

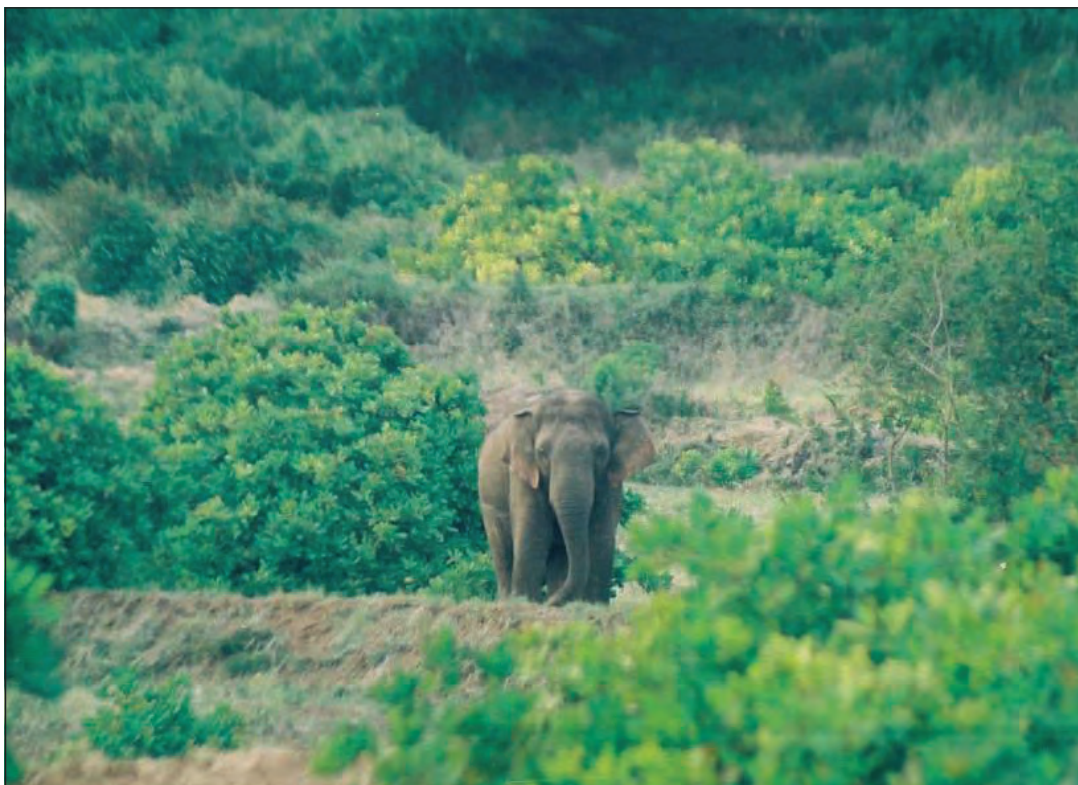
Correspondence

Congratulations for this great piece: layout, collection of articles, pictures. I did not read all the articles in detail in great details but I took the time to read Jayantha's editorial and Ajay's and Simon's contributions.

I have a few comments about your editorial if I may. I found errors (date of the last meeting for example, which I attended, in 2002) and a misunderstanding of the relationship between IUCN Secretariat and SSC Specialist Groups regarding finances. There is no budget for any Specialist Group but the Secretariat can assist to secure and manage funds for the Specialist Groups and we have done this in the recent past. I found your tone very negative and was wondering why after a decision had been made to change the management of the Group, to keep Gajah alive you did not show a more positive tone and optimism.

Something happened last year which I think was a key achievement and was a strong support to the AsESG: the Range State Dialogue that IUCN (AsESG, SSC, Regional Office and Headquarters) facilitated. It could have been highlighted and was mentioned in the note from the Chairs. I found odd to have their essential note among short technical documents towards the end of the journal. Gajah is the "Journal of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group" and I think that as such the note from the Chairs, detailing achievements, future plans and thanking Charles and Jayantha should have come in first position.

Jean-Christophe Vié
Deputy Head, Species Programme
IUCN - The World Conservation Union



A rogue makhna in Cumbum valley, Tamil Nadu, which is responsible for five human casualties and several lakhs of crop damage during his regular visit to a cashew plantation at dusk
Photo by Kannan Govindaraj