



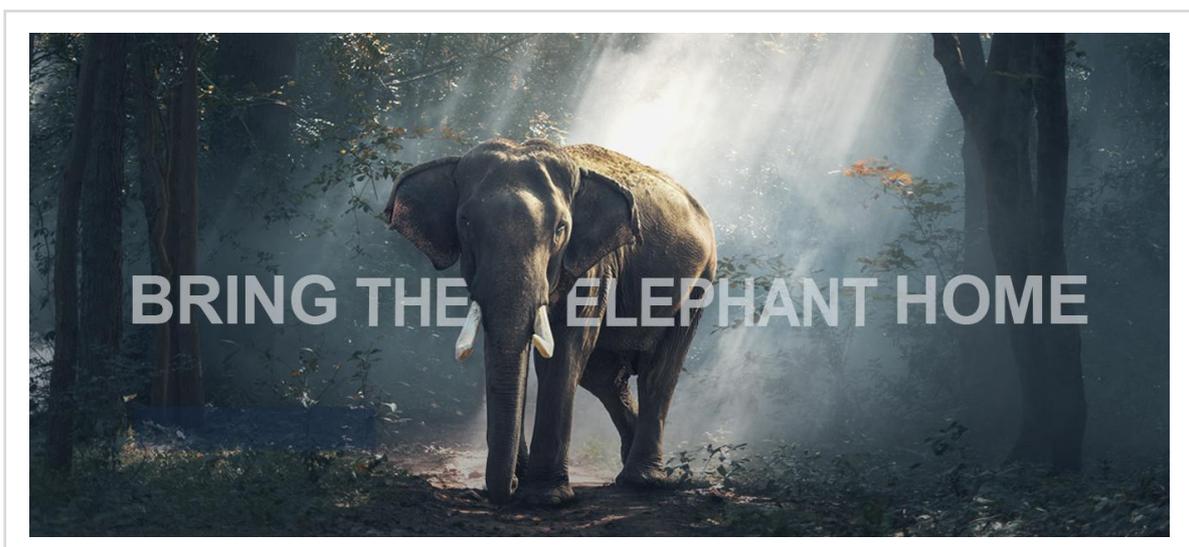
**BRING THE
ELEPHANT
HOME**

Annual Report 2019
Bring the Elephant Home Foundation
For a world where elephants and people can live in harmony

The Netherlands, Thailand, South Africa
Approved by the board: 05/04/2020

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1. Introduction

The year 2019 was a year of growth: as an organisation and in terms of partnerships. We have invested in strategic planning, in building teams, and in finding ways to grow together. It has been an inspiring and active year for Bring The Elephant Home, with projects developing in three continents. Over the years, we learned that it is essential to any conservation strategy to integrate the economic, cultural, social and spiritual values regarding elephants of the people living with them. This is reflected in the community-based conservation projects that we have developed. They focus on three, interconnected pathways: community engagement, ecology, and mutual benefits. By implementing these three pathways, we aim to promote shared decision making, ownership, sustainability, social and gender equality, pride and partnerships. In our community-based projects, we have witnessed that when people take ownership in realising positive change, amazing things will happen.

In South Africa, we have been involved in workshops to discuss the value of elephants for many different stakeholders. We have organised participatory 'World Cafe' workshops for people living with elephants in South Africa, Namibia and Thailand. We are part of a growing network of elephant researchers and NGO's, such as the Elephant Specialist Advisory Group, Elephants Alive, Elephant Human Relationship Aid and Save the Elephants. Meanwhile, the first steps have been taken for the development of a field station for research, education and community engagement. The first pioneer group of students is scheduled for 2020. We have made great progress in enlarging our network in South Africa, presenting at conferences, facilitating workshops, interviewing people involved in elephant conservation and establishing our own Elephant Field Station. In Mozambique, we joined our colleagues at Elephants Alive on a mission to collar elephants. The GPS data will be used to plan a future corridor project to enlarge elephant habitat. For my PhD research, we collaborate with Elephant Human Relationship Aid in Namibia to assess community perspectives regarding coexistence with the desert-adapted elephants.

