

IUCN/SSC

ASIAN ELEPHANT SPECIALIST GROUP NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 8

SPRING 1992



INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION



WWF World Wide Fund
For Nature

Produced with the assistance of
World Wide Fund for Nature

Asian Elephant Specialist Group NEWSLETTER
Number 8 **Spring 1992**



WWF World Wide Fund
For Nature

Editors: Lyn de Alwis & Charles Santiapillai

Inquiries: -

DR CHARLES SANTIAPILLAI
Executive Secretary

Asian Elephant Specialist Group
PO Box 133, Bogor, Indonesia

Tel : (0251) 327316

Fax : (0251) 328177 BADA KBOGOR

The Newsletter is published and distributed by Charles Santiapillai (WWF-Asia Programme) with financial assistance from WWF-International.

Newsletter Advisory Group

Mr. J.C. Daniel,
Prof. D.K. Lahiri-Choudhury
Dr. R. Sukumar
Dr. Simon Stuart

The Asian Elephant Specialist Group Newsletter is published with the following aims: -

- to highlight the plight of the Asian Elephant
- to promote the conservation of the Asian Elephant
- to provide a forum for communication amongst all the members

Newsworthy articles are invited for consideration for publication and should be sent to Dr Charles Santiapillai at WWF - Asia Programme, PO Box 133, Bogor, Indonesia. All articles may be reprinted. Reprinted articles should give credit to the Newsletter. The editors would appreciate receiving a copy of any article so used. The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the policies of either WWF or IUCN.

Cover : A small group of two adult female elephants and one calf drinking at the Patanangala water-hole in Ruhuna National Park, Sri Lanka. (Photo: Charles Santiapillai/WWF).

CONTENTS

Comment	3
Lyn de Alwis & Charles Santiapillai	
Feature Articles	4
Population structure, activity and density of elephants in the Ruhuna National Park, Sri Lanka	4
Sarath Dissanayake, A.H. Sumanasena, Upali Padmasiri, H.P. Jayamane, Chandra Bandaranayake, Padma Kumari de Silva and Charles Santiapillai	
Managing elephant depredation in plantations in Sabah	19
Mahedi Andau and Junaidi Payne	
Conservation of Elephants in Laos	25
Bouaphanh Phanthavong and Charles Santiapillai	
Capture, Immobilization and translocation of an elephant from Pulau Ubin, Singapore to Endau-Rompin State Park, Johore, Malaysia	34
Mohd. Tajuddin Abdullah, Mohd. Shariff Daim and Zainal Zahari Zainuddin	
From the Archives	38
Elephant Catching in Assam	38
A.J.W. Milroy	
Short communications	46
Asian elephant threatened	46
Shanthini Dawson and Tim Blackburn	
The Dilemma of Subspecies	47
Hilary Cruz	
Abstracts on Asian elephant biology and ecology	49
Cao Keqing (1991). On <i>Elephas maximus</i> Palaeo-Geographical Distribution in China	49
Ishwaran, N. (1981). Comparative study of Asiatic elephant <i>Elephas maximus</i> populations in Gal Oya, Sri Lanka	49
Ishwaran, N. (1983) Elephant and woody-plant relationships in Gal Oya, Sri Lanka	49

Jachman, H. & Bell, R.H.V. (1984). The use of elephant droppings in assessing numbers, occupance and age structure: a refinement of the method	50
Jainudeen, M.R., Eisenberg, J.F. & Jayasinghe, J.B. (1971). Semen of the Ceylon elephant <i>Elephas maximus</i>	50
Jainudeen, M.R., Eisenberg, J.F. & Tilakeratne, N. (1971). Oestrus cycle of the Asiatic elephant <i>Elephas maximus</i> , in captivity	51
Roth, V.L. & Shoshani, J. (1988). Dental identification and age determination in <i>Elephas maximus</i>	51
Sale, J.B., Rishi, V., Singh, K.N. & Verma, V.K. (?) Drug immobilisation of Indian elephant	51
Sukumar, R. (1986). The elephant populations of India - Strategies for conservation	52
Sukumar, R., Bhattacharya, S.K. & Krishnamurthy, V. (1987). Carbon isotopic evidence for different feeding patterns in an Asian elephant population	52
Sukumar, R., Joshi, N.V. & Krishnamurthy, V. (1988). Growth in Asian elephant	52
Sukumar, R. (1989). Ecology of the Asian elephant in southern India. I. Movement and habitat utilization patterns	53
Sukumar, R. (1990). Ecology of the Asian elephant in southern India. II. Feeding habits and crop raiding patterns	53
Sukumar, R. (1991). The management of large mammals in relation to male strategies and conflict with people	54
Nair, P.V., Ramachandran, K.K. & Easa, P.S. (1986). Characteristics of three populations of elephants of the western Ghats	54
Vancuylenberg, B.W.B. (1977) Feeding behaviour of the Asiatic elephant in south-east Sri Lanka in relation to conservation	55
Letters to the Editor	56
Diary	58
Asian Elephant Specialist Group Membership List	59

Chairman: Mr Lyn de Alwis

30 Hotel Road, Mt. Lavinia, Sri Lanka. Tel. (071) 2451
also: c/o Singapore Zoological Gardens
80 Mandai Lake Road, Singapore 2572. Tel: 269 3411-5

Deputy Chairman: Dr R. Sukumar

Coordinator: Asian Elephant Conservation Centre
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012, India
Tel: (0812) 340 985. Fax: (0812) 341 683

Executive Secretary: Dr Charles Santiapillai

Senior Scientific Officer
WWF-Asia Programme, PO Box 133, Bogor, Indonesia
Tel: (0251) 327316. Fax: (0251) 328177 Badakbogor.