

# ASIAN ELEPHANT RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION CENTRE

(A division of the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation)

Centre for Ecological Sciences  
Indian Institute of Science  
Bangalore - 560 012, INDIA

Phone: 91-80-3600382, 3600985 Fax: 91-80- 3602280, 3601428  
E-mail: rsuku@ces.iisc.ernet.in

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10<sup>th</sup> November, 2000

Dear Colleague

The WWF Asian Rhino and Elephant Action and Strategies Programme (AREAS) has selected the contiguous elephant habitats in the Nilgiris and Eastern Ghats, as a priority landscape for elephant conservation in India. As this elephant landscape spreads into the state of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala we believe that implementation of any conservation programme will need an active participation of all the stake holders in elephant conservation in this region. Keeping this in mind the WWF AREAS Programme and the Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Centre are organizing a stakeholder workshop to decide priority conservation actions and also active participation of all the stake holders for implementation of the conservation actions in this landscape.

The stakeholder workshop is to be organized in **Bangalore on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November at Hotel Infantry Court, 66 Infantry Road, YMCA Gem Plaza.**

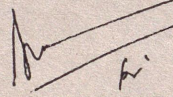
The programme starts at 10:00 Am in the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> November. Relevant preparatory material for the workshop is attached. Kindly note that all travel costs (air/bus/fuel/local taxi) will be reimbursed. Additionally we will bear the costs for boarding and lodging in Bangalore. For outstation delegates it is advised that they take taxi to the hotel, the cost for which will be reimbursed.

WWF India and its AREAS Programme Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Centre (AERCC) and hopes to further elephant conservation by working closely with you. We realise the success of this programme depends on your active collaboration and there fore would appreciate your valuable contribution to the process.

Kindly let us know whether you can attend the workshop by the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. Confirmation of your attendance and any other inquiries can be directed to Dr Arun Venkataraman at the above address (email: arun@ces.iisc.ernet.in).

Looking forward to meeting you

Yours faithfully



R. SUKUMAR

Hon. Director

# **Conservation of the Asian Elephant in the Nilgiri - Eastern Ghats, Southern India**

(WWF India AREAS Initiative)

## **STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP**

Venue: Bangalore, Karnataka

Duration: 2days

Date: 24-25 November 2000

## **Guidelines for Discussions**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

#### **1.1. CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE**

A brief presentation to be made in the workshop on:

- 1.2.1 Description of The Conservation Landscape
- 1.2.2 Landscape Status And Conservation Potential

#### **1.3 THREATS TO LANDSCAPE AND SPECIES**

- 1.3.1 Threat Of Habitat Fragmentation
- 1.3.2 Elephant-Human Conflict
- 1.3.3 Ivory Poaching
- 1.3.4 Anthropogenic Pressures On Habitat

Within headings 1.2-1.3, contents are highly factual and have repeatedly appeared in the literature or have been verified in the field. The presentations will essentially repeat the material in the proposed document and attempt to stimulate limited discussion on the veracity of facts or the need to include any additional background information on conservation landscape and threats.

#### **1.2 CONSERVATION VISION (TO BE HANDLED BY THE FACILITATOR)**

A conservation vision to be developed by the stakeholders with the following guidelines.

- Identification of crucial themes pertaining to elephant conservation in the landscape (reduction of fragmentation through augmentation and securing of corridors, the alleviation of elephant human conflict and reduction of poaching)
- Generate a Vision Statement.
- Vision is how you think the elephant conservation landscape should look like in say 100 or 50 or whatever years. The role of individual stakeholders, the schedule and the activities should be in a separate chapter on how to achieve the vision.
- The vision may require a statement on the results of conservation action. This involves providing time frames for the results of conservation action which could be evaluated on the basis of crucial themes identified

Procedures will be discussed for the facilitation and establishment of pragmatic time frames and percentage decreases in conflict and poaching. In addition, the inclusion of the term "viability of the population" will also be discussed. It is anticipated that this exercise would provide two clear sentences on the results of conservation action for the vision statement.

