

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF ELEPHANTS IN THE WILD
& IN CAPTIVITY JALDAPARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY WEST BENGAL INDIA

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12th December, 1982

TECHNICAL SESSION I/VI

Venue : Mondabari

Topic : Anti-elephant depredation methods

Chairman : Sri K. Shunmuganathan

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| (1) Electric fence | Robert Piesse (FAO)
Ivan Roy (West Bengal)
(Field-work by West Bengal
Forest Department) | 10-10.45 am. |
| (2) Spike-barrier | Ivan Roy (West Bengal)
(Field-work by West Bengal
Forest Department as per
design by the late S.R.
Choudhury of Orissa, India) | 10.45-11.0 am. |
| (3) Elephant proof
trench | Ivan Roy (West Bengal)
(Field-work by West Bengal
Forest Department) | 11-11.15 am. |
| <u>COFFEE</u> | | 11.15-11.30am. |
| (4) Olfactory & sound
barrier | M.K. Choudhury &
Ivan Roy (West Bengal)
"Some observations on the
use of tiger scent (urine)
and tiger calls as repellants
to elephants" | 11.30-1.0pm. |

LUNCH

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| (5) Chase without
capture | D.K. Lahiri Choudhury (AEG) &
B.K. Bardhan Roy (West Bengal)
"Anchored Mela-type chase-
without-capture" operation in
North Bengal. | 1-1-30 pm. |
| (6) SUMMING UP AND RECOMMENDATIONS | | 2-2.30 pm. |

TECHNICAL SESSION I/VII

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| (1) Cynthia Moss (Kenya) - "The African experience" | 2.30-3.0 pm. |
| (2) R.C.D. Olivier (AEG) "The Asian experience" | 3-3.30 p.m. |

TEA

3.30-3.45pm.

TECHNICAL SESSION I/VIII

Topic : Destruction of elephants

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| 1) S. Deb Roy (Assam) | 3.45-4.15pm. |
| 2) D.K. Lahiri Choudhury (AEG) | |

CONCLUSION OF SESSION

International Work
of Elephants in the Wild & in Captivity.

Jaldapara Wild Life Sanctuary
West Bengal
India.

14th December, 1982

Venue - Hollong.

Technical Session I/x

Chairman : M-K Choudhury

Topic : Destruction of Elephants

Speaker & Demonstrator : S Deb Roy

10 to 10.30 a.m.

Technical Session I/xi

Chairman : Shetty

1) Training of calves with Koonkies (NE India) 10.30 to 11 a.m.
- Demonstrator : Shri P G Barua.

G O F F E E .. - .. 11.00 - 11.15 a.m.

2) Demonstration of training without Koonkies (NE India) 11.15 - 12 noon.
Demonstration by P G Barua

3) Demonstration of training in Kraal (Tamilnadu) 12 to 12.45 p.m.

4) Elephants and their diseases L U N G H ... 12.45 to 2 p.m.
Dr. Krishnamurty ... 2 to 2.45 p.m.

5) Diet of Elephants - ... 2.45 to 3.30 p.m.

- 1) P G Barua
- 2) Sukumar
- 3) R C D Oliver
- 4) Dr. Mazundar

6) Film show (subject to confirmation) ... 5 - 6 p.m.

Presidential address by Shri Parimal Mitra, Minister,
Forests and Tourism, Government of West Bengal.

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Shri Digvijaysingh, distinguished delegates,
ladies and gentlemen,

I extend my sincere thanks to the organisers of the International Workshop on Management of Elephants for inviting me to preside over this function. I am happy that it has been possible for the Forest Department of this State to organise this Workshop attended by a large number of distinguished delegates from the country and abroad. I extend hearty welcome to the Central Minister for Environment and to all of you and hope that your participation will make this Workshop really meaningful.

My personal contact with the forests of North Bengal and its wild denizens, particularly the elephants has been a long one. On several occasions, in forests I came face to face with this magnificent herbivore which I always considered to be a noble animal. The rural population in general, traditionally developed a sense of love and affection for this fascinating animal probably because of its unusual form and habit and its submissive attitude towards man's commands after domestication.

It is, however, a matter of regret but all the same a grim reality that the wild habitat of this animal is continuously shrinking due to human encroachment in various shape. Close juxtaposition of elephant and man in areas which were the favourite habitats of elephants in the recent past is increasingly posing the problem of man-elephant confrontation in which both the contenders are suffering. Under these conditions, both the man and the elephant are becoming hostile to each other and there is an ever-increasing clamour for extermination of this magnificent animal. North Bengal where

the Workshop is meeting perhaps presents a critical situation in this respect.

I believe, the wildlife Managers cannot possibly sit idle in a situation like this and allow the worst to happen. An indepth study of the issue is therefore required. It is necessary to find out not only the extend of habitat that still remains for housing the elephants and how best to conserve it at the optimum level, but also the bearing capacity of such habitats, depending on vegetation type and other factors. Elephant population in a region requires to be assessed as correctly as possible and ways of management devised for both the elephant population and the habitat. At the same time steps should be taken to minimise depredation caused by wild elephants in which the poor villagers are the worst sufferers.

In several countries of Asia, elephant energy has been harnessed and put to human use since the historic ages. It is, therefore, also necessary to evolve better techniques of management of domesticated elephants so that the services of this noble beast could be utilised without causing unnecessary hardship and cruelty to the animal. In this context, the use of elephants - for timber dragging operation perhaps deserves critical review.

It is hoped that this Workshop which is perhaps the first of its kind held in India will help in dissemination of knowledge and expertise that have been acquired by specialists working in their own areas in various countries of Asia and Africa and lead to better understanding of the situation. I wish the Workshop all success in its deliberations and hope that this gathering of distinguished scientists and field workers will come forward with some practical suggestions which could be implemented in the best interest of both the elephant and man.

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