



AN ELEPHANT IS NOT A MACHINE

A Survey into the Welfare of
Private Captive Elephants in
Sauraha, Chitwan National Park



An Elephant is Not a Machine

A Survey into the Welfare of Private Captive Elephants in Sauraha, Chitwan National Park

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CONTENTS

PREFACE	1
SUMMARY	2
RECOMMENDATIONS	3
GLOSSARY	5
METHODOLOGY	6

SECTION 1 | BACKGROUND

I. Introduction.....	8
II. History of Elephant Safari.....	9
III. Origins of Safari Elephants.....	11
IV. Riding in the Buffer zones.....	12
V. Safari Management.....	13
VI. Criticism.....	15
VII. Legislation.....	16
I. Tuberculosis.....	17

SECTION 2 | MAIN SURVEY FINDINGS

I. Introduction.....	20
II. Shelter and Hygiene.....	22
III. Mahout Welfare.....	26
IV. Elephant Welfare.....	31
V. Safari Management.....	37

LITERATURE	44
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ANNEXES

I. Survey Elephant Ratings.....	45
II. Survey Forms.....	52
III. Feedback from Tourists.....	56
IV. Location of Surveyed Hattisars in Sauraha, Chitwan....	70
V. Detailed Survey Findings.....	71

CASE STUDIES AND INTERVIEWS

Jumbo Growth.....	14
Being an Elephant Owner.....	16
Shankar Sainju:	
‘Elephant Rides Will Be a Thing of the Past in a Few Years’ Time’.....	18
Mahouts Deserve Dignity.....	30
Mahout’s Welfare Is Elephant Welfare.....	31
Government Jumbos Get a Better Deal.....	33
A Case of Grave Abuse.....	34
Beatings for ‘Naughty Behaviour’.....	36
Burdens on the Young.....	39
Safety Not First.....	42
Death of a Tourist.....	43

PREFACE

My first visit to Chitwan National Park took place in 1995, when I wanted to show my parents some of Nepal's unique wildlife. We stayed in a resort inside the park, and enjoyed some jungle walks. We did not ride the resort's elephants but were invited for an introductory talk. It was a respectful gathering, in which we learned about the basics of elephants, and I was asked to try mount an elephant, mahout style. All in all, it was a good experience.

It took me a few years to return to Chitwan. In 2010 I got stranded in Sauraha during a *bandh* or strike. I checked into a hotel in the main bazaar. When looking out of the window I noticed an elephant, just behind my room. I ran back to the reception and called out to the staff behind the counter: 'There is an elephant in your backyard!' He barely looked up and said: "Oh, that's our safari elephant. She is just one of many." That was when I learned that elephants, chained in simple sheds behind hotels, were no longer a rarity in Sauraha.

My next visit was in 2013, during the busy Dasain festival. By now elephants running through the bazaar had become a common sight. Behind the hotel no less than six *hatisars* could be found. The elephants left as early at 5 am. Many of them did not return until 7 pm. The sounds of loud instructions and beatings could be heard deep into the night.

In the meantime my organization Animal Nepal started receiving regular complaints and queries from tourists who were distressed to see the conditions of elephants during safari trips and at the Elephant Breeding Centre (see Annex III).

The Animal Nepal team felt it was time to find out what was happening to elephants in Chitwan's growing safari. This report is the outcome of that quest.

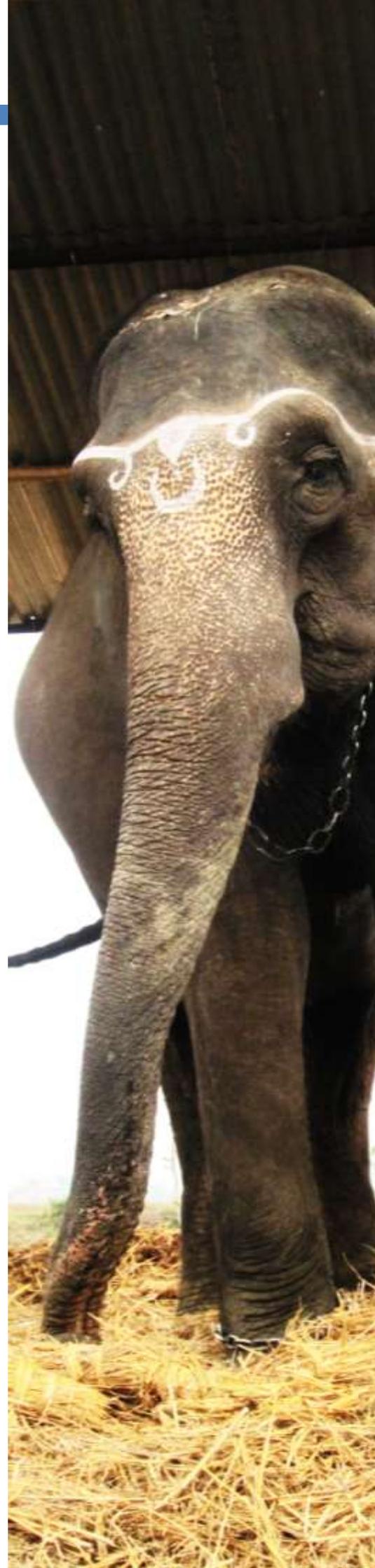
Three encouraging developments took place during the research: after being confronted with the fact that the health of his six elephants was being severely compromised due to a lack of nutrition and being overworked, the owner immediately introduced improvements.

Another owner, after receiving various complaints from his guests and realizing the importance of natural behaviour, build a chain free enclosure for his female elephant and her bull calf.

On World Elephant Day, August 12, Chitwan's Warden, Mr Kamal Jung Kunwar, warned entrepreneurs against smuggling elephants from India, something Animal Nepal has been actively campaigning against.

Although some resist change, other entrepreneurs and elephant owners have expressed an interest in improving conditions. This report aims to support their efforts and that of the authorities to create better lives for the domesticated Asian elephants in Chitwan.

Sauraha/Kathmandu, August 2014
Lucia de Vries

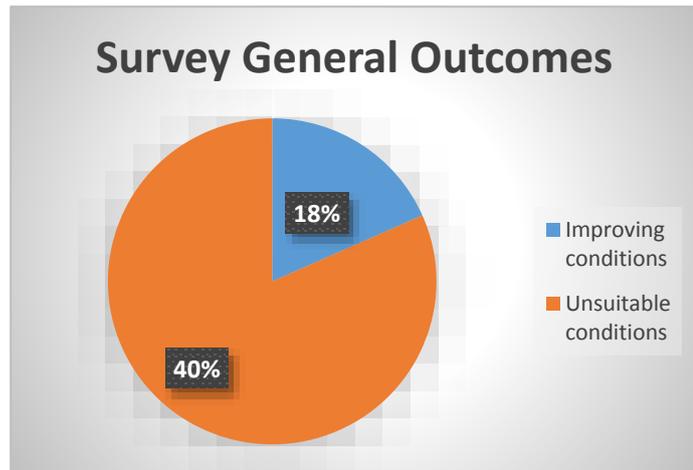


SUMMARY

The survey of 42 privately owned 'safari elephant' in Sauraha learns that conditions fall short in many areas, the main being freedom of movement, shelter conditions, nutrition, health and healthcare, safari management, as well as mahout welfare. 18% score sufficient to fall in the category 'Improving Conditions'; 82% of surveyed elephants live under 'Unsuitable Conditions'. No elephant scores sufficient to qualify for 'Excellent Conditions'.

One of the main findings is that there is a direct correlation between the welfare of elephant and that of mahouts. Elephants whose mahouts are well taken care off are generally healthier. With a few exceptions the outcomes show that mahouts of elephants who score lowly in terms of Elephant Welfare face issues such as insufficient income, inappropriate housing or other issues.

Another important finding is that elephants housed together with and are in close proximity of elephants they like are likely to be healthier.



The conditions of Sauraha's safari elephants seem to go largely unmonitored by authorities and tourism associations. Among the 42 surveyed elephants four are fully blind, two are under-aged and eight suffer from Tuberculosis, yet work full time. Some are over 60 years old yet in the absence of retirement facilities work full time.

Hobbles and ropes used for the fitting can cause wounds, tissue damage and in the worst case even spinal injury. All these can be observed in Sauraha's elephants, of which 24 % suffers from wounds¹, and one from spinal injury.

Considering the high presence of beatings, there appears to be an urgent need for elephant owners and mahouts to study and practice humane control management and to replace beatings and injuries with positive reinforcement.

Generally elephant owners show a surprising lack of knowledge of elephant behavior and management. In turn mahouts tend to hold on to outdated beliefs about elephant control and management. Exposure and training will address these issues and prepare owners and caretakers for scientific, humane and professional elephant management.

With the present unregulated safari management, the safety of customers, caretakers and public at large is at risk. Immediate interventions are needed to improve safety and general management standards.

Improved legislation and detailed welfare standards and guidelines are needed to provide a framework for better safari elephant management.

¹ Please note that wounds are caused not only by ill-fitting harness but also by beatings or burns; further research is needed to specify the exact cause of the wounds

RECOMMENDATIONS

TO NEPAL GOVERNMENT

- Implement the 2003 Elephant Management Policy, including registration and tagging, sharing of details with CITES and regular inspection and monitoring to ensure health and security of elephants.
- Regulate elephant safari industry; develop detailed welfare and management standards; ensure regular monitoring.
- Define maximum number of working elephants in each location.
- Promote 'Humane Safaris'¹ and humane tourism activities promoting elephants' natural behavior.
- Stop the trade of elephants between India and Nepal.
- Introduce health and safety measures for caretakers, customers and the public at large.
- Introduce training and certification for mahouts.
- Make facilities for sick, handicapped and retiring elephants mandatory.

TO ELEPHANT OWNERS' COOPERATIVE

- Incorporate basic detailed welfare and management standards and monitor implementation by members².
- Promote quality safari tourism, not quantity; promote 'Humane Safaris' and tourism activities promoting elephants' natural behavior.
- Replace negative control (beatings, deprivation and other forms of punishments) with positive reinforcement.
- Ensure one holiday per week for each elephant.
- Limit the maximum hours of riding to two, with a total maximum of four hours per day.
- Prohibit the use of under aged, sick and handicapped elephants in safaris.
- Shorten the distance from shelter to safari starting point; improve shelter facilities.
- Improve status of mahout including housing, reduced working hours, improved safety, insurance and providence fund, and training opportunities.
- Create owners-mahouts relation management committee; ensure regular interaction and harmonious relations.
- Provide facilities for aging and handicapped elephants to retire.
- Stop elephant bathing with 'shower'; instead introduce 'watch only' or scrubbing of elephant.
- Introduce security measures to increase safety of people and elephants.

¹ See <https://animalnepal.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/humane-elephant-safaris-animal-nepal-guidelines.pdf>

² Examples of such documents can be found here: <https://animalnepal.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/best-practices-for-nepals-captive-held-elephants-carol-buckley-new.pdf> and <https://elephantwatch.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/abta-manual-elephants-in-captive-environments.pdf>

TO ELEPHANT OWNERS

- Improve basic standards in terms of nutrition, shelter, hygiene, health care, safari management.
- Introduce quality safari tourism and 'Humane Safaris' (see above).
- Buy or grow grass and fodder for elephant's improved nutrition.
- Introduce positive enforcement instead of beating and deprivation.
- Increase opportunities for social interaction for elephant.
- Improve status of mahout; ensure good communication with mahout.
- Secure mahout and elephant from wild elephant attacks.
- Visit elephant(s) regularly and monitor carefully.

TO MAHOUTS

- Stop the beating; use positive enforcement.
- Improve hygiene standards.
- Use only scientific solutions to elephant problems.
- Address grievances in owners-mahouts relation management committee.
- Refrain from using alcohol during working hours.
- Use training opportunities to improve skills and knowledge.

GLOSSARY

- **Ankush** – The ankus is a sturdy stick usually with two metal spikes on the end, one pointing straight forward and one curved around to form a hook, used to restrain elephants.
- **Bufferzone** – Protected areas around Chitwan National Park managed by Bufferzone Committees.
- **Cooperative** – Sauraha based elephant owners are organized in a cooperative called 'Unity'
- **Hatisar** – Elephant shelter
- **Kuchi** – Straw basket containing paddy used as staple food for elephants
- **Mahout** – Elephant caretaker/rider
- **TB** - Tuberculosis

METHODOLOGY

This survey was conducted in the period January-March 2014. The team consisted of Lucia de Vries with Rajaram Karki and Surajan Shrestha, members of Animal Rights Club Sauraha. The survey form was developed by Animal Nepal based on parameters deducted from Best Practices and parameters developed by colleagues at Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA).¹ The rating system was kept as simple as possible to enable students and mahouts to participate.

Elephants were visited when off duty at the hatisars, where we observed conditions and conducted interviews with mahouts.

The safaris were observed at various places, including Baghmara Bufferzone Committee office and Dhungeghat. Secondary interviews were conducted with elephant owners, tourism entrepreneurs and staff as well as shopkeepers. A number of tourists were interviewed at the Baghmara Bufferzone office.

We like to thank the Sauraha community for their active participation. We also like to thank Care for the Wild for providing us with a small grant to cover basic expenses and Carol Buckley, founder of Elephant Aid International, for her ongoing expert support.

Please note that the team members do not by any means consider themselves elephant experts. This report should be considered as a basic survey using a welfare approach.

The survey is an ongoing process and ideally will be repeated each year. We invite stakeholders to help us fine tune the findings.

¹ ABTA welfare guidelines can be found here:

http://www.tuitravelplc.com/sites/default/files/attachments/ElephantsinCaptiveEnvironments_IA_Aug2013.pdf

Best Practices developed by Carol Buckley can be found here:

<https://elephantwatch.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/best-practices-for-nepals-captive-held-elephants-carol-buckley.pdf>

CUPA parameters can be found in various reports on this website:

<http://www.cupabangalore.org/index.php/our-projects/elephants>

SECTION 1 | BACKGROUND



.....
"Some mahouts beat the elephants even when they do a good job. I don't like that at all. Elephants are like people, if you love them they love you back."

Sunil Seti, Mahout

.....

Elephants form an integral part of Nepal's heritage. The Asian elephant (*Elephas Maximus*) has been captured and domesticated for many centuries. Captive elephants in the past were mainly used for hunting expeditions and cultural functions. Nowadays they are used for the management of national parks (research, wildlife control and anti-poaching) and safari tourism.

The Asian Elephant is listed as a protected species in the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973. According to section 26(1) of the NPWC Act, the killing or wounding of a wild elephant or buying any part of it is punishable by 5 to 15 years imprisonment or a penalty of NRs. 50 000 to 100 000, or both.

The number of resident and migratory wild elephants according to 2008 figures vary from 109 to 142 elephants¹. The loss of habitat and increased population in Terai leads to increased pressure on the elephant population. The elephant–people conflict has become the most prominent issue in biodiversity conservation in Nepal. The 2008 Elephant Conservation Action Plan drafted actions to 'develop long-term conservation of a flagship species'.² By adopting the Terai Arc Landscape Programme in 2001, the government aims to connect eleven transboundary protected areas across Nepal and India to improve wildlife habitat, including that of elephants.