## 2. CONSERVATION TARGETS

This would involve an elaboration of the vision statement. Indicators for the success of conservation action will be listed. These could include for example:

- Increased elephant movement in response to augmentation and securing of corridors

A monitoring system designed prior to the workshop to measure temporal changes in elephant movement through newly augmented and secured corridors will be proposed. The efficacy of this system to detect changes will be put forward for discussion. A relevant point here is that movement will also have to be measured prior to conservation action providing an important baseline to compare the results of conservation action.

- Decrease in the frequency of elephant-human conflict.

The question "How do we measure changes in the level of elephant-human conflict" will be discussed. It will also suggest that levels of conflict can only be measured in relevant target areas and all conservation action proposed here can only serve as useful models to be emulated elsewhere. A sampling protocol will also be proposed which will be put forward for discussion.

## 3. PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION

The proposed plan of action, which essentially pertains to time-frames and task allocation will be thrown open to discussion during sessions discussing relevant modules. The easily identifiable ones, but not restricted to, are:

**(3.1 PERTAINS TO THE CONDUCT OF THE STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP)  
THE ABOVE WILL BE DECIDED BY THE PARTICIPANTS. THE FACILITATOR  
TO TAKE CHARGE.**

### 3.2 PROPOSED CONSERVATION ACTION

#### 3.2.1 CORRIDOR AUGMENTATION AND RESTORATION: MODULE 1

- 3.2.1.1 Priority 1 Corridor
- 3.2.1.2 Priority 2 Corridor
- 3.2.1.3 Priority 3 Corridor

Issues raised in the workshop will include

- The difference between augmentation and securing
- Are these corridors enough or are there additional corridors which have to be considered

- Should local inhabitants living in and around corridors be voluntarily relocated. In addition what are the kinds of incentive packages needed for inhabitants affected by this type of conservation action
- Models of holding of lands acquired during the augmentation and securing process. These include scenarios from total government control of land to the formation of land-holding agencies which include all stake-holders
- Is restoration needed or is protection enough? If restoration is needed, than how does one go about it.

### **3.2.2 ALLEVIATION OF ELEPHANT-HUMAN CONFLICT IN SELECTED SETTLEMENTS: MODULE 2**

Issues raised in the workshop will include

- identify areas appropriate for instituting strategies for alleviating conflict. A justification of why these areas are included will be provide impetus to a debate as to whether this is acceptable.
- Apart from physical barriers are there other methods which need to be tested e.g. fodder banks, alternate cropping patterns
- What are the models of community participation necessary for maintaining physical barriers such as e-fencing.

### **3.2.3 SETTING UP FIELD UNITS FOR MONITORING ELEPHANT POPULATIONS AND FACILITATING ANTI-POACHING ACTIVITIES:MODULE 3**

Issues raised in the workshop will include

- Where do monitoring units have to be set up or how do we prioritize areas for this effort?
- What is the structure of a monitoring unit and what are the sampling protocols to be used?
- How are data emanating from a monitoring unit shared?
- How does AREAS facilitate anti-poaching activities?
- Which areas require augmentation of anti-poaching activities or how do we prioritize areas for this effort?

## **4. PROPOSED COORDINATION CELL AND STAKE-HOLDER PARTICIPATION**

Possible structure will be discussed for the setting up of a coordination committee, which needs to be in place to ensure implementation of the conservation programme.

Office: 622 301

17.11.2000

To

Dr. Arun Venkataraman  
Centre for Ecological Science  
Indian Institute of Science  
BANGALORE - 560 012  
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Sir,

SUB: STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP - BANGALORE ON 24th, 25th Nov.2000

Thank you for your invitation for attending the workshop to be held on 24th and 25th November 2000 at BANGALORE. The undersigned and Sri.O.J.Mathew, one of our active workers will attend the programme.

ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION

1. Babu Mylampadi  
Aswathi, Kottakkunnu  
(PO) Sulthan Bathery  
Wayanad - 673 592  
Kerala  
Phone No: 622 024(Res1) - 622 301 (Office).
  
2. O.J. Mathew  
South Malabar Gramin Bank  
Sulthan Bathery (PO)  
Wayanad - 673 592  
Kerala  
Phone No: 620 482

Please let us know other informations, if any.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully

(BABU MYLAMPADI) PRESIDENT