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Asian Elephants Specialist Group

NEWSLETTER

No. 1 May 1986

Dear Members and Friends,

We, like the Elephants we are pledged to conserve, apply ourselves to any task with ponderous determination and esprit de corps, yet are somewhat modest and unobtrusive (isn't even crop damage seen only the next morning!) about our accomplishments. Again, like elephants we must have a "family bond".

This was the consensus at the meeting held at the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka, India from 5th — 9th November 1985, to review the work done on WWF Project 1777. In fact, so much had been done by both Task Forces and individuals that the far-reaching results presented came as a surprise to members as close as in neighbouring States, let alone countries.

The lack of communication was regretted, for there was so much more scientific material and technical know-how available since the Colombo and Jaldapara meetings that could have been utilized in the implementation of other Action Plans. For example, Dr. Sukumar's work on the Biology and Ecology of the Elephant in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and Dr. Mohamed Khan's fantastic success in the immobilization and translocation of 48 elephants in Malaysia, on specially constructed rafts, across water, have such built-in practical application that a day should not be lost in putting them to use in other countries.

And so members present were unanimous that the AESG should immediately commence publication of a Newsletter on a regular basis.

Accordingly, it is my privilege to inaugurate such a Newsletter, which I consider to be a life-line among members of any organization. Although members assigned the task to me, it is obvious I cannot do it alone. I appeal to all of you, therefore, to send me news about elephants in your respective area, progress reports on Projects, successes and failures of Action Plans, suggestions and recommendations, indeed, anything "newsy" about elephants or work being done for them.

The next Newsletter is scheduled for August, so please send me your contribution by 15 July.

Thanking you,

Yours in conservation

Lyn de Alwis
Chairman.