

Project Update: August 2014

The elephant work has started well. We have been corresponding with various tea and coffee estate companies to conduct sensitisation programmes for people in different estates. We want to cover as many estates possible before elephants start moving more actively inside plantations which will be from October 2014 onwards. We are also carrying out field trials for automated announcement systems in public transport before they are installed in buses.

We had been wanting to do a short documentary to showcase on-going human-elephant coexistence measures. We had asked one of our friends and colleague Mr. S. U. Saravanakumar, a wildlife film maker. He is a part many wildlife movies supported by BBC and NG. He was very much interested in our work. About 3 months ago he had expressed interest to come and do a short film on Valparai elephant work. This film was recently completed and screened for the first time at our Nature Conservation Foundation annual academic meeting. The film was made to inspire and encourage people to adopt locally suitable and adoptable participatory approaches to promote human-elephant coexistence who are working in other elephant landscapes.

Now the film is uploaded on You Tube and can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWcdMjv41ho>. I would like to share the link with you which would explain visually about the landscape, situation, and how we have been carrying out on-ground measures to deal with human-elephant conflict in the Valparai region.