

Editorial

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Gajah 44 presents one peer-reviewed article, two research articles and six short communications. Five articles are about elephants in India, two from Sri Lanka, and Malaysia and Myanmar are represented by one publication each. Four papers deal with health issues of Asian elephants.

Manan Gupta *et al.* show that sex ratio estimates are dependant on time and whether the animals counted are individually identified or not. This is only the second *Peer-reviewed Research Article* in *Gajah*. Papers for this section have to be of a high standard and no editorial help is provided to the authors, in contrast to the other papers where an editorial board member works with the authors to improve all aspects of the manuscript.

In the *Research Articles* section, based on interviews and literature search, Lee Ee Ling and co-authors found human-elephant conflict, habitat loss and poaching to be the three main threats for Asian elephants. The second research article by Prithiviraj Fernando *et al.* conducted feeding trials, providing results on gut passage times and usefulness of microhistological faecal analyses in assessing elephant diet.

In *Short Communications*, Jean-Philippe Puyravaud and co-authors describe the behaviour of a wild elephant bull, who after successful treatment of an injury developed a relationship with humans. Nimain Palei *et al.* report on the human-elephant conflict in Odisha, India. They mention elephants running amok and causing property damage after raiding alcoholic beverages.

Zaw Min Oo and colleagues describe a successful surgery on a camp elephant in Myanmar to treat a cervico-vaginal prolapse. Waruna Suranga *et al.* studied lice on captive elephants in Sri Lanka, providing also nice photos of the lice. Jayakrushna Das and colleagues treated a tibiofibular fracture

of a wild elephant calf caused by falling into a pit. Rinku Gohain describes the successful treatment of foot and nail abscesses in two captive elephants using magnesium sulphate.

The *News and Briefs* section includes a workshop report from the Elephant Conservation Group. Eleven teams from nine range countries met to discuss progress in collaborative studies. The 'Recent publications on Asian elephants' section presents abstracts of 45 papers. The 'News briefs' provide 28 news items giving a glimpse of "news-worthy" elephant issues across the range.

Vivek Menon, the chair of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group, in his note provides information about the goals of the upcoming meeting in Assam, India in November this year. There is also a meeting notice on the last page of this *Gajah*.

***Gajah* still needs your help** to be more widely distributed. We are specifically looking for organisations with people interested in Asian elephant issues. *Gajah* should float around in such agencies so that it gets a wider readership. Although *Gajah* has free internet access, we also want people who cannot go online to read it, which is why the print version of *Gajah* is mailed out for free! Please send me addresses of NGOs, government offices, universities etc., which would benefit from having *Gajah* in their staff rooms or libraries.

I am grateful to all the authors who contributed articles to this issue of *Gajah*. Big thanks go to the editorial team for their help with paper editing and working with the authors to improve the manuscripts. I also thank the reviewers of the peer-reviewed paper. This *Gajah* can be printed and mailed out entirely free of charge to its readers thanks to funding from the Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group.