

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Subhransu Bhusan Swain
<b>Project title</b>	Strengthening tribal /forest dependant community action for conservation of elephant, management of habitat & Telkoi – Pallahara elephant corridor.
<b>RSG reference</b>	13676-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	December 2013 to November 2014
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:subhransu1963@yahoo.com">subhransu1963@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2015

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
A			√	117 elephant trackers of 60 villages were provided with refresher training and capacitated to delivering services and mobilising tribal community for conservation of elephants and their habitat including sustainable forest management and regular village level meetings besides took lead role in preparation of resource map with community participation and updating of the same. They were also trained on management aspect of corridor and water bodies.
B		√		Though effort has been taken to build the capacity of farmers in the adjacent area of the Telkoi Pallahara corridor still then Paribartan realised this component is not fully achieved because of years long adopted practices of the tribal partner, besides as it is an innovative action the farmers need more training input however there is attitudinal changes among the intended farmers as the incidence of crop raid is reduced.
C			√	Plantation activities are successive, and the survival rate is about 50% that so say women group participation was there including watch and ward. Seedlings were received from forest department and fallow forest land in the corridor/forest was vegetated with wild species that to say would support livelihood of tribal community in long run.
D		√		This objective is achieved partially. The resource map and micro corridor map including flora and fauna and water bodies were developed by involving community members and this will enhance community knowledge based on corridor health and by applying indigenous knowledge they will take conservation, protection and regeneration efforts furthering mitigation of man elephant conflicts. Strong rapport established with VSS including forest

				department and non-state actors on judicious conservation of perennial water bodies which seems to be one of the factor for elephant attack on habitat/villages for bathing and consumption. In the context of re-creation of lost transit path long term intervention is required however there is increased awareness among forest dependant community for protection and conservation of elephants and their habitat.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

During digging of trenches. Few wood and forest produce/wildlife smugglers defend the initiative of villagers as there will be less chance of motoring to the forest area. But internalising the unity and institutional aspect gradually they withdrawn themselves from creating obstacle in work progress. This apart during plantation activities in forest area some tribal families claims that they occupied the land with a purpose to undertake agricultural operation but the project team explained them with seasonality calendar on the availability of NTFP out of the vegetation activities and how it would support their livelihoods.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

- The level of awareness among tribal and forest dependent communities have up scaled on elephants' roles to sustain our ecosystem and biodiversity.
- The community participation, initiated action for protection, conservation and management of elephant corridor/sub corridors is one of the significant outcomes furthering concerted action towards conservation of elephant and habitat including corridor management facilitate for mitigating man and elephant conflict.
- Adaptation and change in cropping pattern with non-lure crop variety though it is in infancy stage will sphere heading for revamp policy direction in and around elephant corridor and adjacent villages with ensured return at par with traditional cropping as a strategy to halt elephant raid and attack.
- Patrolling by trackers and the forest protection squads minimise elephant attack and proved as a successful strategy to mitigate human–elephant conflicts

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).**

The intended partners mostly tribal residing in adjacent area of elephant corridor were involved in project planning process, implementation and continuing monitoring of forest health besides participate in corridor and sub corridor management which is an innovative concept .

Information on the elephant movement/migratory track and their herd dynamics are available to trackers and transmitted to community so conservation of elephants with community participation ensured thus less incidences of human- elephant conflict.

Agricultural operation with non-lure crop reduced elephant raid and there was reduced attack and utilization of manpower in more productive activities earlier it was less due to apprehension of elephant attack.

Local communities are well trained to use modern and indigenous means/techniques such as fire crackers, siren, torch lights, vigil hut, putting wild ant nest, burning chili, erecting green fencing and digging trenches, in their attempts to chase away elephants from their farms and houses and there was less harmful attack to elephant. However, elephants get habituated and losses continue to incur but it is expected community with continued hand holding support, advanced training input and alternative farming activities such as non-lure crop will facilitate for less raid and attack on settlement.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Capacity building of tribal community to conserve elephants by reducing people – elephant conflicts through best viable measures like fencing and adoption of non-elephant lure crop practices that alleviate human suffering. Besides development of a contingency plan to handle wild elephant conservation initiative with community participation through Elephant Conservation Action Plan.

Build effective partnership between tribal and forest dependent communities, government line departments and community-based organization/institutions to provide continual support to the people in elephant- related conflict and protection of elephants and monitor their activities through Elephant Conservation Action Plan.

