



ANIMAL CONSERVATION **PROJECTS IN INDIA**

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PROJECT ELEPHANT



INTRODUCTION

- Elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) is the largest terrestrial mammal of India.
- Elephant being wide ranging animal requires large areas.
- The requirement of food and water for elephants are very high and therefore their population can be supported only by forests that are under optimal conditions.
- Asian elephants were believed to be widely distributed, however current distribution of wild elephant in India is confined to South India; North East including North West Bengal; Central Indian states of Orissa , South WB and Jharkhand; and North West India in Uttarakhand and UP.

Cont.

- The Asian elephant can weigh up to 5400 kg.
- It currently occupies forested habitats in hilly or mountainous terrain, up to about 3600 m.
- An adult eats approximately 150 kg (330 lb) per day - mainly grasses but also leaves, twigs and bark.
- It feeds during the morning, evening and night and rests during the middle of the day, requiring shade during the hot season to keep from overheating.
- Elephants cannot go for long without water (they require 70-90 litres (19-24 gal) of fluid/day) and sometimes must travel long distances each day between their water supplies and feeding areas .

STATUS

1970's-1996: Endangered

1996-2008: Endangered(criteria:A2c)
(IUCN2017)

<http://www.iucnredlist.org>



Source: http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/elephants/asian_elephants/


THREATS

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Human-Wildlife conflict
- Poaching and capture



Estimation of wild elephant population in the year 2007 and 2012

Sl.No.	States	Elephant Population	
		2007	2012
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1690	1690
2	Assam	5281	5281
3	Meghalaya	1811	1811
4	Nagaland	152	212
5	Tripura	59	59
6	West Bengal	325-350	325-350
7	Jharkhand	624	688
8	Odisha	1862	1930
9	Chattisgarh	122	215
10	Uttarakhand	1346	1346
11	Uttar Pradesh	380	380
12	Tamil Nadu	3867	3726
13	Karnataka	4035	3900-7458
14	Kerela	6068	6177
15	Andhra Pradesh	28	41
16	Maharashtra	7	4
		27657-27682	27785-31368



Project Elephant (PE) was launched by the Government of India in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Objectives:

1. To protect elephants, their habitat & corridors.
2. To address issues of man-animal conflict.
3. Welfare of captive elephants

It is a Central sponsored scheme to provide financial and Technical support are being provided to major elephant bearing States in the country.

❖ The Project is being mainly implemented in 13 States / UTs:

- Andhra Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Assam
- Jharkhand
- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Meghalaya
- Nagaland
- Orissa
- Tamil Nadu
- Uttaranchal
- Uttar Pradesh
- West Bengal.




Main activities under the Project are as follows:

- Ecological restoration of existing natural habitats and migratory routes of elephants.
- Conservation of elephant habitats and viable population of wild Asiatic elephants in India.
- Promotion of measures for mitigation of man elephant conflict
- Protection of wild elephants from poachers and unnatural causes of death
- Public education and awareness programmes
- Improved veterinary care
- Elephant rehabilitation/rescue centers

ELEPHANT RESERVE

- ❖ Till now 32 Elephant Reserves (ERs) extending over about 69,582.80 sq km have been formally notified by various State Governments.





S.No.	Reserve Name	Range	State	Total area (km ²)
1	Mayurjharna	East-Central	West Bengal	414
2	Singhbhum	East-Central	Jharkhand	4,530
3	Mayurbhanj	East-Central	Orissa	3,214
4	Mahanadi	East-Central	Orissa	1,038
5	Sambalpur	East-Central	Orissa	427
6	Baitarni	East-Central	Orissa	1,755
7	South Orissa	East-Central	Orissa	1,049
8	Lemru	East-Central	Chhattisgarh	450
9	Badalkhol-Tamorpingla	East-Central	Chhattisgarh	4,216
10	Kameng	Kameng-Sonitpur	Arunachal Pradesh	1,892
11	Sonitpur	Kameng-Sonitpur	Assam	1,420



12	Dihing-Patkai	Eastern-south	Assam	937
13	South Arunachal	Eastern-South	Arunachal Pradesh	900+
14	Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong	Kaziranga	Assam	3,270
15	Dhansiri-Lungding	Kaziranga	Assam	2,740
16	Intanki	Kaziranga	Nagaland	202
17	Chirang-Ripu	North Bengal-Greater Manas	Assam	2,600
18	Eastern Dooars	North Bengal-Greater Manas	West Bengal	978
19	Garo Hills	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	3,500
20	Khasi Hills	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	1,331
21	Mysore	Brahmagiri-Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats	Karnataka	6,724
22	Wayanad	Brahmagiri-Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats	Kerala	1,200

