

ACES – CRITERIA EXTRACT LIST 2026 – NAMES ONLY



This document provides a **extract view of the Asian Captive Elephant Standards (ACES) criteria**. It shows all **214 criteria**, which include **147 mandatory** and **67 advanced criteria**. There are **20 conservation requirements** that are only applicable for camps involved in a serious and scientific conservation programme.

ACES camp accreditation is structured into four levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold & Conservation. The accreditation level granted to each camp is dependent on the percentage of criteria each camp passes. Advanced criteria are rated from 1 to 5 points.

1. Bronze: Camp achieves 100% of the mandatory criteria and 98 advanced criteria points or more than 40% of the advanced criteria points in case of non-applicable advanced criteria.
2. Silver: Camp achieves 100% of the mandatory criteria and 147 advanced criteria points or more than 60% of the advanced criteria points in case of non-applicable advanced criteria.
3. Gold: Camp achieves 100% of the mandatory criteria and 196 advanced criteria points or more than 80% of the advanced criteria points in case of non-applicable advanced criteria.
4. Conservation: Camp achieves 100% of the mandatory criteria, more than 80% of the advanced criteria plus 20 conservation-specific mandatory criteria.

Column 1: Criterion reference: number, mandatory or advanced, pointing system for advanced criteria and link to templates

Column 2: Name of each criterion

For additional support, please contact us at elephantstandards@gmail.com.

ACES – CRITERIA EXTRACT LIST 2026 – NAMES ONLY



1. Legal Requirements: 4 criteria: 4 mandatory

Reference	Name
1.1 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Local licence
1.2 <i>Mandatory</i>	Elephant identification book
1.3 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	DNA/ Microchip
1.4 <i>Mandatory</i>	Other legal local requirements

2. Facility Management: 30 criteria - 20 Mandatory - 10 Advanced

2.1 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Facility - Annual report
2.2 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	HR - Employee record
2.3 <i>Mandatory</i>	HR - Local staff – contract
2.4 <i>Mandatory</i>	HR - Foreign staff contract
2.5 <i>Mandatory</i>	HR - Minimum wage and social security
2.6 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	HR - Staff insurance
2.7 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Mahout - Job description and work schedule
2.8 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Mahout - Disciplinary sanctions
2.9 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	Mahout - Better wage
2.10 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	Mahout - Other benefits
2.11 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	Mahout - Salary and benefits review
2.12 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Mahout - Tips sharing
2.13 <i>Mandatory</i>	Mahout - Living conditions
2.14 <i>Mandatory</i>	Mahout – Insurance
2.15 <i>Mandatory</i>	Mahout - Health check
2.16 <i>Advanced 5 points</i>	Mahout - Health Check Advanced
2.17 <i>Advanced 5 points</i>	Mahout - Annual TB test
2.18 <i>Mandatory</i>	Mahout - Chief mahout position
2.19 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Mahout - Mahout classification
2.20 <i>Mandatory</i>	Mahout - Spare Mahout
2.21 <i>Mandatory</i>	Mahout - Chief mahout experience
2.22 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Mahout - Chief mahout training
2.23 <i>Mandatory</i>	Mahout - Training protocol
2.24 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	Mahout - Performance monitoring
2.25 <i>Mandatory</i>	Mahout - Name tags
2.26 <i>Mandatory</i>	Mahout – Uniforms
2.27 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	Rented elephants - Elephant ownership bonus
2.28 <i>Mandatory</i>	Rented elephants - Leasing contract with elephant welfare policy
2.29 <i>Mandatory</i>	Rented elephants - Subcontracted mahout salary and benefits review
2.30 <i>Mandatory</i>	Rented elephants - No short-term rent policy

