

KAENG KRACHAN ELEPHANT PARK – OVERVIEW

Exhibit

Opening date:	7 June 2014
Planning & construction:	7 years
Total surface area:	11,000 m ²
Building space	5,400 m ²
Building volume:	56,000 m ³
Costs:	CHF 57 million, entirely financed by donations

Kaeng Krachan Elephant Park and Masoala Rainforest together form a special new focus area in the eastern part of Zoo Zurich. The 6,800 square meter big curved roof of the inner enclosure is particularly eye-catching. It was designed as a flat, freely-shaped wooden frame. Light is provided by 271 skylights made of UV-permeable ETFE foil covering. It is a net-like, transparent organic structure that is in harmony with the surrounding woodland. The inner enclosure is 80 metres in diameter. The wooden roof does not require any columns or support structures of any kind inside.

Great importance was attached to sustainability during the construction of Kaeng Krachan Elephant Park. The main building material is wood. Heating is provided via a district heating network using the central woodchip heating system at Zoo Zurich. Rainwater is collected from the roof in order to be used for watering the ground, for moistening the sand, for removing dust from the plants and for supplying the pool maintenance equipment. An ingenious control system ensures that the air-conditioning in the inner compound conserves natural resources as much as possible.

Animals

Asiatic elephant (*Elephas maximus*):

- Thai (m), *11.2004 at Tierpark Hagenbeck (Hamburg), in Zurich since 12.8.2014
- Ceyla-Himali (f), *7.1975 in Sri Lanka, in Zurich since 24.3.1976
- Indi (f), *28.2.1986 in Burma, in Zurich since 8.10.1999
- Chandra (f), *13.5.2002 at Zoo Zurich, parents: Indi & Maxi
- Farha (f), *3.5.2005 at Zoo Zurich, parents: Ceyla-Himali & Maxi
- Omysha (f), *17.6.2014 at Zoo Zurich, parents: Indi & Maxi
- Ruwani (f), *25.2.2017 at Zoo Zurich, parents: Farha & Thai
- Umesh (m), *5.2.2020 at Zoo Zurich, parents: Indi & Thai

Zoo Zurich keeps and breeds Asiatic elephants as part of the European Endangered Species Programme EEP. (📄 zoo.ch/zuchtprogramme)

Other species: Bali myna, black-breasted leaf turtle, blackbuck, Indian giant forest scorpion, Java mousedeer, and red-crested wood partridge.

Nature conservation

One of Zoo Zurich's key conservation projects is to support the Kaeng Krachan National Park in Thailand in order to protect the elephants living there, in close collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society WCS. Its commitment focuses on resolving the human-elephant conflict. (📄 zoo.ch/naturschutz-kaengkrachan)

Exhibition

«Human-elephant conflict»: Different scenes staged in the Kaeng Krachan Elephant Park illustrate and draw attention to the conflict between humans and elephants in the Kaeng Krachan National Park in Thailand, and explain the attempts being made to resolve it.

(📄 zoo.ch/ausstellung-kaengkrachan)

Activities

(📄 zoo.ch/veranstaltungen, zoo.ch/event)

Swimming practice: The animal keepers encourage the elephants to go for a swim in the inner pool with an underwater viewpoint.

Animal presentations: Animal keepers inform visitors about Kaeng Krachan Elephant Park, its inhabitants and the conservation project in Thailand.

Adventure vouchers: Visit the elephants, with a look behind the scenes and information from the animal keepers.

Guided tours & events: Custom private and business events and guided tours.

📄 **Exhibit overview:** zoo.ch/anlagen-elefantenpark

📄 **Media releases, media doc:** zoo.ch/medien-elefantenpark