Dear Editors:

We would like to submit the enclosed manuscript entitled “Elephant culture matter for China's Asian elephants conservation”, which we wish to be considered for publication in “Journal of Zoological Research”. No conflict of interest exits in the submission of this manuscript, and manuscript is approved by all authors for publication. I would like to declare on behalf of my co-authors that the work described was original research that has not been published previously, and not under consideration for publication elsewhere, in whole or in part. All the authors listed have approved the manuscript that is enclosed.

Since 1989, during the 30 years of research on the ecology of Asian elephants, we have been conducting field surveys in the distribution areas of Asian elephants in China -- Xishuangbanna, Pu'er and Lincang in Yunnan Province. During our work, we have come into contact with many friends of the local ethnic minorities and naturally come into contact with their rich and unique production, life and culture. We are curious about these splendid minority cultures, especially the myths, legends and stories about the Asian elephant, such as the various Asian elephant sculptures in the streets, the decoration of various elephant elements in the architecture, the solemn riding elephant parade during the festival, the lively elephant foot drum dance... A great deal of information and data on the culture of the Asian elephant has also been collected with consultation.We found that elephant culture has ultimately slowed down the extinction of China’s Asian elephants, and it played a vital role in protection of Asian elephants. To promote the development of elephant cultures for conservation of China’s Asian elephants in the future, some suggestions have been given in this paper. I hope this paper is suitable for “Journal of Zoological Research”.

We deeply appreciate your consideration of our manuscript, and we look forward to receiving comments from the reviewers. If you have any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Thank you and best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Yongjing Tang

Corresponding author:

Name: Mingyong Chen

E-mail: mychen1108@ynu.edu.cn