Identify and maintain forest/habitat with plantation activities and regular sensitization of community on corridors used by both resident and migratory herds in Telkoi- Pallahara elephant corridor with strategic management intervention, work plans for wild elephants by curtailing human activities in forest /corridors and elephant habitats. Upgrade habitat and corridor maps through bi-annual monitoring and ground- truthing by applying both scientific and indigenous know how.

#### **6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

Paribartan visualise this partnership will be viable as in process have strong footing in advocacy particularly conservation of habitat, elephants and common resources. We are interested to import information on innovative practices of elephant and their habitat conservation adopting participatory approach, and management of water bodies there in by communities. Paribartan anticipate partnership with RSGF for advocacy to ensure community initiative to mitigate man-elephant conflict and the project area will be a Learning Hub for people who involved in conservation of elephant and their habitat.

- In order to disseminate the outcomes and results of the intervention Paribartan team will flash news, articles, and best practices by mobilising the support of media personnel by organizing media exposure programme.
- Digitised case studies will be compiled and consolidated into a visual package; the same will be circulated among stakeholders that would create scope for replication of the project work inside and outside India.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The project was sanctioned on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 and after completion of preparatory work like positioning of required manpower, preparation of training module and training calendar and micro project implementation plan project activities were implemented from 1st December 2013 and successfully completed on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014 followed by an external evaluation by a third party expert and final report was received on January 2015. The external auditor conducted financial audit and submitted his observation with a statement of accounts.

It is worth mentioning that the team leader and his team adhere to the timeline and successfully implemented the project.

**8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Refresher Training to Elephant Trackers	1200	1228	28	It was due to fluctuation in exchange rate
Training Materials	120	122	2	Cost hike of materials
Village level sensitisation and awareness raising; Advocacy meeting	1260	1295	35	Demo activities conducted so cost was little more
Support to Community for construction of Trench	800	816	16	It was due to fluctuation in exchange rate
Nursery Raising with Bamboo seeding and Fruit bearing plant	1290	1381	91	It was due to fluctuation in exchange rate and cost escalation
Monitoring and Documentation	400	415	15	Participatory process was emphasized hence conveyance for community representative was give
Engagement of Consultant/ Agency for Evaluation	250	255	5	
Audit Fees	80	82	2	
Project support Cost including Administration Expenditure	300	306	6	
Posting of Signage at Strategic Villages	300	306	6	
Bank Charges	0	5	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>6211</b>	<b>211</b>	

**9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

Paribartan is keen to continue partnership with Rufford Small Grant Fund for the following reasons

To implement the project which would be a model for state, non-state and elephant conservation bodies to come forward to address and mitigate the man – elephant conflict and to bring visibility of RSGF and Paribartan partnership. We anticipate RSGF support to continue for the initiated initiative for Telkoi –Pallahara corridor management with community participation for more 3 to 4 years so there will be a sustained elephant conservation programme.

- Refresher training to elephant trackers.
- Plantation in fallow forest land with bamboo planting materials and fruits bearing plants.
- Solar powered wire mesh and fire lines including trenches to check elephant trespassing.
- Capacity building of villagers on management of forest fire and conservation of water bodies and water holes inside the forest area.
- Training and advance training to farmers for adaptation of non-lure crop and expansion of the same where elephant attack is more.
- Regular awareness generation activities on elephant conservation activities.
- Interface and policy dialogue with policy makers on participatory corridor management with community participation.

