

References

- Johnsingh, A. J. T., Prasad, S. N. and Goyal, S. P. 1990. Conservation of the Chilla-Motichur corridor for elephant movement in Rajaji - Corbett National Parks area, India. *Biol. Conserv.* 51:125 - 138.
- Johnsingh, A. J. T. 1992. Conserving Rajaji - Corbett National Parks - Elephant the flagship species. Paper submitted to the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected areas, Caracas, Venezuela, February 1992, 19 pages and 1 figure.
- Singh, V. B. 1978. The elephant in U. P. (India) - A resurvey of its status after 10 years. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 75:71-82.
- Singh, V. B. 1978. The elephant in U.P. (India) - The change in status in two decades. *Cheetal.* 28:39-43.
- Sunderraj, S. F. W., Mishra, B. K. and Johnsingh, A. J. T. (in prep.). Large mammal use of Rajaji - Corbett National Parks Corridor, India.
- Panwar, H. S. (undated). A note on expediting final notification of Rajaji National Park, unpublished manuscript, 13 pages, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun, 248 001.

Address: A. J. T. Johnsingh
Wildlife Institute of India
Chandrabani, P. O. Box 18
Dehra Dun - 248 001 India

News from Vietnam

Vietnam is a heavily populated country. Even close to Saigon, there are some elephants that are under serious threat as a result of escalating conflicts with man. The existence of two small "pocketed" herds of elephants north-east of Saigon was first reported by Do Tuoc & Charles Santiapillai in 1991 who recommended that they be captured and relocated to the nearby Nam Bai Cat Tien National Park. Later Shariff Daim on the basis of his survey in 1992, identified 3 groups totalling 37 animals and recommended their capture and relocation to the same national park.

But costs of moving these animals were so prohibitive that nothing was done until the Vietnamese themselves enlisted the help of a Singaporean company to capture all the elephants. According to Shanthini Dawson, who is working in Vietnam as a consultant for WWF-Vietnam Programme, "the entire cost of the operation is being borne by the company in return for 15 elephants (of their choice) or 40% of the total catch, whichever is greater". Shanthini Dawson estimates the population size of the elephants to be about 40-50 individuals.

According to Shanthini Dawson, the operation began in April 1993, and to date 15 individuals have been caught. Of these 4 adults have died, 6 sub-adults have been trained so far and are being retained by the Ministry of Forestry (MOF), and 5 are awaiting transportation to Singapore or release into a protected area. One Singaporean has been killed by an elephant in the operation. MOF plans to radio-collar some of the captured elephants and release them into the proposed Chu Yang Sinh nature reserve, given its relatively large size (90,000 ha), undulating terrain and small human settlement in the vicinity. Dawson recommends the domestication of these elephants for use by MOF in protected areas to transport tourists. One final thought: How will Singapore get the approval of CITES when it comes to taking the elephants listed in Appendix I, out of Vietnam into Singapore? (Ch. S.)