

Multimedia Interactives within ‘Trail of the Elephants’

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Sawat-dii!

My name is Susa and this is my friend, Chetsu. He is an Asian elephant. We live in Thailand.... Chetsu and I will show you where we live. Come and meet our families!



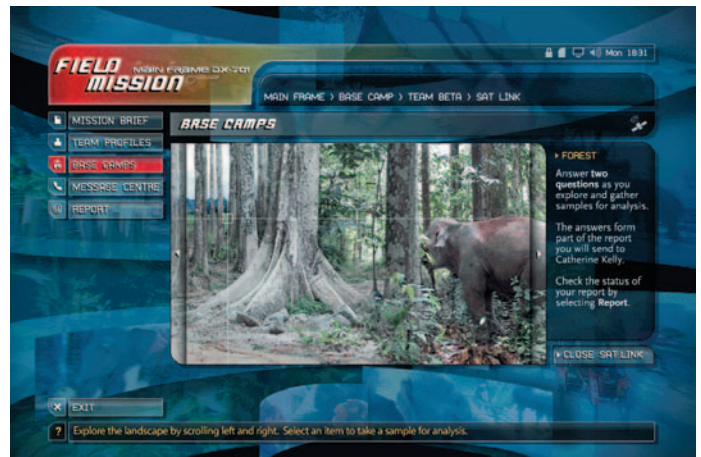
These are the opening lines from ‘Meet my Family’, one of the educational interactive multimedia games located at the Elephant Forest Research Station at the newly opened ‘Trail of the Elephants’ experience at Melbourne Zoo. This game introduces children to an elephant family in Thailand, and explores the concept of human-elephant interaction.



A second game, ‘Ellie’s Journey’, teaches children about the lifecycle of an elongate tortoise, and is also

targeted at lower Primary. Both games have a storytelling element and provide a quiet reflective time for families to sit and enjoy the interactives, in what is undoubtedly a very busy, active day.

Two additional games are designed to catch the attention of older children and teenagers: ‘Field Mission’ and ‘Turtle Investigation’.



At Community Hall visitors have the opportunity to peruse elephant-related activities through the use of a touch screen and short videos. Learn how to make ‘Elephant Poo Paper’ or find out about ‘Elephant Crop Raiding’.



A visitor can also choose to make a difference by

learning about Zoos Victoria's *in situ* conservation activities around the world at the touch screen located at the 'Make a Difference' shelter. To date we have received over 500 email entries from individuals who want to learn more about how they can act to make a difference in world conservation.

This incentive to promote the use of learning technologies on-site is new and innovative for Zoos Victoria, and an exciting advance towards the

direction of the modern zoos' policy to engage and inform the visitor on a number of levels. The multimedia has been interpretively developed by Jenny Hoysted, and received expert input from Chris Banks and Laurie Pond.

In addition to engaging on-site visitors, an exciting retail opportunity exists as we further develop this into a product for children and their families to enjoy at home.