

Editorial

Jennifer Pastorini (Editor)

E-mail: jenny@aim.uzh.ch

In *Gajah* 56 you can find five research articles and one short communication presenting new findings on Asian elephants. The research on wild elephants was conducted in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka and on captive elephants in Europe and Sri Lanka. The news and briefs section includes workshop and meeting reports as well as a book review and a compilation of abstracts.

In **Research Articles** Avinash Krishnan and co-authors present a survey of an elephant corridor in southern India. They found elephants used it regularly, particularly the areas with natural habitat. Shorf u A. Chowdhury and colleagues conducted an interview survey in south-eastern Bangladesh. The data shows that people considered house damage and crop raiding by elephants to be the main cause of human-elephant conflict. Mihiran Medawala *et al.* describe the captive breeding program at the Pinawala Elephant Orphanage, Sri Lanka. With 70 births in 38 years the program proved to be very successful. Michelle Szydlowski described the situation of a wild bull causing conflict, while approaching captive females held near the Chitwan National Park. The owner then allowed his elephants to range free in the park's buffer zone, enabling the male to visit the herd without going through human settlements. Christian Schiffmann and co-authors describe a simple method to evaluate particle size in dung. The size of the fibres found in dung gives information about the elephant's chewing efficiency, which varies with body size and may change with age. They found their simplified method was as informative as more complex lab analysis.

In **Short Communications** G.D.K. Samaranyake *et al.* reports on constructing electric fences to prevent intrusion of elephants into private properties. They erected 60 fences around houses and/or cultivations. All owners

had relief from elephant damage after fence installation, even though elephants remained in the immediate neighbourhood.

In **News and Briefs** Benjamin Christ and Nilanga Jayasinghe describe a new approach to holding virtual workshops, developed during the Covid-19 pandemic when WWF was forced to hold online workshops for developing new strategic plans for elephant conservation. Prajna P. Panda and Vivek Menon provide a summary of topics concerning Asian elephants, discussed at last year's CITES meeting (CoP19). The AsESG also organised a side event where they presented the Kathmandu Declaration and discussed other issues regarding Asian elephant conservation. Vicki Renner was kind enough to review Alexander Mossbrucker's book "Island Elephants: The Giants of Sumatra", which gives detailed information on many aspects of Sumatra's elephants. As usual there is also a compilation of abstracts giving an overview of research conducted on Asian elephants in the last year.

This *Gajah* is the first issue with DOI numbers. Such Digital Object Identifiers have become the norm in many journals and are also now commonly used in citations. DOIs provide a stable link to the document, even if the website where it was originally published changes. I would like to thank Gabriela Hidalgo, the librarian at IUCN, for patiently helping me through the process to get *Gajah* registered.

I am thankful to the authors and editorial board members who have worked hard to get the articles ready for this *Gajah*. The Taronga Conservation Society Australia has generously funded the printing and postage of this *Gajah*. We are most grateful to them for being able to send out hard copies of *Gajah* free of charge to our readers across the globe.