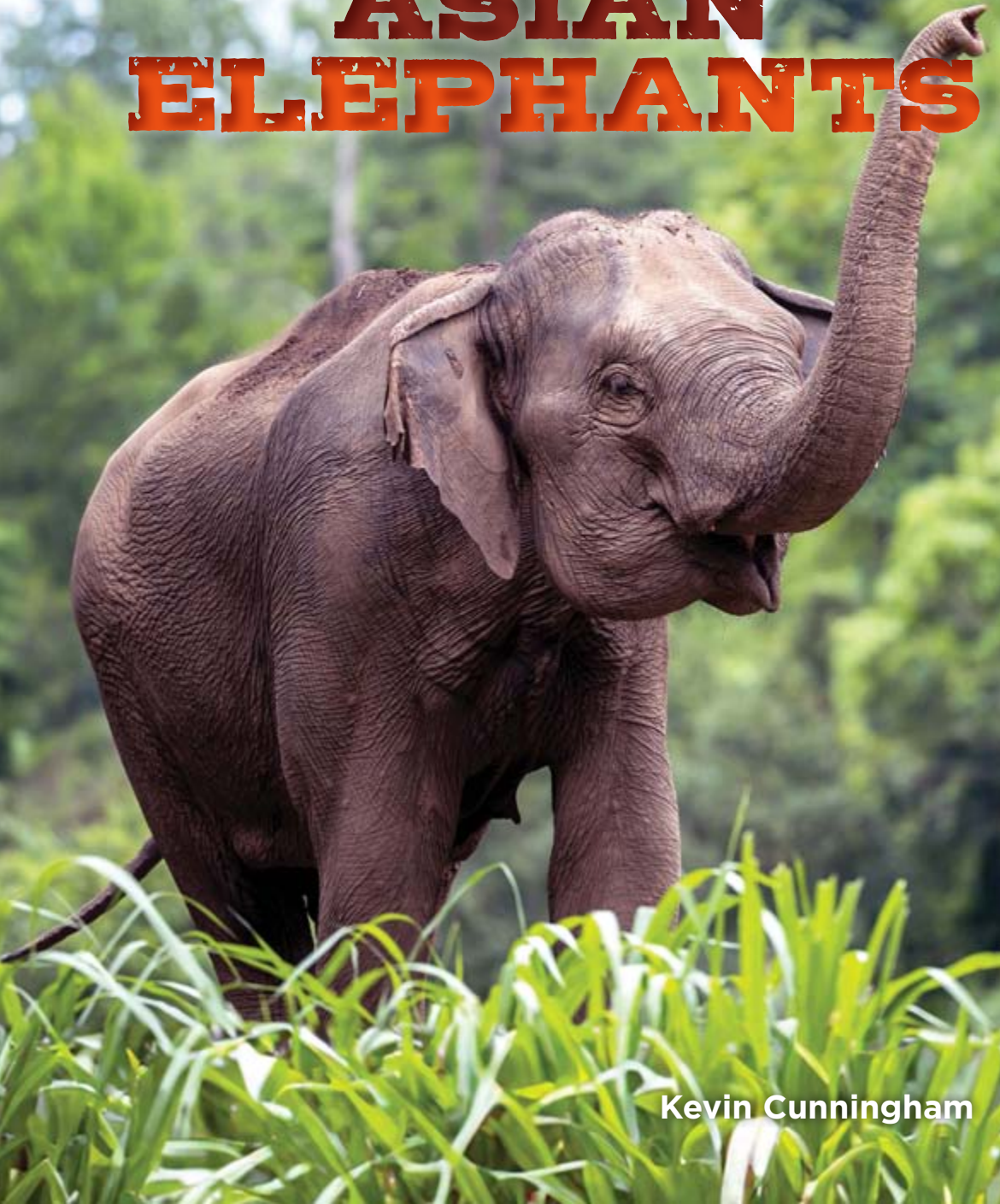


**ANIMALS IN
DANGER**

ASIAN ELEPHANTS



Kevin Cunningham

Mitchell Lane

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CONTENTS

1	A Partner in Trouble	4
2	Life as an Elephant	10
3	Pushed Out and Poached	18
4	Keystone Species	26
5	Undoing the Damage	34
	Map	42
	Endangered Species Categories	43
	Statistics	43
	Find Out More	44
	Glossary	45
	Works Consulted	46
	Index	48
	About the Author	48

CHAPTER
ONE

**A
PARTNER
IN
TROUBLE**



A strange soccer game took place in 2022.

Asian elephants painted with flags rumbled down a soccer pitch. A team of schoolchildren waited. The animals carried the ball with their trunks. The kids played with their feet and heads. Every so often an elephant player flung the ball to a teammate.

CHAPTER ONE

The close relationship between humans and Asian elephants goes far beyond sports. It began in ancient times.

Many followers of the Hindu religion worship Lord Ganesha. This god has an elephant's head. Rulers in India once sent trained war elephants far away. Loggers among the Karen people of Myanmar still use elephants to carry trees. Asian elephants in Indonesia clear rubble after tsunamis. Tourists sit on the sure-footed animal in Nepal.

Scientists refer to Asian elephants as *Elephas maximus*. The species once roamed from Turkey to China.

A PARTNER IN TROUBLE



Asian elephants have lived among human beings for centuries.

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