Figure 1 King George V on a trophy hunt in Nepal in 1911

Domesticating wild elephants is a tradition in Nepal that dates back to the times of King Man Dev of Lichhavi Dynasty. According to WWF Nepal³, which quotes historian Baburam Acharya, the kings of Makwanpur captured wild elephants and sold them to the Mughal rulers of India. Nepal's first Rana Prime Minister, Jung Bahadur Rana, is said to have captured three wild elephants in 1851. The Rana rulers established Hattisars (government stables in which captive elephants are subdued, trained and kept) as part of their big game hunting exploits. Between 1898 and 1970 there were 31 such stables for captive

elephants, stretching from Jhapa in east Nepal to Kanchanpur in far west Nepal. The last wild elephant was captured near Parsa in 1969.⁴

Apart from Rana rulers, Terai based landlords took pride in owning an elephant. In the late 70s, the number of private owners and government stables declined drastically as a result of the loss of forest and the rising costs of maintaining elephants.⁵

¹ <http://www.asesg.org/PDFfiles/2012/35-87-Pradhan.pdf>

² file:///C:/Users/p/Downloads/The%20Elephant%20conservation%20action%20plan_20100323033741.pdf

³ http://www.wwfnepal.org/about_wwf/conservation_nepal/shl/thematic_solutions_nepal2/species_nepal/elephant_nepal/

⁴ file:///C:/Users/p/Downloads/The%20Elephant%20conservation%20action%20plan_20100323033741.pdf

⁵ Please note that as recent as 2014 a private elephant owner from Kapilvastu in west Nepal decided to rent his elephant to a Sauraha based entrepreneur for safari riding due to increasing maintenance expenses

The government nowadays runs elephant camps in Bardiya National Park, Chitwan National Park, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Parsa Wildlife Reserve (PWR) and Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve. Elephants are used for patrolling against poaching, research projects and other park management duties. The total number of elephants maintained by the government stood at 98 in 2011.⁶ In July 2014, Chitwan National Park alone employed 63 elephants, including those stationed at the Elephant Breeding Centre.⁷ The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) maintains 8 elephants at field stations in Chitwan, Bardia and Central Zoo, Kathmandu.



The number of domesticated elephants decreased from the turn of the 20th century to the 1970s. During the last decades however, the number increased again. This is the outcome of a breeding programme introduced by the Nepal government as well the increased acquisition of elephants by private tourism entrepreneurs.

HISTORY OF ELEPHANT SAFARI

Elephant safaris for tourism have their origins in the luxurious hunting camps set up by Rana rulers to entertain foreign dignitaries. During the hunts the guests were transported by captive elephants. Tiger hunting was banned in 1972 after which wildlife observation took over. The first wildlife resort, Tiger Tops, started operating inside Chitwan National Park in 1965, with visitors arriving on elephants. In 2003 six resorts based inside the park owned 70 'safari elephants' while outside the park four owners maintained 25 elephants for elephant rides.

⁶ See <http://www.asesg.org/PDFfiles/2012/35-87-Pradhan.pdf>

⁷ Source: interviews with Chitwan National Park Warden Kumal Jung Kunwar

Resorts owning elephants can nowadays be found around Chitwan and Bardiya National Parks, with the largest concentration located in and around Sauraha, located north east of the park along the Rapti River.

By August 2014 the number of safari elephants in Sauraha alone stood at 60 while the number of elephants residing in resorts outside of Sauraha is estimated to be 36. With six elephants residing in Bardia National Park area, the total number of privately owned safari elephants in Nepal stands at 102.

Table 1 Number of safari elephants at Chitwan resorts (Outside of Sauraha) - August 2014⁸

Name resort	Number of elephants	Details
Baghmara Wildlife Resort	1	
Barahi Resort	4	
Chitwan Forest Resort	1	
Island Jungle Resort	4	
Jungle Safari Lodge	2	
Jungle Villa Resort	3	
Kasara Resort	6	5 adults, 1 baby
Machan Wildlife Resort	5	4 adult, 1 baby
Tiger Tops	10	6 more reside in Karnali Lodge, Bardia
Total	36	

Table 2 Total number of privately owned safari elephants in Nepal (August 2014)

Location	Number
Sauraha	60
Chitwan, outside Sauraha	36
Bardia	6
Total	102

⁸ Survey conducted by Animal Nepal through phone interviews

ORIGINS OF SAFARI ELEPHANTS

1

Since the government does not sell elephants virtually all elephants employed for safaris are bought in India. The main bazaar for elephants is Sonepur Mela, Bihar (India), the largest cattle fair of Asia, organized in November. Another method is to buy or rent Indian elephants through middlemen, who visit interested parties and provide them with information and photographs of elephants presently employed by temples, logging companies or private owners in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam or other states.



Figure 2 Safari elephants encircle a rhino

The cross border trade is illegal under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1973. The Nepal government until August 2014 did not take as strong stance against the elephant smuggling. As a result Nepalese entrepreneurs continued to buy Indian elephants with at least three new elephants arriving in Sauraha in the first quarter of 2014.⁹

Pressure is mounting on the authorities to end the elephant trade, especially after 2010 when Indian smugglers were arrested in Assam who captured elephants from the wild and sold them to buyers in both India and Nepal.¹⁰ Apart from a concern about wildlife trade, the Indian government fears the spread of Tuberculosis, which affect the captive elephant population in Nepal, and the mistreatment of safari elephants in Nepal.¹¹ In August 2014, on the occasion of World Elephant Day, Chitwan National Park Warden Kamal Jung Kunwar spoke out against the elephant trade and warned entrepreneurs that action would be taken against those involved.¹²

RIDING IN THE BUFFER ZONES

When tourists book a 'jungle safari' in Chitwan they generally believe to be taken inside the National Park. Private elephants however are not allowed inside the park and can only enter bufferzone areas Baghmara and Kumroz.

⁹ Statistics from Elephant Owners' Cooperative Unity

¹⁰ See <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov0210/ato4> and <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/8104130/Indian-police-crack-elephant-smuggling-ring.html>

¹¹ See letter by Indian parliamentarian Maneka Gandhi to Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, <https://animalnepal.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/letter-maneka-gandhi-to-dg-mr-pandey.pdf>

¹² See <http://animalnepal.wordpress.com/2014/09/24/chitwan-warden-warns-against-elephant-smuggling/>

Till 2012 the majority of 'private elephants' belonged to resorts operating inside Chitwan National Park and rides were conducted mostly inside the protected area¹³. This changed in 2012 when the government, under mounting pressure from conservationists, ended the lease with six resorts based inside the park.¹⁴

As a result the resorts either closed down or reestablished outside the park. Three resorts decided to sell their elephants to private owners¹⁵ while the other resorts took the elephants to their new location outside the park. The move or sale negatively affected the standards for the elephants and their caretakers. Inside the park 'high end' safari elephants generally enjoyed access to daily grazing, relatively short riding sessions and a natural and a quiet, protected environment while their mahouts tended to be provided with appropriate facilities.

Elephants living outside the park have a much harder deal. Apart from two months per year¹⁶, they have no access to fresh fodder, staple food of captive elephants. They live scattered along the Baghmara and Kumroz Bufferzone Areas in substandard hatisars. The walking distance to the safari starting point varies

between 2 to 8 km and access roads are mostly tarmacked. While inside the park elephants were less exposed to the heat and sun, outside the park heat management falls dangerously short.

One mahout sums it up as follows: "Inside the park we lived in the right habitat, and we were able to take good care of the animals. Now we and the elephant live stressful lives. We walk great distances to the starting point, and get the wrong kind of food and shelter. I am not sure if we can survive here."



Figure 3 Elephants walking through Sauraha bazaar after bathing

¹³ In 2003, 66 out of 88 safari elephants were based inside the National Park, according to data in the 2003 Elephant Management Policy

¹⁴ See http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2012/07/17/related_articles/6-resorts-chitwan-chapter-closes-to-be-sent-packing/237295.html

¹⁵ Elephant owner Om Rizal in 2013 bought three elephants from the Chitwan Jungle Lodge after it closed down

¹⁶ During the monsoon period when abundant fodder is available in bufferzone areas

In December 2011 the government had already banned private elephants based in Sauraha from



Figure 4 Elephant with mahout running through Sauraha bazaar

entering the National Park, citing various reasons including the opposition of bufferzone communities¹⁷ and the presence of Tuberculosis among the elephants. The government possibly responded primarily to concerns raised by conservationists, backed up by UNESCO¹⁸, citing that ‘access of private elephants to the park could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the site that has been a World Heritage Property since 1984’.

After striking a deal between the Kumroz Bufferzone committee and Elephants Owners’ Cooperative, elephants are allowed to graze in the bufferzone area two months in a year (during the rainy season).

SAFARI MANAGEMENT

All but one of Sauraha’s elephant owners are a member of the ‘United Elephant Cooperative’. In May 2014, 51 elephants were listed with ‘United’¹⁹. The cooperative coordinates the safaris, which are booked either at ticket offices, hotels or the cooperative’s office. The cooperative has regulated rates, length of safaris, cooperation with bufferzones, mahout salaries, provision of insurance and providence fund, etc, which has greatly contributed to regulating basic standards.



Figure 5 Office of United Elephant Cooperative at Sauraha bazaar.

¹⁷<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Ban+on+entry+of+private+elephants+in+Chitwan+Park&NewsID=313891>

¹⁸ See http://www.unesco.org/new/en/kathmandu/about-this-office/single-view/news/private_elephants_not_allowed_to_enter_chitwan_national_park_says_nepalese_government/#.VCKG2_mSyH8

¹⁹ Six elephants owned by Om Rizal and a few underaged elephants are not listed with the cooperative

JUMBO GROWTH

Sauraha's safari industry is reported to have started in 1997 when the partners of Rhino Lodge bought the first elephants to be housed outside the National Park². When the owners' cooperative was established in 2005 it registered 27 elephants; nine years later the members jointly own 51 elephants³. In 2013, no less than 99,000 people booked an elephant ride through the cooperative (a total of 27,299 trips³).

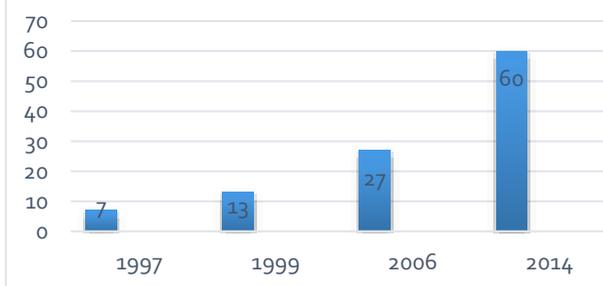


The cooperative however has fallen short in developing a safari management system taking the needs of elephants and their caretakers into account and in establishing and monitoring welfare standards. There appears to be no control regarding the number of safari trips, suitable timings (avoiding heavy rains and mid-day heat), minimum health standards of the participating elephants and mahouts' professionalism. Elephants are also used increasingly for games and performances, further compromising overall conditions. One of the reasons why the owners'

community focuses on quality, rather than quantity is because due to sharp competition rates have dropped. At the time of research elephant safaris rate NRs 550 for Nepalese, NRs 750 for SAARC citizens and NRs 900 for foreigners. A 3-day package to 'Chitwan jungle', including elephant ride, costs a mere NRs 2500-3000 for Nepalese and NRs 6000 for foreigners²⁰. Sauraha is now nicknamed 'Little Thamel', after the main tourist hub of Kathmandu, and increasingly attracts budget and low end tourists²¹. It appears that as long as undercutting is used to attract tourists and no emphasis is given to quality tourism, the welfare of elephants continues to be compromised.

Although many individual members claim to be in favour of introducing improvements, there is a lack of incentive for them to push for change. The cooperative ensures its members an average

Table 3 Number of private elephants in Sauraha



²⁰ The rate includes transport, accommodation with full board, jungle walk and ride with nature guide, elephant ride and other activities such as Tharu dance and/or bullock cart ride

²¹ As a result high end resorts are opening up in places such as Kasara, which are still considered 'natural' and 'pristine'

monthly income of NRs 160,000 (\$ 1670 or € 1222²²), distributed bimonthly by cheque to each elephant owner.

The membership rate used to be NRs 50,000 per elephant but has increased up to NRs 100,000 for elephants newly arriving from India. Owners agree that they want to make 'a quick return'. One owner says: "We never know when an elephant becomes sick or when the government will introduce new rules, so we want to make as much money as possible now. Buying an elephant for 50 to 80 lakh²³ is a big risk. But if things go well it's a better investment than buying truck or tractor."



Figure 6 A young elephant in chains

CRITICISM

Elephant safaris increasingly draw criticism from international travel companies. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has taken the lead in assessing the welfare of captive elephants used in tourism. As a result travel companies in countries such as Australia, Canada, UK and Holland²⁴ have removed elephant rides from their itineraries. Chairman Balam Dahal of the Elephant Owners' Cooperative estimates a drop of 25% in elephant rides and says the majority of clients nowadays increasingly are from Nepal, India and China.

UK Travel Association ABTA has developed standards for assessing captive elephants in the tourism industry²⁵. These standards act as Best Practices for travel providers to issue to their suppliers, for tourist boards in destinations, for destination governments and for animal attraction and experience suppliers. Increasingly these standards are used globally as a benchmark for elephant welfare.

In 2014 an international network called 'Elephant Watch Nepal' launched a tourism campaign, to 'alert tourists to the realities of elephant safaris and enable them to make informed choices'. The network distributes posters and brochures in Kathmandu's tourist hot spots and encourages responsible companies to remove elephant safaris from their itineraries.²⁶

²² As per the average currency rate of June 2014.

²³ \$ 52,000/ € 38,000 to \$ 82,300/€ 75,400 to as per average currency rate of June 2014.

²⁴ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/travelnews/10849019/Elephant-rides-dropped-over-welfare-fears.html>
<http://www.travelweekly.co.uk/Articles/2014/05/21/48057/intrepid+stops+offering+elephant+rides+and+animal+venue+visits.html>

<http://www.telegraaf.nl/reiskrant/article20358276.ece>

²⁵ http://www.tuitravelplc.com/sites/default/files/attachments/ElephantsinCaptiveEnvironments_IA_Aug2013.pdf

²⁶ www.elephantwatch.wordpress.com

In order to address the growing criticism and demands for humane and high end safaris, the owners' cooperative now need to extend its mandate and meet the challenge of drafting, establishing and monitoring welfare standards. The management has expressed an interest to do so, and says it invites the government to fix standards, not in the least to address increasing concerns and complaints from individual tourists, tourism associations increasing concerns and complaints from individual tourists, tourism associations and animal welfare campaigners.