We are proud of our team in Thailand, that continues to engage with communities in human-elephant conflict areas. They have hosted successful conservation education events that not only raise awareness about the plight of Asian elephants,



but also generate additional income for our partner communities and shift community perception of elephants in a positive direction. In addition to this, Bring The Elephant Home's relationship with the researchers and rangers at the Phu Luang Wildlife Research Station aids the foundation's work and serves as an essential resource in determining future project sites and goals. Further, persisting with research-based mitigation tactics, Bring The Elephant Home has, and will continue to, restore habitat, facilitate communication amongst stakeholders, and promote holistic solutions to bring about human-elephant coexistence in Thailand. We are excited about a new partnership we have developed with a community at the border of Kui Buri National Park, an area with a unique opportunity to realise human-elephant coexistence. Along with Thai and international volunteers, we were able to plant native trees and work with the rangers to maintain water access for elephants, while continuing to support the local community. During a World Cafe workshop, we discussed the impact of elephants on the villagers' livelihoods, their vision of the future and potential solutions. We are working on establishing a permanent base for BTEH in the village, so that we can have more conservationists, students and volunteers involved.

Bring The Elephant Home is growing. We are very grateful for David Owen's enthusiasm and professional approach. And for the positive energy of Berrie Jurg and Vera Praet, who managed to create a growing team of young conservationists in the Netherlands: TeamNL! Thanks to their support, BTEH is now a more professional organisation and better equipped to increase our outreach and support for our projects. Our collaboration with Future For Nature Academy has resulted in an exciting citizen science project that helped us to finalise a scientific report about the effectiveness of beehive fences in Chanthaburi, Thailand.

Finally, a big thank you to all our donors and partners, such as Tedx Veghel, Wim Hof, Kootje Fundatien, INNO of WWF, Lush Cosmetics, Nature Conservation Films and all our volunteers. Overall, 2019 was an exciting and inspiring year for Bring The Elephant Home. By working together with different stakeholders across continents, by applying research and conservation action, we will keep fighting for a better future for the Asian and African elephants. Together, we create a world where elephants and people can coexist in harmony!

Antoinette van de Water
Director Bring The Elephant Home



2. Mission and Objectives

2.1 Mission

To increase the chance of survival for wild elephants worldwide and to create a world where people and elephants coexist in harmony.

2.2 Strategy: integrated community-based elephant conservation

It is essential to any conservation strategy to integrate the economic, cultural, social and spiritual values regarding elephants of the people living with them. This is reflected in the integrated community-based conservation approach that we have developed over more than a decade. It focuses on three interconnected pathways: community engagement, biological resilience and mutual benefits.

2.3 Goal: sustainable positive change

By implementing these three pathways, we aim to promote shared decision making, ownership, sustainability, equality, pride and partnerships. In our community-based projects, we have witnessed that when people take ownership, lasting positive change will happen.

2.4 Objectives

- Protecting wild elephants and restoring, expanding and protecting their habitat in collaboration with local stakeholders;
- Implementing, testing and promoting sustainable solutions for human-elephant coexistence;
- Encouraging local participation in nature conservation and empowerment of local communities, generating economic and social benefits;
- Raising awareness about the importance of elephant conservation and nature in general.



3. Projects and Programs 2019

All our projects are in collaboration with local organizations and include the participation of local communities. As a small, practical foundation, we are flexible and we act quickly when an opportunity arises. Our projects and programs in 2019 were:

- 3.1 10th Annual Bike For Elephants
- 3.2 Conservation Action
- 3.3 Beehive Fence Build - Kanchanaburi
- 3.4 New Community Partner: Kui Buri
- 3.5 Projects in Africa
- 3.6 Research and field stations
- 3.7 Capacity building: TeamNL

3.1 10th Annual Bike For Elephants

On February 2-3, 2019, we hosted the 10th annual Bike For Elephants fundraiser with our community partners in Kaeng Hang Maew, Chanthaburi and the Phluang Wildlife Research Station. The event attracted over 25 participants who cycled nearly 100km over two days, through a scenic route that passed through plantations, forest and the ocean's coast. It was a great opportunity to engage and empower our community partners through ecotourism, as our local staff managed meal preparation, site inspection, transportation, and more. The event was educational as well, and participants met and learned from beehive fence owners, community rangers, and other local people working in line with Bring The Elephant Home's mission to coexist with wild elephants. We received sponsorship from LUSH Cosmetics, Mala Dhara, Suan Sati, Tong sai Bay Resort, Boon Lott's Elephant Sanctuary and other companies.



3.2 Conservation Action

Through partnership with Walking Tree Travel, NIST International School, Stamford American International School, International School Bangkok, and JUMP! Foundation, Bring The Elephant Home hosted over 600 students at project sites in four communities, across three provinces in Thailand. Students learned about the plight of the Asian elephant and the value elephants have in societies across the world, then participated in tree planting, check dam making, trash collection, seed germination, and other activities to restore habitat for elephants and other wildlife. Chili crops were planted in Kaeng Hang Maew, Chanthaburi, which we aim to use to make chili dung balls, a new elephant deterrent in the region that can be tested and implemented. Students did tree maintenance work on 10 rai of land in Kui Buri, Prachuap Khiri Khan that Bring The Elephant Home is restoring as a demonstration site.



