Editorial

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This second issue of *Gajah* for 2021 contains four research articles and five short communications about Asian elephants. Five studies are on elephants from India, two from Sri Lanka, one from Vietnam and one paper is about a captive elephant in Europe. In News and Briefs there is a report on the IUCN World Conservation Congress, an obituary and a book review.

The first **Research Article** by Nguyen X. Dang and co-authors describes the issues faced by a poor Vietnamese community from elephants occasionally venturing out of the neighbouring National Park and causing conflict. Nimain C. Palei *et al*. analysed elephant mortality data spanning 18 years for Odisha. They found that annual deaths are increasing and infants and mature-adult elephants have the highest mortalities. M.D.S.I. Karunatilaka and co-authors collected data on monthly elephant numbers over two years and assessed its correlation with the trends of water and food availability around the Minneriya reservoir in Sri Lanka. Schiffmann ***et al.*** describe how they found a simple solution to help a captive geriatric elephant to lie down again to sleep.

In **Short Communications** Ekadh Ranganathan and Avinash Krishnan analysed human and elephant mortality in southern India caused by human-elephant conflict in the last 40 years. Most casualties happened early morning and early night and from September and December. Mrinmay Mandal and Nilanjana Das Chatterjee studied human-elephant conflict in West Bengal. Over eight years most mortalities happened in the dry season. Nirupama Mohanty and Malaya R. Mahananda describe the habitat of a new elephant corridor in Odisha. The Tal-Kholgarh corridor consists of two sections linking four forest fragments and is used by about 20 elephants. Nikitasha Bora and co-authors describe treatment of a captive elephant in India that suffered from diarrhoea caused by a worm infection. K.G. Sachintha Udayanga *et al*. used *E. coli* to assess phagocytosis by leucocytes in four captive elephants in Sri Lanka.

In **News and Briefs** Sandeep K. Tiwari gives us a summary on the happenings at the 7th World IUCN Conservation Congress held in France earlier this year. Vivek Menon wrote an obituary for the AsESG member Kalayansundaram Ramkumar who sadly passed away in June. Hemanth Kumar presents a book review for Sanjeev Kumar Chadha's new book titled "Jumbos on the edge: The future of elephant conservation in India". This *Gajah* also contains a collection of abstracts of research articles about Asian elephants published recently.

As usual, Vivek Menon, the Chair of the AsESG, briefs us on recent activities of the AsESG. With the IUCN World Conservation Congress, a new quadrennium has started for the group and Vivek explains the changes in structure and membership of the group. He also gives us an update on the progress made by the different Working Groups.

I would like to thank the authors who shared the results of their studies with the readers of *Gajah*. Again the Editorial Board Members put in many hours, editing manuscripts to help the authors to shape up their articles. Mandai Nature generously paid for printing this *Gajah* and mailing it to readers across the globe.

