

## Editorial

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*Gajah* 55 presents one peer-reviewed paper, three research articles and four short communications about Asian elephants. Three articles are from Sri Lanka, two from India and one each from Bangladesh and Cambodia. In News and Briefs you can read a story and learn about the Asian Elephant Range States Meeting.

The **Peer-reviewed Research Article** presents the results of an interview survey conducted by Megan English and G. Silva Collins in a village in Cambodia. It describes the problems people face due to increasing human-elephant conflict.

In **Research Articles** Shorf u A. Chowdhury *et al.* evaluate elephant habitat in south-eastern Bangladesh using satellite imagery. They found that 36% of elephant habitat was lost over the past 25 years. Rathnapala and co-authors report on the treatment of elephant dung to speed up its degradation and composting, which is of relevance to captive management. Prithiviraj Fernando *et al.* present a simple size-age class scale. The individuals to be evaluated are compared with an adult female, using certain anatomical points to assign them to classes.

In **Short Communications** Mihiran Medawala reports on the first twin birth at the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka. The birth and care of the new-born twins in the first few months is described in detail. Biswajeet Panda and Bhaskar Behera followed elephants in northern Odisha, recording the plants they consumed. A table presents the 136 identified plant species. Tharindu Muthukumarana conducted a census of Sri Lanka's captive elephants held by temples or private owners. In 2021 there were 108 elephants kept at 72 different facilities. Madhvee Dhairykar and co-authors collected samples from 30 captive elephants to determine cortisol metabolite levels as well as haematological and biochemical values.

In **News and Briefs** Ivy F. Hussain tells us the heart-breaking story of how the calf 'Mainao' ended up in captivity when its mother became a victim of human-elephant conflict, being electrocuted with an illegal electric fence. Heidi S. Riddle summarises the outcome of the 'Third Asian Elephant Range States Meeting' for us. The meeting was held in Nepal and formulated the 'Katmandu Declaration', which is printed here in full for *Gajah's* readership. The abstract section gives a glimpse of research findings from 59 studies published last year, all focusing on Asian elephants.

I am grateful to the authors who shared their work with the readers of *Gajah*. The editorial board has helped editing the papers and working with the authors to make them better, which is a time-consuming task. Financial support from Mandai Nature is greatly appreciated, making it possible to also print hard copies and mail them out to the readership all over the world.

2022 also brings some changes in the editorial board. Heidi S. Riddle is resigning after serving 16 years on the board. With this new term she has become the Vice-Chair for the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG), which means she will keep investing her time for the AsESG. Shermin de Silva also stepped down from the editorial board for the time being. She is starting a new position as an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, from where she of course will continue to work on elephants. I want to sincerely thank both outgoing editorial board members for their services to keep *Gajah* going and wish them success in their new endeavours. I would also like to welcome two new editorial board members – Peter Leimgruber (Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, USA) and Christian Schiffmann (Tier-Erlebnispark Bell, Germany) – who have generously agreed to help with *Gajah*.