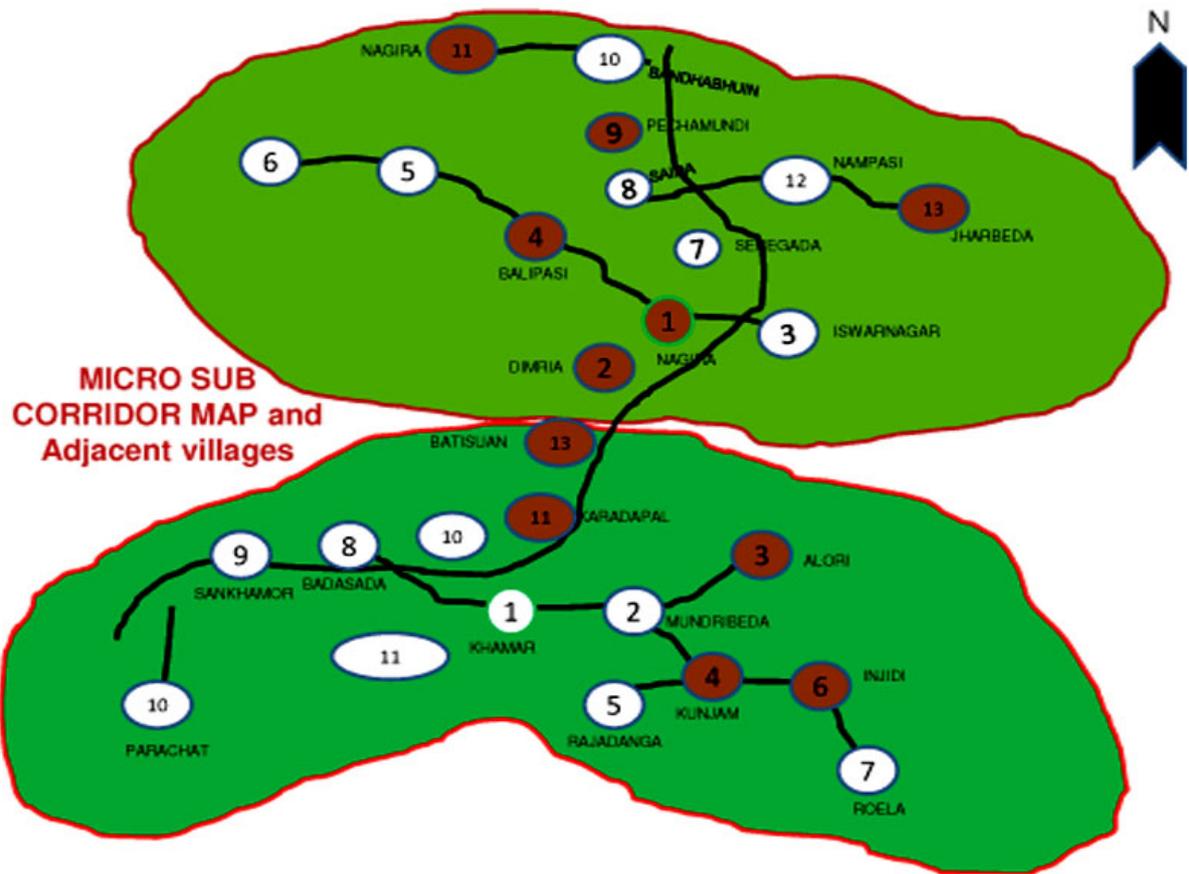
**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

In all IEC/BCC materials we used the logo of RSGF and in all communication materials we used the logo of RSGF

**11. Any other comments?**

On behalf of Adivasi community, especially of women groups, and forest dependent community Paribartan is extending heartfelt thanks to RSGF, UK for project partnership. During the project period the committed volunteers, staff and team members concerted in delivering services as envisaged in the project plan document. Time bound and appropriate local specific strategies in the context of Tribal way of life for mitigation of human-elephant conflict and corridor management were adopted for effective and proper grounding of planned measures. The trained tribal executing their commitments as torch bearers being the elephant tracker for conservation, protection, and judicious management of forest resources, water bodies and water masses and the elephant's corridor and sub corridors. The elephant tracker were empowered with all technical inputs related to conservation, management conflict resolution as well as judicious use of forest and natural resources and it is expected that, the project will initiated the communalisation process for mitigation of human and elephant conflict.

The implementing agency is of opinion that the initiated effort has measurable impact on the tribal community and the elephant trackers are active in mobilising community and taking initiatives, and advocacy for mobilising support for plantation activities in and around corridors widely but results is not encouraging. Non-lure cropping practices seems to be feasible but long range hand holding support is required hence implementing agency is off opinion that this activity should be continued for few years This apart regular training is needed to refresh the knowledge, behaviour attitude and practices of the working elephant trackers. In this regard the agency is keen to continue these activities with further funding support which would pave the way forward towards sustainable path furthering mitigation of human-elephant conflict.



# **POST EVALUATION REPORT ON “STRENGTHENING TRIBAL/ FOREST DEPENDENT COMMUNITY ACTION FOR CONSERVATION OF ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT OF HABITAT IN TELKOI PALLAHADA ELEPHANT CORRIDOR, ODISHA”**

## **Background**

The captioned project is the second phase implementation with financial support of Rufford Foundation (RSGF) in Telkoi Palalhada Elephant corridor which has been undertaken by ‘Paribartan’, an NGO operating in Odisha. The second phase implementation had been undertaken during the period from 31 December 2013 to 30 November 2014 in 60 forest fringe villages in Telkoi Pallahada elephant corridor. The success of the first phase implementation in terms of capacity building of local people including elephant trackers for maintaining a disciplined and favourable habitat for elephants prompted ‘Paribartan’ to undertake the second phase implementation with the objective of promoting and diversifying the cropping pattern like adopting non-lure crops among the farmers in project area. This project ultimately aimed at developing a tolerant relationship between elephants and people in project area. To achieve this outcome, the implementation approach was awareness generation, capacity building, community participation for management of forest/habitat and corridor health and perennial water bodies, promotion and diversification of cropping pattern like adopting non-lure crops by the framers besides policy dialogue with policy makers on judicious corridor management adopting a rational elephant conservation Action Plan.

