



Newsletter 2019 - #03



Greetings all,

We are delighted to be able to contact you at the end of the year to share so much good news!

This 3rd edition of our Newsletter will give you the details of our year 2019 which included many milestones that will remain marked in the history of the Association!

Some difficulties of course, but above all full of happiness!

Good reading !!



July 2019:

Our July began at **Le Pal Park**. The **Le Pal Nature Foundation**, which has supported us since our very first beginnings, organizes an annual event: the **Elephant Weekend**, in which we are happy to participate. This year, Annik was able to present the progress of the Association's project during an evening organized at **Caquetoire**. We made many new friends and managed to spread awareness of the living conditions of elephants in Nepal and Asia.



➤ **Le Pal Nature !**



Meanwhile, at the camp, we were busily putting the finishing touches to the facility. We are ready to welcome the first residents to the HOME ... welcome elephants, mahouts and volunteers.



July also brought the visit of Chrissy Pratt, colleague and friend of SU4E.

Chrissy is the founder of the NGO Elephation, and she puts all her energy into helping Asian elephants. Here in

Nepal, she works to promote and demonstrate ethical alternative techniques in the treatment of captive elephants and, in particular, the functioning of operant conditioning (training, positive reinforcement, etc.).



➤ [READ MORE ABOUT ELEPHATION](#)



Finally, we were delighted to launch the SU4E project on Lilo. For those who don't know, Lilo is a online search engine that redistributes half of its income to social and environmental projects. We warmly recommended!

➤ [MORE ABOUT LILO !](#)



August 2019 :

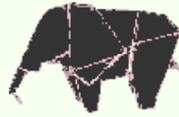
Monsoon season ! Despite the rain, the successive good news from several new partnerships allows us to keep our spirits high. Welcome to AFSA (Association Francophone of Animal Caretakers) and also to Alaya Holidays, Nepal Inside Out and Lilo. Thank you very much to everyone for their support!





Even if you're not necessarily a fan of torrential rains, the monsoon is not a completely uninteresting period: *it gives new life to jungle.* The garden plants thrive (papaya, bamboo, curcumas, lemongrass, lychees, mango, banana trees ...) *We use monsoon as an opportunity to practice a little gardening and make the HOME a more peaceful and welcoming place for future residents.*





September 2019 :

Once again, we begin the month in France, at the **Zoological and Botanical Park of Mulhouse** this time, for their **Panda Roux Day: Special edition Nepal**. Our alumni volunteers, Vanessa and Noémie, represented SU4E by managing a stand **explaining the actions of the NGO**.



➤ **Mulhouse Park Link!**



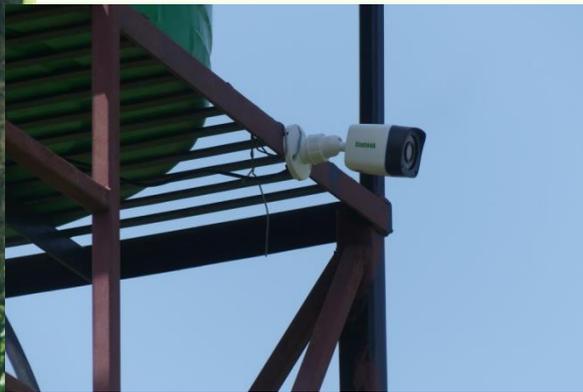
Back in Nepal we were welcoming our new volunteers, Charlotte and Thomas, who arrived at the HOME bursting with energy! And let's go for a ride: finishing work of all kinds, DIY, gardening, fundraising ...

The construction of the elephant shelter was finalized thanks to the support of the **Le Pal Nature Foundation**.

Ready for elephants !



A generous donation from our new partner, [AFSA](#), made it possible to equip the camp with [4 surveillance cameras](#). Now we can keep an eye on the Hattissar (elephant shelter) at all times. This is an extremely useful tool that will allow us to monitor the facility - ensuring that everything goes well even when we are not present. [More importantly](#), it gives us the ability to study the behavior of the elephants, day and night, in order to detect any possible problem and set up the best possible support program. The AFSA donation also enabled us to equip the shelter with [2 food racks](#) (unique in Nepal), [2 large wooden scratch poles](#) and a drinking trough.



It seemed too good to be true, but thanks to a really [nice donation from the Brigitte Bardot Foundation](#) we can cover the cost of installation of the Elephant enclosure, the construction of a real therapeutic pool and a year of maintenance (care, food) for an elephant. Thank you, thank you (thank you !) to [Brigitte Bardot](#) and to the members of her team who were kind enough to understand the specific nature and constraints of our project. We are delighted to be able to count [the Brigitte Bardot Foundation](#) as our new partner!



