

Project Update: January 2016

I am happy to inform you that we have installed SMS operated elephant warning announcement systems which was proposed in the project. I had mentioned in the final report that we could not implement this due to official delays and had requested for time to complete the objective. Here is the brief description below about the initiation of the measure.

Six units of SMS operated elephant warning announcement systems were fitted in six buses plying on various routes. These buses would cover nearly 70% of total plantations in the Valparai region. Inauguration of these bus unit alert systems was done on 22nd January 2016 by District Forest Officer, Anamalai Tiger Reserve and General Manager of Tamil Nadu State Forest Department, Tamil Nadu. Please find pictures and press coverage links and attachments on the implementation of this initiative.

We will broadcast elephant presence locations on daily basis to commuters in buses between 5 - 10 pm at regular intervals. We have been monitoring on the functionality of system and benefits to people. This measure will strengthen the existing early warning systems such as alerts on TV crawls, bulk SMS and voice calls, and alert light (LED) indicators to promote human-elephant coexistence in the Valparai region of the Anamalai hills.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/elephant-warning-system-on-buses/article8143399.ece>

<http://epaper.newindianexpress.com/700582/The-New-Indian-Express-Coimbatore/23012016#page/3/2>

<http://deccanchronicle.com/current-affairs/240116/now-jumbo-trackers-in-government-buses-in-valparai.html>



Left: Bus driver showing Android phone (Bus announcement unit). Right: Inauguration by Forest and Transport officials



Left: Press covering inauguration of bus unit. Right: Speaker in a bus for commuters