Students learned about the complexities of living with wild elephants and about conservation initiatives. Sweet crops, like commonly planted corn, sugar cane, pineapple and cassava, attract the elephants and this causes conflict between farmers and elephants. The students helped with the planting of chilli and eggplant as an alternative crop that is not attractive to elephants and with installing an irrigation system which was sponsored by Thailand Elephants. The farmers shared with us that the elephants have avoided these crops even when roaming nearby, that the flowering crops provided nectar and pollen for the bees of the beehive fence project, and that they have benefitted from the sale of these crops.



3.3 Beehive Fence Build - Kanchanaburi

Our partners in Chong Sadao, Kanchanaburi have reported instances of elephant crop raiding and damage to property at the community tree nursery. The tree nursery is a central part of their community-based conservation strategy and local reforestation efforts. In August 2019, Bring The Elephant Home coordinated the build of a beehive fence in collaboration with community leaders and the Phluang Wildlife Research Station to deter elephants from causing damage at the tree nursery. International volunteers, high school students, and community members came together for an event that supported our local partners and created the province's first active beehive fence, which is being used as a model for other landowners experiencing human-elephant conflict. Many thanks to Dr. Lucy King of Save the Elephants for her advice and funding to realise this project!

3.4 New Community Partner: Kui Buri

Kui Buri National Park is home to approximately 300 wild elephants and surrounded by pineapple plantations. Because elephants like sweet crops, local people experience severe economic losses from wild elephants. After several research trips and meetings, Bring The Elephant Home and the local community in Ruam Thai hosted their first Conservation Action trip in September 2019. These events bring benefits to the communities what contributes to more tolerance towards elephants. A group of 25 students and teachers from International School Bangkok supported the community-based conservation activities through pineapple paper making, homestay activities, and a safari into Kui Buri National Park with the Community-Based Wildlife Tourism Group. We strengthened relationships and expanded our network in the community. Bring The Elephant Home supported habitat restoration on 10 rai of plantation land that borders the national park, and a collaboration with the landowner has lead to a research plan, where the socio-economic benefits of agroforestry and the environmental benefits of reforestation and permaculture will be investigated. Community leaders have approached Bring The Elephant Home with desire for further skills development that will draw more ecotourism to the region, alleviate human-elephant conflict, and shift local attitude towards elephants in a positive direction



3.5 Projects in Africa

Also for the conservation of African elephants, BTEH made steps forward. We made progress in terms of networking with important organisations for elephant research and conservation. We work in close contact with various South African elephant experts from the Elephant Specialist Advisory Group, Elephants Alive, and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The existing and growing network in multiple African countries, including Save the Elephants in Kenya and Elephant Human Relationship Aid in Namibia, will provide valuable advice and new contacts for future projects in Africa.

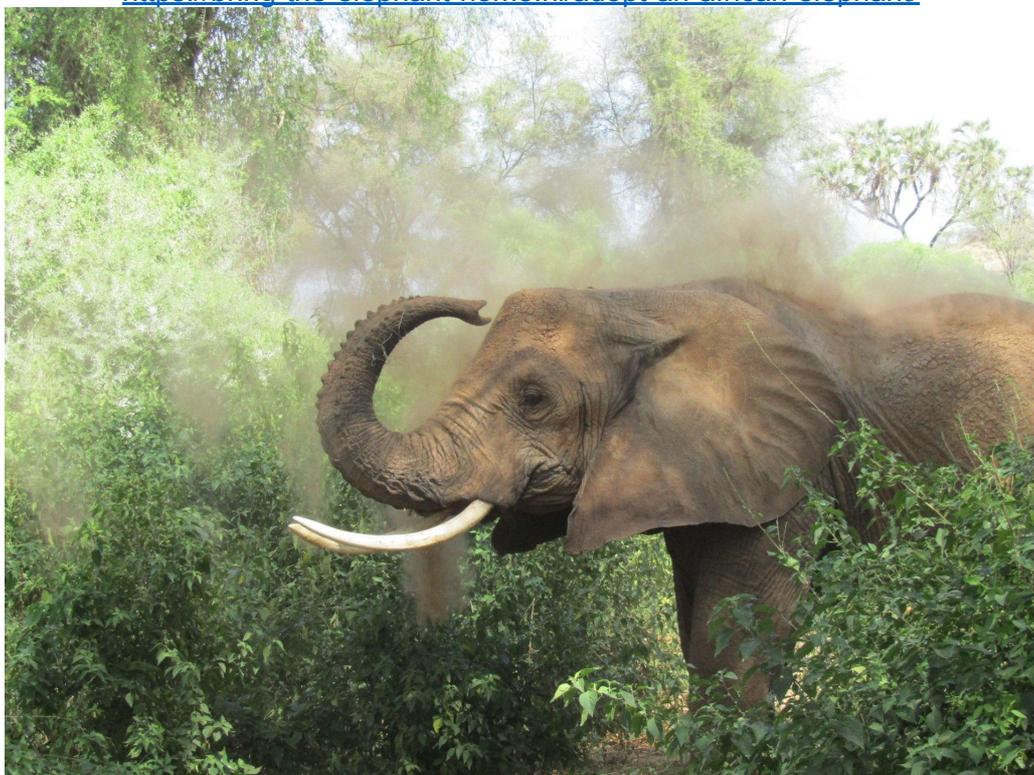
As part of Antoinette van de Water's Ph.D. research on human-elephant coexistence strategies, we have facilitated several workshops in South Africa, Namibia and Thailand on the value of elephants for society. The study will focus on the social dimensions of HEC in various African countries and will shed light on the different societal drivers of conflicts.

