

Editorial

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The 51st issue of *Gajah* includes four research articles and one short communication. Three papers are about human-elephant conflict in India, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. Two publications deal with health issues in captive elephants in India.

Cao Thi Ly and co-authors experimented with different crops in Vietnam. They identified crops that were less consumed by elephants than were traditional crops. Nilanjana Das Chatterjee and Mrinmay Mandal studied the human-elephant conflict in the Panchet Forest Division, West Bengal, India, by doing a habitat analysis and interviewing 1000 residents. T.G.S.L. Prakash and co-authors assessed the overall level of human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka. They found changes over time in different areas, which were probably related to differences in management actions and developmental activity. In the fourth research article, Yaduraj Khadpekar *et al.* describe how they successfully treated intestinal impaction in a captive elephant in India.

In the Short Communication Vimalraj P. Govindan and co-authors report on the treatment of a chronic purulent temporal adenitis in a captive elephant in India. Regular care was needed for more than five months to finally reduce the swelling.



In News and Briefs Sandeep K. Tiwari and Vivek Menon give a detailed report on the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) meeting held in Sabah in December 2019. The meeting was attended by 148 people from all range states and gave a perfect opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about many aspects of elephant conservation. Sandeep K. Tiwari also informs us about the discussions regarding elephants held at the CITES CoP18 in Switzerland in August 2019.

Christian Schiffmann shares first experiences with the newly developed online monitoring tool for body condition scores, which is now widely used in European zoos. Mai Nguyen Thi and Hoa Tran Thi describe the event “Dance for Kindness to Elephants and Wildlife”, which took place in November 2019 in Vietnam. An impressive 5000 students participated in the large-scale Freezemob and Flashmob.

This issue of *Gajah* also presents abstracts from 67 scientific publications and glimpses of 23 newspaper articles on Asian elephants.

Vivek Menon, the Chair of the AsESG, tells us in his note about the successful AsESG meeting and elaborates on the progress of all the AsESG working groups. He also attended the SSC Steering Committee Meeting, where the AsESG got awarded the “SSC Chair’s Citation of Excellence” .

During the AsESG meeting the editorial board had the unique chance to meet up and discuss issues related to *Gajah* (see photo). I am most grateful to all authors for sharing their work with us and providing insights into elephant-related events that took place. Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group generously funded the costs for printing and mailing the hard copies of *Gajah*.