ELEPHANT OWNER SHANKAR SAINJU:

"ELEPHANTS RIDE WILL BE A THING OF THE PAST IN A FEW YEARS' TIME"



Shankar Sainju is the owner of two elephants. He is the former chair of the Owners' Cooperative when the conflict between owners and mahouts erupted in 2012; at the same time one of his jeeps was set on fire. Sainju's views on elephant safaris started changing while visiting elephant sanctuaries abroad.

He believes elephant rides will be stopped a few years from now. Sainju: "The conditions are not good at present. The elephant conduct too many rides and are beaten a lot. Their health is compromised and their lifespan decreasing."

The elephant owner believes elephants can continue to play a vital role in Chitwan after the rides are stopped. "Elephants don't have to be touched, they can be viewed and fed. Some elephant sanctuaries do good business. We need to prepare ourselves for the future." How do his colleagues view Sainju's ideas? "They think what I say is a good idea but I don't think they take me too seriously."

LEGISLATION

The legal protection of Nepal's captive elephants is weak. In the absence of an animal welfare act and welfare guidelines, elephant owners mostly operate outside a legal framework.

The 2003 Elephant Management Policy²⁷ regulates the involvement of the private sector, for 'the expansion and commercialization' of the use of elephant. The policy provides for the registration and tagging [...] to set up numbers, and condition of the domesticated elephants of Nepal. The records are 'to be sent to the CITES Secretariat, and made available to the concerned agencies'. The policy further stipulates that 'regular inspection and monitoring shall be made to ensure effective arrangement for medicines, feeds, and sheds for the health and security of the elephants'.

²⁷ <http://www.forestrynepal.org/publications/policy-papers/5462>

In 2011 the government launched its Nepal Elephant Tuberculosis Control and Management Action Plan²⁸. The plan stipulates microchipping, registration and licensing of private elephants. Licenses will only be renewed 'with regular TB testing and compliance with the TB plan'.

Although elephants have been microchipped by the visiting government veterinarian, and TB treatment has been issued, monitoring of basic welfare standards appears to be non-existent.

In the absence of detailed guidelines and their enforcement, elephant owners during interviews display a lack of knowledge of basic elephant welfare standards. In August 2014 Chitwan Warden Kamal Jung Kunwar mentioned a 'new rule and regulation for the management of the elephants', but the details of these are yet to be established.²⁹

TUBERCULOSIS

The discovery of the presence of Tuberculosis among captive elephants in Nepal in 2002 raised concerns about the future of the dwindling population of Asian Elephants. Between 2002 and 2009 seven elephants TB deaths were reported. In 2006 Nepal's government was accused of "inaction and apathy" in its response to the presence of TB.³⁰ In the same year surveillance for TB in elephants was started.

TB can be transmitted from humans to elephants and vice versa. In 2008, over 100 elephant handlers were tested for TB but none tested positive. With a very high prevalence of TB among humans in Nepal, it is yet to be established if the elephants were infected by their caretakers.



Figure 7 Mahout provides an elephant suffering from TB with daily dose of medicine through rectum.

With the launch of the Nepal Elephant Tuberculosis Control and Management Action Plan in 2011, a 10-month treatment course has been introduced with the support of international donors. In that year it was found that 25% (or 11 out of 44) of tested elephants suffered from TB.³¹

The presence of TB is believed to be on the increase due to a lack of nutrition, reduced immunity and overwork among captive elephants³². The owner's cooperative has ruled that sick elephants should not work for a period of 2 months. The disease however is a debilitating one, and the treatment causes side effects. At least one mahout has been killed by an elephant with a history of TB³³. It could be argued that elephants suffering from TB are not fit for work during the 10-month treatment.

²⁸<http://www.ntnc.org.np/sites/default/files/publicaations/Nepal%20Elephant%20TB%20Control%20and%20Mgt%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

²⁹ <http://animalnepal.wordpress.com/2014/09/24/chitwan-warden-warns-against-elephant-smuggling/>

³⁰ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6744391.stm

³¹ According to Elephant Health Certificate submitted by Sr Veterinary Officer, Dr K.P. Gairhe

³² See comments by government officers here:

http://archives.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=18710

³³ <http://animalnepal.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/press-release-mahout-killing-march-2014.pdf>

BEING AN ELEPHANT OWNER

Although most owners are active in the tourism industry and manage a resort, some are private individuals. Most members when asked say they are 'proud' to be an elephant owner. Elephants increase social status and the animals play a role in family rituals and community celebrations.

Although some clearly have a special bond with their elephants, others visit their animals and their caretakers once a week or less. The lack of regular interaction results in a lack of monitoring of the care and management of the animals, and the mahouts' wellbeing.

According to cooperative chairman Balaram Dahal the main problems faced by owners are the presence of TB (the 10-month treatment costs a reported NRS 400.000), the lack of access to fodder², the lack of training among mahouts and certain government rules such as the removal of tusks before burial³. The cooperative has set certain requirements including food provision of 15 kg of paddy and 250 kuchis per day.

There are no guidelines for underaged or blind elephants. "Blind elephants have a good smell and face no problems while working," according to the chair. Dahal instructs mahouts to stop the beating but admits he is not successful. "If they don't get tips, mahouts beat the elephants. I have kicked out a few but the beating continues," according to Dahal, who says he received a total of five complaints from tourists in the 1.5 years of his tenure.

According to the chair some mahouts have received basic management training at Nepal Trust for Nature Conservation. However, after training they tend to leave their job as a 'private' mahout. "We are left with the untrained ones," says Dahal. He acknowledges that almost all new elephants are traded from India. "They arrive at night or cross somewhere where no authorities see them."

Although the owners cite reduced income due to increased market prices, elephants are known to be 'good for business'. The net income is estimated at NRS 120.000 (\$ 1250 or € 920) per elephant per month on average.



SECTION 2 | MAIN SURVEY FINDINGS



.....
'There was a time when elephants and their caretakers were treated with respect. When the elephant died the mahouts lost their jobs so they were highly motivated to take good care of the animals. Only two people were allowed to ride and no one ever thought of putting a heavy howdah on an elephant back. Elephants are now increasingly treated as beast of burden.'

Hemanta Mishra, author and conservationist
.....

INTRODUCTION

The survey of 42 privately owned 'safari elephant' in Sauraha learns that conditions fall short in many areas, the main being freedom of movement, shelter conditions, nutrition, health and healthcare, safari management, as well as mahout welfare. Nine elephants (18%) score sufficient to fall in the category 'Improving Conditions'; 82% of surveyed elephants live under 'Unsuitable Conditions'. No elephant scores sufficient to qualify for 'Excellent Conditions'.

HIGHEST SCORING ELEPHANTS

Name Elephant	Name owner	Score	Image
Srijana Kali	Dhruba Giri	70	
Basanta Kali	Ram Prasad Rijal	57.5	
Kirsti Kali	Ramesh Dahal	55	

LOWEST SCORING ELEPHANTS

Name elephant	Name owner	Score	Image
Ichha Kali	Rishi Tiwari	15	
Pushpa Kali	Sarala/Hari Ghimire	17.5	
Sarita Kali	Prakash Dahal	20	

SURVEY OUTLINE

The survey outcomes are divided into three categories:

Grand Total 120 points

.....

Unsuitable conditions: > 50 points

Improving conditions: 50-100 points

Excellent conditions: 100- 120 points

The survey form consists of four categories with a maximum number of points:

Categories and points:

.....

Shelter & Hygiene – maximum 25 points

Mahout welfare – 25 points

Elephant welfare – 35 points

Body Score – 10 points

Safari management – 25 points

The categories are divided into parameters, each with an assigned number of points. Ultimately it was decided not to include Body Score as most elephant were surveyed in the evening, with insufficient light available to conduct proper scoring.

A. SHELTER AND HYGIENE - 25 points

- Off chain 10 points
- Constant access to water 5 points
- Size of shelter 2,5 points
- Sufficient height of roof 2,5 points
- Hygiene (regular cleaning) 5 points

TOTAL 25

Minus 2.5: Urine soaked floor, shelter south facing, burning of dung, concrete flooring, concrete roof, use of hobbles
Plus 2.5: no burning of dung, measures against cold, heat, mounted or sloping flooring.

B. MAHOUT WELFARE – 25 points

- Salary according to Gov. Standards 10 points
- Proper housing 5 points
- Senior/long term mahout: 2.5 points
- Education 2.5 points
- Good relation mahout-elephant 5 points

TOTAL 25 POINTS

Minus: danger from wild elephant attack, pending house repairs, exposed to elements, only one mahout per elephant, being overworked
Plus: Salary exceeding Rs 9,000, extra facilities

C. ELEPHANT WELFARE – 35 POINTS

- Daily fodder 10 points
- Nutritional supplements 5 points
- Medical condition bad (0), medium (5), good (10 points)
- Social interaction: 5 points
- No or few beatings 5 points

TOTAL 35 POINTS

Minus: Presence of handicap, stereotypical behavior
Plus: Daily visits by owner

D. BODY SCORE – 10 POINTS

Additional points for high body score: 10

E. SAFARI MANAGEMENT – 25 POINTS

- Maximum to the number of trips 10 points
- Limited distance to starting point 5 points
- No bathing with tourist 5 points
- No use of howdah 5 points

TOTAL 25 POINTS

Minus:
Plus: Introduction of 2 trips per day of max 2 hours

A. SHELTER AND HYGIENE

Shelter and hygiene facilities provided to the surveyed elephants are measured through the following indicators:

1. **CHAINING:** All elephants are chained when off duty leading to various behavioral and medical concerns.
2. **ACCESS TO WATER:** All hatisars but one are fitted with a water pump from which the elephant drinks ground water.
3. **SIZE OF SHELTER:** The size of the shelter is generally 4 x 5 meters, which is largely insufficient.
4. **HEIGHT OF ROOF:** In almost all cases the height of the roof is insufficient. This is detrimental to temperature management.
5. **HYGIENE:** Most hatisars face serious hygiene concerns due to the absence of sloping floors, proper drainage and dung collection.



Figure 8 Typical hatisars in Sauraha

BACKGROUND

Shelter and Hygiene are an essential part of captive elephant's well-being, and relate to the second of the Five Freedoms (Good Housing).

Quality housing is especially important in a location like Sauraha where temperatures vary from 3 to 42 °Celsius.

Sauraha's elephants are kept in open sheds, consisting of wooden pillars, a tin roof and wooden poles to enable tethering of elephant on front and back leg(s). The flooring generally consists of mud. No shelter has a sloping floor facilitating drainage. Dung is removed each day and stored at the back of the shelter. Most mahouts burn the dung regularly. In some cases dung is not collected for weeks or months.

Most surveyed elephants are housed together with other elephants, either in the same shelter or in separate shelters at a distance of around 10 meter. In a few instances it was obvious that the elephants loved being together and showed their affection through trumpeting and touching. Interestingly these elephants generally scored among the highest.

A total of six elephants are housed alone, causing some important concerns regarding the possibilities for socialization. In all cases mahouts live nearby the shelter, at a distance of maximum 5 meter.

14 out of 43 shelters are located inside or nearby resorts. The majority of hatisars are located in Sauraha. A few hatisars are on the outskirts of the village and further away from human habitat.

Generally the housing includes all of the Bad Practices listed by ABTA:

- Cramped conditions, excessive chaining (longer than a few hours per day), or restriction of movement.
- No access to outdoors, shade, shelter from adverse weather conditions and privacy.
- No access to bathing facilities, dust baths.
- Housed only on concrete flooring.
- No ability to control temperature and ventilation in indoor facilities.
- High noise levels.
- Insufficient environmental enrichment.

1. CHAINING

All surveyed elephants in are tethered when off duty, either by two or three legs. This means that elephants during the off hours are forced to stand in one position for hours. The chains allow the elephant to take one small step forward or backward but no more. Some elephants' front legs are hobbled and cannot move forward or backwards. Most owners use spiked chains which in some cases cause leg wounds.¹

It is not uncommon for elephants to be chained by two or three legs for 12-15 hours per day. This is in stark contrast with the guidelines of ABTA and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, allowing a maximum period of chaining for two hours without veterinarian approval.² As the ABTA manual points out 'excessive chaining can be physically and psychologically detrimental to elephant welfare. Elephants are active, inquisitive and intelligent animals and, therefore, are likely to suffer severe stress while chained.'



Figure 9 Spiked chains are common

Chaining contributes to stereotypic behaviours (meaningless repetitive movements, such as rocking, swaying or pacing). During the survey period we found three elephants displaying stereotypical behavior but as the time spend at the hatisars was limited the actual number of probably higher.

2. ACCESS TO WATER

No elephant has constant access to water. Drinking water is provided from a nearby water pump two or three times a day (depending if the elephant is being bathed and can drink river water). In one instance the pump was broken.

3. SIZE OF SHELTER

The size of the shelter is generally 4 x 5 meters, which is largely insufficient. Due to the fact that the elephants are always chained inside the shelter.

4. ROOF HEIGHT

In almost all cases the height of the roof is insufficient. In contrary to the government hatisar in Sauraha, where the roof height is a minimum of 6 meters, most hatisars' roofs only reach 4 meters. This further adds to heat formation. As the elephant is tied when off duty under a tin roof it is fully exposed to the elements. The tin absorbs heat the roof can be dangerous for elephants in the hot summers. 14 hatisars are south facing, exposing the elephants to direct sunlight. The fact that the shelter is open causes health concerns during cold winter nights.³

¹ Spiked chains are prohibited in India, see <http://www.moef.nic.in/sites/default/files/2.pdf>

² http://www.aza.org/uploadedFiles/Conservation/Commitments_and_Impacts/Elephant_Conservation/ElephantStandards.pdf

³³ One elephant owner uses a concrete roof but this too is inappropriate

5. HYGIENE

Most hatisars face serious hygiene concerns due to the absence of sloping floors, proper drainage and dung collection. Ideally shelter floors are sloped so urine can easily be removed and collected in a proper drainage. Urine soaked mud tends to be covered with straw. When the elephant stands on the urine soaked mud or straw bacteria growth and infections are promoted, resulting in poor feet health.⁴



Figure 10 and 11 Elephants suffer from regular burning of dung

Dung collection leads to further health concerns. Most owners fail to collect the dung that is collected at the back of the hatisar regularly. Dung attracts flies and misquotes, breeds bacteria and creates hazardous ammonia. The burning of dung compromises the respiratory health of both elephants and mahouts. This could be one of the main causes of TB among captive elephants in Nepal.⁵

Mitigating the extreme temperatures of Sauraha is crucial to the elephants' welfare. The shelters could be improved by adding a thick layer of straw to the roof and using shades to protect the elephant against direct sun and extreme cold but only one surveyed owner has added some straw and a few shades. Providing constant access to water, mud, dust, soil or sand to dust would assist elephants with thermoregulation but no owner has made such provisions.⁶

⁴ See the outcomes of a feet health evaluation by Carol Buckley, http://www.elephantaiddinternational.org/userfiles/Nepal_report_FINAL_4-2011.pdf

⁵ According to an analysis provided by Carol Buckley. This issue needs further research. WHO indicates the relation between indoor air pollution and TB for humans, see <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs292/en/>

⁶ http://www.aza.org/uploadedFiles/Conservation/Commitments_and_Impacts/Elephant_Conservation/ElephantStandards.pdf http://www.aza.org/uploadedFiles/Conservation/Commitments_and_Impacts/Elephant_Conservation/ElephantStandards.pdf

B. MAHOUT WELFARE

Mahout welfare falls short in the following areas:

1. **SALARY:** The protests in 2009 and 2010 forced the elephant owners' cooperative to set the standard at the minimum government salary scale for unskilled labourers, presently NRs 8000. Nevertheless a few mahouts continue to receive less, the lowest salary recorded being NRs 6500. There is no grading for junior and senior mahouts, nor for uneducated and educated mahouts.
2. **WORKING CONDITIONS:** Mahouts generally face very long working hours (from 5 am till 10 pm) and do not enjoy weekly holidays. They are ill informed about insurance and provident fund facilities⁷ and have limited access to training opportunities. They do not wear protective clothing and fail to participate in the 10% service charge levied in the tourism industry.
3. **HOUSING:** Mahouts' living conditions is generally substandard, with the worst example that of at least six mahouts who live out in the open. The housing is unsafe for raiding wild elephants. Some mahouts have created an escape hole while others build a tree house to ensure their safety. Many houses are in need of repairs and facilities to mitigate the extreme temperatures of Sauraha.