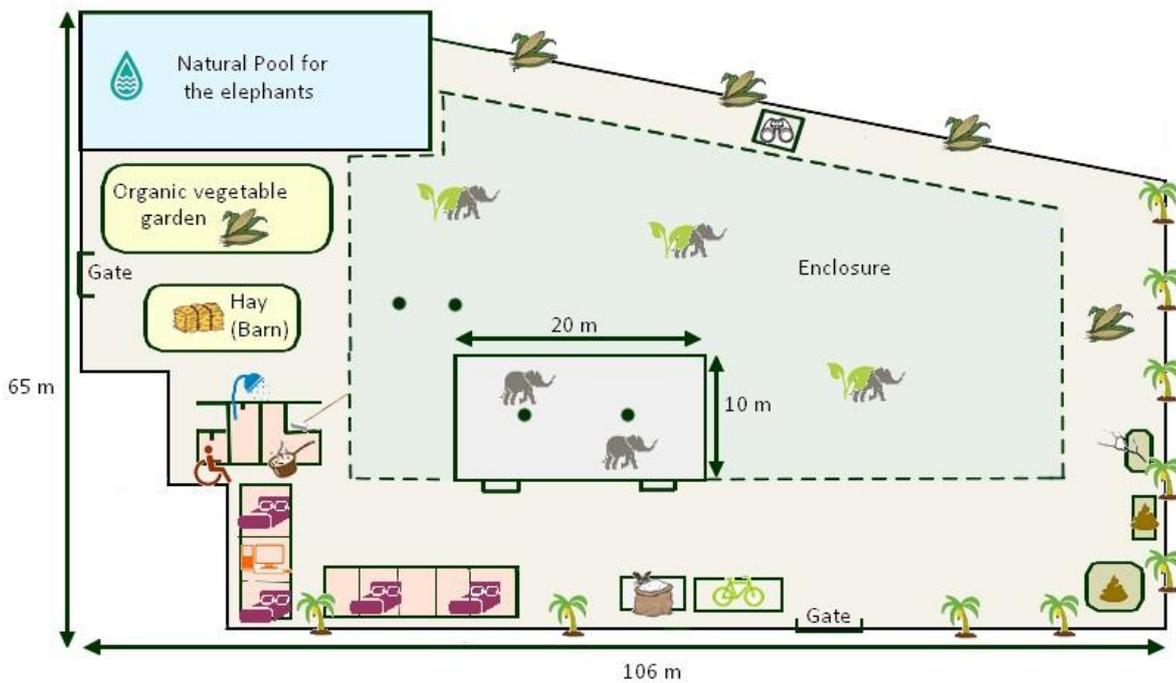
A huge thank you to [all the supporters](#) for making this possible, we are ready to welcome our first residents!

Let's not forget to thank all the little hands who worked hard to put everything in place!



Layout of the SU4E Elephant Home :

Layout Elephant Home



Legend :

: Dry Toilets

: Mahout and volunteers's house

: Elephant's Stable

: rice storage (not funded yet)

: Showers

: Office

: Branchs

: Watch tower

: Kitchen

: Garage

: Compost

: 200 m perimeter

: Storage room

: Banana, mango, papaya etc plantations

: Woodens poles

: Hay (Barn not funded yet)



October 2019 :

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SU4E !

October 3 is our 2nd anniversary of operation in Nepal! What could be better way to **celebrate than the arrival of our first rescued elephant: Eva Kali**, of course, accompanied by her mahouts: Chacha and Chotu. It was not easy, it took us months of **patient negotiations to finally get Eva released from the tourism industry!**



Eva is approximately 33 years old and suffers from **multiple infected abscesses on both front feet**, which makes standing and walking extremely painful. The road to recovery began with a **5km walk** from the centre of town to our facility on the edge of the jungle. Despite the discomfort, we had to get there. Transport by truck was not an option as Eva was previously traumatized by such transport and would require weeks of desensitizing training, time we didn't have. Eva would have to make the journey.

It proved a test for her as much as for us. **The journey started at 4:30 am**, to avoid meeting too many people on our way out of town, and lasted no less than **14 hours**. After a long journey, **Eva Kali finally crossed the doors of the SU4E Elephant HOME at 6 :30pm.**



Now, the big challenge ... Eva is traumatized. She has only known slavery and ill-treatment, so it will take time to adapt to her new environment, assimilate all the new experiences that await her and understand that she has reached a place of rest and peace. To work : A medical assesment and a round of antibiotics was started on the morning after her arrival, administered by veterinary specialists in wildlife attached to the Chitwan National Park.



After only 3 days, Eva started showing signs of improvement. At first she was on full alert, probably expecting to be sent back to her old life at any moment but suddenly we noticed a dramatic shift in her behaviour. She seemed to relax as if she knew this was her new home and things would be different from now on. Incredible what LOVE as well as a clean dry environment can do. Over the next few weeks, she learned through positive reinforcement training with Floriane to take daily foot baths accept treatment for her injuries.

