

Editorial

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This is the 50th issue of *Gajah*, which is reason to celebrate. In 1986 the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) published its first newsletter. In the last 33 years one to two issues of *Gajah* were produced annually, making *Gajah* an old established journal.

In this issue you can find one peer-reviewed article, three research articles and two short communications. Five papers deal with elephants in India and one is about captive elephants in general.

In the *Peer-Reviewed Research Article* P. Keerthipriya *et al.* studied musth in the Kabini males and made comparisons with other populations. In Kabini they found fewer old males and males were less in musth, indicating that the occurrence or duration of musth is influenced by the number of old competitors in the area.

The *Research Article* by M.D. Patil and V.K. Patil presents their findings on crop raiding patterns in the Sindhudurg District, showing which crops are most affected and which time of the year has most incidents. M. Stone *et al.* investigated farmers' willingness to construct chilli-tobacco barriers and beehive fences to prevent crop raiding in villages surrounding the Bannerghatta National Park. S. Vijayakrishnan and A. Sinha looked at peoples' relationships with captive elephants in Kerala, summarizing the history and discussing the problems captive elephants face today.

One *Short Communication* describes the treatment of a chronic abscess wound caused by an ankus. The treatment took five months and V.P.

Govindan *et al.* point out that such misuse of the ankus needs to be prevented. Ingrid Suter contemplates the role of captive elephants in tourism. She points out that while many improvements need to be made, a blanket ban of such activities might be counter-productive.

In *News and Briefs* you can find the abstracts from 58 scientific publications and excerpts of 31 newspaper articles on Asian elephants across the range.

Vivek Menon, the chair of the AsESG provides and update on the progress of the Working Groups of the AsESG. He also informs us about the elephant side event at the CITES CoP18 and mentions other meetings where the AsESG participated.

I am most grateful to the editorial board for their efforts in putting this *Gajah* together. Shermin de Silva has kindly agreed to join the editorial board and I would like to welcome her to the team. Two reviewers spent precious time to review the peer-reviewed article.

I would like to thank all the authors for their contributions. As usual I would like to encourage others to submit their work to *Gajah*. Keep in mind that *Gajah* is free of charge for the authors and for the readers, permits free coloured photographs and is easily available online. On top of that the editorial board members are happy to help fledging authors to help with their manuscripts. *Gajah* is also interested in publishing short anecdotes which might be interesting or useful for others working on Asian elephants.

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