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# Asian Elephants: Excerpts from the Minutes of the 54th Meeting of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources/ Survival Service Commission Held at University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 1 - 4 October 1980

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**ASIAN ELEPHANTS: EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 54TH MEETING  
OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES/SURVIVAL SERVICE COMMISSION  
HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA  
1-4 OCTOBER 1980  
A report by J.C. Daniel**

Editor's note: Following is an excerpt from the Minutes as was sent to us by Stephen R. Humphrey. The document contained 72 pages, "Asian Elephants" appeared on pages 44-45.

The Group (The Asian Elephant Group) is in a second stage of data collection and areas requiring priority attention were outlined.

Elephant populations in Bangladesh and Nepal appear to have little chance of survival. While the Nepal population may benefit from the proposed increase in protected range, the only population which has some chance of survival in Bangladesh are four herds with a total number of 22 elephants in a narrow strip of evergreen forest in the Cox Bazar area of Chittagong hill tracts.

In Burma the main requirements are a census and a training of personnel, both in management of wild populations and captive herds. The latter is rather urgent as there is apparently a considerable annual loss from poor management of captive herds.

In India the main concern is the loss of habitat, so data are being collected on habitats available, threats to the habitat, and the areas that can be finally considered as permanently available for the five populations in the country.

In Sri Lanka a study has been approved on the impact of the Madura Oya Project and possible remedies. The concern of the Commission has been emphasized by the establishment of an IUCN facility in Sri Lanka, which will assure that the SSC is closely associated with this program and expert advice immediately available whenever requested.

The situation in Indonesia and Thailand is unsatisfactory in that it has not been possible so far to identify persons who could serve on the Group. Earlier representatives have moved elsewhere.

Malaya continues in its effort to contain the elephant in a limited area. Contact has been established again with the Game Department which will hopefully give a better picture of the Government's intentions.

Few data on elephants exist for the Indo-Chinese Peninsula area; possible contacts from the area would be appreciated.

The Group Chairman has consulted with Chinese colleagues regarding the northeastern population in Yunnan Province of China. A few are still left. It is hoped to be able to appoint a representative to the Group from China.

In reply to a question, the Chairman reported that the water project in India's Corbett Park was restricting elephant movement and a monitoring program was required.

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