

Asian Elephants in Sri Lanka: A Selective Annotated Bibliography

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Introduction

Normally elephants have been a part of the Asian society as well as history, culture, pageantry and folklore of the Sri Lanka. But sadness thing is that population of elephants in Sri Lanka as well as Asian countries is decreased day by day. The population of elephants in Sri Lanka is less than 5% by today. Although, the connection between people and elephant are not disclose by this time.

The main objective of this study is to identify the all literature related to Asian Elephants in Sri Lanka. Other objectives are to categories the literature about Asian Elephants and to create a selective annotated bibliography of Asian Elephants in Sri Lanka. Mainly this research is based on the secondary data. Secondary data gathered from dictionary, encyclopedia, periodicals, text books, web sites, etc. The main tool of the study was the National bibliography of Sri Lanka. The study was used limited period since 1990-2015.

This article focus to build an annotated bibliography for Asian elephants in Sri Lanka. An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (normally it contains less or above 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. So that this article is very important for users who are searching information related to Asian elephants in Sri Lanka.

After gathering information according to the objectives there are lot of literature related to Asian elephants. This article presents sixteen books and twelve websites related to Asian elephants in Sri Lanka and ten books and twenty four websites Asian elephants in other countries. Brief description has provided for most of books and websites.

Books

1. Aelallagoda, M.G. (2004), Sri lankave ali aetun saha Sinhala sanskrutiye aet paura (Elephants in Sri Lanka & Elephant wall in Sinhalese culture), Godage, Colombo, xvii, 69p.; 21cm.- ISBN 955-206826-6: Rs.125.00
2. Bandara, R. & Silva, K.A.I.D. (2001), Framework for evaluation of human elephant conflict in Sri Lanka: an application of cost benefit analysis as a decision support, Ministry of Forestry and Environment, Battaramulla, v, 106p.; 21 cm
3. Bandara, Tibhiriyagama com. (2014), Panamura kuncanada vata (Sounds of Elephants), Sarasavi, Nugegoda, 52p.; photo: 25cm, ISBN 978-955-31-0170-9, Rs. 175.00

This is not a research work or fiction. But this a true story related to Panamure elephants. This book describe information related to elephants in Panamure. Author describe here how to make a big wall to catch elephants for their work. This is a very descriptive book on elephants.

4. Cannon, Teresa (1995), *Aliya: stories of the elephants of Sri Lanka*, Airavata press, Victoria, xii, 179p.; photo: 31cm.- ISBN 0-646-21408-X

This is a beautiful photographed book of elephants in Sri Lanka. Several chapters on human activities and elephants, for ten nights, just at dusk, drummers, horn blowers, dancers, fire walkers and whip crackers accompany elaborately adorned elephants in procession from the temple are included to this book.

5. De Silva, N.S. (2002), *Sri lankave ali (Elephants in Sri Lanka)*, Department of National Zoological Garden, Dehivala, ii, 10p.; ill.: 22cm.- ISBN 955-8513-01-0

6. Jayawardhana, Jayanta (2010), *Sri lankave ali aetun (Elephants in Sri Lanka)*, trans. Sudat Abesinghe, Author, Rajagiriya, vi, 113; photo, 22cm, ISBN 978-955-95677-3-8: Rs.750.00

7. Jayewardana, Jayantha (1994), *The elephants in Sri Lanka*, The wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka, Colombo, 128pp., ISBN 955-95677-0-5: Rs.1300.00

Under the elephants in Sri Lanka, author has organized his work into eight chapters including history and legend of Ceylon elephants, physical features and behavior of Sri Lankan elephants, wild elephants, and tame elephants. Author further discussed about conflicts and problems between man and elephants. Final chapter was pointed out about the risk on elephants in Sri Lanka. Maps, images and photographs have been used to present the information appropriately.

8. Kahandagama, Piyasena (2008), *Panamure aet raja (The king elephant, Panamure)*, 2 print., Sarasavi, Ngegodra, xi, 191; photo: 18cm.- ISBN 978-955-573-733-3; Rs. 275.00

This book aims for children. Author try to describe how to catch and kill elephant in Sri Lanka. Author present information in fiction manner. This book mostly focus on the king elephant Panamure.

9. Kurt, Fred (2006), *The Asian elephant in captivity: a field study*, Cambridge University press India (pvt) Ltd, India, 364p.; 23 cm.- ISBN 978-8175969636

This book provides information on ecology and behavior of captive elephants in relation to their wild conspecifics. They stem from a recent research project of the authors and their coworkers in Sri Lanka and also from a number of their studies on wild and captive elephants in Sri Lanka, South India, Myanmar and South Africa as well as in several European zoos and circuses. Aspects of social behavior, reproduction and musth as well as stereotypical behavior,

sleep and tooluse of wild and captive elephants are described. Finally, recommendations on how to improve the living conditions of captive elephants are also added.

