

LIVING IN HARMONY

Learning to live with elephants

Thailand's Eastern Forest Complex, a UNESCO world heritage site, remains one of the country's last havens for wildlife. It's parks are home to many endangered species, including wild elephants.

Much of the forest around the Complex where elephants used to roam and forage freely has been replaced by farmland. Now, damage to crops is increasing tension between local farmers and elephants. To help find ways to solve this problem before farmers or elephants lose their lives, FREELAND staff and rangers attended crop-raiding response training with the Elephant Conservation Network near Salak Phra Wildlife Sanctuary last year, where similar problems have been successfully mitigated.

This year, rangers have been collecting data and engaging with villagers to develop non-lethal deterrents. An observation tower has already been built and other preparations are underway to ensure farmers can protect their crops without hurting elephants during the coming dry season.



(inset) Wild elephants snapped by our wildlife monitoring team, including a wounded adult below

An observation tower has been built where the forest meets farmland