3. Elephant Management: 28 criteria - 16 Mandatory - 12 Advanced

3.1 Mandatory Template	Animal welfare coordinator position with job description
3.2 Advanced 3 points	Animal welfare coordinator training
3.3 Mandatory Template	Elephant management - Welfare protocol
3.4 Mandatory	Elephant management - Welfare action plan
3.5 Mandatory	Elephant management - Space ratio
3.6 Advanced 4 points	Elephant management - Space ratio advanced
3.7 Mandatory Template	Elephant management - Individual elephant profile
3.8 Mandatory	Elephant management - Controlling elephant methods
3.9 Mandatory	Elephant management - Fresh wounds
3.10 Mandatory Template	Elephant management - Transportation legal documents
3.11 Advanced 4 points	Living area - Sand and mud pit
3.12 Advanced 4 points	Living area - Scratching pole
3.13 Advanced 4 points Template	Living area - Day time living area – shelter
3.14 Mandatory	Living area - Day time chains
3.15 Advanced 5 points	Living area - Day time chains advanced
3.16 Mandatory	Living area - Night time chains
3.17 Advanced 5 points	Living area - Night time chains advanced
3.18 Advanced 5 points	Living area - Night time Chain alternatives (barn)
3.19 Mandatory	Living area - Day time ground
3.20 Mandatory	Living area - Night time ground
3.21 Mandatory	Living area - Cleaning
3.22 Mandatory	Living area - Drainage
3.23 Mandatory	Living area - Dung storage
3.24 Advanced 5 points Template	Enrichment – Protocol
3.25 Advanced 3 points	Enrichment – Food
3.26 Advanced 4 points	Enrichment - Supervised roaming
3.27 Mandatory	Enrichment – Socialisation
3.28 Advanced 4 points	Enrichment - Socialisation advanced

4. Elephant welfare: 43 criteria - 25 Mandatory - 18 Advanced

4.1 Mandatory	Medical care - Individual veterinarian logbook
4.2 Mandatory	Medical care - Veterinarian ratio
4.3 Mandatory	Medical care - Veterinarian experience with elephant
4.4 Advanced 4 points	Medical care - Veterinarian accredited qualifications
4.5 Mandatory	Medical care - Chief mahout training
4.6 Advanced 3 points	Medical care - Nurse training
4.7 Advanced 3 points	Medical care - Mahout training
4.8 Mandatory	Medical care - Medical equipment
4.9 Advanced 5 points	Medical care - Treatment area
4.10 Mandatory	Medical Care - Safe treatment protocol
4.11 Mandatory	Medical care - Health check
4.12 Advanced 4 points	Medical care - Health check advanced
4.13 Mandatory Template	Medical care - Foot care

ACES – CRITERIA EXTRACT LIST 2026 – NAMES ONLY



4.14 Advanced 4 points	Medical care - Foot care advanced
4.15 Mandatory Template	Medical care - Body shape
4.16 Advanced 4 points	Medical care - Health-related exercises
4.17 Advanced 4 points	Medical care - Health-related exercises advanced
4.18 Mandatory	Medical care - Bathing/shower without visitors
4.19 Mandatory Template	Diet – Protocol
4.20 Mandatory	Diet - Food hygiene
4.21 Mandatory	Diet - Food storage
4.22 Mandatory	Diet - Drinking water
4.23 Advanced 5 points	Diet - Forage options
4.24 Advanced 5 points	Diet - Farmer support for elephant food production
4.25 Mandatory Template	New elephants – Protocol
4.26 Advanced 4 points	New elephants - Health check
4.27 Mandatory Template	Breeding program - Protocol with mating and labouring records
4.28 Mandatory	Pregnant elephant - Protocol with last trimester activity and diet
4.29 Mandatory	Young elephant – Protocol
4.30 Advanced 4 points	Young elephant - Training protocol
4.31 Mandatory	Calf - Visitor interaction
4.32 Advanced 5 points	Calf - Visitor interaction advanced
4.33 Advanced 4 points	Calf - EEHV early detection training for mahouts
4.34 Mandatory	Calf - Separation with mother
4.35 Advanced 4 points	Calf - Separation with mother advanced
4.36 Mandatory	Calf - Secure area
4.37 Mandatory Template	Musth – Protocol
4.38 Mandatory	Musth - Mahout training
4.39 Mandatory	Musth - Secure area with warnings
4.40 Mandatory	Geriatric elephant – Protocol
4.41 Advanced 2 points	Geriatric elephant - Diet plan advanced
4.42 Advanced 3 points	Geriatric elephant - Health-related exercises
4.43 Advanced 3 points	End of life - Carcass location