BACKGROUND

One of the main findings of the survey is that there is a direct correlation between the welfare of elephant and that of mahouts. Elephants whose mahouts are well taken care off are generally healthier. With a few exceptions the outcomes show that mahouts of elephants who score lowly in terms of Elephant Welfare face issues such as insufficient income, inappropriate housing or other issues.

Traditionally mahouts are a homogenous, tight knit community in Nepal. In the Government's hatisar system three mahouts were assigned for each elephant. Once the elephant died the Mahout (stable cleaner), Patchuwa (grass cutter) and Phanit (driver) would lose their jobs. All caretakers used to be Tharu, an ethnic group indigenous to the Terai. They had a low status in society but were respected for their skills in managing wildlife, including captive elephants.

⁷ The researchers were unable to find whether all mahouts are insured and signatory to a provident fund. Cooperative chairman Balaram Dahal says this is mandatory, while mahout leaders claim not all caretakers enjoy these facilities.



Figure 12 and 13 Mahouts at the hatsar with 'their' elephants

Private elephants' caretakers are from mixed backgrounds. The majority are Tharus and Muslims (each around 30%). Other mahouts are from Kumal, Gurung, Tamang, Bhote and Brahmin backgrounds.

The mahouts however have one thing in common: without family resources, formal training and considered unskilled labour, they are from disadvantaged backgrounds and generally feel unappreciated. When asked why they became a mahout, many answered: "I did not get a chance to study and can't find any other job so I ended up being a mahout."

Elephant owners tend to undervalue mahouts, and consider them uneducated, superstitious, and unable to act as a professional caretaker. Reportedly requests for better shelter and nutrition for elephants tend to be ignored. For instance, the majority of mahouts seem aware of the importance of green fodder, molasses and salt as part of the elephant's diet, and claim to request the owners to provide these, but only few elephants receive supplements on a regular basis. In turn some mahouts disappoint the owners by beating the elephants despite their protests, demanding tips from tourists and using outdated elephant management methods.

According to some elephant owners mahouts use herbs to incite the elephant to increase their leverage for improved conditions.⁸ Alcohol abuse is reportedly widespread and negatively impacts the professionalism of the mahouts.

⁸ According to two elephant owners the herbs cause aggression in elephant, making owners more dependent on their mahouts.

Mahouts in turn point at the low salaries, long working hours and high risks involved in the profession. One issue that needs to be addressed by the owners is housing. Mahouts' living conditions is generally substandard, with the worst example that of at least six mahouts who live out in the open. The housing is unsafe for raiding wild elephants. Some mahouts have created an escape hole while others build a tree house to ensure their safety. Many houses are in need of repairs and facilities to mitigate the extreme temperatures of Sauraha.



Figure 14-17 Examples of substandard mahout housing. Clockwise: Tree house built by mahouts to avoid encounters with wild elephants; house in need of repair; house made from tin roof sheets; living out in the open

Unfortunately the relations between elephant owners and mahouts have deteriorated over the past few years, following a campaign by mahouts to demand better job conditions. The uprising was coordinated by Nepal Mahout Association, a trade union of the Maoist party and brought safaris to a standstill in May 2009 and again in December 2010.⁹ Sukh Bahadur Kumar, president of the mahouts' union, was arrested and spend time in jail. Mahouts were beaten up, reportedly by strongmen hired by the owners. Although some of the mahouts' conditions, most importantly salary

⁹<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Mahouts'+agitation+ends.-a0266309651>, <http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/12/10/money/mahout-strike-hits-tourism-in-chitwan/215906/>

increase, accident insurance and provident fund, were accepted, relations till now have not fully recovered.

Mahouts are in a risky profession. There are few statistics about injuries and deaths among mahouts, but looking at recent incidents on average two mahouts lose their lives every year in Nepal.¹⁰



Figure 18 Strike by mahouts in front of elephant statue at Sauraha bazaar

Mahout Welfare is Elephant Welfare

The connection between mahout and elephant welfare becomes obvious when visiting Dhungeghat, one of the starting points for safaris, on Saturdays. Mahouts who receive a tip kindly encourage the elephant to move; those who do not receive a tip tend to beat the animal with obvious aggression.

The Working Elephant Programme of Asia reports: “The well-being of elephants and that of mahouts are interconnected in several ways. One of the most significant of them is that a mahout’s self-esteem, stress level, general satisfaction in life, and other aspects affecting his mental state tend to have a profound effect on how he treats his elephant in everyday work.

They also tend to have a significant impact on how well he can or cannot read and understand nuances in the elephant’s behaviour. This in turn affects his capability of preventing problem situations and capability of guiding the elephant without resorting to violence.”¹



¹⁰ According to media reports two mahouts got killed in the period January - May 2014, see <http://animalnepal.wordpress.com/2014/03/17/animal-nepal-elephant-aid-international-concerned-about-mahout-and-elephant-welfare/> http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2014/03/15/related_articles/mans-death-by-tusker-raises-concern/260446.html

Animal Nepal and Elephant Aid International urged the authorities to conduct an independent investigation, see <http://animalnepal.wordpress.com/2014/03/17/animal-nepal-elephant-aid-international-concerned-about-mahout-and-elephant-welfare/>

“Mahouts deserve dignity”

During a routine visit to a hatisar, after filling out the survey forms, a mahout started sharing some experiences. He said he did not want his name to be published, for fear of losing his job.

“Every year,” he said, “many researchers like you come to collect information but we never get to see any of the outcomes. I don’t think anyone ever gets to see those reports, not even the government.



Till now no one has raised his or her voice for us mahouts. We are living in such poverty and difficulty. Mahouts too deserves dignity. We work up to twenty hours per day. Still, if we complain we are send back to our villages. We are compelled to work under great pressure.”

According to the mahout, elephant owners only think about making money. “One owner has kept two mahouts whom he pays only Rs 6000 per month. He earns around Rs 1,50,000 per year from his elephant but he does not want to share any of that with the mahouts.” According to the interviewee many owners do not pay salaries on time. “Some have to wait three to four months to get their salaries. Most of the mahouts are unsatisfied with the facilities they get. They are totally frustrated with the way their employers behave. The owners don’t care about elephants or mahouts, they only care about money.”

According to the mahout the changes in elephant bathing with tourists are an example of the greed of the elephant owners. “Mahouts used to charge Rs 100 per person for the bath. Now the owners have changed the rules and they charge Rs. 50 per bathing. Not even one percent of that income goes to the poor mahout.”

C. ELEPHANT WELFARE

Elephant welfare in the survey is divided into Nutrition, Health and Medical Care, Social Interaction and Beatings. The outcomes fall short in each heading:

1. **DAILY FODDER:** None of the elephants enjoy regular access to fresh fodder, staple food for captive elephants.
2. **NUTRITION:** With the exception of five, no elephant receives regular supplements to address the unbalanced diet.
3. **HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE:** The health condition of surveyed elephants causes concerns due to compromised body scores, a relatively high presence of TB, feet and wound problems and the use of handicapped elephants.
4. **SOCIAL INTERACTION:** As all elephants are tethered and not allowed to freely mingle with other elephants, they lack social interaction, leading to behavioral and medical problems.
5. **TRAINING AND BEATINGS:** A major concern is the regular use of bamboo sticks and ankush to train and manage the elephants. Not a single elephant goes without beatings.

BACKGROUND

Elephant Welfare is defined by nutrition, health, access to fodder, social interaction and management, including training and beatings. At present none of the elephants have access to the right kind of diet, as fodder is only provided two months in a year. The diet of straw and paddy, topped up by sugarcane, is inappropriate. Social interaction is very limited. Interestingly if some level of interaction is allowed between friends, the welfare indicators of the elephant shows better outcomes.

No elephant seems to be managed humanely through positive reinforcement. Instead punishment and instilling fear is used to force elephants to conduct their often difficult job. To (re)establish dominance over 'naughty elephants' extreme forms of cruelty are used, resulting in multiple injuries.



Figure 19 In the absence of grazing opportunities and a lack of fodder, kuchi has become the staple food of private safari elephants (image Elephant Aid International)

1. NUTRITION

The diet provided to safari elephants is entirely insufficient. The staple food of the elephants are kuchis, a basket made out of straw filled with unhusked paddy. During the sugarcane season elephants are fed some additional sugarcane. Two owners provide chickpeas (soaked in water overnight). Most owners claim to provide rock salt and molasses (inserted into the kuchis) regularly but in reality these too are in short supply. Even when the owners provide salt and molasses, the mahouts tend to believe that these should only be given in small quantities or only during the cold season, to prevent the elephant from becoming 'unruly' or 'drinking too much'.

Some fresh corn stalks¹¹, banana stalks and bananas offered by tourists complete the elephant menu. Only two months in a year, during monsoon, is fresh elephant grass obtained from the Kumroz bufferzone area to supplement the diet.

The reason why some elephants nevertheless look well fed is because the unnaturally high levels of starch and sugar content create a layer of unhealthy fat.

The present diet leads to weakness among many other problems, which some mahouts believe is beneficial, as the elephant becomes too weak to resist his orders. In reality however, the malnourishment more likely results in bad moods and aggressiveness.

There are various factors for the inappropriate diet. Some owners seem unaware of what constitutes a proper elephant diet. Others refuse to spend the money and do not seem to realize that the lack of nutrition will shorten the lifespan of the elephant.

Elephant owner blame the Chitwan National Park authorities for the lack of nutrition, as they do not allow private elephants to graze inside the park. In 2011 political parties and stakeholder opposed the park's decision to allow private elephants into the World Heritage Site. The decision has acted as a bone of discontent between the park authorities and the elephant owners. Instead the owners pay a fee to the Kumroz Bufferzone User Group to cut grass during monsoon.

The elephant cooperative 'United' has introduced some positive changes to ensure a better supply of staple food. Straw, paddy and sugarcane are bought in bulk, and as much as possible delivered in time. The cooperative now needs to look into the nutritional requirements of the elephants and set basic standards for feeding. The owners themselves will need to be encouraged to monitor if the mahout understand the importance of a healthy diet and follows the standards.

The lack of fresh fodder can be solved if the owners team up with local farmers and convince them to grow grasses as a crop.



Figure 20 Malnourished elderly elephant with deep tissue wound

¹¹ Please note that elephants on their last set of teeth or those shedding teeth should never be fed banana trees as the fibrous plant is not well chewed nor digested and can cause colic and death.

Government jumbos enjoy a better deal

Elephants employed by the government get a better deal in terms of basic care nutrition. According to government standards they are entitled to 15 kg paddy, 1.7 kg sugar, 5 mg salt, 15 kg dry straw, 15 kg of carrot, 1.5 kg pumpkin, 2.1 kg potato, 80-100 kg of grass/fodder and 150 litres of drinking water. The Civil Service Act 2049 (1993) makes arrangements for three people to look after each elephant: a Pachhuwa, a Phanit and a Mahut. Private elephants are excluded from these standards.



2. HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE



Figure 21-27 Some examples of foot health problems seen in Sauraha (images Elephant Aid International)

The health conditions of many of Sauraha's elephants are a major cause for concern. Among 42 surveyed elephants we found that four are fully blind yet work full time. Other health problems encountered are wounds, torn ears due to the use of ankush, feet injuries and the presence of injuries or disease.

Wounds are found especially on the head and trunk (due to beatings), flanks (saddle wounds), spine (caused by inappropriate harness), anus (tying of harness ropes) and legs. 19% of surveyed elephants (8 out of 42) suffer from TB; 3-4 elephants already completed the TB treatment course.

The TB patients during the 9 month treatment course do not receive special care or nutrition. Feet problems (broken nails and cracked pads) are found in 14% but as a detailed survey was not possible this percentage can be expected to be much higher. One elephant suffers from a hernia, one from a nerve disorder and one from burns (due to a fire outbreak).

Medical care is limited as only one specialized veterinarian is on call before and after office hours. Occasionally a veterinarian is called in from Kathmandu to look at specific cases.

Certain mahouts prefer to use herbal medicines to address health problems. Although some mahouts come from a lineage of elephant caretakers and have a good knowledge of ayurvedic medicines, most buy medicines from traders back in their hometowns and appear to use these randomly. A follow up study is required to obtain more information about the effectiveness of

The presence of Tuberculosis (TB) is believed to be on the increase due to a lack of nutrition, reduced immunity and overwork among captive elephants¹². The owner's cooperative has ruled that sick elephants should not work for a period of 2 months. The disease however is a debilitating one, and the treatment causes side effects. At least one mahout has been killed by an elephant with a history of TB¹³. It can be argued that elephants are not fit for safari work during the 10-month treatment.

Apart from concerns regarding the welfare of both captive and wild elephants and other wildlife, there are concerns for humans. It is essential that mahouts are screened regularly for TB and receive immediate treatment if tested positive. Any direct contact with sick animals should be banned, especially bathing with tourists (during which water is splashed through the trunk) and close interaction. Mahouts, tourists and the public at large must be informed about the potentials health risks of close interactions.



Figure 28 Elephants treated for TB tend to lose weight and energy

A Case of Grave Abuse

Some of the worst health conditions are faced by Sarita Kali (60), who apart from being fully blind and suffering from Tuberculosis has deep tissue wounds that do not seem to heal. The grand lady is forced to work each day and conducts up to 5 safari trips daily. She is one of the four blind safari elephants working in Sauraha.

The elderly elephant has recently seen a fast turnover of mahouts. As the mahouts' welfare is compromised they leave their job abruptly, leading to a crisis in the care of this handicapped elephant.



