

Project Update: June 2018

The primary objective of the project was to enable safer shared spaces between people elephants in a tea garden and forest matrix in north-eastern India.

In the first half of the project period, we extended the scope of this project by carrying out a survey of elephant presence across a 1400 km² non-forested landscape to identify critical areas of for elephant conservation and conflict mitigation. Furthermore, we also engaged with the stakeholders at various levels to educate them about safely sharing space with people and elephants. We developed the attached posters in local languages for effective communication of our ideas. Our project now covers approximately 60 tea estates with a focus on 17 high conflict ones where we hold regular meetings and discussions with the workers.

We have also carried out extensive interviews and participant observations across 20 villages to understand the effectiveness of compensation in conflict mitigation. Currently we are trying to identify and implement measures which will reduce the possibility of accidental encounters between elephants and people in human-use areas. We are also continuing behaviour observations for elephants while they are in human-use areas to record the variation in their responses to human behaviour such as aggression and proximity.

The project has also received funding from other governmental and non-governmental institutes which has enabled us to expand the scope of the project and cover a larger areas as well as conduct in-depth socio-ecological studies on human-elephant interactions.



Left: Household interviews to understand efficacy of existing elephant conflict mitigation methods. Right: An elephant herd moving across a tea-estate at the project site.