5. Elephant Activities: 26 criteria - 20 Mandatory - 6 Advanced

5.1 Mandatory	Activities management - Unacceptable practices
5.2 Mandatory Template	Activities management – Protocol
5.3 Mandatory	Activities management - Elephant working time
5.4 Mandatory	Activities management - Mahout and veterinarian authority
5.5 Mandatory	Activities management - Unavailable mahout
5.6 Mandatory	Activities management - Excluded elephant
5.7 Mandatory	Activities management - Elephant preparation
5.8 Mandatory	Activities management - After work elephant care
5.9 Advanced 3 points	Activities management - Extra shower
5.10 Mandatory	Riding - Distance per ride and per day
5.11 Mandatory	Riding - Back load limit
5.12 Mandatory	Riding - Temperature limit

ACES – CRITERIA EXTRACT LIST 2026 – NAMES ONLY



5.13 <i>Mandatory</i>	Riding - Saddles/howdah
5.14 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	Riding - Saddles/howdah advanced
5.15 <i>Mandatory</i>	Riding - Trekking surface
5.16 <i>Mandatory</i>	Riding - Queue shade
5.17 <i>Mandatory</i>	Feeding - Responsible feeding
5.18 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Feeding - Responsible feeding advanced
5.19 <i>Mandatory</i>	Feeding - Trunk only
5.20 <i>Mandatory</i>	Feeding - Elephant safety
5.21 <i>Mandatory</i>	Feeding - Hand washing
5.22 <i>Mandatory</i>	Bathing with visitors- Number and duration of sessions
5.23 <i>Advanced 2 points</i>	Bathing with visitors- Creams and lotions
5.24 <i>Mandatory</i>	Elephant shower - Number and duration of sessions
5.25 <i>Advanced 2 points</i>	Observation - Elephant behaviour study
5.26 <i>Advanced 2 points</i>	Observation - Elephant behaviour study advanced

6. Visitor safety : 32 criteria - 22 Mandatory - 10 Advanced

6.1 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Safety – Protocol
6.2 <i>Mandatory</i>	Safety - Liability insurance
6.3 <i>Mandatory</i>	Safety - Staff supervision
6.4 <i>Mandatory</i>	Safety - Staff ratio
6.5 <i>Mandatory</i>	Safety - Mahout Hook access
6.6 <i>Advanced 5 points</i>	Safety - Mahout Hook access advanced
6.7 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Safety - Mahout communication skills
6.8 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	Safety - Mahout first aid training
6.9 <i>Mandatory</i>	Safety - Guide recommendations
6.10 <i>Mandatory</i>	Safety - Guide first aid training
6.11 <i>Mandatory</i>	Safety – Signage
6.12 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	Safety - Signage advanced
6.13 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Safety - First aid kit
6.14 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Safety - First aid room
6.15 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Emergency elephant caused – Protocol
6.16 <i>Advanced 4 points</i>	Aggressive elephant - Management team
6.17 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Aggressive elephant - Tranquilizer gun
6.18 <i>Mandatory</i>	Emergency elephant caused – Drill
6.19 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Emergency natural causes – Protocol
6.20 <i>Mandatory</i>	Emergency natural causes – Drill
6.21 <i>Mandatory</i>	Riding – Platform
6.22 <i>Mandatory</i>	Riding – Howdah
6.23 <i>Mandatory</i>	Riding – Bareback
6.24 <i>Mandatory</i>	Feeding - Feeding station with double fences
6.25 <i>Mandatory</i>	Bathing with visitors - Visitor quota
6.26 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Bathing with visitors - Visitor quota advanced
6.27 <i>Mandatory</i>	Bathing with visitors - Water quality
6.28 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Bathing with visitors - Water quality advanced
6.29 <i>Mandatory</i>	Elephant shower - Visitor quota

