

Project Update: July 2003

The UK-based Elephant Family (EF) organization has sponsored my recent (8 week) trip to two SE Asian countries. The main intention of my trip has been to get deeper understanding of the social factors that cause declining of elephants in captivity in the original range countries of Asia. The EF would like to have my independent view of welfare status of Asian elephants in two range states (Sumatra in Indonesia and Jaipur, Rajasthan in North India).

My findings would likely to assist EF to help conserve these elephants under human care. Through my findings in these two countries EF will lay foundations:

- a) to facilitate the establishment of a health care monitoring system, including micro-chipping of elephants,
- b) lobby funds from local Governments and international NGOs,
- c) to find ways to get better job opportunities for captive elephants,
- d) to build local political will and assessment of longer-term private-public-partnerships.

During this trip, I will train local vets and mahouts (elephant keepers) by sharing experiences of elephant management keeping systems in Burma. I will train Indonesian and Indian vets to assess body condition of elephants and develop models of training, health check and routine veterinary

