

Editorial

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This *Gajah* issue contains five research articles and one short communication. Half of the papers are from India and the other half from Sri Lanka. Even if the two countries are home to three quarters of free-ranging Asian elephants, it would be nice to have more papers from other range countries and also articles on captive Asian elephants world-wide in future issues of *Gajah*.

Two of the Indian papers in this issue deal with wild elephants. Ranjit Kumar Sahoo studied the distribution and population structure of elephants in the Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve in the Western Ghats. Based on people's reports and tracking data, Mukti Roy and Raman Sukumar identified 59 corridors used by elephants in northern West Bengal. They present maps, location and habitats for the identified corridors in their paper. The third Indian paper is a historical one. K. G. Sheshadri summarizes a variety of '*Basti*' therapies to treat elephants as described in a treatise by Sage Pālakāpya in the 5th or 6th century.

Two Sri Lankan papers are based on captive elephants. Rukmali Athurupana and co-authors present the results of a study on pinnae movement, finding that elephants are flapping their ears less often when it is cooler or more humid. Ashoka Dangolla describes traditional management practices for elephants kept in captivity. The third Sri Lankan paper is of a more technical nature, comparing the performance of elephant GPS tracking collars in the field. We have been asked for advise on choosing collars by so many people that it seemed to make sense to write about our experiences.

In the News and Briefs section we have three workshop reports. Chatchote Thitaram *et al.* inform us about a meeting held by a group of elephant experts and practitioners in Thailand to discuss living conditions of captive elephants

in Southeast Asia. They decided to form the "ASEAN Captive Elephant Working Group" and have further meetings on how to better manage captive elephants. Zaw Min Oo *et al.* report on a training workshop for mahouts and veterinary assistants held in Myanmar to improve management and health care of Myanmar's huge captive elephant population. Nilanga Jayasinghe gives a summary of a WWF workshop held in Assam, India to exchange ideas and experiences on human-elephant conflict across WWF project areas.

Last but not least we are thrilled to have a note from the new Chair of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG), informing us about his ideas on how to move forward with the AsESG.

We urgently need to update the mailing list for *Gajah*. We mailed the last issue to 67 addresses provided by the previous editor. I included a note asking the recipients to inform me if they received *Gajah* and wish to do so in the future. I only heard back from 18 people. Interestingly we also mailed *Gajah* to the authors and all of them received their copies. This makes me believe that the address list is outdated. From this issue on, we will not be posting hard copies of *Gajah* to those who did not respond to the notice sent with the last issue. Please provide me with your address if you wish to receive a hard copy of *Gajah* in the future.

I would like to thank all the authors for their valuable contributions to *Gajah*. I am grateful to the editorial team for their help with editing the papers and working with the authors to improve the standard of papers. This *Gajah* can be printed and mailed out to readers thanks to funding from Wildlife Reserves Singapore.