¹² See comments by government officers here:

http://archives.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=18710

¹³ See <http://animalnepal.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/press-release-mahout-killing-march-2014.pdf>

One of the most criticized aspect of elephant safari tourism is the training and disciplining of elephants. Animal Welfare Network Nepal conducted a study into the training of elephants in the government's Elephant Breeding Centre, which led to a public outcry¹⁴. Most privately owned elephants are bought as adults and have been trained in India. A positive development is the ongoing humane training of a recently born male elephant¹⁵.



Figure 29-30 Training methods used at the Elephant Breeding Centre in 2011 (images AWNN)

The training methods used can physically, behaviourally psychologically and emotionally harm the elephants. Ongoing dominance is generally established through a delicate balance of fear and reward. If the elephant is compliant it receives treats. If it is non-compliant it may receive physical or verbal punishment.

In Sauraha elephant beating is so common countless tourists file complaints with local stakeholders and animal welfare organizations (see Annex IV). Mahouts hit the elephants with heavy sticks and ankushes publicly and some with metal knives and axes privately¹⁶.

White scarring can be observed across the forehead of virtually all elephants in Sauraha. The abuse is systematic, and appears generally to be accepted as an unavoidable necessity. One elephant owner allowed his elephant to be severely beaten with an axe, claiming it was the 'only way' to establish dominance by the mahouts.

On the other hand, regular excessive beatings are frowned upon and most elephant owners and mahouts are ready to give the names of those caretakers who are considered cruel. 'Beating is unavoidable but need to be given in moderation', seems to be the consensus.



Figure 31 Creative sign by a restaurant owner in 'Elephant Lane', Sauraha

Mahouts are aware of the fact that tourists generally disagree with the beatings but claim it is the only way to guarantee the safety of mahout and passengers.

¹⁴ See <http://elephantwatch.wordpress.com/2012/12/22/peta-awnn-cruel-training-of-elephant-calves-must-end/>

¹⁵ Samrat Gaj, born at Sapana Village Resort, is presently being humanely trained by an experienced mahout

¹⁶ Information provided by elephant owners and mahouts

The relation between mahouts and ‘their’ elephants differs and is based on many factors. Some mahouts appear to have a genuine love and affection for and understand of animals. Others feel forced into the profession due to a lack of alternatives. The vast majority of mahouts feel some level of frustration with their working conditions. A detailed study is needed to establish to what extent anger and frustration about working conditions influences the way elephants are controlled.

What should be remembered is that many elephants are under pressure and face health problems, yet are expected to work full time. Punishment is used to force a frustrated or sick elephant into submission but the question is whether this is acceptable and effective in the long run.

There appears to be an urgent need for elephant owners and mahouts to study and practice humane control management and to replace beatings and injuries with positive reinforcement. Awarding mahouts for using positive reinforcement is an important first step to eradicate the systematic abuse of Sauraha’s elephants.

Beatings for ‘naughty behaviour’

When the researchers visited a shelter close to Malpur Chowk one late evening they are shocked to hear the sound of severe beatings and shouting. An elderly mahout can be seen beating a young elephant mercilessly with a bamboo stick, hitting her on the head and trunk. When we approach the mahout he is unapologetic. He explains that the elephant has been naughty and needs to be punished. “After I went out for dinner the elephant started playing with materials hanging from the roof and pulled straw out of the storage room. Now my boss is going to be angry with me. This elephant must be disciplined otherwise she will destroy the shelter,” the mahout explains.



After further questioning and observations the researchers find that the mahout has recently joined the 15-year old elephant. The shelter is connected to a disorganized farm storage with machinery and produce. The mahouts sleep on beds haphazardly put in the middle of the storage. They lack private space.

The elephant has TB and suffers a broken nail. Despite her young age and medical condition she works full time, though carrying maximum 3 people. The elephant appears full of life, with a natural curiosity. She lives together with an elderly elephant with whom she appears to have a good rapport.

The researchers worry that if the beating continues the elephant’s character will change, and she will suffer from trauma and depression. ¹

E. SAFARI MANAGEMENT

Safari management is assessed through the following indicators:

1. **WORK LOAD:** None of the surveyed elephants enjoy a limited number of safari trips. The number of safaris vary from two to eight each day, and a working day of twelve hours is no exception. There appear no holiday provisions.¹⁷ During festivals the work load further increases.
2. **WALKING DISTANCE AND ROAD SURFACE:** All surveyed elephants live further than 2 km away from the safari starting point, with some as far as 8 km. The roads to and from the shelters are mostly tarred, which is detrimental to the feet of elephants. Mahouts and elephants at times go hungry during breaks when insufficient food is brought along.
3. **PUBLIC BATHING:** Elephant bathing has become a performance, with the elephant showering tourists balancing on his back. 61% of surveyed elephants join the public bathing.
4. **HARNESS:** All surveyed elephants carry the howdah, made from metal or wood, which is itself weighs around 100 kg. 24% suffers from wounds, caused either by beating or by ill-fitting harness and ropes

1. WORKING LOAD:

While government elephants conduct maximum two safaris per day¹⁸, the number of 'trips' for private elephants has increased steeply in the past years. Elephant safaris have become accessible and affordable for most tourists. The industry appears to focus on quantity, not quality.

All privately owned elephants are overworked. They work seven days a week¹⁹, with the hardest day being Saturday, when large numbers of Nepalese tourists enjoy affordable rides at Dhungeghat. During festivals



Figure 32 Elephants and their mahouts waiting for customers at Dhungeghat

BACKGROUND

Safari Management is a crucial aspect of elephant welfare, as this defines the conditions outside the shelter, while at work. In order to assess the management, we looked at the number of rides per day, the length of the ride, the distance to starting point and road surface, the number of riders, prolonged exposure to direct sunlight (especially in the middle of the day), access to drinking water during the ride, the nature of bathing and the appropriateness of the harness.

The present way of managing safaris results in low scorings, which means the welfare of the elephants is greatly compromised.

¹⁷ According to Cooperative chairman Balaram Dahal, a rotation system is put in place enabling elephants and their caretakers to have one holiday a week. Mahouts however do not seem aware of this system, and observation shows that most elephants work seven days per week.

¹⁸ This is in line with the UK Travel Association ABTA's guidelines

¹⁹ See note above

such as New Year and Dasain, the work load further increases. This is when elephants work from 5 am till 7 pm or longer, with hardly any rest. The situation on these days appears chaotic and highly dangerous.²⁰

One of the priorities in improving the welfare of safari elephants will be to reduce the number of trips. The owners' cooperative discussed an increase in the rate so the income could be maintained while decreasing the number of safaris. Unfortunately the majority of the members ultimately agreed on a relatively small increase and no decrease in the number of safaris has been observed.²¹

2. WALKING DISTANCE AND ROAD SURFACE

Sauraha's elephants live scattered within the periphery of the village and on average walk 3.5 km to the safari starting point on asphalted roads. During lunch hour the elephants are often made to walk back to the shelter, meaning an additional 7 km of walking on tarred roads on average. During busy days the elephant stays at the starting point. The mahouts prepare *kuchis* before departure and feed the elephant at the starting point. This is commendable as these locations are generally shaded and the elephant is allowed some rest and socialization with other elephants²².

Apart from the long distance, the present way of organizing safaris creates welfare concerns due to the road surface and exposure to sun.

Walking on hard surfaces is discouraged because of the elephants' special feet structure which makes them susceptible to joint and sole problems. The results can be joint inflammation, fusion of joints and increased wear and tear of the soles.

The long distance leads to increased exposure to the sun. A research published in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*²³ shows that as little as four hours of exercise in the sun can cause overheating. The health of Sauraha's elephants, when walking or resting in direct sunlight, while carrying much weight – padding, howdah and riders — is put in great danger.²⁴

Apart from being detrimental to health the long journey on busy roads also increases the chances of accidents. In Sauraha elephants share the roads with people and animals and live in open shelter, accessible to all. It is easy to forget that elephants have never been truly domesticated, and in essence remain a wild animal. Mahouts know that and discourage visitors from touching the

²⁰ During Dasain 2009 a Chinese tourist was killed by the elephant he was feeding bananas, see <http://www.elephant-news.com/index.php?id=4875>. Stress appears to be behind the killing, see "Death of a Tourist"

²¹ An increase in safari rates from NRs 550 to NRs 900 for Nepalese and NRs 900 to NRs 1500 for foreigners was proposed by chairman Balaram Dahal in March 2014. A part of the additional income would enable the cooperative to reduce the number of trips and workload of mahouts and elephants. Although the decision was accepted by the members ultimately only a slight increase was accepted apparently due to a fear of reduced business.

²² Ideally this is the case; the researchers have also observed mahouts forcing the elephant away from the group to enable the caretaker to sleep in a quiet place.

²³ <http://jeb.biologists.org/content/216/10/1774/F6.expansion.html>

²⁴ In 2013 two rented elephants died a reportedly sudden death, one while on the way to the safari starting point. At least one of the deaths appears to have been caused by overheating, combined with low standards of general care.

elephant before or after rides or at the shelter.²⁵ Improved safety measures need to be implemented for the safety of both the animals and the people.

Burdens on the young

It is 2 pm on a hot day in June and the temperature has risen to 42° Celsius. Pushpa Kali, a 11-year old elephant who has recently arrived from India, is being prepared for the afternoon safari trip. Despite her young age, this elephant already works full time, carrying a heady howdah with two 2 adults.

After conducting two morning safaris, Pushpa Kali did not get a chance to cool down in the river and clearly suffers from the heat. This is compounded by the fact that the roof of the hatisar is made out of concrete. The mahout woos her with pieces of salt, after which Pushpa Kali slowly lowers herself to be saddled. She then walks towards the safari starting point, at a distance of 3 km, on hot tarmac, without any heat protection. After completing the 3 o'clock trip Pushpa Kali will

The young elephant suffers from saddle wounds around the anus and wounds on her legs. Recently a wild bull elephant came close to the hatisar, frightening Pushpa Kali. She managed to break her chains and run to her friend Beauty Kali, chained at a distance of six meter. Pushpa Kali is not allowed to stand next her friend as that 'makes it harder to separate them when they have to work', according to the mahout.

Although one of her mahouts is kind and concerned about Pushpa Kali's injuries, the researchers feel saddened by her plight. This underaged elephant should not be allowed to work yet, and might sustain spinal injuries due to overloading. If she were allowed to stand next to her friend Beauty Kali her opportunities for socializing will greatly increase.



3. PUBLIC BATHING

Bathing is important to elephants, both for their physical and mental wellbeing. Traditionally mahouts make the elephant lie down and scrub the entire body. This encourages a sense of wellbeing in elephants and increases the bond between animal and caretaker. Due to popular demand the majority of surveyed elephants now conduct 'Bathing with tourists'. After elephant safari the riders join the elephant at the river, and invited to climb on the animal's back. The

²⁵ The death of a Chinese tourist in 2009 could have been prevented if a strong fence has separated the elephant from visitors

elephant is commanded to 'shower' the tourists by using its trunk. The bathing session is sometimes extended by the tourists helping the mahout to scrub the elephant.



Figure 33-35 Different ways of conducting elephant baths: traditional (below) and tourist oriented (above)

Direct contact between elephants and the public is discouraged in all contemporary guidelines, both for safety and welfare reasons. Bathing with tourist qualifies as an attraction and it believed to increase the stress levels of the elephant. The 61% of Sauraha elephants involved in bathing with tourists are those who have the ability to 'shower' tourists join the bathing. The remaining elephants are either unable or unwilling to perform the act. Interestingly these are especially elephants with health problems such as TB, wounds, hernia and/or broken nails.

The researchers interviewed one elephant owner refuses to give permission for his elephant to join the attraction as he disagrees with the tourist bathing. He is pressurized by the cooperative to resume participation.

4. HARNESS

In the past safaris were conducted 'Mowgli style', with maximum two riders seating on a soft padding. The howdah has been introduced from India, and in the past was only used for royalty and VIPs. Animal welfare campaigners have long spoken out against the howdah²⁶. They believe howdahs are often poorly constructed or fitted, resulting in the frame rubbing their backs, causing blisters, abscesses and open wounds that can become infected. According to Millennium Elephant Foundation, howdahs 'take years off an animal's life', and cause difficulty in drinking, eating and/or breathing, as it can be compared to a person wearing a tight corset.



Figure 36-37 Different kinds of howdahs, paddings and straps used in Sauraha

Hobbles and ropes used for the fitting can cause tissue damage, deep gashes and in the worst case even spinal injury. All these can be observed in Sauraha's elephants, of which 24 % suffers from wounds²⁷, and one from spinal injury.

Some owners have expressed an interest in reintroducing the soft padding with two riders. Such a decision will greatly improve the welfare of the elephants. Financial losses can be mitigated by increasing the rates for these upmarket safaris.

²⁶ See <http://www.millenniumelephantfoundation.com/projects/howdah-not-to-do-it/>

²⁷ Please note that wounds are caused not only by ill-fitting harness but also by beatings or burns; further research is needed to specify the exact cause of the wounds

Safety not first

One of the striking features of elephant safari tourism in Sauraha is the fact that the elephants live and operate in close proximity of people. They cross the bazaar to and from the bufferzone areas, with mahouts 'parking' elephants in front of shops to buy cigarettes and cold drinks. Elephants are housed in makeshift shelters behind hotels; anyone can visit the hatisar for a close up encounter. At the safari bays simple fences have been erected after the death of a tourist in 2009, no signs explain the possible dangers of touching an elephant.



It is not uncommon in Sauraha to find male wild elephants, including those in musth, searching for food or female to mate at night. In June 2014 an elephant nicknamed Ronaldo visited Sauraha each night, leaving a trail of destruction. In an encounter with the wild elephant while watching the sunset, a tourist couple got injured when jumping off an embankment. Mahouts tried to protect the hatisars by staying awake, leaving food for the elephant outside their homes or even sleeping in a tree house. Some female captive elephants got so scared of the nightly visitor, they broke their chains and sustained injuries.

Despite these events, there are no warning signs or measures to alert tourists, and no action has been taken to protect people and captive elephants with their mahouts from wild elephant attacks.

With such proximity, it is easy to forget that elephants are wild animals and have never been fully domesticated¹. Keeping elephants in a populated area, without safety measures and information about risks and rules for engagement in place, is a great source of concern.

An additional concern is the potential transmission of Tuberculosis. TB transmission has been reported since the late 1990s¹. Although there are clear public health implications, TB infected elephants work full time¹ and are in constant proximity not only of their caretakers but also customers. Some even participate in public bathing and shower customers with water from their trunk.

Introducing health and safety of caretakers, customers and the public at large needs to be a priority intervention by both the government and the industry.

Death of a tourist



On September 25, 2009, Chinese tourist Wang Heung¹ got killed while feeding bananas to an elephant. Without a fence to separate her from the tourist, Laxmi Kali pulled Heung down with her trunk and trampled him.

