

Global alliance to secure elephant corridors



Comments 0



Subhamoy Bhattacharjee 1 July 2015 Updated 1 Jul 6923 views

The India State of Forest Report 2013 released in 2014 stated that there has been a net decline of 627 sq kms in forest cover in north eastern states as compared to last assessment done in 2011. In the light of increasing fragmentation of forests and rising Human-[Elephant](#) conflict in India, five NGOs united under a MoU to raise £20 million for securing 100 [elephant](#) corridors in India by 2025. The occasion was marked by a fundraising event at Lancaster House in London that was hosted by Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

The five non-governmental organisations are [Elephant](#) Family, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), [IUCN](#) Netherlands, World Land Trust and [Wildlife](#) Trust of India (WTI), united with a common goal under the umbrella of the Asian [Elephant](#) Alliance.

With 100 elephant corridors documented by WTI in consultation with the forest departments, this alliance aims to secure a safe passage for India's elephants, which comprise approximately half of the world's wild Asian elephant population.

Having worked assiduously to secure three of these corridors in the last decade, and some more in process, WTI's Executive Director Vivek Menon said, "Five leading conservation organisations, 100 key elephant corridors but one goal; nothing pleases me more than the coming together of the global [community](#) in the [fight](#) for this endangered species. I am particularly pleased that Prince Charles who so wanted to see an Asian elephant last time he was in India, is present to grace this momentous occasion."

Each year, India loses nearly 400 people and about 50 elephants to man-[animal](#) conflict due to ever shrinking habitat of the [animal](#). While most of the tiger habitat falls within the protected area, only 22 per cent of elephant habitat has some kind of protection, which means that a majority of elephant population in the country is living around human dominated landscapes which have become hotbeds of human elephant conflict.

[One](#) of the key answers to mitigating conflict lies in securing corridors that facilitate movement of these animals from [one](#) fragmented habitat to another so that both humans and elephants can co-exist.

Ruth Powys, CEO of [Elephant](#) Family remembered their founder [Mark Shand](#), who once said ‘if there is no magic or passion in life, there is no point in doing anything’. This event had both by the bucket load; shining a multi-coloured spotlight on the plight of Asia’s elephants.

“With signing of this MoU, we stride closer to our target; raising the vital funds that support a modern day conservation and humanitarian solution that works- [Elephant](#) Corridors”, Ruth added.

WTI started its corridor securement project in 2001 and has since then secured three corridors in Karnataka, Kerala and Meghalaya.

Considering how arduous resettlement and relocation is in India, it took years of negotiations for the WTI team to relocate villages falling within these corridors. In the process, WTI has worked out four model methods of securement of corridors and will use these to secure the remaining targeted corridors. WTI with partners is currently working on securing four corridors connecting [Kaziranga](#) with various reserve forests and [Wildlife](#) sanctuaries to provide critically needed safe passage for the large population of wild elephants in this region.

Subhamoy Bhattacharjee

BY SUBHAMOY BHATTACHARJEE

Relocated rhino gives birth to calf

Growing Wild: the rescued rhino calves

Elephant specialists to meet on Nov 10-12

Dr Borah stresses literature's unifying role

107 Wild rescue cases in Kaziranga Flood

ON THIS DAY

Raijor Dal on the doorstep

Heroin smugglers arrested

Gandhi Jayanti celebrated by Army in Lingibore

Cleanliness Drive By FCI and SOS Children's Village marks Gandhi Jayanti in Hojai.

PoK editor bats for more exchanges

RELATED

People's consultation on agroecology, climate adaptation concludes in Jorhat

USTM concludes workshop on academic writing and scholarly publishing

'Grit & Glory' released in Guwahati, highlights RSS work in Northeast

Young poet Avinash Bastabha's 'The Tale of Termites' unveiled in Jorhat

Art exhibition raises awareness for vulture conservation in Jorhat
