

Editorial

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In the first *Gajah* of 2024 we present two research articles and five short communications about Asian elephants from India, Laos, Myanmar and Nepal. This issue also includes notes from two of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group's (AsESG) working groups and three reports on workshops dealing with Asian elephant conservation topics. This issue concludes with the usual compilation of abstracts.

In the **Research Articles** Aayush Shrestha and co-authors studied human-elephant conflict (HEC) around a wildlife reserve in Nepal. They found that the majority of human casualties were caused by people's negligence of threats and their confrontation of elephants. Therefore, awareness programs may help address this issue. Khyne U Mar describes how Myanmar Timber Enterprise elephants obtain food. Whereas most elephants gather sufficient fodder when released at night, individuals with special needs are provided a supplemental diet.

In **Short Communications** R.R. Kumara and B.P. Paramesha evaluated traditional sericulture and HEC. They found that mulberry is easily grown, was an economically beneficial crop and was not raided by elephants. Michael Falshaw conducted a camera trap study in a protected area in Laos. A total of 52 individual elephants including juveniles were identified in two areas. They were in good body condition. Michael Falshaw also reports on the re-wilding of four working elephants in Laos. They were closely monitored with GPS collars, which allowed providing timely medical treatment to an elephant that became immobile due to health issues. Mirza Vaseem *et al.* present the case of a captive elephant with oesophageal obstruction. Despite immediate veterinary intervention it was not possible to save the animal. Post-mortem findings are discussed. P. Aswathi compiled a list of 57 plants traditionally used for medical treatment and managing musth.

In **News and Briefs** the AsESG's Transport Working Group presents its report on problems caused by new linear infrastructure and how to reduce their impacts on elephants. Chatchote Thitaram *et al.* give a brief summary on a workshop held by the EEHV Working Group in Thailand last year. They assessed the current situation with EEHV in elephants and discuss possible strategies to fight it. The Elephant Conservation Group (ECG) held a meeting last year in India and briefly present the topics that were discussed. Mai Thi Nguyen and Hoa Thi Tran organised a workshop where the newest findings of studies conducted in Dong Nai were presented and discussed. With only 100–130 wild elephants remaining in Vietnam, conserving this population of 25 elephants is crucial. Chution Savini reports from a workshop held in Thailand to provide communication skills to communities and park rangers around Kui Buri National Park.

Great news! *Gajah* has now been accepted into the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). *Gajah* will reach wider audiences which will increase its impact on Asian elephant conservation. Also – thanks to the DOI numbers – *Gajah*'s articles are now being listed in the Web of Science. This should make *Gajah* more attractive to people from academia to publish their work. A big thank you is due to Gabriela Hidalgo, the librarian at IUCN, for doing all the paperwork to get *Gajah* into DOAJ!

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