

# WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

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**Louise Rogerson,  
Elephants Asia Rescue and Survival Foundation,  
Hong Kong.**

**Subject: Sombo.**

Dear Louise


I have just heard the fantastic news! Sombo will be going up to the Elephant Valley Project in Mondulkiri. This is what everybody wanted for her in the first place and the best result she could have! All at Wildlife Alliance wish to congratulate you on a job well done. Suwanna, our President, also sends her congratulations.

When I first arrived in Cambodia thirteen years ago Sombo was walking around Wat Phnom in Phnom Penh. Her feet were extremely damaged as she carried tourists around the landmark every day. I gave what little help I could over the years. Others did likewise, but this was as far as it went. It took your calculated campaign to address the problem that finally resolved the issue. This involved politics with the Cambodian government and Sombo's owner as much as the actual welfare of the elephant. Whatever traumas were going on inside your head, you maintained a resolute exterior and on your own dealt with all the various stages that needed to take place over the years before this wonderful result could be achieved.

I visited Sombo last year at Pochentong, where she had been temporarily retired. We knew this was not her final destination, but once again it was a stage that needed to play out. It was not perfect for her, but better than her previous life at Wat Phnom and you and Paolo Martelli managed to make huge improvements to the condition of her poor feet. I know the anxiety you went through trying to find a better solution and the various unacceptable suggestions from the owner. We discussed the option of looking after her at Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre, but this was rejected and she is now on her way up to EVP, which is what we all wanted for her in the first place. My best wishes go to her and Jack for the future. I am sure her retirement will be a happy one.

Through it all you remained firm, resolute and polite and you ultimately achieved the result you were looking for. Great stuff! and a good example to us all. Many congratulations from Suwanna, myself and all of us at Wildlife Alliance on a job well done!

My very best wishes



Nick Marx

Director, Wildlife Rescue and Care Programs

**WILDLIFE ALLIANCE**  
**Direct Protection to Forests and Wildlife**

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