



ASIAN ELEPHANT

Description

Asian Elephants are smaller than African Elephants and have smoother, darker skin and smaller ears. They also have a single, finger-like projection on their trunks, whereas the African Elephant has two. Elephants have large, ridged teeth so they can eat coarse bark, leaves, branches and grass. They use their trunks to pull down branches and strip trees.

Diet

Elephants are **herbivores**, often eating up to 160 kg of vegetation per day.

In the wild

The basic family unit is made up of about six members and consists of a mature female, her current offspring and juvenile offspring. These groups join other related family units to create a herd. Male offspring leave the group when they reach seven years of age and join herds during the breeding season only. Because of their size, elephants don't have any natural predators.

Threats

There are two threats to their survival: habitat destruction from farming and logging; and poaching for the ivory trade.

At Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo's Asian Elephants can be seen in the **Asian Rainforest**. Come for the 'Elephants – Asia's Jungle Giants' presentation at 2.45pm every day.

Did you know?

Elephants can use low frequency sound waves for communication between members of the herd and individuals outside the herd. These sounds may carry for distances of up to 15 km.

Scientific Name

Elephas maximus

Other names

Indian Elephant

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

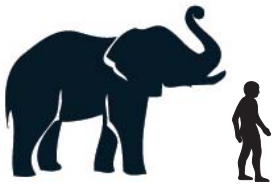
Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



Body Length: up to 3.5 m

Weight: 2–5 tonnes

Gestation: 18–22 months

Number of young: 1 calf



Distribution ■

Distribution: India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Indochina and South-east Asia

Habitat: Forests, rainforests

