr. Coville as part of the "Everything Elephants" Program. ~ 2019*



ABOVE LEFT: ActiVet cold laser to support wound healing. ABOVE RIGHT: Dr. Susan Mikota and Sayar Ba demonstrate use of the Assisi Loop (to treat inflammation). ~ 2019

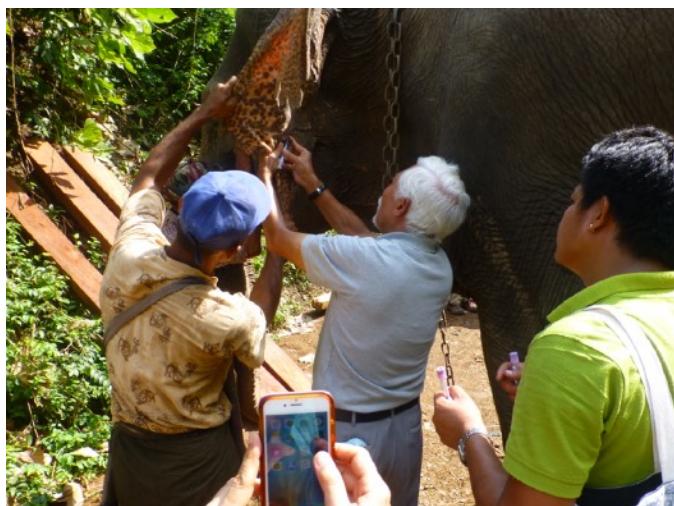


ABOVE: GHV's Mobile Elephant Veterinary Unit travels throughout the region to deliver veterinary care under the supervision of Sayar Ba (GHV's lead vet) to elephants living in the Mandalay district. ~ 2020



ABOVE LEFT: A laminated field guide for evaluating elephants' body condition was created and donated by Work for Wild Life, and was distributed to owners of elephants throughout the region during health visits.

ABOVE RIGHT: GHV's Mobile Elephant Veterinary Unit owner, Tin Win Maw, explains to an elephant owner during a field visit, how to evaluate the body condition of his elephants using the laminated document. ~ 2019



ABOVE LEFT: GHV's lead vet, Sayar Ba, treats an elephant during an MEVU field visit. BELOW RIGHT: Sayar Ba records all details of elephants' health, welfare, and medical treatment during an MEVU field visit. ~ 2019

Many thanks to our *Everything Elephants* participants (*left to right in photo to the right*): Toni Napolitano, Dr. Betsy Coville, Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund, Dr. Susan Mikota, Colleen Shannon, Rebecca Madrid, and Alpana Ahuja. And to the Phase Foundation and Lush Charitable Giving Program *and everyone* who donated to our GoFundMe campaign!

I extend a special, **heartfelt “thank you”** to ECI’s Dr. Susan Mikota; Green Hill Valley’s Tin Win Maw, Htun Htun Wynn, Sayar Ba...and *all* of their hard-working staff. Thank you, my friends, for caring for elephants! *With deep appreciation, Hollis.*



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