

Editorial

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Gajah 53 includes two peer-reviewed research articles, one research paper, and three short communications dealing with Asian elephants. Two articles are from India, and from Thailand, Sabah and Sri Lanka we have one article each. The sixth paper is about captive elephants in Europe. In the News and Briefs section there is a book review, an obituary and a memorial.

In the **Peer-Reviewed Research Articles**, Alexander Greene writes about the development and status of human-elephant culture, describing the rituals Karen people in Thailand perform with their captive elephants. Christian Schiffmann describes in detail how to recognize musculoskeletal disorders in captive elephants. There are many photos provided, which will help elephant caretakers at any facility to look out for the symptoms.

In their **Research Article**, Cheryl Imm and co-authors present a case study on how to successfully involve oil palm plantations in elephant conservation. Better land-use planning was found to be crucial to keep elephants in the landscape.

In the **Short Communications**, Jyoti Bishya *et al.* evaluate the status of elephants in the Nagaon Forest Division in Assam. Elephant numbers have decreased drastically, mostly due to habitat loss. Tharindu Wijekoon and co-authors conducted a trial with the GnRH vaccine to reduce the musth period in four captive elephants. The results were promising with decreasing testosterone and cortisol levels in two bulls. Sarat Kumar *et al.* report on how they tried to solve the problem of a wild elephant bull, who kept breaking into the zoo and twice injured a female zoo elephant. The bull was translocated 50 km but might have come back to the vicinity of the zoo.

For **News and Briefs** A.J.T. Johnsingh wrote about the life of the former AsESG Co-chair Ajay Desai, who sadly passed away last November. Johnsingh brings back memories of Ajay's time in the field and his untiring efforts to conserve Asian elephants. Ravi Corea gives glimpses of the life of the former AsESG Chairman Lyn de Alwis, honouring his important contributions to elephant conservation. Paul Keil wrote a book review about Nicolas Lainé's "Living and Working with Giants: A Multispecies Ethnography of the Khamti and Elephants in Northeast India". *Gajah 53* also presents abstracts from 59 recent scientific publications on Asian elephants and there are briefs of 27 newspaper articles published across Asia.

The **Chair** of the AsESG, Vivek Menon, gives us an update on the happenings of the AsESG. He explains the proceedings for the membership of the AsESG for the next 4-year term and informs about the updated assessment of Asian elephants for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The **Editorial Board** members worked hard to make this *Gajah* possible. Thanks to the funding from the **Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group** we are able to also print and mail out hard copies of *Gajah*. I am grateful to the **authors** who submitted their manuscripts to *Gajah* and kept working on their manuscripts until they were ready for publication. The help of four **reviewers** who reviewed manuscripts is greatly appreciated.

Last but not least I would like to sincerely thank **Jayantha Jayewardene**, who has indicated that he will not be able to continue with his News Briefs, which has been a prominent and popular feature of *Gajah* for over a decade.