10.Obesekara, Mirando (2012), Sri Lankave ali aetunge itihasya pilibanda sastriya vimarsanayak (A review of history on elephants in Sri Lanka), Samanthi Books, Ja-Ela, 111p.; ill.: 21 cm, ISBN 978-955-0084-67-8: Rs.250.00

11.Paranagama (1999), An atto avi laddo, Godage, Colombo,184pp., ISBN 955-20-3784-0: Rs.200.00

There are eleven chapters included to this book related to animals. Through them one chapter was discussed about elephants in Sri Lanka. Author describe the different of the features related to elephants in different countries like India, Africa, and Asia etc.

12.Thenna, C. Abhaya (2014), Gaja mituru wata (A story on elephants), Godage, Colombo, 152p.:photo; 22cm., ISBN 978-955-30-4898-1: Rs.450

13.Vijebandara, Krishna (2002), Saddanta premaya sundarai, Sooriya, Colombo, 202p.; ill.: 21cm.ISBN 955-8425-74-5: Rs.250.00

14.Vithana, G.K. (2000), Ali aethunge lokaya (A world of elephants), Wijesooriya Grantha Kendraya, Mulleriyawa, 90p.: ill.; 21cm.- ISBN 955-652-033-4

This book focus for young children. The author describe some case and situation related to elephants. This book try give a massage to young children about elephant conservation in Sri Lanka.

15.Wijegunawardhana, Vajira [et.all] (2010), Sri Lankan elephant: a celebration of majesty, Bookzone, [S.L.], 210p.;col.ill: 37cm ISBN 978-955-2924-0-5

This book contains more than 150 color and black-and-white photographs portraying the Sri Lankan elephant. These are interspersed with short essays written by various scientists on, amongst others, biology, ecology, and behavior of elephants, as wells conservation status, human-elephant conflict, tourism, and the future of elephants in Sri Lanka.

16.Wijeratna, G. de. Silva (2006), Wild life of the dry lawlands of Sri Lanka and South Asia: a photographic guide to the commoner animal plants of the dry lawlands, trans. Ayanthi Samarajeewa., Jetwin Eco Holidays, Colombo, 111p.; ill.:16cm, ISBN 955-1097-02-7

Websites

1. A-Z animals, <http://a-z-animals.com/animals/sri-lankan-elephant/> Details on Sri Lankan Elephants are available.

2. Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust (BECT), <http://www.elephantsinsrilanka.org/elephants.htm>

Information on Elephant population and distribution, human-elephant conflict are available. Two articles on human aspects of human elephant conflict and Illegal captures-a serious threat to Asian Elephants are published. The abstracts of the symposium of human-elephant relations and conflicts held in 2003 are available. The report of the Status of the domestic elephant population in Sri Lanka can be downloaded.

3. EleAid, <http://www.eleaid.com/?page=elephantsinsrilanka>

Elephant population figures of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam are available. The information on topics such as Asian elephant distribution, elephant habitat loss, elephant poaching, human elephant conflict and street elephants, elephant species, elephant tusks, difference between Asian and African elephants, elephant evolution, elephant trunk and elephant teeth are presented in the site.

4. Elephants News Sri Lanka, <http://elephantssrilanka.blogspot.com/>

This blog contains elephant news in Sri Lanka. It keeps you updated with events and issues affecting elephants in Sri Lanka. It presents articles under different categories such as elephant conservation, human elephant conflict, wild elephants, elephant deaths, elephant crop raiding, elephant population, elephants in war, illegal elephant activity, domesticated elephants, elephant rescue, elephant tourism, elephant relocation and elephant behavior.

5. Elephants in Sri Lankan History and Culture, <http://livingheritage.org/elephants.htm>

This web site also describes the elephants in Sri Lankan history and culture.

6. Elephant Safari Sri Lanka, <http://www.elephantsinsrilanka.com/>

This site has information about elephant safari parks, Udawalawe Elephant transit home and Elephants in Sri Lanka history and culture.

7. Gail's Elephant Diary, <http://www.kandulatea.com/?p=about.elephants>

Gail's elephant diary describes his experience in watching elephants bathe in the Maya Oya river.

8. History and Culture of Elephants in Sri Lanka, <http://amazinglanka.com/wp/elephants-in-sri-lanka/> There is an article on history and culture of elephants in Sri Lanka.

9. Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, <http://nationalzoo.gov.lk/elephantorphanage/> This article has information on Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage.

10. Sri Lanka Elephant, <http://srilankaelephant.com/>

This site is dedicated to majestic elephants of Sri Lanka. News clippings are available. There is an article about famous Nadun Gamuwe Wijaya Raja who carries the scared relics of the Lord Buddha in the annual world famous Kandy Perahara.

11. Sri Lankan Elephant, <http://www.worldwildlife.org/species/sri-lankan-elephant>

It contains a summary of Sri Lankan elephants, articles on habitat loss and human elephant conflict of Sri Lankan elephants.

12. Sri Lanka Wild Life Conservation Society (SWLCS), <http://www.slwcs.org/>

SWLCS web site has published videos on human elephant conflict in Sri Lanka, history of humans and elephants, the cycle of human elephant conflict and Sri Lanka Wild Life Conservation Society. Ongoing conservation project details are available.

Books - Asian Elephants in other Countries

1. Connon, Teresa & Davis, Peter (1999), Asian Elephants, Foundation Books, New Delhi, 32p.: photo; 25cm.- ISBN 81-7596-063-9

2. Dama, Madhukar (2014), Handbook on Asian elephant: a compilation of basic information, contributor

Upendra H.A, Create Space Independent publishing platform, USA, 100p.; 26cm.- ISBN 978-1499566642

This book try to cover information on Asian elephants, anatomical and physiological features of Asian elephants, management aspects, health aspects, legal aspects and post mortem of Asian elephants. This is a greatest descriptive book.

3. Daniel, J.C. (2009), Asian elephants: a natural history, Natraj publisher, [N.P.], 306p.; 24cm.- ISBN 978-8185019734

4. McKay, G.M, Seidensticker, J & Eisenberg, J.F. (1990), Asian elephants, Friends of the National Zoo, [N.P.], 118p.p., ISBN 978-0962206221

5. Santiapillai, C. & Jackson, P. (N.Y), Asian elephants: an action plan for its conservation, 2nd edi..- 87p., 28cm, ISBN 978-2880329976

This Action Plan considers elephant populations across Asia on the basis of size and provides recommendations to enhance their long-term survival. It also considers the management of elephants in captivity. Given that the basis for improved management of elephants throughout Asia must be sound systematic scientific research, the Action Plan recommends a number of research projects that need to be carried out in the field.

6. Spilsbury, Louise & Spilsbury, Richard (2005), Asian elephant: save our animal, Heinemann, Raintree, USA, 32p.; ill.: 22cm.- ISBN 978-1403478023

Asian Elephants are in danger of dying out. Read this book to learn where Asian elephants

live and what they eat. Discover why Asian elephants need our help and how you can help save these elephants. Age-appropriate text introduces new concepts gradually for young children. This book features fantastic photographs, explanatory diagrams, a glossary, an index and information about more books to read.

7. Sukumar, R. (2012), The story of Asia's elephants, Marg Foundation, [N.P.], 300p., 30cm, ISBN 978-9380581101

The book traces the evolving role and significance of the Asian elephant in relation to humankind through the ages, from their earliest origins to the present.

8. Sukumar, R. (1992), The Asian elephants: ecology and management, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, xvii, 255p., [Cambridge studies in Applied Ecology and resource management series], ISBN 0-521-43758-X

The Asian elephant has had a unique cultural association with people. Unfortunately, elephants and people have also been in conflict, resulting in the decline in elephants throughout their former range in Southern Asia. This book provides an ecological analysis of elephant human interaction and its implications for the conservation of elephants. The foraging habits of elephants and their impact on vegetation are considered, along with the interactions that occur between elephants and humans. The ecological data provide the basis for recommendations on elephant conservation and management, keeping in view the socio-economic imperatives of the Asian region.

9. Turner, Matt (2005), Asian elephant: animals under threat, Raintree, Heinemann, 48p., 27cm., ISBN 978-1403455819

What is the difference between an Asian elephant and an African elephant? Are all Asian elephants the same? Do female Asian elephants have tusks? Asian Elephant answers these and other questions, including the question of why these giant animals are still

10. U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife (2013), Asian elephant conservation act: Summary report 1999-2001, Create Space Independent publishing platform, USA, 42p.; 28cm.- ISBN 978-1484149386

This report presents a summary and highlights of the work supported by the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund (Fund) during 1999-2001. The Fund is administered and coordinated by the Division of International Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Department of the Interior.