23	Nilgiri	Brahmagiri-Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats	Karnataka	4,663
24	Rayala	Brahmagiri-Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats	Andhra Pradesh	766
25	Nilambur	Brahmagiri-Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats	Kerala	1,419
26	Coimbatore	Brahmagiri-Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats	Tamil Nadu	566
27	Anamalai	Anamalai-Nelliampathy-High Range	Tamil Nadu	1,457
28	Anamudi	Anamalai-Nelliampathy-High Range	Kerala	3,728
29	Periyar	Periyar-Agasthyamalai	Kerala	3,742
30	Srivilliputtur	Periyar-Agasthyamalai	Tamil Nadu	1,249
31	Shivalik	North-Western	Uttarakhand	5,405
32	Uttar Pradesh	North-Western	Uttar Pradesh	744
	Project Elephant	Source: Elephant Task Force Report	part of MoEF,	69,58,3

Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme

- Project Elephant has been formally implementing MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) programme of CITES in 10 ERs since 01.04.2004.



MAIN OBJECTIVES OF MIKE ARE:

- To measure levels and trends in the illegal hunting of elephants.
- To determine changes in these illegal hunting trends over time.
- To determine the factors causing these changes.

MIKE SITES IN INDIA

- Chirang Ripu (Assam)
- Dhang Patki (Assam)
- Eastern Dooars(WB)
- Deomali (Arunachal Pradesh)
- Garo Hills(Meghalaya)
- Mayurbhanj (Orissa)
- Mysore (Karnataka)
- Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu)
- Shivalik (Uttarakhand)
- Wayanad (Kerala)

PROJECT LION



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gir_Forest_National_Park

ASIATIC LION

- The **Asiatic lion** (*Panthera leo persica*) is a lion population in Gujarat India.
- Since 2010, the lion population in and around Gir Forest National Park has steadily increased.
- There are estimated to be 350-400 lions left.
- In August 2017, the Asiatic Lion Census revealed 650 wild individuals.
- The Asiatic lion is one of seven sub-species of lion.
- The Asian Lion population represents only 1.7% of lions on Earth.

STATUS

1970's-1996: Endangered

1996-2008: Endangered(criteria:D)

IUCN 2017

<http://www.iucnredlist.org>



THREATS

- Hunting and poaching
- Man-wildlife conflict
- Human pressure
- Open wells
- Forest fires



Objectives

- Asiatic lions, rescued from near extinction, now need a new home.
- Conservation of Asiatic lion population.
- Plea to protect Asiatic lions



WORK

- The 1,600 km area is secured as national park for Gir lions.
- In 1963 with 285 lions the populations reached to 523 lions in 2015.
- **PROJECT GIR LION** is one of most successful project.





Five protected areas currently exist to protect the Asiatic lion:

1. Gir Sanctuary
2. Gir National Park
3. Pania Sanctuary
4. Mitiyala Sanctuary
5. Girnar Sanctuary.

Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project

- An initiative of the Indian Government to provide safeguards to the Asiatic lion from extinction in the wild by means of reintroduction
- The project aims to establish a second independent population of Asiatic Lions at the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.
- But the project was unsuccessful because of opposition of Gujarat government and many other reasons.

OPERATION RHINO



Rhinoceros Conservation in India

- The Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), also called the greater one-horned rhinoceros and Indian one-horned rhinoceros.
- Listed as a vulnerable species, the large mammal is primarily found in north-eastern India's Assam and in protected areas in the Terai of Nepal
- The rhino's single horn is present in both males and females, but not on newborn young.

There are only approximately 3,333 Greater one-horned rhinos left in the world (as at 31 December 2012), **with about 75% of those found in the Indian state of Assam**



- In early 1900s, Assam had about 200 rhino only.
- In 2007, 2,515 of which are found in India's Assam alone, an increase by 27 percent since 2006

STATUS STATUS

1970's-1996: Endangered

1996-2008: Vulnerable (criteria:ab(iii))
(IUCN2017)

<http://www.iucnredlist.org>



THREATS

- Illegal hunting and poaching for its horn and other products used in Traditional Chinese Medicine.
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Increased human population
- Rhino-human conflict

Population

In 2007, the total population was estimated to be 2,575 individuals, of which 2,200 lived in Indian protected areas:

- in Kaziranga National Park: 1,855
- in Jaldapara National Park: 108
- in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary: 81
- in Orang National Park: 68
- in Gorumara: 27
- in Dudhwa National Park: 21
- in Manas National Park: 19
- in Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary: 2
- After decades of successful efforts, the species increased to 3,500 in India and Nepal by mid-2015.

Indian Rhino Vision 2020

Overview

- IRV 2020 is a partnership between the Assam Forest Department, the Bodoland Territorial Council, WWF, IRF, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The programme aims to:

- Increase the total rhino population in Assam to about 3000 by the year 2020.

IRV 2020 is an ambitious rhino range and population expansion programme.



THANKYOU

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