Mahout Sardar Allam remembers the day like no other. "I could not eat for ten days and wanted to quit my job. But I always wanted to be a mahout and most of my family is involved, so ultimately I decided to continue." Allam, like most mahouts, lives in a substandard room and earns the government's minimum salary for unskilled labour.

It is not surprising that the attack happened in the busiest month, just before Dasain festival. During this time elephants conduct to eight trips per day, and rides continue during the hot midday hours. Both elephants and mahouts hardly get time to rest; elephants tend to go hungry and thirsty.

From eye witness reports it appears Heung, after completing the safari, bought bananas for Laxmi Kali. He noticed she liked them, and went back to the shop to buy more. He repeated this one more. Laxmi Kali, one of Sauraha's largest elephants, by now was hungry, hot and tired, and might have felt the tourist was teasing her. He killed the tourist in an instant.

Since the accident only one intervention was taken: a simple fence made from barbed wire now separates elephants from tourists. No measures were taken to reduce the workload and stress factors among elephants and their mahouts during the busy season. With no other interventions in place, accidents like these can be repeated any moment.

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ANNEXES

Annex I – Survey Elephant Ratings

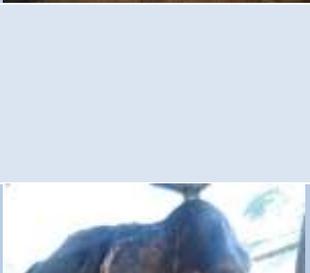
	Name elephant with score	Age	Arrival date	Owner	Mahout	Location	Notes	Image
1	Aatma Kali 35 points	35	2012	Anjan Pandey/Devhari Nepal Hotel Parkland	Moti Chaudhary & Aashiq Khan	Close to Hotel Parkland	Blind	
2	Alisa Kali 32.5 points	35	2014	Yubaraj Poudel	?	Inside Jungle Safari Resort	Newly bought from India	
3	Anar Kali 27.5 points	40	2008	Krishna P Bhattarai River Bank Inn	Zahid Khan & Saru Khan	Close to Hotel Parkland	Hernia on left hind leg	
4	Apu Kali 30 points	45	2013	Om Rijal Happy House	Birendra & Baram Dev Chaudhary	Army Camp Road		
5	Basanti Kali 32.5 points	38	1993	Hari B Ghimire Jungle Safari Resort	Thagu Gurung & Ram Briksh Kumar	Malpur Chowk	TB	

6	Basanti Kali 57.5 points	35	2010	Ram Prasad Rijal Traveller Jungle Camp	Shanti Chaudhary & Bir Bahadur Kumal	Gaida Chowk		
7	Beauty Kali 45 points	16	2007	Hari Prasad Ghimire Jungle Safari Lodge	Shyam Chaudhary & Parbu Chaudhary	Gaida Chowk	TB	
8	Bijuli Kali 52.5 points	45	1996	Shankar Sainju Hotel Wildlife Camp	Sukram Kumal & Shyam	Malpur Chowk	TB	
9	Champa Kali 60 points	30	2000	Shankar Sainju Hotel Wildlife Camp	Nirayan Chaudhary & Jungli Chaudhary	Malpur Chowk		
10	Champa Kali 40 points	40	2010	Narayan Bhattarai Jungle Wildlife Camp	Chiran Jibi Mohato	Hatti Chowk		
11	Champa Kali 52.5 points	37	2007	Dhurba Giri Sapana Village Resort	Bir Bahadur Gurung & Saroj Chaudhary	Bar Pipal Chowk		

12	Champa Kali 30 points	45	2013	Om Rizal Happy House	Mangara & Rajan Dharai	Army Camp Road		
13	Chanchal Kali 52 points	31	2010	Dhurba Giri Sapana Village Resort	Sunil Chaudhary & Prabhu Chaudhary	Bar Pipal Chowk		
14	Ghulab Kali 45 points	50	2010	Bikash Mishra ????	Mohamme d Abbas & Nehemodi n Bihar	Army Camp Road	TB	
15	Ghulab Kali 47.5 points	40	2002	Ram Kumar Aryal Rhino Lodge	Mangan Bhatte & Sukh Bah. Tamang	Gaida Chowk		
16	Ichha Kali 15 points	39	?	Rishi Tiwari Eco Adventure Resort	Kaluram Thanai & Dushai Maji	Army Camp Road		
17	Kanchi Kali 42.5 points	26	2006	Dhundi Raj Silwal Hotel Jungle Vista	Shohan Ram & Dhradhum an Chaudhary	Malpur Chowk	TB	
18	Kristi Kali 55 points	25	2014	Ramesh Dhahal Rainbow Safari Resort	Sunil Mansur Dewan & Dillip Kumar	Close to Hotel Parkland	New arrival	

19	Laxmi Kali 47.5 points	40	2013	Ramsaran Silwal Hotel Jungle Vista	Bechan Chaudhary & Par Dhruvan Chaudhary	Malpur Chowk	New arrival	
20	Laxmi Kali 40 points	15	2012	Hari Bhakta Ghimire Jungle Safari Resort	Baburam Chaudhary & Kishor Chaudhary	Malpur Chowk	TB	
21	Laxmi Kali 32.5 points	45	2006	Hari Prasad Ghimire Jungle Safari Lodge	Subash Gurung & Som Bah. Tamang	Gaida Chowk		
22	Laxmi Kali 52.5 points	35	2013	Bikash Mishra ?	Ram Kailash Chaudhary & Hari Narayan Chaudhary	Army Camp Road		
23	Laxmi Kali 37.5 points	40	2007	Hari Kumar Regmi ?	Kusum Kumal & Hem Lal Kumal	Bar Pipal Chowk		
24	Laxmi Kali (Rented) 37.5 points	35	1993	Govinda Adhikari Jungle Tourist Camp	Ajmad Aalam Dhuniya & Sarkir Aalam Dhuniya	Close to Unique Wild Resort	TB Killed tourist in 2009	
25	Laxmi Kali 25 points	70	2013	Om Rijal Happy House	Sarok Chaudhary	Army Camp Road	Should be retired	

26	Lucky Kali 47.5 points	56	2013	Bikash Mishra	Sun Bahadur Tamang & Ramsaran Darai	Army Camp Road		
27	Madhur Kali (Rented) 40 points	50	1993	Madhukar Regmi/Damodar Regmi	Shafil Khane & Mohammed Khan	Close to Unique Wild Resort	TB	
28	Pawan Kali (Rented) 47.5 points	60	2014	Om Rijal Happy House	??	Army Camp Road		
29	Pawan Kali 37.5 points	40	1993	Ganga Giri Hotel River Side	Tulsi Mahato & Ram Krishna Raute	Hatti Chowk	TB	
30	Punam Kali 50 points	45	2001	Ramesh Dahal Rainbow Safari Resort	Mabu Khan & Unuwar Khan	Close to Hotel Parkland		
31	Poonam Kali (Rented) 40 points	30	1993	Nagendra Chapagain	Khyamudin Dhuniya & Shahabudin Dhuniya	Close to Hotel Parkland		
32	Rajkumari Kali 35 points	40	2006	Ram Kumar Chaudhary	Gaisul Aalam & Baraf Mia	Opposite Bulbul Nest		

33	Ram Kali 30 points	45	2013	Om Rijal Happy House	Bharat Dharaj & Raj Kishor Chaudhary	Army Camp Road		
34	Ramu Prasad Gaj 30 points	26	2013	Om Rijal Happy House	Sujal Parja	Army Camp Road		
35	Rani Kali 42.5 points	34	2002	Narayan & Deepak Bhattarai	Karan Mahato & Krishna Kumal	Hatti Chowk		
36	Rishi Prasad Kali 50 points	50	??	Rishi Tiwari Eco Adventure Resort	Som Bahadur Bhote	Malpur Chowk		
37	Ruxi Kali Rented 40 points	40	1993	Balram Dahal	Isahaq Dhuniya & Mohamme d Razar	Close to Hotel Parkland		
38	Sambridd hi Kali 50 points	10	2013	Ram Prasad Rijal	Shantu Chaudhary	Gaida Chowk	Undera ged, not workin g	
39	Sarita Kali 20 points	60	2009	Prakash Dahal	Badal Chaudhary & Deepak Chaudhary	Malpur Chowk	Blind, TB	

40	Sona Kali 47.5 points	45	2002	Ram Kumar Aryal Rhino Lodge	Sukh Bahadur & Sam Bah Kumal	Army Camp Road		
41	Srijana Kali 70 points	46	2013	Dhurba Giri Sapana Village Lodge	Mukti Chaudhary	Bar Pipal Chowk	Lactati ng mother ; not workin g	
42	Pushpa Kali (formerly Suraj Kali) 17.5 points	11	2014	Hari / Sarala Ghimire Jungle Safari Resort	Lalu Gurung	Inside Safari Jungle Resort	Undera ged yet workin g. Newly bought from India	

Annex II – Survey Outline



Name of Elephant:

Name and contact details of Owner:

Age of Elephant:

Date of arrival:

Notes:

SHELTER		Notes
Size of shelter		
Height of roof		
Water (distance to shelter)		
Flooring		
Chain		

Hygiene		Notes
Remove dung from shelter (how often)		
Clean water (how often)		
Elephant brushed (how often)		

FOOD		Notes
Paral		
Kuchi		
Water		
Molasses		
Salt		

Green fodder		
Mineral mix		

MAHOUT		Notes
Name, phone nr and age of mahout		
Salary		
Food provision for mahout		
Living conditions		
Provision of holidays		
Education level		
Family background (grand/father mahout or not)		
Nr of mahout per elephant		
Working hours		
Relation between mahout and elephant		

SOCIALISATION		
Ability to interact with other elephants		
Ability to conduct free range grazing		

BATHING		Notes
How often		
With / without tourists		

Feet health

Item		Notes
------	--	-------

Nail condition		
Cracks in pad		
Feet cleaned by Mahout regularly		
Regular trimming/foot care by specialist		

Body	Score				Notes
1	3	5	7	9	

MANAGEMENT		
Use of ankush (where, how often)		
Use of bamboo stick		
Beatings		
Others		

MEDICAL	Nr	Notes
Vet visits		
Medical response (immediate intervention when any problem)		
Regular deworming		
Regular vaccinations		
Presence of wounds		
TB		
Dehydration		
Malnutrition		
Blindness		
Lameness		
Any other medical problem		

WALKING	Km	Notes
To starting point		

During lunch break		
To get fodder		
Other purposes		

WORKING HOURS		
Safaris		
Bathing with tourists		
Other works		

Stereotypical behavior

Swaying of whole body	Swaying of trunk	Head nodding	Protraction of leg	Notes
Yes / no	Yes / no	Yes/no	Yes/no	

SADDLE		Notes
Weight of Saddle		
Quality (repairs needed, materials, etc)		

Notes

Annex III – Feedback from tourists

These letters and mails regarding elephant welfare concerns are a selection of those received by Animal Nepal in the period 2010-2014

BE A RESPONSIBLE TOURIST

When visiting Chitwan National Park, I expected to see a beautiful, peaceful jungle where wild animals live freely. Instead I was shocked to see many elephants who are forced to work in tourism. I saw stables where elephants were chained for hours, even little ones who need physical contact with their mums. The movement radius averages just 1,5-2m. I was surprised to see 4-6 tourists mounting an elephant for an "elephant safari". Another attraction is the "elephant bath": the elephant has to lay down, tourists climb on its back, after which the animal is beaten by the mahout to force it to stand up and walk into the river. The elephant then has to lay down again and is forced to shower the tourists on its back. The animal was then forced out of the water and the same ordeal began again in a 10-minute cycle for the following hours.

I decided against the elephant safari and bath because I will not support the cruel tourism business. Instead I choose to walk with a guided group into the jungle to watch wild animals. I really enjoyed it, because I knew that no creature has to suffer for my entertainment. Please, Animal Nepal, tell tourists to think before booking a package including activities in national parks.

Best wishes,

Almuth Meinert
Berlin, Germany

INHUMANITY

I was recently in Chitwan for work. I happened to visit Saurah and thought that Elephant bathing would be so much fun, until I met "Maruti". And yes she was brought from India. The foreseen jolly moment of bathing with the elephant suddenly turned heartbreaking for most of us. I could not help not hating myself for being a part of this. We think that these animals should be confined for the purpose of sport or fun. When in reality they deserve as much freedom as anyone of us. They are wild and born to be free. They walk, sit, move, eat in accordance to our will and not theirs. While bathing Maruti, we noticed that she had this enormous wound on her forehead. And no it was not an accident but the sign of human brutality. The wound signifies nothing else but a mere reflection of inhumanity. The Mahout said, her wounds are healing, but what I now know is that before her wounds heal there will be many more on the way.

Kritishma Karki
Kathmandu, Nepal

SOMETHING IMMORAL

I want to share my experiences of Chitwan with you and request Animal Nepal to take action to improve the lives of safari elephants.

I think I knew before we went for the elephant ride that we were supporting something immoral. No animal should serve humans, let alone one as majestic and intelligent as an elephant. But I was excited about the prospect of what we had organised (through our pre booked tour) and when our jeep arrived to take us out to the edge of the reserve me and my friend were bubbling with anticipation. It lasted just long enough for us to get atop our amazing beast of burden (along with the two other travelers). The solid wooden crate, the group and the mahout must have weighed at least 500kgs.

Once the walk started the reality of what this novelty ride was costing this poor creature (and the 8 or so other elephants, all carrying their own loads) became startlingly clear. To direct the elephant the mahout would push (or sometimes kick) behind the elephant's ears. His feet were attached to a rope stretched over the elephants head and pressure was almost constantly applied. The elephant's movements over the muddy ground and down the river embankments was obviously laboured, very slow and calculated.

The mahouts also had one heavy bamboo stick and a metal rode for 'encouragement'. One poor creature got hit so hard on the head I heard the dull thud against its skull. It was the longest hour of my life (and I've been in labour!!) and I even asked to get off within the first 10 minutes but the mahout's English was poor and I was not willing to jump the four meters to the ground risking a broken leg. All in all, the experience was horrible and I was disgusted at myself for being a part of it. That afternoon we were scheduled to go and 'bath' the elephants in the river but we were so horrified by what we had already witnessed that we couldn't stand to see anymore mistreatment. I did see some of the bathing from our hotel balcony and it was just as I expected. The elephants were nothing more than a photo op, a pontoon for jumping off of or a water feature taught to spray excited tourist on demand.

The guide who took care of us for our time in Chitwan told us that during the peak tourist season some of the privately owned elephants become undernourished, as they are made to do multiple safaris a day and are not adequately fed.

All this is deeply disturbing. Tourist who book a package for Chitwan should not automatically be assigned to elephant safaris as it can be a traumatic experience. Please let me know if there is any additional information you need or if I can be of any assistance in creating awareness about this issue.

