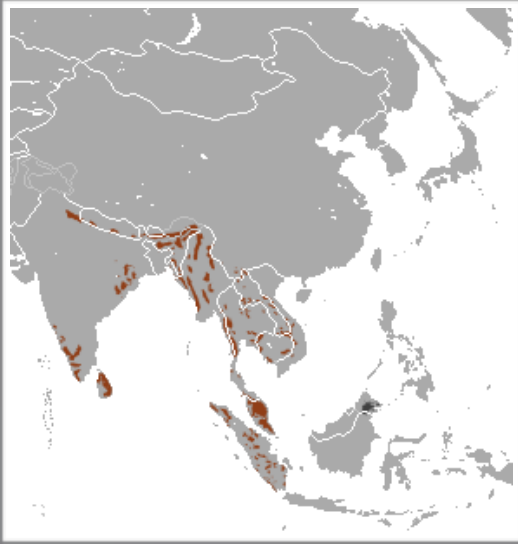


# Asian Elephant

## *Elaphas maximus*



Order: Proboscidea Family: Elephantidae

Range: India Southeast Asia

Size: : 270 cm (108 in)

: 240 cm(96 in)

Weight :26,100 kg(11,900 lbs)

:13,200kg(6000 lbs)

Habitat: forested area

Estrus: 5-7 days

Estrus cycle: 15-16 weeks

Gestation : 660 days

Litter: 1

Weaning: 3-5 years

Sexual maturity: 120 months

Lifestyle: Terrestrial

Activity: Crepuscular

Social: female herds bachelor groups

Breeding: polygynous

Movement:sedentary

Food: Grasses, leaves, fruit and bark

IUCN: endangered

Subspecies : 3

Longevity: captive: 60 yrs

Wild: n/a

There are three subspecies of Asian Elephant. The largest subspecies *E. m. maximus* comes from India and Sri Lanka. It is the darkest and has pink discoloration. The mainland subspecies *E. m. indicus* is in between in size and color. It lives from China, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. The smallest subspecies *E. m. sumatranus* has the lightest color with little depigmentation and is found in Sumatra and Malaysia.

This is mostly a rainforest species. The loss of its habitat has led to a serious decline in its population over the last 30 years. Today the Asian elephant is listed as Endangered by the IUCN. It is listed as Endangered by the USFW and is on CITES Appendix I.

Adult males go through a period of high reproductive hormone levels called musth. During this time the bulls become highly aggressive and will attack other animals including both male and female elephants and man. During musth a strong smelling fluid is extruded from the temporal glands on the side of the head.

Like the African elephant the Asian elephants live in family groups led by a dominant female called a matriarch. The males leave the natal herd at about ten years of age and form bachelor groups. All females in the herd assist in raising the calf, this is called allomothering.