

May 2025

RAMU REPORT

History, Status, and Future Plans for Ramu



Stand Up 4 Elephants

INTRODUCTION

RAMU IS A CAPTIVE MALE ELEPHANT CURRENTLY RESIDING IN NEPAL. NOW APPROXIMATELY 36 YEARS OLD, HIS LIFE JOURNEY ILLUSTRATES THE HARDSHIPS AND INSTABILITY FACED BY ELEPHANTS IN CAPTIVITY, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE TOURISM AND LOGGING SECTORS. HIS STORY NOT ONLY PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES BUT ALSO SERVES AS A COMPELLING REMINDER OF THE BROADER ISSUES CONCERNING THE TREATMENT AND WELFARE OF CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS. THIS DOCUMENT PRESENTS A CONSOLIDATED OVERVIEW OF RAMU'S KNOWN HISTORY, HIS CURRENT HEALTH AND WELFARE STATUS, AND THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO RELOCATE HIM TO A MORE SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT.

BIOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW

EARLY YEARS AND TIGER TOPS PERIOD

RAMU WAS BORN IN CAPTIVITY IN INDIA, AROUND 1988. WHILE THE DETAILS OF HIS EARLIEST YEARS REMAIN UNCLEAR, IT IS CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS BROUGHT TO NEPAL IN 1993 FROM ASSAM, AT THE AGE OF SIX. HE WAS THEN KNOWN AS NARA GUJ AND WAS PURCHASED BY THE TIGER TOPS HOTEL JUNGLE LODGE.

TIGER TOPS RETAINED RAMU FOR APPROXIMATELY 9–10 YEARS. DESPITE BEING HOUSED IN THE JUNGLE, HE REMAINED DIFFICULT TO MANAGE. JACK EDWARDS FROM TIGER TOPS COMMENTED: “DESPITE HAVING HIM FOR 9 YEARS INSIDE THE JUNGLE, HE WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO MANAGE,” A BEHAVIOR POTENTIALLY ROOTED IN EARLY MISTREATMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, THE LODGE SOLD HIM BACK TO INDIA.

RETURN TO NEPAL AND OWNERSHIP CHANGES

SUBSEQUENTLY, RAMU FOUND HIS WAY BACK TO NEPAL. IT IS BELIEVED THAT NARAYANI SAFARI HOTEL IN KASARA PURCHASED HIM FROM INDIA, BRINGING HIM ACROSS THE SUNAULI BORDER. HOWEVER, THIS EVENT STILL REQUIRES OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION.

AT SOME POINT AFTER THIS TRANSACTION, RAMU WAS PURCHASED BY MR. OM RIJAL, LIKELY AROUND 2008. THIS TIMELINE REMAINS APPROXIMATE AND SHOULD BE VERIFIED. AROUND 2010, MR. RIJAL LEASED RAMU TO A FACILITY KNOWN AS ISLAND HOTEL IN WESTERN CHITWAN, NEPAL, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR. THE SPECIFICS OF THAT ARRANGEMENT, INCLUDING WELFARE CONDITIONS DURING THAT LEASE, REMAIN UNDOCUMENTED.

NUTRITION AND FOOD SUPPLIES

SINCE SEPTEMBER 2023, SU4E—WITH THE FULL FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE BRIGITTE BARDOT FOUNDATION, WHICH COVERS ALL FOOD-RELATED COSTS—HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ADDRESSING RAMU'S DIETARY NEEDS. HE RECEIVES REGULAR DELIVERIES OF HAY, CORN, BANANA TREES, AND GRASS. HIS DIET HAS ALSO BEEN DIVERSIFIED WITH THE INCLUSION OF RICE PADDY, MOLASSES, AND CHICKPEAS.



Delivery of food for Ramu



Health Status

****Hormonal Management:****

Ramu is currently under Improvac “treatment” since October 2021, he is in a stable state and shows no signs of hormonal aggression. The last Improvac injection—a hormonal suppressant used to manage musth—was administered in October 2024. Although urine samples are currently unavailable for fine-tuned scheduling, the next injection is anticipated within the next two months.

****Wound Care:****

Unfortunately, Ramu continues to suffer from leg wounds caused by prolonged chaining. Timely delivery of medications to his mahouts remains a priority to manage these injuries effectively.

****Deworming:****

Signs of intestinal worms appeared earlier this week. Immediate action was taken, and treatment was administered by the national park veterinarian. The deworming course has since been successfully completed.

**** Shelter****

SU4E also provides trailers of fresh, clean soil whenever necessary to replace the soiled ground in Ramu’s stable. This helps maintain a more hygienic and comfortable environment, reducing the risk of infection and supporting better overall health.



The soil of the stable replaced by new fresh one.



Ramu is chained 24/7 by 3 legs since 6 years non-stop in the same spot

DOCUMENTATION AND MICROCHIP INVESTIGATION

****Microchip Tracking and Identification****

In a bid to confirm Ramu's Indian origin and facilitate his potential transfer to a sanctuary such as Wildlife SOS, efforts are ongoing to locate any existing microchip beyond the one placed by Nepali authorities three years ago. After consulting with microchip specialist Wassim, a new strategy has been adopted.

Given the Rijal family's unwillingness to actively pursue official documentation, SU4E will now focus on identifying a possible second chip that may have been implanted earlier and registered in India. Discovering such a chip would significantly strengthen the legal case for repatriation.

SU4E has recently acquired a new microchip reader, scheduled to arrive in Nepal by June 2025. Once available, a comprehensive scan of Ramu will be conducted.

****Documentation****

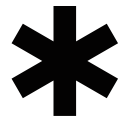
All recent photographs, videos, and medical updates related to Ramu are being systematically uploaded to the shared Google Drive folder. These resources serve to maintain transparency and allow all stakeholders to remain informed.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Efforts are currently underway to relocate Ramu to Wildlife SOS, a sanctuary in India known for its commitment to the ethical care of elephants. The relocation initiative is driven by the desire to remove Ramu from an environment of inadequate conditions and constant chaining. SU4E continues to collaborate closely with both local and international partners to make this vision a reality.

We are also aware that Animal Nepal is working independently to support the same goal. Coordination and unity between all involved organizations will be essential in achieving the best outcome for Ramu.





CONCLUSION

Ramu's journey from Assam to Chitwan, marked by hardship, frequent ownership changes, and physical suffering, is emblematic of the plight faced by many captive elephants in South Asia. However, through ongoing advocacy, medical care, strategic planning, and international cooperation, there is hope for a better future.

Stand Up 4 Elephants expresses its deepest gratitude to all individuals and organizations that have supported Ramu's care and welfare. Your continued dedication is instrumental in helping us work towards the relocation of Ramu to a more humane, protected environment where he can live out his years in dignity and peace.