Websites- Asian Elephants in other Countries

1. Amboseli Trust for Elephants (ATE), <https://www.elephanttrust.org/>

The ATE take care of the long term conservation and wellbeing of the elephants in Africa, especially in Amboseli. Its programs and resources are described in the site.

2. Asian Elephants,
http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/elephants/asian_elephants/

This is the Web site of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). It includes information of Asian and African elephants such as physical description, subspecies, Social Structure, life cycle, diet, distribution and threats. Information on human elephant conflict, habitat loss and fragmentation, Illegal hunting for ivory, meat and trade, capture of wild elephants, genetic threats and diseases are also available. WWFs programmes to help tackle major threats facing elephants are presented in the web site.

There are four projects under WWFs African Elephant Programme aim to conserve elephants across Africa. These projects activities are improving elephant protection and management, reducing illegal trade, building capacity within range states and mitigating human-elephant conflict.

3. Asian Elephant, <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/asian-elephant/>

This is the web site of the National Geographic Society. It contains an article on “African elephants: can they survive” written by Oria and Iain for November 1980 issue of National Geographic. Facts on Asian and African Elephants are also included. Specially, it has a National Geographic Kids Site which contains fun facts on African Elephants, Video, Audio and Photos.

4. Asian Elephant, *Elephas Maximus*, http://library.sandiegozoo.org/factsheets/asian_elephant/asian_elephant.htm

Sandiegozoo web site presents information of Asian Elephants such as fact summary, taxonomy and nomenclature, distribution and habitat, physical characteristics, behavior and ecology, diet and feeding, reproduction and development, managed care and population and conservation status.

5. Asian Elephant Support, <http://www.asianelephantsupport.org/>

Asian Elephant Support (AES) is a U.S. non-profit foundation dedicated to care and conservation of Asian Elephants. Purchasing AES T-shirts, greeting cards and ways for donating to AES projects are possible through the site. It educates people about best practices in elephant care, what makes a good sanctuary, proper chain use, elephant rides, sustainable farm oil, foot care and palm oil crisis. Stories of orphaned calves in Laos and Sumatra are also included in the site. How to send funding requests to AES is described. Information of AES Projects in India, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Sumatra, Indonesia and Thailand are available. AES undertakes education and travel sponsorships.

6. Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF), <http://www.asiannature.org/>

ANCF has implemented their programmes under three categories. They are Asian elephant

research and conservation, education and training and environmental survey and assessment. GIS maps showing elephant corridors in Mysore and Tirunelli-Brahmagiri are available. It offers internships to students and young professionals. Manuals, research papers, articles and different types of reports including technical reports can be downloaded. Software called Gajah 2.0 which is used for estimating elephant numbers based on Monte Carlo Simulation can be downloaded. Books and photo galleries are also available.

7. BBC – Nature Wildlife, http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/species/African_Bush_Elephant
BBC site presents information on African bush elephants. It includes distribution, habitats, diet, social behaviour and interesting features of African bush elephants.

8. Cornell Lab of Ornithology - The Elephant Listening Project (ELP)(February, 2006), <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/brp/elephant/index.html>

The Elephant Listening Project started at Portland Zoo in 1984. This site has an archive of ELP Newsletter. There are articles on elephant communication (Language), infrasound, forest elephant talk and an elephant dictionary. Videos that depict behaviors and different calls are available. Information on forest elephants, elephant ecology, elephant society, elephant families, elephant babies and stories of Africa are also available. Conservation, history of conservation, African Elephant threats and forest elephant threats are also discussed.

9. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, <http://www.cms.int/>

The CMS site enables you to learn about memorandum of understanding concerning conservation measures for the African Elephants (West African Elephant MOU). Fact sheet on African Elephants is available.

10. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of World Fauna and Flora (CITES), <http://www.cites.org/>

Convention's National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) is used to strengthen controls of ivory trade, markets and to help combat the illegal trade in ivory. It has launched many programmes for monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE). There is a comprehensive information system which is called Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) to track illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products. It has issued public statements explaining trade in live elephants from Zimbabwe to China.

11. Digimorph: Animal Digital Library,
http://digimorph.org/specimens/Elephas_maximus/skull/

DIGIMorph (Digital Morphology) is the Digital Library at University of Texas at Austin. The Digital Morphology Library contains 3D visualization and movies of natural history specimens of elephants. It contains 3D models of skull and mandible of Asian elephants.