After the completion of projected intervention, the post evaluation study was undertaken by Paribartan by engaging an external evaluator **Dr R K Panda, development and management consultant of, Yojana Ink, Odisha, India** to assess the effect and impact of the implemented action component on the intended partners and Telkoi- Pallahara elephant corridor including options for livelihood security with recommendation on future perspective towards mitigation of Man- Elephant conflicts.

## **Terms of Reference**

- The evaluation would assess the migration corridor of elephant and the type of habitat development for elephants. In the process, the impact of conservation programmes on the migration behavior of elephants will be studied.
- The evaluation would examine the extent of elephant depredation in terms of human killings, human injuries, crop damage and house damage and the gravity and consequences of retaliation.

- The evaluation would outline the changes in knowledge, attitude, behaviors and practices of people in the project area for habitat and elephant conservation initiatives from economic, social, cultural and political perspectives.
- The study will assess the tolerance pattern of people in the event of untoward behavior of wild elephants.
- The study would assess the changed skill-set and strategic behavior of people for cropping pattern and role of elephant trackers for patrolling, mobilizing community and minimizing the interference of elephants in the human habitat and crop fields.
- The evaluation would explore the livelihood pattern of forest dependent households during the pre-project and post project period in the context of pressure on forest and habitat. In this process the study would delineate the changed livelihood pattern of forest dependent households.
- The evaluation would facilitate to identify the key constraints in the implementation of elephant conservation programme and forward appropriate implementable suggestions for better delivery of elephant conservation programmes with a perspective of long range Action Plan.

## Evaluation Methodology

For preparing this evaluation report, the evaluation team with a view to assess the physical target and achievement under the programme, visited 10 sample villages out of 60 programme villages during 15 Jan – 17 Jan 2015. FGDs were conducted with villagers, farmers and local elephant trackers and women groups. Field visits were made to the farms to assess the cropping pattern. Discussions were made with the functionaries of Paribaratan regarding the implementation procedure. For analyzing financial targets and achievements under the programme, the evaluation team verified the records and registers of Paribartan.

### A. Financial Target and Achievement

The implementing organization utilized the grant within the project span at par with budget outline and successfully mobilized resources from government and community end .Statement of accounts was prepared by the external auditor and the management of funds is quite transparent.

### B. Physical Target and Achievement

#### Project Intervention and Project Outcome

Sl No.	Components under Intervention	Intervention Strategy	Intervention Outcome
1.	<i>Telkoi</i> – <i>Pallahara</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitization of the villagers on sustainable</li> </ul>	-Community were participating in micro management of elephant

	<i>elephant corridor and habitat protection.</i>	<p>and judicious use of common resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures to check grazing of domestic animal inside elephant corridor.</li> <li>• Erection of elephant proof trenches.</li> <li>• Training to community members especially women for effective monitoring of elephant corridor.</li> </ul>	<p>corridor as an effect of training Input in close coordination with line forest administration and local VSSs.</p> <p>-Micro Corridor Map developed based on real Pathways of elephants on participatory manner and there is information with all villagers about this which reduced casualty.</p> <p>-Plantation with wild varieties in fallow forest lands supplemented the fodder requirement of elephant herd, besides there is consciousness on regulated domestic animal grazing inside the corridor.</p> <p>-Elephant proof trenches are visible in three sample villages.</p>
2	<i>Capacity Building of tribal community to function as tracker.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher training programme for 30 community-based elephant trackers.</li> <li>• Training on protective techniques and how to guard elephant herd to drive back elephant herd to deep.</li> <li>• Demo activities on how to use Spot light and Siren.</li> <li>• Awareness of Trackers on the conservation of the water resources for minimizing trespassing of elephant herd to settlements</li> </ul>	<p>-Out of 120 number of trained trackers, 16 number of trackers were interacted. It was interesting that the trackers gained confidence in watching and monitoring elephant herd movement, have information on micro corridor including flora and fauna and vegetative propagation.</p> <p>-Localized trackers have adequately trained and adopting indigenous practices such as beating drums, siren, and use of chili paste and powder to drive out elephant herd to forest without causing harm to their health.</p> <p>-Trackers were found with key role in mobilizing community through village level meetings.</p> <p>Regularly contacting forest department in case of elephant trespassing and compensation for crop loss and damage.</p>
3	<i>Changed in cropping pattern with non-lure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness cum Live demo promotion and diversification of</li> </ul>	<p>-Years long agricultural practices both in plane and plateau is reported to be changed obviously within a short span</p>

