

Project Update: October 2010

Capacity building of male tribal person to perform as tracker

The project has a component to build capacity of community members to function as elephant trackers. Under these activities the first batch of training was over and the field visit was made on 25th October 2009. Eighteen male tribal partners from 18 villages attended the training programme. Resource persons were brought in from the forest department. During the training programme, participants were facilitated to develop and design the micro map of elephant corridor and they were inculcated with information about the habit and the behaviour of elephant herds when trespassing the habitation. The resource person lucidly explained various protective techniques and how to guard elephant herd and drive it back. Demonstration activities were also displayed on how to use a spotlight and siren properly. A forest survey was undertaken jointly by the community and forest department and a live demonstration was done regarding tracking of elephant herd. Perennial water holes and bodies were identified and the trackers were educated on the conservation of the water resources that would minimise trespassing of elephant herds on settlements

School-based elephant conservation and habitat conservation education

The project team, trained trackers, teachers and volunteers jointly made consultations and identified schools. A database has been created of 100 schools and an action plan is in hand to carry forward the planned measures on an experimental basis initially in 5 schools having 362 students. It was decided based on the learning and feedback that school-based elephant conservation and habitat conservation education activities will be done. Successfully the experimentation was completed in 5 schools and now real school-centred activities will be undertaken with necessary alternation. During the school-based elephant conservation and habitat conservation education the elephant corridor resource map was displayed and the school children were sensitized and imparted with education regarding the route and why elephants attacked frequently. The schoolchildren had many questions regarding elephants, their habits, food requirement etc which were addressed during the session. A questionnaire was used to track the opinion of the students on the thematic elephant conservation education. This apart, the teachers were also educated on how to improvise the module and the contents for a better impact.



Resource map – elephant corridor

At the end of September 2010, a resource map of 18 villages were completed and, based on the village level resource map, a consolidated resource map has been developed. Community trackers, volunteers and representatives of the forest department participated. The project team leader was extended facilitation for the drawing of the resource map. The consolidated resource map is being used during training of trackers and during the school-based education programme.