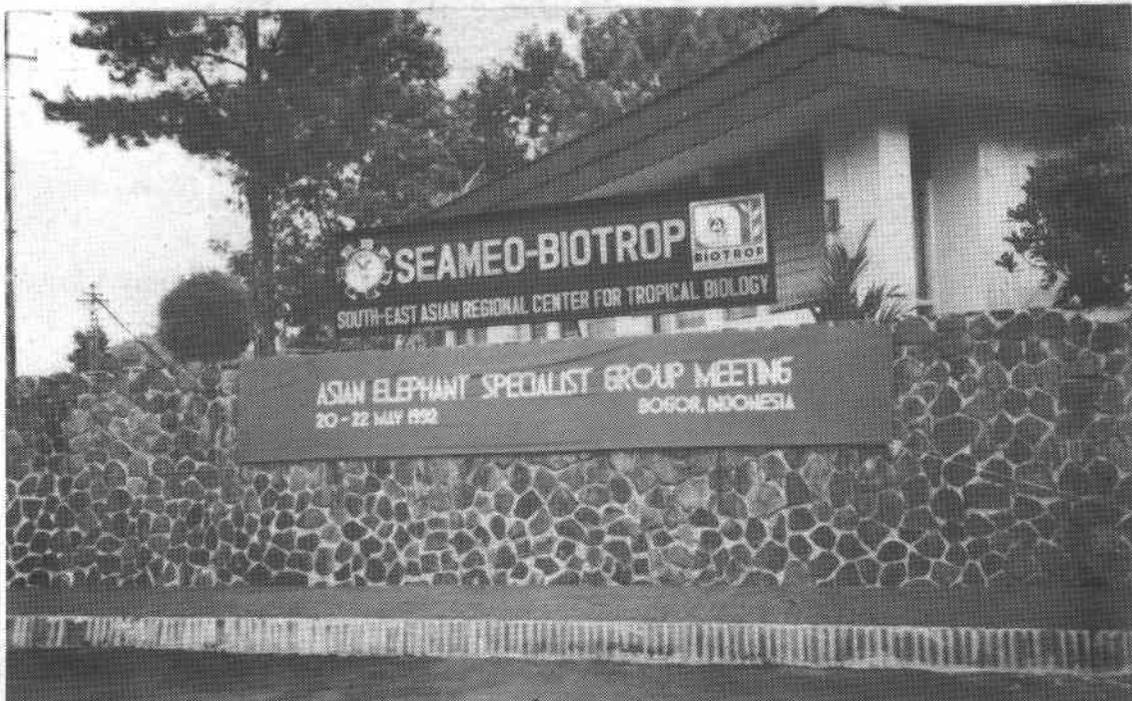


IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group Meeting 20-22 May 1992, Bogor, Indonesia

a summary compiled by
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The fourth meeting of the IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group was held at the SEAMEO-BIOTROP in Bogor, Indonesia from 20th to 22nd May 1992. The Chief Guest at the meeting was the Director-General of the Directorate of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA) in Indonesia, Pak Sutisna Wartaputra and was attended by 40 participants (which included field workers, representatives from government organizations and zoos) from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, England, Holland, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia (Peninsula & Sabah), Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, USA and Vietnam. The main objective of the meeting was to formulate country projects in order to implement the Asian Elephant Action Plan. In addition, it also provided the necessary forum to test the feasibility of using the Asian Elephant as the prototype for SSC's forthcoming Heritage Species Programme.

Pak Sutisna, in his keynote address referred to the serious plight of the Asian elephant given its small number and discontinuous range. In contrast to the African elephant which is estimated to be about 600,000 ranging over an area of 7.5 million km², the Asian elephant numbers only about 55,000 and is confined to a total area of 500,000 km². Pak Sutisna urged IUCN and WWF to join hands in enhancing the long-term survival of the Asian elephant which is more endangered as a result of habitat loss than poaching. Pak Sutisna pointed out that millions of people in the Third World in Asia utilized a fraction of the world's resources but many of them in fact bear the brunt of poverty, famine, depredations, disease and death. They want a better life. Their countries in many instances are the custodians of endangered species including the elephant. On the one hand, as custodians of biodiversity, they are forced to assume res-



possibility for its protection. Yet at the same-time, many Asian countries are also saddled with the problems of feeding expanding human populations. According to the Chairman, Mr Lyn de Alwis, elephant conservation in Asia will not succeed without the support of the people, especially those who live along the periphery of the elephant reserves who bear the brunt of elephant depredations. Therefore resolving human-elephant conflicts was given a very high priority in the AESG's agenda.

In addition to presentation of country reports by AESG members, much time was given to the formulation of projects in a number of working groups. These include the following main topics:

- (1) Establishing and managing elephant ranges in Asia,
- (2) Developing census capability for long-term monitoring of elephant populations,
- (3) Understanding long-term ecological processes in Asian elephants,
- (4) Translocation and monitoring of problem elephants,
- (5) Establishment of training schools for elephant handlers (mahouts),
- (6) An economic evaluation of captive elephants in Asia,
- (7) Education, awareness and publicity,
- (8) Research on reproductive biology of captive elephants, and
- (9) Updating the Asian elephant action plan.

Implementation of Asian Elephant Action Plan. Projects developed at the 4th AESG Meeting in Bogor Period: 1993 - 1994

A: ESTABLISHING AND MANAGING ELEPHANT RANGES IN ASIA

Every country should develop a network of protected areas which are linked by buffer zones of multiple use that are compatible with the demands of elephants and other wildlife to ensure the long-term survival of important elephant populations. Some of these reserves may be Trans Frontier Reserves (TFR). Within these Managed Elephant Reserves (MER), human activities such as low impact shifting cultivation, controlled livestock grazing, subsistence hunting and gathering, sustained yield forestry and extraction on non-timber products may be permitted in the buffer zone areas between of around the wholly protected core areas.

Under each project the following activities will be undertaken:—

1. Surveys will be carried out of priority MERs and elephant distribution, land-

use, vegetation etc. will be mapped on 1: 50,000 or smaller scale, with the help of satellite imagery.

2. Stratify each MER into protected areas (existing or potential), buffer zones, corridors etc. so as to create a viable elephant range for the long-term survival of the species.
3. The AESG/AECC would open and maintain dialogue with the Governmental Organizations of the respective countries to establish and manage the MERs. AESG/AECC will also offer technical assistance to the Governments to manage these areas.

Projects:

1. *Lao PDR:* Identification of a Managed Elephant Range in South-eastern Laos.
2. *Vietnam:* Identification of a Managed Elephant Range in the region of Mom Ray or Yok Don reserves.