We have been researching the options for and preparing a field station. In 2019, with support from TeamNL, we prepared the opening of our Elephant Field Station in 2020. The base camp will have an office, a meeting room, and accommodation for volunteers and students. In 2020, BTEH plans to invite dedicated students to conduct research and to help with all aspects of the organisation.

The adoption program for African elephants was launched in January 2018. So far, the program has resulted in 69 adoptions for the conservation of the African elephant. We plan to promote this project further in 2020 and create an adoption package with regular updates about the elephants in this region.

Click here if you wish to adopt an elephant:

<https://bring-the-elephant-home.nl/adopt-an-african-elephant/>



3.7 Research and Field Stations

Our research projects have a strong focus on the development a mutually beneficial human-elephant coexistence strategy and its implementation.

- Through a unique approach of engaging with people living with elephants, we are developing a holistic conservation model that reconciles conservation and human wellbeing goals, aiming for social justice, equality and social upliftment. Because we believe in coexistence solutions that contribute to the happiness of elephants and people.

Through questionnaires, interviews and participatory workshops and by practically working together with people living with elephants, we aim to:

understand the variables that influence people's attitudes towards elephants, and the prerequisites of human-elephant coexistence.

enable change by developing a holistic mutually beneficial human-elephant coexistence strategy.

Citizen Science Research Beehive Fencing

A holistic solution for human-elephant coexistence is beehive fencing. Our study in Chanthaburi shows that the method effectively deterred over 80% of elephants (over 60% of elephant groups) that approached the beehive fence. The study also highlighted additional benefits, such as extra income, pride, skills development and feelings of wellbeing. Ten authors contributed to this paper, and the project involved three universities, the Thai government (Phluang Wildlife Research Station), several NGOs (Save the Elephants, Future For Nature Academy and Bring The Elephant Home), the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development promoted the project, 44 citizen scientists from around the world helped analysing camera trap videos and 296 community members of Pawa sub district participated in a questionnaire. The paper has been submitted for publication.



Elephant Field Stations

In Thailand and South Africa, we have been preparing the establishment of field stations for research, education and community engagement. The Field Stations will welcome dedicated students and volunteers in 2020 to help develop the field station and community-based conservation efforts, conduct research and help with all aspects of the organisation.

4. Fundraising

4.1 Donations and grants

In 2019, we have invested in strengthening BTEH as an organisation and enlarging our network. Additionally, we have invested time in strengthening the database, data security, donation tools and a new website (to be launched in 2020). Although the income from grants fluctuates, Bring The Elephant Home's income can roughly be divided into the following categories:

Private donors:	60%
Fundraising and volunteer events:	20%
Grants:	20%

In 2019, we received support from these organisations through the Thai and Dutch foundation:

- Wim Hof Ice Challenge
- The Elephants and Bees project of Save the Elephants
- Bike for Elephants Chanthaburi
- Suan Sati, Chiang Mai
- Kootje Foundation, the Netherlands
- Lush Cosmetics
- INNO of WWF, the Netherlands
- Cryotainer, the Netherlands

Please note that this annual report is a combined overview of Bring the Elephant Home International. Please see the Dutch and Thai Financial Reports 2019 for the financial details of the separate foundations.



