

# Elephant Numbers Decline

South Asian wildlife experts held emergency meetings last month to discuss the declining numbers of Asian elephants because of

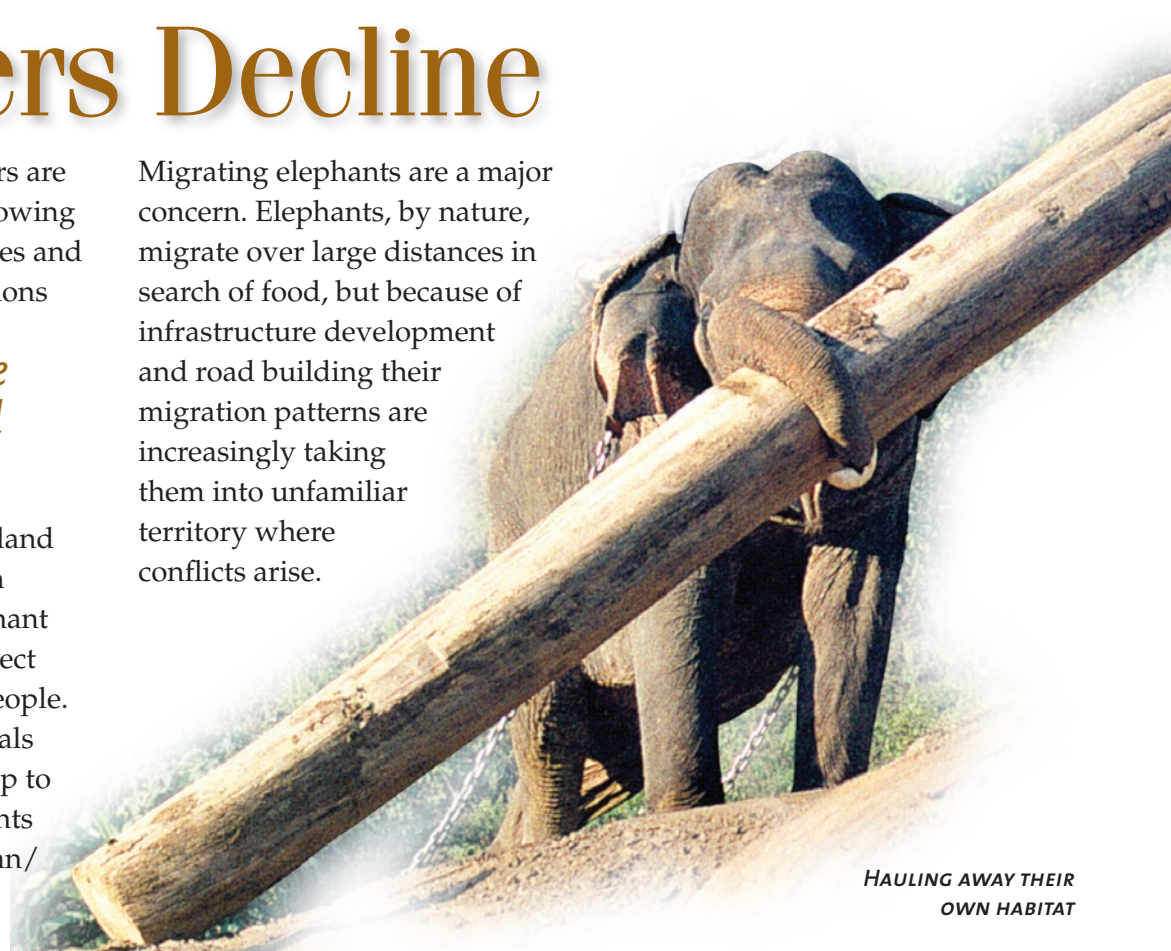
*“Their numbers are declining because of the growing economies in Asian countries and expanding human populations.”*

deforestation, road building, and expanding farmlands. According to a Reuters’ story, numbers of the elephants across Asia are now at 60,000, down from over 150,000 just 20 years ago. Asian elephants are smaller than those in Africa and are found in a number of countries including China, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka

and Vietnam. Their numbers are declining because of the growing economies in Asian countries and expanding human populations

are increasing pressure for land and other resources. This in turn serves to destroy elephant habitat, putting them in direct contact and conflict with people. As an example, forest officials in Bangladesh report that up to 15 people and eight elephants are killed annually in human/elephant conflicts.

Migrating elephants are a major concern. Elephants, by nature, migrate over large distances in search of food, but because of infrastructure development and road building their migration patterns are increasingly taking them into unfamiliar territory where conflicts arise.



*HAULING AWAY THEIR  
OWN HABITAT*