Merinda Simcock
Perth, Australia

DISMAL TRAINING METHOD

Having just returned from Chitwan I can only express my deep dismay at the training methods being used in Chitwan. I and other observers were forced to watch a crowd of up to 12 trainers bait a young elephant - which we were told was undergoing "training". The repeated beating of the elephant forcibly with long sticks only stopped when I shouts at them that I was filming the footage and would send to the BBC (unfortunately I was only in a position to take still photos). The young elephant was then tied to a post by its head and its front legs tied together and then its back legs - such that the elephant could not move effectively. I understand that the elephant would be left like that till the morning. In addition the "training information" detailed as part of the display at the breeding centre made clear that - as part of the training the elephant would be exposed to near flames whilst tied to such post. I cannot imagine the distress caused by such an experience. Each elephant trainer - both at the EBC and the other trainers linked to elephants in the park - still carries the metal stick with a sharp edge and the manacles to which each of the elephants are attached in the EBC are somewhat short - for example to prevent the elephant mother and twin elephants - the star attraction at the centre from freely socialising.

Una Mckevitt
London, UK

UNACCEPTABLE TREATMENT

Based on my experience at Chitwan, the treatment of the elephants throughout the park falls well short of the humane standards one would expect to see and would suggest that any information acquired during the WWF visit in 2006 is no longer being applied. I will positively recommend to anyone whom seeks my opinion as to whether or not visit Chitwan that **THEY DO NOT VISIT CHITWAN UNTIL PROPER AND ETHICAL TREATMENT OF THE ANIMAL INHABITANTS** is common practice and I would urge the WWF to revisit the Chitwan Park to investigate the current unacceptable treatment.

Margaret Becker
Adelaide, Australia

TRAINING CONCERNS

I contacted you last week to enquire about whether you have ever heard of cruel elephant training which happens in Chitwan.

The details we have received from a tourist who witnessed this are as follows:

Baby elephants are burned with torches in a training camp called Chitwan Elephant Training Camp. Apparently there is an information centre next to the entrance of this camp. There we are told the camp explains in writing step by step on a poster on the wall about how fire is used to "train" the elephants. Apparently it is very easy to go as a tourist to collect photographs and video. We are told tourists routinely enter the camp usually as part of a tour package that includes an elephant ride\safari. We understand that the elephant training centre is in a place called 'Savraha' which is about 18kms away from Butwal airport.

Was it possible to get more information? Please do tell us all that you know.

Himani Shetty
PETA India

SCARRED ELEPHANTS

I just returned from a trip to Chitwan, where I went on an elephant safari ride. I wish I hadn't, as I am now one of the thousands of tourists who contribute to the suffering of this intelligent animal. The elephant 'Champa' was poked behind the ears with the feet of her trainer in a sensitive, painful spot throughout the whole walk, which lasted an hour and a half. If she slowed down to rest or tried to eat some leaves the trainer hit her really hard with a bamboo stick on the head, or poked her with the ankush. She had scars all over the top of her head, feet, body and trunk. She carried 4 people plus her trainer, and each elephant does this at least 4 times a day, working from 7am to 5pm.

I thought that the elephants get to relax at the end of the day, as the photos portray in 'elephant bathing'. However, this wasn't the case, as I watched trainers repeatedly hit the elephants with the ankush during the bath. So these elephants are in pain all day long except when they are chained during rest hours. I see no justification for causing this unnecessary pain. I request fellow tourists not to ride elephants until humane training and management as well as government monitored welfare standards have been introduced.

Freya Chapman-Amey
London, UK

BEATING THE ELEPHANT

I came across your website online while I was doing a search for animal activists in Nepal. Your site talks about a lot of animals but no mention of elephants. Do u help them too?

I was recently in Nepal a few months ago and rode atop an elephant at a private owned place in chitwan. It was NOT chitwan national park. The handlers were very abusive to the elephants and since our visit I haven't been able to sleep well at night. I still see them stabbing the elephant in my dreams.

I tried talking to the other drivers and nobody really seemed to care. The owner of the elephants was not present. Could u please help in any way u can? Please respond to me as soon as possible and let me know if you are able to help! Thanks for taking the time to read my email.

Maritza Bhattarai
Maryland, USA

A DISTRESSING RIDE

I am writing to you to share my elephant safari experience. I hope Animal Nepal can do something about the elephant abuse that takes place in Chitwan.

A friend and I rode an elephant at Chitwan National Park in the summer of 2014. While I absolutely loved my time in Nepal and Chitwan, specifically the walking jungle safari and the lovely people we met in Sauraha, I got no enjoyment out of the elephant safari what's so ever. While I think I knew deep down it was wrong I got caught up in the excitement of the chance of personal contact with an elephant.

When the day came for our ride, we were really excited we drove out to the park with two girls from Germany. While we had hoped to be on an elephant one on one it was only possible to do this as a group so we'd be riding all together on the one elephant. I scored a seat at the front of the wooden box which initially I thought I'd scored the jackpot...it wasn't long until I realised that this position would make the trip all the more distressing and heart wrenching.

I remember the moment I realised what I was participating in was wrong. It was probably three minutes into the trip, I had been watching the driver push hard into the back of the elephants ears and then I looked down to her beautiful feet and I just thought the indignity of it. The indignity of carrying a heavy wooden box with four people. That's not comfortable and not necessary and I felt shame.

Our elephant had a mind of its own and wanted to graze. With every rebellious refusal to cross a river or lurch through severely muddy areas our driver would kick hard behind the elephant's ears and yell. Eventually the stick came out, which was used to hit the elephant on the head or poke it.

The mud was thick and you could tell it was very difficult for the elephant to cross it with such a heavy load. It was about twenty minutes into our journey my animal loving companion declared she felt sick and if it was possible to get off'. It wasn't. I looked over and saw a tear roll down her cheek. I looked at one of the German girls, who white and miserable.

In the course of the 'safari' we saw one driver belt the head of an elephant with a metal hook stick, which seemed very painful. We saw an elephant pick up a stick and scratch its ear. It was so beautiful to see but the driver immediately whacked the stick away. We also felt unsafe crossing a fast river. The water was above the stomach of the elephant and it felt unstable.

The elephant safari was the longest hour of my life and the worst experience of my life I realise that sounds dramatic but it honestly was. The last fifteen minutes I sat there with my eyes closed trying to mediate and saying sorry over and over in my head.

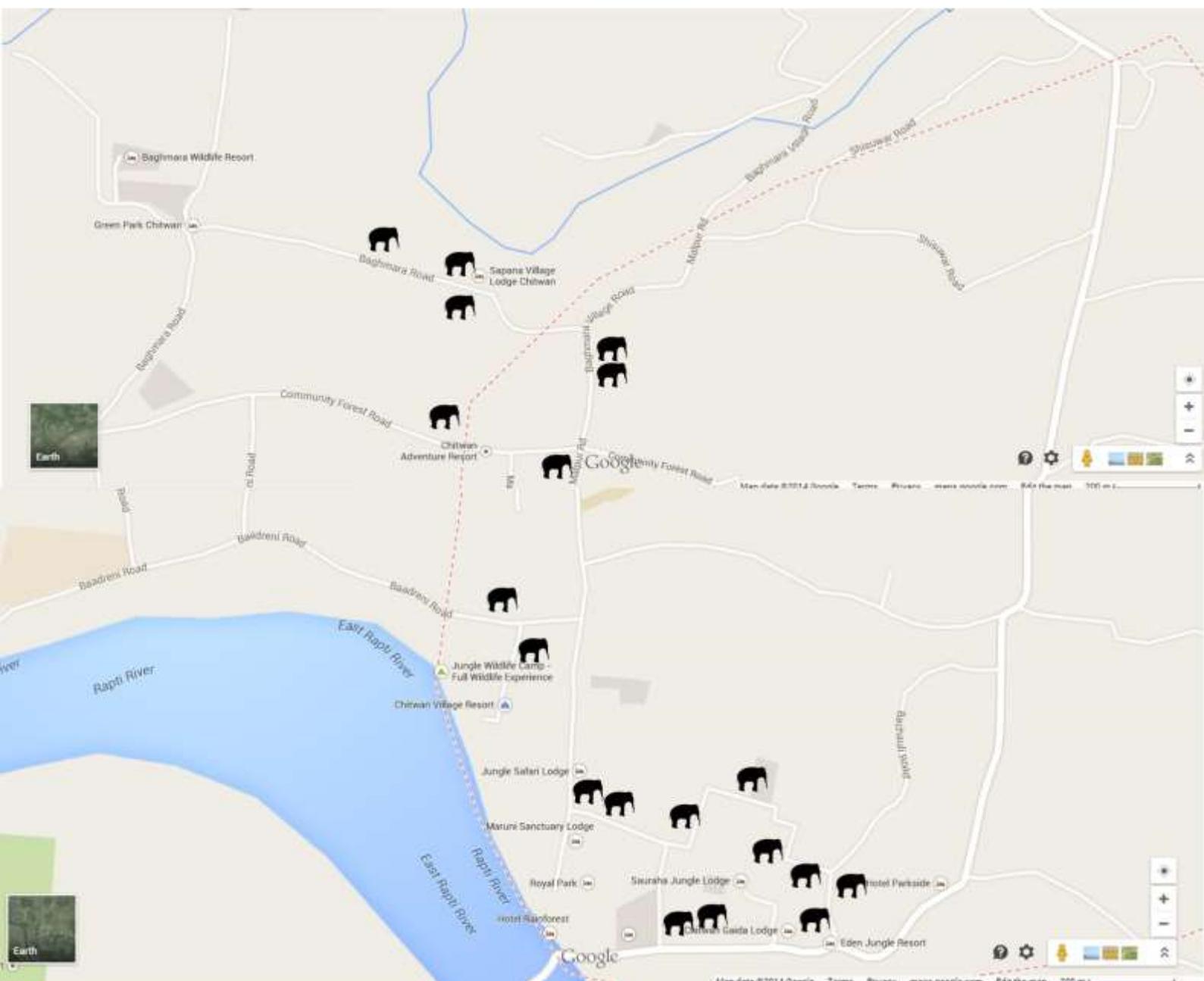
I understand that the privately owned elephants are overworked and malnourished. Elephants are forced to make too many rides as well as conduct gruelling bathing sessions with tourists while being chained in miserable sheds afterwards.

I won't participate in elephant tourism again and will tell anyone who will listen to say no.

Sofie Mather
Perth, Australia

Annex IV– Location of Surveyed Hattisars

Location of Surveyed Hattisars in Sauraha, Chitwan



	Name elephant	Owner	Shelter and Hygiene							Mahout Welfare							Elephant Welfare							Body Score	Safari Management							Total score			
			1	2	3	4	5	M	P	T	1	2	3	4	5	M	P	T	1	2	3	4	5		M	P	T	1	2	3	4		M	P	T
1	Aatma Kali (blind)	Anjan Pandey/DN	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	5	1	5	2	0	5	-	-	2	0	0	5	0	5	-	-	7	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	35
			Shelter and Hygiene							Mahout Welfare							Elephant Welfare								Safari Management										
2	Alisa Kali	Yubaraj Poudel	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	0	0	0	-	-	1	0	0	1	5	0	-	-	1	Check	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	32.5
			Shelter and Hygiene							Mahout Welfare							Elephant Welfare								Safari Management										

¹ Aatma Kali is in reasonable health but fully blind

² Deduction due to elephant's handicap

³ Deduction due to concrete roof, south facing hatisar and daily burning of dung

3	Anar Kali	Krishna Prasad Bhattarai	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	0	2	0	5	-	-	1	0	0	5	0	0	-	-	2	0	0	5	0	-	-	5	27.5
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare						Elephant Welfare						Safari Management											
4	Apu Kali	Om Rijal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	0	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	30
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare						Elephant Welfare						Safari Management											

⁴ Deduction due to regular burning of dung and use of hobbles on front legs

⁵ Inappropriate housing due to pending roof repair

⁶ Elephant suffers from hernia on back leg

⁷ Deduction due to stereotypical behaviour

⁸ Deduction due to south facing hatisar

⁹ Housing not safe from wild elephant attack

¹⁰ At time of survey mahouts and elephants were severely overworked, with up to 8 trips per day. The situation improved after discussions with the owner

¹¹ Owner started to provide molasses and salt after discussing survey outcomes

¹² During survey time Apu Kali's health is severely compromised due to a lack of nutritious food, being overworked and not having sufficient time to rest and eat. Owner introduced improvements after discussing the survey outcomes

5	Basanti Kali (TB)	Hari Bhakta Ghimire	0	0	0	0	5	-	+	5	1	5	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	0	5	5	5	-	-	1		0	5	0	0	-	-	5	32.5
			Shelter and Hygiene					Mahout Welfare					Elephant Welfare					Safari Management																	
6	Basanti Kali	Ram Prasad Rijal	0	0	0	2	5	-	+	7	1	5	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	5	5	5	5	-	+	2		0	0	5	0	-	-	5	57.5
			Shelter and Hygiene					Mahout Welfare					Elephant Welfare					Safari Management																	

¹³ Deduction due to the presence of a mountain of dung at the back of the hatisar. Dung attracts flies and misquotes, breeds bacteria and creates hazardous ammonia

¹⁴ Addition as mahouts do not burn dung

¹⁵ Deduction due to disorganized housing inside a large storeroom

¹⁶ Molasses are provided but only once a month

¹⁷ Elephant suffers from TB

¹⁸ Deduction due to presence of urine

¹⁹ Addition due to presence of straw on roof and curtains against cold weather

²⁰ Elephant suffers from 3 broken nails

²¹ Deduction due to broken nails (3)

²² Addition for daily visits by owner

²³ Owner says he does not agree with bathing with tourists and stopped it for now, but also says he might be forced to restart it by the cooperative

7	Beauty Kali (TB)	Hari Prasad Ghimire	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	2	5	-	+	2	0	0	5	5	5	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	45	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
8	Bijuli Kali (TB)	Shankar Sainju	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	0	-	5	-	-	2	0	5	5	5	5	-	-	2	0	1	0	0	-	-	1	52.5	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
9	Champa Kali	Shankar Sainju	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	0	5	-	-	2	0	5	1	5	5	-	-	2	0	1	0	0	-	-	1	60	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								

²⁴ Deduction due to concrete roof, south facing hatisar and daily burning of dung

²⁵ Addition due to slightly better salary for phanit

²⁶ Molasses are provided but not regularly

²⁷ Elephant suffers from TB

²⁸ Deduction due to concrete plastered flooring

²⁹ Although considered appropriate concrete housing for mahouts are not promoted due to the adverse weather conditions in Sauraha

³⁰ Elephant suffers from TB

		5 31																																
		Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
10	Champa Kali	Om Rijal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	0	2	2	5	-	-	1	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	30
								2			0	³³	.	.	2			7			³⁵													
								5		5			5	5				5																

12	Champa Kali	Dhurba Giri	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	5	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	52.5	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
13	Chanchal Kali	Dhurba Giri	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	5	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	52.5	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
14	Ghulab Kali	Bikash Mishra	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	5	1	0	2	0	5	-	+	2	0	5	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	0	5	0	-	-	5	45	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								