4.2 Charity events - The Wim Hof Ice Challenge

The Wim Hof Ice Challenge Fundraiser was one of the highlights of 2019. It was a unique three-day event with some amazing activities facilitated by Wim Hof, the world's most inspirational Iceman, such as breathing exercises, ice baths, cave meditation, yoga on the beach and live music. On day three, we helped the local community to plant trees for elephants and joined the rangers on a safari to spot wild elephants in their natural habitat. We camped on an idyllic beach in Thailand. Together, we helped creating a world in which people and wild elephants can coexist in harmony.

The Wim Hof Ice Challenge fundraiser in Thailand, December 2019, has made a great contribution to our projects for the elephants. Together, we raised € 27.077.

A big thanks to all participants from 18 countries! The video about the event can be viewed here: <http://tiny.cc/do5tlz>



4.3 Charity events - Documentary screening Forest Hope

On October 6, we hosted a special screening of Forest Hope at the Kroepoekfabriek in Vlaardingen - the Netherlands. The event included a presentation about our work and a photo exhibition. We sold 50 tickets, and guests bought BTEH t-shirts and other merchandising.



5. Media and outreach

5.1 TEDxVeghel

On World Animal Day, BTEH's founder Antoinette gave a TEDx talk in Veghel. The topic of the day was CHANGE and because it was World Animal Day, animals played an important role in the event. Antoinette was asked to tell her personal story of how elephants changed her life and about her passion to change the lives of African and Asian elephants for the better. It was an inspiring day and Antoinette's talk will hopefully contribute to positive change for the many elephants in need. The time for change is now!

Watch Antoinette's TEDx talk here:

https://www.ted.com/talks/antoinette_van_de_water_do_animals_and_therefore_elephants_have_rights



5.2 House of Animals Award

Forest Hope, a documentary directed by Jochem van Rijs (Nature Conservation Films), highlighting our work for elephants in Asia and Africa, has won the House of Animals Award!

The House of Animals Awards are given to media productions that raise awareness for animals and animal welfare.

Forest Hope won the award in the category documentary. Winning this award means a lot of extra attention for our projects.



8,000+



18,000+

6. In summary

The future of elephants is heavily dependent on human attitudes and tolerance levels. Elephants are an umbrella species; their protection positively affects key biodiversity areas and other threatened species. However, land use changes and social issues increasingly cause human-elephant conflicts (HEC). Preventing these conflicts is one of the greatest challenges in elephant conservation worldwide. Despite the direct impact

of elephants living in their area, community representatives have often been excluded from decision-making processes. We aim to connect and collaborate with communities living with elephants and local organisations, to include their visions on ecological problems and to co-create sustainable solutions from the bottom up.

We can't fully understand all the consequences of losing a keystone species such as the elephant. Because they are integral in so many connections in nature, their extinction would create a snowball effect of biodiversity loss. By reconnecting patches of habitat to allow elephants to move uninterruptedly, by applying a mix of community-based mitigation methods, and by applying models that help people to see and benefit from the value of elephants, we can create a world where elephants and people can thrive.

Bring The Elephant Home!



Many thanks to all involved

Bring The Elephant Home can only realize its goals thanks to the endless dedication of many people from different nationalities.

BTEH has a board in the Netherlands (board members Berrie Jurg, Remko Bronswijk and Liesbeth Sluiter) and a board in Thailand (Antoinette van de Water, Siriporn Sriaram, Supassawan Homchailert and Dr. Aim Chotirot). Our projects in Thailand are coordinated by our Program Manager David Owen, joined by many Thai and international volunteers. Our projects in Africa and Asia are supported by TeamNL: our growing team of volunteers. Special thanks also to BTEH ambassador Leo van de Water, who coordinates BTEH's office in the Netherlands.

We are very grateful for all our partners and donors who make our work possible! Special thanks to the Phluang Wildlife Research Station (Thailand), Elephants and Bees Research Station (Kenya), Future For Nature Academy (NL), Dragonfly Project of Miami University (USA), School of Life Sciences of the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Elephants Alive (SA) and the Elephant Specialist Advisory Group (SA). We would not be able to execute our projects and initiatives without the financial support from the INNO Fund of WWF, Lush Cosmetics, the CEPF program of IUCN, Kootje Foundation and Cryotainer. Nature Conservation Films are also greatly appreciated for helping us spread the word about our work.

Special thanks to all our long term volunteers from all over the world and to everyone else who contributed to the success of BTEH in 2019! We couldn't realize our goals without the loyal support of all our donors and sponsors. We are truly grateful for your support, trust and friendship.





Foundation: **Bring the Elephant Home**

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