12. Elephant Care International, <http://www.elephantcare.org/datamenu.htm>

Elephants Care International (ECI) is a site which facilitates sharing of healthcare and

elephant conservation data among professionals through a bulletin board, Elephant Bibliographic database, Elephant Formulary, Protocols, proceedings, Manuals and Standards. Article on conservation and conflict, images and links to useful web sites are given under General Information section. It gives a listing of publication done by staff of the ECI.

13. Elephant Database, <http://www.elephantdatabase.org/>

Elephantdatabase.org web site presents an online African Elephant Database which includes

past African Elephant Status Reports, recent survey data to the African Specialist Group. It shows a Google map of African Elephant Range in 2012.

14. Elephant Voices, <http://www.elephantvoices.org/>

Elephant Voices provides an opportunity to name MARA elephants by accessing “MARA Elephant Who’s Who Database”. The site information is presented under nine topics. They are News, Media and education, studies and projects, elephant sense and sociality, elephant communication, threats to elephants, elephants in captivity, multimedia resources, elephants and ethics and supporting elephants. Under elephant communication different types of communication methods are described. You can hear different types of elephant calls by visiting “Elephant Calls Types Database”. More comprehensive elephant call database called “Elephant Calls Database-Contexts” is also available. “Elephant Gestures Database” is also accessible through the site.

15. Elephant Information Repository, <http://elephant.elehost.com/index.html>

Elephant related information such as family structure, anatomy, senses, life cycle, environmental impact, stories about elephants and history of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species(CITES) are available. Books about elephants, good and bad news about elephants and multimedia (videos, photos, sounds, paintings) are presented in Elephant Information Repository.

16. Facts About Elephants, <http://www.livescience.com/27320-elephants.html>

The LiveScience.com contains facts about Asian and African Elephants. In addition, latest facts on Asian and African Elephants are available.

17. International Elephant Foundation, <https://elephantconservation.org/elephants/asian-elephants/>

This is the Web site of the International Elephant Foundation (IEF) which is a non-profit

organization of individuals and institutions for supporting conservation of Asian and African Elephants all over the world. The information about Asian and African Elephants, Conservation Programs, Research, Education Guides are also included in the web site. Anyone who wish to support elephant conservation and research projects can donate to the IEF.

18. The Asian Elephant Foundation, <http://www.theasianelephantfoundation.org/>

This is the web site of The Asian Elephant Foundation (TAEF). An overview of the

projects supported by TAEF is presented. A video on mahout training at the Thai Elephant Conservation Center, application form for applying financial support to improve the well-being of the Asian elephants are also available in the site. It facilitates to help Asian Elephants by donating to TAEF through the web site

19. The Elephant Managers Association, <http://elephantmanagers.com/>

The Elephant Managers Association (EMA) is an International, non-profit organization of professional elephant keepers, administrators, veterinarians, researchers and enthusiasts. Information about EMA conferences and scholarships are available. Employment opportunities are also published in the web site. It has an on-line store where you can buy T-shirts. Donations are also accepted online. There are different committees which help for behavioral enrichment, conservation, education, husbandry, providing published EMA materials, publishing elephant news with the community through social media and training. EMA publishes Journal of the Elephant Managers Association (JEMA).

20. The Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation (GTAEF), <http://helpingelephants.org/>

The Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation is a non-profit foundation registered in Thailand. Information of GTAEFs projects such as target training, mahout community development, wild elephant projects are available. Details of two projects namely the Thai elephant assisted therapy project aims to help Autistic children and elephant activities for under privileged Thai children are also available.

21. International Fund for Animal Welfare – Protecting Elephants http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw_international/save_animals/elephants/african_elephant.php

International Fund for Animal Welfare works on protecting elephant habitats, managing human elephant conflict, preventing poaching, ending the ivory trade and rehabilitating elephants.

22. IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group, <http://www.iucn.org/afesg>

This site maintains links to the web page of African Elephant Summit, African Elephant Database, Human Elephant Conflict, African Elephant Library, Pachyderm (Journal of the African Elephant, African Rhino and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups) and tools for students and researchers. The studies on The elephant meat trade in Central Africa, Review of Options for Managing the Impacts of Locally Overabundant African Elephants, Guidelines for the in situ Translocation of the African Elephant for Conservation Purposes and survey tools are available.

23. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/7140/0>

The site allows us to check the conservation status of the Asian/Indian Elephants. It includes taxonomy, assessment information, geographic range, population, habitat and ecology, use and trade, threats, conservation actions, classifications and bibliography.

24. WildScreen Arkive, <http://www.arkive.org/>

Wildscreen Arkive web site contains a description of Asian elephants, its biology, range, habitat, status and threats. Eighty four Photos and forty two videos of elephants are also available.