⁴⁰ Deduction due to south facing hatisar

⁴¹ Champa Kali has visible signs of severe beatings such as torn ears

⁴² Deduction due to south facing hatisar

⁴³ Elephant suffers from wound in backbone and cracks in foot pads

⁴⁴ Housing is poor and not safe from raiding wild elephants

⁴⁵ Addition due to provision of breakfast

⁴⁶ Elephant has small wounds on trunk, eye area and leg

17	Kanchi Kali (TB)	Dhundi Raj Silwal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	0	5	-	-	2	0	5	5	5	0	-	-	1		0	0	5	0	-	-	5	42.5
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
18	Kristi Kali	Ramesh Dahal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	0	5	-	-	2	0	5	1	5	5	-	-	2	Check	0	0	5	0	-	-	5	55
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
19	Laxmi Kali	Ramsaran Silwal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	0	5	-	-	2	0	5	1	5	0	-	-	1	Check	0	0	5	0	-	-	5	47.5

⁵⁸ Deduction due to burning of dung

⁵⁹ Health is medium due to presence of TB, cracked foot pads and wounds

⁶⁰ Kanchi Kali is friends with Laxmi Kali, who stays in the same shelter. This is positive for the elephants' wellbeing

⁶¹ Deduction due to stereotypical behaviour

⁶² Deduction due to burning of dung

⁶³ Deduction due to burning of dung

⁶⁴ Laxmi Kali is friends with Kanchi Kali, who stays in the same shelter. This is positive for the elephants' wellbeing

			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare						Elephant Welfare						Safari Management											
20	Laxmi Kali (TB)	Hari Bhakta Ghimire	0	0	0	0	5	-	+	5	1	5	2	0	0	-	-	1	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	40
								2	2				5	68	2		5		70	71		72			0							0		
								5	66	67			5		69																			
21	Laxmi Kali	Hari Prasad Ghimire	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	2	0	-	-	2	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	32.5
								2	.	5			5	74			0		75	76		77			0							0		
								5					5																					

⁶⁵ Deduction due to stereotypical behaviour

⁶⁶ Deduction due to large mountain of dung at the back of hatisar

⁶⁷ Addition for not burning the dung

⁶⁸ The relation between mahouts and elephant appears to be sour due to ignorance of mahouts regarding young elephant behaviour

⁶⁹ Deduction due to disorganized housing inside a large storeroom

⁷⁰ Molasses are provided but not regularly

⁷¹ At the age of 15 Laxmi Kali already suffers from TB. She also has a broken nail

⁷² Playful, 15-year old Laxmi Kali endures terrible beatings when being 'naughty' (read: showing natural young elephant behavior)

⁷⁴ At least one of the mahouts beats Laxmi Kali regularly

⁷⁵ Molasses are provided but not regularly

⁷⁶ Signs of saddle wounds and ear injury

⁷⁷ Sadly Laxmi Kali gets beaten a lot

		5 73																																	
		Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management									
22	Laxmi Kali	Bikash Mishra	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	5	1	0	2	2	5	-	+	2	0	5	1	5	0	-	-	2	Chec	0	0	5	0	-	-	5	52.5
										0	⁷⁸	.	.							0						0	k								
23	Laxmi Kali	Hari Kumar Regmi	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	5	1	5	2	2	5	-	+	2	0	0	5	0	0	-	-	5		0	0	0	0	-	-	0	37.5
										0		.	.							⁸²	⁸³														
		Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Management								Safari Management									

⁷³ Deduction due to concrete roof, south facing hatisar and daily burning of dung

⁷⁸ Housing is poor and not safe from raiding wild elephants

⁷⁹ Phanit Chaudhary has studied up to Class 12

⁸⁰ Addition for provision of breakfast

⁸¹ Addition due to salary exceeding Rs 9000

⁸² Presence of wound on legs

⁸³ Elephant is housed alone

24	Laxmi Kali	Govinda Adhikari (Rented)	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	5	1	0	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	0	1	5	0	-	-	1	Chec	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	37.5
			Shelter and Hygiene				Mahout Welfare				Elephant Management					Safari Management																			
25	Laxmi Kali	Om Rijal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	0	2	2	5	-	-	1	0	0	0	5	0	-	-	5		0	0	0	0	-	-	0	25
			Shelter and Hygiene				Mahout Welfare				Elephant Management					Safari Management																			
26	Lucky Kali	Bikash Mishra	0	0	0	0	5	-	+	7	1	0	2	0	5	-	+	2	0	5	5	5	0	-	-	1		0	0	5	0	-	-	5	47.5

⁸⁴ Housing needs to be improved as it is unsafe from wild elephant attacks

⁸⁵ Elephant has small wound on head

⁸⁶ Deduction due to south facing hatisar

⁸⁷ Housing not safe from wild elephant attack

⁸⁸ At time of survey mahouts and elephants were severely overworked, with up to 8 trips per day. The situation improved after discussions with the owner

⁸⁹ During survey time the elephant's health is severely compromised due to a wound in backbone, a lack of nutritious food, being overworked and not having sufficient time to rest and eat. Owner introduced improvements after discussing the survey outcomes. Laxmi Kali was allowed to take an extended break

⁹¹ Housing is poor and not safe from raiding wild elephants

⁹³ Presence of head wound due to use of ankush

			5 ₉₀							5 ₉₂																									
			Shelter and Hygiene							Mahout Welfare							Elephant Management							Safari Management											
27	Madhur Kali (Rented) (TB)	Madhukar Regmi/ Damodar Regmi	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	5	1	0	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	0	5	5	5	-	-	1		0	0	0	0	-	-	0	40
			Shelter and Hygiene							Mahout Welfare							Elephant Management							Safari Management											
28	Pawan Kali (Rented)	Om Rijal	0	0	0	0	5	-	2	2	1	0	2	0	5	-	-	1	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	1		0	0	0	0	-	-	0	27.5

⁹⁰ Addition due to no burning of dung

⁹² Addition for provision of breakfast

⁹⁴ Housing needs to be improved as it is unsafe from wild elephant attacks

⁹⁵ Elephant suffers from TB

⁹⁶ Deduction due to south facing hatisar

⁹⁷ Housing not safe from wild elephant attack

⁹⁸ At time of survey mahouts and elephants were severely overworked, with up to 8 trips per day. The situation improved after discussions with the owner

⁹⁹ During survey time the elephant's health is severely compromised due to a lack of nutritious food, being overworked and not having sufficient time to rest and eat.

Owner introduced improvements after discussing the survey outcomes

29	Pawan Kali (TB)	Ganga Giri	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	0	5	-	-	2	0	5	5	0	0	-	-	7	0	5	0	0	-	-	5	37.3	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
30	Punam Kali	Ramesh Dahal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	2	0	5	-	-	2	0	5	1	5	0	-	-	2	0	5	?	0	-	-	5	50	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Management								Safari Management								
31	Poonam Kali (Rented)	Nagendra Chapagain	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	5	1	5	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	40	

¹⁰⁰ Deduction as hatisar is south facing

¹⁰¹ Molasses are provided but elephant does not want to eat them, says mahout. Feeding methods have to be improved as elephant is beaten when not eating.

¹⁰² Elephant suffers from TB, torn ears and burn wounds due to outbreak of fire close to shelter

¹⁰³ Elephant is housed alone

¹⁰⁴ Deduction due to recent fire causing wounds to the chained elephant

¹⁰⁵ This elephant really should not be forced to bath with tourists!

¹⁰⁶ Deduction due to burning of dung

¹⁰⁷ Wound in ear area; elephant eats mud all year round to supplement its mineral intake

		Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare						Elephant Management						Safari Management												
32	Rajkumar i Kali	Ram Kumar Chaudhary	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	5	1	0	2	0	5	-	+	2	0	5	5	0	0	-	-	1	0	0	5	0	-	-	0	35
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare						Elephant Welfare						Safari Management											
33	Ram Kali	Om Rijal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	0	2	2	5	-	-	1	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	30
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare						Elephant Welfare						Safari Management											

¹⁰⁸ Housing inappropriate and unsafe

¹⁰⁹ Addition for better salaries (above Rs 10.000)

¹¹⁰ Wound on front leg

¹¹¹ Elephant is housed alone

¹¹² Deduction due to south facing shelter and burning of dung

¹¹³ Housing not safe from wild elephant attack

¹¹⁴ At time of survey mahouts and elephants were severely overworked, with up to 8 trips per day. The situation improved after discussions with the owner

¹¹⁵ During survey time the elephant's health is severely compromised due to a lack of nutritious food, being overworked and not having sufficient time to rest and eat.

Owner introduced improvements after discussing the survey outcomes

34	Ramu Prasad Gaj	Om Rijal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	0	2	2	5	-	-	1	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	30	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
35	Rani Kali	Narayan & Deepak Bhattarai	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	0	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	0	1	5	0	-	-	1	0	5	0	0	-	-	5	42.5	
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								

¹¹⁶ Deduction due to south facing hatisar and burning of dung

¹¹⁷ Housing not safe from wild elephant attack

¹¹⁸ At time of survey mahouts and elephants were severely overworked, with up to 8 trips per day. The situation improved after discussions with the owner

¹¹⁹ During survey time the elephant's health is severely compromised due to a lack of nutritious food, being overworked and not having sufficient time to rest and eat.

Owner introduced improvements after discussing the survey outcomes

¹²⁰ Deduction for burning dung

¹²¹ Mahouts actually sleep on a bed out in the open; mahout housing construction delayed

¹²² Rani Kali is close friends with Champa Kali, who lives in the same shelter. The friendship and their closeness has a significant impact on their mental and physical well being

36	Rishi Prasad Kali	Ram P Rijal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	0	2	5	-	-	2	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	1		0	5	0	0	-	-	5	40
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
37	Ruxi Kali (Rented)	Balram Dahal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	5	1	5	2	2	5	-	-	2	0	0	1	5	0	-	-	1	check	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	40
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								
38	Sambriddhi Kali (under aged)	Ram Prasad Rijal	0	0	0	0	5	-	+	5	1	5	2	2	5	-	+	2	0	5	5	5	0	-	+	1		N	N	N	N	-	-	N	50
			Shelter and Hygiene								Mahout Welfare								Elephant Welfare								Safari Management								

¹²³ Deduction due to cement plastered flooring

¹²⁴ Deduction to single mahout employment

¹²⁵ Elephant gave birth to calf which died half hour later. She has lost weight and has wounds after kicking a tree

¹²⁶ Elephant is hit with ankush during every trip as she is scared of cows and horses. Note that this kind of management will only further increase her fears

¹²⁷ Deduction due to presence of urine

¹²⁸ Addition due to presence of straw on roof and curtains against cold weather

¹²⁹ Sambriddhi Kali has only one mahout as she is not working yet

¹³⁰ Addition due to better payment of mahout (above Rs 10.000)

¹³¹ Elephant has two broken nails

¹³² Addition due to daily visits and close involvement of owner

			Shelter and Hygiene							Mahout Welfare							Elephant Welfare							Safari Management																				
39	Sarita Kali (Blind, TB)	Prakash Dahal	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	0	2	0	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-		0	0	5	0	-	-	5	20									
								2	.	5	0		¹³⁴	.	5		2	.	5		¹³⁵			2	.	5		¹³⁶	¹³⁷			2	.	5		¹³⁸								
			Shelter and Hygiene							Mahout Welfare							Elephant Welfare							Safari Management																				
40	Sona Kali	Ram Kumar Aryal	0	0	0	5	5	-	+	1	1	5	2	2	0	-	+	2	0	0	5	5	0	-	-	7		0	0	5	0	-	-	5	47.5									
									2	2	0		.	.	5	5		2	.	5		¹³⁹			2	.	5		¹⁴⁰			2	.	5		¹⁴¹	¹⁴²			2	.	5		¹⁴³

¹³³ Deduction due to burning of dung

¹³⁴ Sarita Kali, being blind and suffering from TB and deep tissue wounds, has seen a fast turnover of mahouts. As mahouts' welfare is compromised in various ways they leave their jobs abruptly, leading to a crisis in the care of this needy elephant

¹³⁵ Deduction due to a lack of mahout welfare for instance in timely payment and food provisions

¹³⁶ Note that no supplements were provided till recently; after a former mahout returned and put some demands in place molasses were provided. The owner is encouraged to further improve Sarita Kali's diet; if not her health will further deteriorate

¹³⁷ Elephant suffers from TB, cracked foot pads and deep tissue wounds that do not seem to heal. Sarita Kali is also fully blind and receives regular beatings as she often has to be forced to conduct safaris

¹³⁸ Deduction due to blindness

¹³⁹ Addition for not burning dung

¹⁴⁰ Addition due to provision of breakfast

¹⁴¹ Presence of wounds resulting from use of ankush/latti

¹⁴² Sona Kali is friends with Ghulab Kali who lives in the same shelter; the closeness has a significant positive impact on her well being

¹⁴³ Deduction due to presence of wounds from use of ankush

			Shelter and Hygiene					Mahout Welfare					Elephant Welfare						Safari Management																
41	Srijana Kali	Dhurba Giri	0	0	0	0	5	-	+	5	1	5	2	2	5	-	+	3	0	5	1	5	0	-	+	2	Chec	0	5	5	0	-	-	1	70
							2	2		0		.	.			2	2			0				2	2	k							0		
							.	.				5	5			.	.							5	5										
							144	145								146								147											
			Shelter and Hygiene					Mahout Welfare					Elephant Welfare						Safari Management																
42	Pushpa Kali	Sarala/Hari Ghimire	0	0	0	0	5	-	-	2	1	5	0	0	0	-	-	1	0	0	0	5	0	-	-	2	Chec	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	17.5
							2	.	5	0				149	2	.	5			151		152	2	.	5	k			153						
							.	5						.	5	.	5							5											
							148							150																					

¹⁴⁴ Deduction due to south facing hatisar

¹⁴⁵ Addition due to measures against cold and not burning dung

¹⁴⁶ Addition to better salary provision (above Rs 9000); mahout is alone but as Srijana Kali has just delivered a baby and is not working this does not hamper her welfare

¹⁴⁷ Addition due to daily visit by one of the owners

¹⁴⁸ Deduction due to concrete roof, south facing hatisar and daily burning of dung

¹⁴⁹ This young elephant receives many beatings in order to force her to conduct work for which she is too young. She shows her disapproval by shaking off mahout, leading to welfare concerns for both mahout and elephant. Note: during a second visit we met the new, second mahout, who is much kinder.

¹⁵⁰ Deduction as only one mahout is employed at the time of survey

¹⁵¹ Pushpa Kali's suffers from saddle wounds. Her health will further suffer when she continues to carry a heavy howdah with 2 or 3 tourist at the age of 11

¹⁵² This underaged elephant is forced to carry 2 or 3 people and is beaten when not obeying or being playful

¹⁵³ Pushpa Kali is presently being taught how to conduct bathing