ACES – CRITERIA EXTRACT LIST 2026 – NAMES ONLY



6.30 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Elephant shower - Visitor quota advanced
6.31 <i>Mandatory</i>	Walking with the elephants - Distance with the elephant
6.32 <i>Advanced 5 points</i>	Observation activity

7. Visitor Experience: 14 criteria - 8 Mandatory - 6 Advanced

7.1 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Visitor education - Mahout elephant relationship
7.2 <i>Mandatory</i>	Visitor education - Protocol speech
7.3 <i>Mandatory</i>	Visitor education - Guide speech
7.4 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Visitor education - Guide speech advanced
7.5 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Visitor education – Handout
7.6 <i>Advanced 3 points</i> Template	Visitor education - Exhibition/Museum
7.7 <i>Mandatory</i>	Visitor education - Ivory awareness
7.8 <i>Mandatory</i> Template	Marketing - Truth in advertising
7.9 <i>Advanced 2 points</i> Template	Marketing - Visitor feedback
7.10 <i>Mandatory</i>	Facilities – Shade
7.11 <i>Mandatory</i>	Facilities - Drinking water
7.12 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Facilities - Drinking water advanced
7.13 <i>Mandatory</i>	Facilities – Toilets
7.14 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Facilities - Wheel chair access

8. Environment & Community: 17 criteria - 12 Mandatory - 5 Advanced

8.1 <i>Mandatory</i>	Energy - Energy saving protocol
8.2 <i>Advanced 1 point</i>	Energy - Energy production
8.3 <i>Mandatory</i>	Waste - Waste management protocol
8.4 <i>Mandatory</i>	Waste - Waste water management
8.5 <i>Mandatory</i>	Waste - Waste segregation
8.6 <i>Mandatory</i>	Waste - Waste management and elephants
8.7 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Waste - Elephant dung
8.8 <i>Mandatory</i>	Waste - Overall cleanliness
8.9 <i>Mandatory</i>	Parking distance
8.10 <i>Mandatory</i>	Vehicle traffic
8.11 <i>Mandatory</i>	Other captive animals legal documents
8.12 <i>Mandatory</i>	Other captive animals welfare
8.13 <i>Mandatory</i>	Community - Local hiring
8.14 <i>Mandatory</i>	Community – Visiting opportunities
8.15 <i>Advanced 5 points</i>	Community – Selling opportunities
8.16 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Community – Learning opportunity
8.17 <i>Advanced 3 points</i>	Camp network - Third party collaboration



9. Conservation: 20 criteria - 20 mandatory (NOT SUITABLE FOR EVERY CAMP)

9.1 Mandatory	Conservation protocol
9.2 Mandatory	Conservation protocol targets
9.3 Mandatory	Property size and diversity
9.4 Mandatory	Camp location
9.5 Mandatory	Transparency of total revenue and spending
9.6 Mandatory	Fresh water access
9.7 Mandatory	Staff with expertise in Asian elephant management
9.8 Mandatory	Staff with expertise in elephant food growing
9.9 Mandatory	Scientific paper
9.10 Mandatory	Access to laboratory
9.11 Mandatory	Local authorities
9.12 Mandatory	Interaction with visitors
9.13 Mandatory	Socialisation
9.14 Mandatory	Male elephants' protection
9.15 Mandatory	Local communities
9.16 Mandatory	Education and information
9.17 Mandatory	Elephant ownership
9.18 Mandatory	Breeding program
9.19 Mandatory	Female oestrogen tests
9.20 Mandatory	Rewilding program