	<i>crop variety.</i>	<p>cropping pattern like adopting non-lure crops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of floriculture.</li> <li>• Tailor made inputs to enhance the knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practices of farmers on adaptation of non-lure crop practices.</li> </ul>	<p>of 4-5 years.</p> <p>-It was observed during FGD that tribal communities internalize the new concept though they incurred losses to the extent of about 20-30 percent in the annual farm income because of adoption of non-lure crop practices.</p> <p>-However, the other benefits they reaped included less occurrence of crop raid, house damage, human injury and human killings.</p> <p>-The extent of fear psychosis and uncertainty of lives is reduced which boosts up engagement of manpower in productive activities.</p> <p>-People feel comfortable to undertake socio cultural gatherings at the evening.</p> <p>-Though they incurred less income out of agricultural operations but it was supplemented by NTFP collection.</p> <p>-It is expected within couple of years, the loss will be turned into profit because of more expertise, systematic market linkages and in crop management practices. But continuous hand holding support and training input is felt essential.</p>
4	<i>Sustainable management of forest, reserves, and water bodies through regeneration, conservation and judicious use and management practices.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land suitability assessments/crop suitability to identify most appropriate agricultural land utilization</li> <li>• Soil fertility conservation and management practices e.g. use of cover crop and bio-fertilizers</li> <li>• Composting of crop and</li> </ul>	<p>-While interacting with community in spite of all efforts, the outcome level is found to be on the lower side. The reason being that land allotted by the farmers for non-lure crops is not most suitable.</p> <p>-Water carrying and absorbing capacity is inadequate.</p> <p>-The skill level of farmers is slowly picking up due to years long traditional practice.</p>

		<p>animal waste and nutrient recycling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production and use of bio-fertilizers which comprise beneficial micro-organisms, through organic matter decomposition, recycling of plant nutrients, biological nitrogen fixation, and phosphate solubilization.</li> <li>• Customize fertilizer recommendation based on soil analysis and crop requirements</li> <li>• Awareness of underground Storage.</li> <li>• Awareness for storage in cement concrete bins</li> </ul>	<p>-But there is attitudinal and behavioral changes reported to be taking place for adaptation</p> <p>--Besides there is love and respect for elephants and other wild animals which is a positive indicator for conservation of elephant and the corridor/habitat.</p>
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### Major Impacts of the Programme

- Localized trackers have adequately trained and adopting indigenous practices such as beating drums, siren, and use of chili paste and powder to drive out elephant herd to forest without causing harm to their health.
- The trackers gained confidence in watching and monitoring elephant herd movement, have information on micro corridor including flora and fauna and vegetative propagation.
- Plantation with wide varieties in fallow forest lands supplemented the fodder requirement of elephant herd,
- Community was participating in micro management of elephant corridor and common resources as an effect of training Input.
- Tribal communities are internalizing the new cropping pattern encompassing non-lure crops despite marginal losses in annual farm income.
- The extent of fear psychosis and un-certainty of lives is reduced which boosts up engagement of manpower in productive activities.

- People feel comfortable to undertake socio cultural gatherings at the evening which was nearly impossible previously due to constant fear of elephants.
- The annual NTFP income has marginally increased.
- Action Plan and resource map is readily available which seems to be a road map towards mitigation of Man-Elephant conflicts

### **Implementation Constraints**

- In spite of all efforts of 'Paribartan', the outcome level is found to be on the lower side. The reason is that land allotted by the tribal farmers is suitable for traditional crops but not for non-lure crops.
- The skill level of farmers for adopting non-lure crops is not sufficient due to years' long experience of cultivating traditional crops.

### **Further Scope for Future Action**

- Lack of matured knowledge of cultivating non-lure crops requires further hand holding support at least for coming five years which is expected to be a sufficient lengthy period to refurbish the skill set of the farmers towards non-lure crops.
- Further crop diversification towards bee keeping and strengthening marketing channels in the line of cooperative with involvement of farmers could be introduced for livelihood enhancement of the tribal people in the project area.
- Regular sensitization and advocacy coupled with meeting on management of common resources including corridor health is needed as those carried out activities were in infancy stage and would be sustainable one if Rufford Foundation extend support for more 4 to 5 years
- Skills and knowledge of trackers needs to be sharpen on conservation initiatives, judicious management aspect of habitat health and preventive measures to be taken off by community members during elephant attack and raiding.