



## **Asian Elephant Range States Meeting**

**Gokarna Forest Resort, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**27-29 April 2022**

### **Press Release**

In an effort to secure the persistence of the Asian Elephant well into the future, Government representatives from 13 Asian countries have joined at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Elephant Range States Meeting to strengthen collaboration and cooperation amongst countries in order to protect elephants in Asia.

The Asian Elephant Range States Meeting, hosted by the Government of Nepal, is taking place from April 27 to 29, 2022, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting is facilitated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) and supported by the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional support is provided by National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal, WWF Nepal and ZSL Nepal.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam are the Asian elephant range countries committed to developing an Action Plan for Asian elephant conservation, a strategy envisaged by the “The Kathmandu Declaration for Asian

Elephant Conservation” which will be agreed to and launched during a special event at the conclusion of the meeting.

During the Asian Elephant Range States Meeting, delegates will discuss various topics related to Asian elephant conservation such as elephant population management, human-elephant conflict mitigation, minimising impacts of linear infrastructures on elephant habitat, elephant corridors management, preventing illegal wildlife illegal trade, captive elephants health care and welfare, emerging diseases and strengthening transboundary cooperation. This gathering aims to strengthen Government networking among the Asian elephant range countries, identify common problems and share lessons learned, knowledge, and experiences to conserve Asian elephants across their range, and raise awareness about Asian elephants with other Government agencies, and national and international media and donors.

The meeting will conclude with a Launching Ceremony of “The Kathmandu Declaration for Asian Elephant Conservation” on 29 April 2022.