

## Correspondence

*Comments on: D.L. Schmitt, D. Olson & H.S. Riddle (2010) Summary of the Fourth Annual Tuberculosis and Elephants Workshop. Gajah 33: 68-70.*

Tuberculosis (TB) has serious implications especially for elephants in range countries where elephants used for conservation (patrol), tourism, and wild populations are at risk. There is a real need to share information and collate data from all sources rather than relying on anecdotal information that has not been shared and/or peer-reviewed.

The Fourth Annual Tuberculosis and Elephants Workshop was a closed meeting. While “recognized experts” may have been included, a number of key researchers, physicians, and veterinarians working on elephant TB issues in the U.S. and abroad and scientists involved in the development of the currently used USDA-licensed TB screening test for elephants were excluded. None of the members of the Elephant TB Scientific Advisory Sub-committee of the U.S. Animal Health Association’s TB Committee (the organization charged with providing review of new information and recommendations based on a scientific process to update the U.S. Guidelines for the Control of Tuberculosis in Elephants) were invited.

The number of inaccuracies in the workshop report are too numerous to discuss in this short commentary so we invite *Gajah* readers to refer to a comprehensive “Critical Commentary on the Summary of the Fourth Annual Tuberculosis and Elephants Workshop” authored by veterinarians and physicians actively engaged in elephant TB issues and research TB (<http://www.elephantcare.org/Critique.htm>).

We would also like to inform readers that an open meeting for all stakeholders and interested parties was hosted by the United States Department of Agriculture on April 5-6, 2011. Proceedings from “Tuberculosis in Elephants: Science, Myths, and Beyond” are in the process of being compiled and will be available soon. Look for a link on

the Elephant Care International website ([www.elephantcare.org](http://www.elephantcare.org)).

Signed,

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Minneriya National Park, Sri Lanka  
Photo by Prithiviraj Fernando