Now that she is safe, it is tempting to let emotions cloud judgment and let her go freely exploring her new house and her new enclosure, but we are still far from achieving this goal, it is important to move forward gradually. Eva has a strong character (even for an elephant) with a difficult past. This transitional period is therefore essential for everyone's safety, including her own. It is important to maintain a balanced level of control between Eva and her mahouts, it is all a matter of patience and with time and love, Eva will be able to overcome her traumas and regain her confidence



Eva's rescue and new life would not have been possible without the renewal of the annual donations by the Le Pal Nature Foundation, which contributed to purchasing Eva's freedom and the Brigitte Bardot Foundation which will cover 1 year of Eva's maintenance costs and of course, YOU!



With all these emotions, let's not forget to thank Thomas, our volunteer who has revamped our website.

➤ [CHECK OUT HIS WORK !](#)



While all this was going on in Nepal, in France we were participating again at Le Pal park for the day of the Le Pal Nature Foundation! Many thanks to SU4E family members Floriane, Matthieu, Axel and Vanessa for their hard work!





November 2019 :

There's always something to do to improve the elephant HOME, a little bit each day, always with full respect to the environment and traditional methods.

Our walls are coated with natural material, made by our own hands ; "gobar" (mixture of earth, water and fresh cow dung). We also finalized the construction of the dry eco-toilets, allowing us to use our own waste to make fertilizer compost for the crops, future food for the elephants. Always in the spirit of self-sufficiency, we collect the wood from the branches not eaten by Eva to keep us warm. All this with the help of our new volunteers Aurélie and Matteo!



This November also marked the official hiring of a local project manager, Vicky Shah. Vicky started helping us last December, working part time. Since then, he proved his worth and made himself indispensable. He helps to navigate the cultural and linguistic obstacles thus ensuring that things run smoothly. Living close to the Chitwan jungle, Vicky has always had a strong connection with nature. Joining SU4E is an opportunity for him to change mentalities and the chance to take part in a cause close to his heart, to improve the living conditions of elephants in his home country.

Welcome Vicky !



De Meanwhile, **Eva is progressing quickly in her training.** She is gradually regaining trust in humans and allows her feet to be treated more easily. She learned well how **positive reinforcement** works and we can now **make her take two 10-minute foot baths a day.** Sadly, things didn't work out with young mahout, Chotu and we had to let him go. After an exhaustive search for a second mahout, we finally found our man. **Kushbu** instantly distinguished himself as the type mahout we were looking for ; patient and compassionate and most importantly, Eva took an immediate liking to him.

➤ **CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO OF EVA'S**



Eva appreciates her healthy **new balanced diet based on plants** (some with medicinal properties), hay, branches, fresh grass, Kutchis with rice, balls of molasses and chickpeas, fruits and vegetables ...



With the **Elephant Happy Hour** activity on hold, we decided to **start welcoming guests to visit the camp**. On the program: briefing on elephants, their living and survival conditions in Nepal and Asia, observation of a training session with Eva, discussion and explanation of the process.



Décember 2019 :

It's already been **2 months since Eva joined our camp**. After the initial excitement of our new resident fades, we began to settle into a routine. There's always something to do at the HOME ...

With the help of our new friends Alexandre and Alexandra, we built an **observation tower** which will be used for **surveillance of Eva** when she is in her enclosure. At the same time, we finally received the **materials necessary to begin the assembly of the electric fence**.



Eva is still in the recovery phase but her injuries are on the mend. It's only a matter of weeks before **Eva's first outing in her enclosure!**

What a year!

Some numbers from 2019

- 1200 Kg of fruit and vegetables for Eva
 - In 3 months, 4 tons of sugar cane
 - 20 large trailers of fresh branches
 - 10 new partners
 - 19 000 drops collected on Lilo
 - 3775 Facebook followers
 - 933 Followers on Instagram
- 150 Kg of clothing (work pants, Tshirts, sweatshirts ...)
 - 80 fence posts planted
- 500 m of fence wire laid for the enclosure

Partners



La Fondation Le Pal Nature
La province du Bradant Wallon
La Fondation Brigitte Bardot
L'AFSA
Jungle Explore Tours
Yeti Guest House
Little Amsterdam
Evergreen Ecolodge
Ambar Rai's Treks & Tours
Nepal Friends Cafe
Happy Lemon Tree Lodge

Wildlife Encounters Tours & Guides
Pancake House Sauraha
Hotel Rhinoland
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Art CafeSauraha
Nepaltrek Kathmandu
Yak YakTravels
Alaya Hollidays
Nepal Inside Out
Lilo

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Support Vétérinaire
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Donateur –Belgique,

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Avocat –Belgique,



Looking back on 2019 we are proud to see real and tangible results from our efforts here.

SU4E has succeeded in building, opening and operating the first facility in Nepal for retired elephants. We look to the future, ready to assume our new responsibilities with compassion and joy!

Thank you to all of you who support us, financially, materially and morally, and without whom none of this would be possible !!!

Eva and the SU4E family wish you a Happy New Year 2020!

Namasté!



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