

Editorial

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This issue of *Gajah* includes four research articles, one short communication and a technical report. Four articles originate from India and two from Sri Lanka. *Gajah* 58 reports on five meetings regarding Asian elephants. There is also an obituary, a book review and the usual compilation of abstracts.

For the first **Research Article** Fernanda Diaz Osorio and co-authors screened news media and found 173 articles on casualties due to human-elephant conflict in India. They created a distribution map with the mentioned locations and compared it with the official range map from IUCN. Radhika N. Makecha *et al.* evaluated whether the inclusion of elephant cognition in an education program changes attitudes towards elephants and elephant conservation. They found it did not change the overall opinion of villagers at Bannerghatta National Park. The study of Ilayaraja Selvaraj and co-authors investigated the effects of saddle use on elephants. Their radiographic pictures nicely illustrate varying degrees of dorsal spinous process degeneration, impacting gait and body structure. Rengarasu Madeswaran *et al.* studied 22 serum biochemical parameters at four sites holding captive elephants. They compared values between sexes, age groups, locations and seasons.

In **Short Communications** Danushka S. Weerasekera and co-authors evaluated the use of non-invasive faecal testosterone analysis to differentiate between musth and non-musth condition in captive Asian elephant males. The **Technical Report** from Fernando *et al.* describes the procedure to build a community-based seasonal electric fence to prevent crop raiding by elephants. They describe the fence design, material specifications and how to prepare the bill of quantities.

In **News and Briefs** Prajna P. Panda and Vivek Menon provide a summary of the 11th Meeting of the IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group held in India in 2023. The technical sessions were conducted in New Delhi, followed by a field trip to Corbett National Reserve. Shiladitya Acharjee gives us a brief report on how the Saranda Forest Division celebrated World Elephant Day. Events were held at Kiriburu and GUA Range. Tran Thi Hoa informs us about the newly launched “Vietnam Elephant Conservation Action Plan to 2035, Vision 2050”. With the carefully prepared VECAP 2022 Vietnam aiming to conserve its dwindling elephant population. Prajna P. Panda tells us about the CITES MIKE South-East Asia Sub-Regional Meeting and the CITES Trade in Asian Elephants Workshop held in Thailand last year. Prajna P. Panda also reports on the “14th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals” (CMS COP14). The side event “Room to Roam for Elephants: Conservation and Connectivity in Africa and Asia” involved three elephant range countries. Janine L. Brown wrote a beautiful obituary for Richard Lair who sadly passed away in Thailand last year. Deepak Bhat Dundi wrote a book review for “Composing Worlds with Elephants. Interdisciplinary Dialogues”. The book was edited by Nicolas Lainé, Paul G. Keil and Khatijah Rahmat. *Gajah* concludes with a compilation of abstracts of research articles published in 2024.

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