

compelled to decline. However we look forward to meeting in Sumatra in the not too distant future.

It would now appear that the next meeting could take place in Cheing Mai, Thailand, a possibility which was being pursued concurrent to a Sumatran venue. January 1988 now seems likely, when all the Action Plans will be ready and country reports prepared. It is also hoped that Dr. Sale will be able to provide us some guidelines on Elephant Censusing (see below).

### **ELEPHANT CENSUSING TECHNIQUES (ECT)**

At the time of writing Dr. Sale is arranging the first workshop on ECT to be held in India. Following the outcome of this workshop, he will invite scientists from other Asian countries to a larger forum to compare techniques used within the Asian elephants' range.

In the meantime Dr R.F.W. Barnes, Research Fellow at the Institute de Recherche en Ecologic Tropicales in Gabon having read of our efforts, has written to me about similar work initiated by him on ECT concerning Forest elephants in Africa, stressing the importance of standardizing these techniques.

No doubt Dr Sale will be in close contact with Dr Barnes and evolve a method(s) applicable to all wild populations of elephants.

We are thankful to Dr Barnes for offering his co-operation in a very important aspect of elephant conservation.

### **ELEPHANTS IN CAPTIVITY**

Steve Graham Director of the Detroit Zoo, and an active member of our Group has kept us informed of the activities of the Asian Elephant Propagation Group of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA).

I quote below from a communication from the AAZPA, dated 1st December 1986 :

“Enclosed you will find the minutes of our meeting in Minneapolis this past September.”

A few things of interest have occurred since then, the most important of which was the birth of a male at the Tulsa Zoo on October 5, 1986, and a confirmed pregnancy at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Congratulations to both parks and their staffs!

The new Tulsa male and the recent one at Calgary boosts our male statistics to 41. Twenty-one are in zoos, and 20 are in circus' or private ownership.

Dr Lawson is concluding his electrophoresis work and has received a total of 89 samples. It still looks as though variability will be little to none.

Alan Rost reports that it appears there are only two Asian bulls on the Australian continent — one at the Taronga Zoo and one at the Royal Melbourne Zoo. “He-man” at the Taronga Zoo is approximately 30 years old and was imported through Singapore from an unknown origin. “Bong su” at Melbourne is approximately 11 years of age and was a gift from the Sultan of Pahang in West Malaysia. Neither have produced offspring to date.

In a recent issue of International Zoo News, there was an indication that a male Asian at the Dierenpark Wassenaar Zoo in the Netherlands had gone to the Rotterdam Zoo. The Dierenpark Wassenaar Zoo was recently closed.

Zoo Copenhagen reports that their male “Chieng Mai” has sired 2.4 offspring, the most recent of which was a female named “Coco” born on January 22, 1986. An earlier female offspring born on December 15, 1975 now resides at the Cincinnati Zoo. The Director of the Copenhagen Zoo, Bent Jorgensen, is very interested in receiving any information on current research concerning musth in Asian elephants.

Progress continues toward our reproductive research meeting in New Orleans on the 15th and 16th of January. If you have pertinent data that you would like to share, please give me a call.”  
— from Dale Tuttle.

Another member, Hannover Zoo's Director Lothar Dittrich, who has success in breeding Asian elephants, reports a sad ending to a pregnancy involving a 24 year old female. I give below extracts from a paper describing successful surgery which saved the mother's life.