



# PATHOLOGY TRAINING FOR ELEPHANT VETERINARIANS, MANAGERS, AND FOREST POLICE IN MYANMAR



*Khyne U Mar, Dalen W. Agnew, Willem Schaftenaar, Tint Naint, Susan Mikota*



The University Of Sheffield.

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



# TOPICS

- Status of elephants in Myanmar
- Why a pathology workshop?
- Aims of the workshop
- Challenges
- Acknowledgements



# USE OF CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS IN MYANMAR

- > 5500 elephants – largest captive population in the world
- Traditional uses
  - Ceremonies / processions
  - Draught; Transport



# USE AS TIMBER ELEPHANTS IN LOGGING

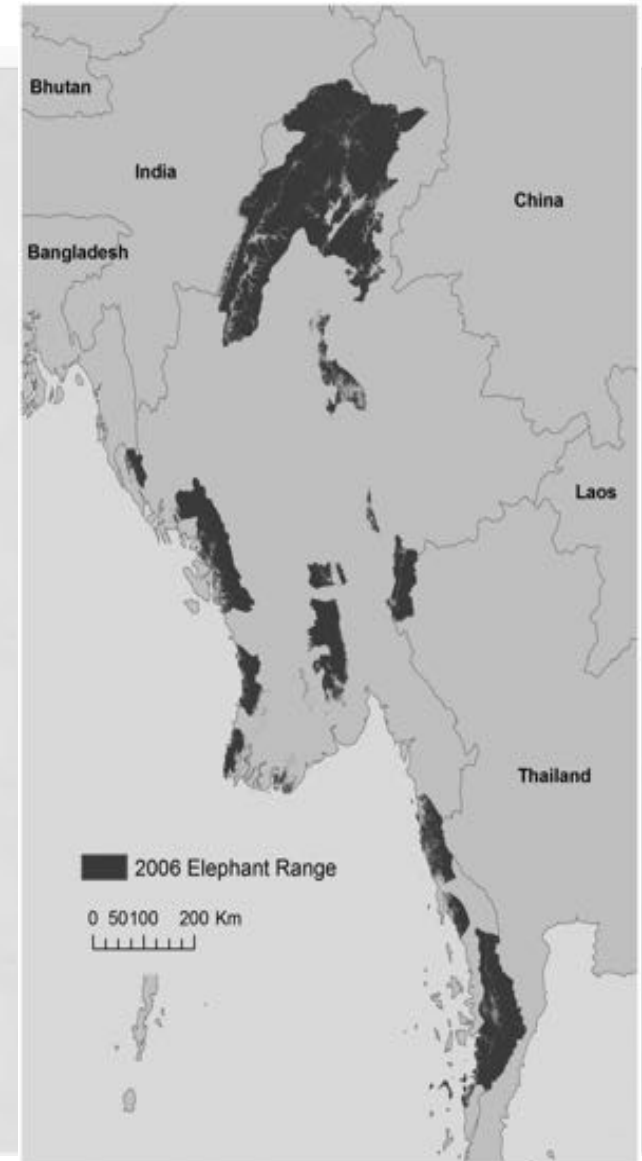
- Mostly used in logging
- Timber export ban 2013
- Logging bans →
- ↑ use in tourism



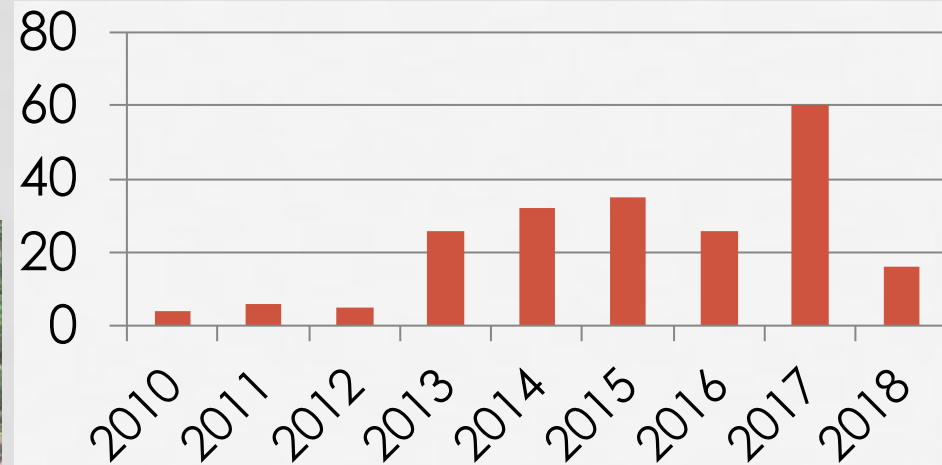
Photo MTE

# WILD ELEPHANT POPULATION

- No recent data
- Estimated population 1,430–2,065 today (Sampson et al 2019, PLoS)
- 8 main ranges



# POACHING CRISIS



Photos credit Elephant Family

# BURNING OF CARCASS IS A COMMON PRACTICE



# WHY A PATHOLOGY WORKSHOP?

- Understanding and documenting why wild elephants die is critical to helping survival of living elephants (and *vice versa*)
- Limited pathology training in Asian elephant range countries
- More information is needed to tackle emerging diseases in elephants



Photo credit: MTE



Photo credit: Elephant Family



# WORKSHOP AIMS

- Train and equip Myanmar elephant veterinarians
- Prevent transmission of emerging diseases
- Mitigate poaching crisis
- Improve captive elephant care
- Develop a pathology course template

Dr. Khyne U Mar addresses the group about the importance of pathology.



# ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

- Two consecutive sessions
- 21 lectures
- PM demonstration
- Hands-on labs
- 20 participants trained



# SELECTED TOPICS

- Basic PM procedure
- Sample collection
- PPE
- Respiratory system
- Reproductive system
- Cardiovascular system
- And more...

<http://elephantcare.org/resources/pathology/>



# HANDS-ON LAB



# PM BACKPACKS



Thanks to [viewwildlife .org](http://viewwildlife.org)  
for the concept of the PM  
backpack

# CHALLENGES

- Funding
- Language / translation
- Interagency communication



Dr. Tint Naing volunteered to help translate and assist in teaching the wetlabs.



Dr. Kyaw Yan Naing Tun - one of our dedicated translators

# FORMALIN CRISIS!

- Only 40% formalin available in Myanmar!



DR. Agnew explains how to prepare NBF

# WE ARE ON STATE TV





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*THANK-YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!*

*Any Questions?*

