

Editorial

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Gajah 47 includes five research articles (one peer-reviewed) and two short communications. Four publications are about Indian elephants and two papers are from Malaysia and Sri Lanka. We also have three interesting news items.

For the *Peer-Reviewed Research Article* a questionnaire was used by M.D. Patil & V.K. Patil to study people's perceptions on elephants in the Sindhudurg District. People found it difficult to co-exist with elephants but still felt that elephants need to be protected.

The *Research Article* from S. Aini *et al.* presents a new approach in developing a habitat suitability map for Malaysia's elephants. They find that a large extent of suitable habitat is outside the protected areas. N.R. Talukdar & P. Choudhury give an overview of the current status of Asian elephants in southern Assam. It appears that there are only two herds with a total of 9 elephants left in all of southern Assam. T.G.S.L. Prakash *et al.* used TripAdvisor to evaluate visitors' opinions about five establishments in four countries keeping elephants. Negative reviews per site ranged from 3 to 37% with unethical treatment of elephants being the commonest reason for discontent. M. Roy *et al.* suggest that reforestation in the form of rubber plantations would provide more income than the current tea estates in three elephant corridors in West Bengal.

In *Short Communications*, N.C. Palei *et al.* assess frequency, patterns and extent of damage caused by elephants visiting Odisha from the neighbouring state of Chhattisgarh. H.P.R.N.S. Karunarathna and co-authors describe how they fixed the fracture of a radius and ulna in an Asian elephant calf, using fibreglass casts for the first time in Sri Lanka.

In the *News and Briefs* section M. Sakamoto provides a nice overview of topics related to Asian elephants, which were discussed at recent CITES meetings. S.K. Mikota prepared a very useful introduction on how to write a grant proposal, also providing links to helpful websites. B. Ramakrishnan *et al.* give us a glimpse on how they celebrated this year's World Elephant Day. "Recent Publications on Asian Elephants" lists 56 abstracts and "News Briefs" includes 30 news clippings about elephants across the range.

Vivek Menon, the chair of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group, reports on the twelfth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. He also informs us about the impact of the new camps for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, for which more than 5000 acres of forest were cleared. He also reminds us that the next AsESG meeting will be held in April 2018 in Thailand.

We have now introduced a mailing list to inform people per e-mail when a new *Gajah* becomes available online. Asian Elephant Specialist Group members are being informed anyway but anybody else who would like to receive such an e-mail can simply drop me a message.

I would like to thank all the authors who contributed articles about their work for this *Gajah* issue. I am grateful for the editorial team's help with paper editing and working with the authors to improve their manuscripts. We very much appreciate the financial support from the Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group, enabling us to also print this *Gajah* and mail it out for free to its readers across the globe.