

ELEPHANT CORRIDOR AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AT BUNDU BLOCK RANCHI




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INDIAN ELEPHANT

- The Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is the largest land mammal in India.
- Elephants require extensive territories to thrive.
- Indian mythology connects elephants to celestial waters, symbolizing their association with rain and water.
- Elephants have high food and water requirements, limiting their populations to well-maintained forests.
- The status of elephant populations is a strong indicator of forest health.
- It is smaller than the African elephant, with a convex back and highest point on the head.

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- Exhibits sexual dimorphism:

Males: -3.2 meters (10 feet) at the shoulder, up to 5,400 kilograms (11,900 pounds).


Females: -2.54 meters (8.3 feet) in height, up to 4,160 kilograms (9,170 pounds).

- Physical characteristics: broad skull with concave forehead, large folded ears, sizable trunk, smooth grey skin, four sturdy legs, and long tail.
- Predominantly found in mainland Asia, with 75% of the population in India.
- Range includes Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Southeast Asian countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, with smaller populations in China.
- Inhabit diverse environments: grasslands, dry deciduous, moist deciduous, evergreen, and semi-evergreen forests.
- As mega herbivores, they consume up to 150 kilograms (330 pounds) of plant matter daily.- Diet includes fresh foliage, thorny shoots, flowering plants, fruits, and grasses, varying with habitat and seasons.



WHY ELEPHANT CORRIDOR?

- ▶ Elephant corridors are essential for the movement of elephants between various habitats, ensuring their safety and genetic diversity. These corridors, reported by state governments and verified through ground validation methods, show a state-wise distribution and usage status that highlights both challenges and improvements.



State-Wise Distribution of Elephant Corridors:

West Bengal: Leads with 26 corridors, which account for 17% of the total corridors.

East Central India: Contributes the largest share with 52 corridors, making up 35% of the total.

North East Region: Contains 48 corridors, representing 32% of the total.

Southern India: Has 32 corridors, constituting 21% of the total.

Northern India: Has the lowest number with 18 corridors, accounting for 12% of the total.




Status of Corridor Use:-

- There has been a 40% increase in the number of elephant corridors across 15 elephant range states in India, as reported by the central government.
- However 19% of the corridor(29 corridors)show a decrease in usage, and 10 corridors require restoration due to impairment.
- The decrease in usage is primarily attributed to habitat fragmentation and destruction.



Reasons for the Increase in Corridors:-

- Elephants have expanded their ranges into new areas such as the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and southern Maharashtra, bordering Karnataka.
 - There has been an increase in elephant corridors in these newly expanded areas.
 - Additionally, elephant populations have grown in Madhya Pradesh and northern Andhra Pradesh, contributing to the increase in corridors.
 - The expansion and creation of new corridors are vital steps towards mitigating the negative impacts of habitat fragmentation, ensuring the well-being and sustainability of elephant populations in India.
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Uttarakhand

Bihar Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh

Bihar

Assam

Nagaland

Meghalaya

Jharkhand

West Bengal

Chhattisgarh

Odisha

Karnataka

Andhra Pradesh

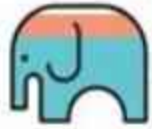
Tamil Nadu

Kerala



DEADLY PASSAGE

There are 110 elephant corridors in India, spread across



But only about **70%** of the corridors are used regularly. **25%** are used occasionally

29% of corridors now encroached upon



66% of the corridors have highways passing through them

22 corridors already have railway lines passing through them

4 corridors will have new railway lines

BETWEEN 1987 AND JUNE 2017, APPROXIMATELY

265

ELEPHANTS WERE KILLED BY TRAIN ACCIDENTS IN DIFFERENT PART OF THE COUNTRY

Elephant corridors where there's major habitation



SOUTH INDIA 28

CENTRAL INDIA 25

NORTH-EASTERN INDIA 23


NORTHERN WEST BENGAL 3

NORTH WESTERN INDIA 11



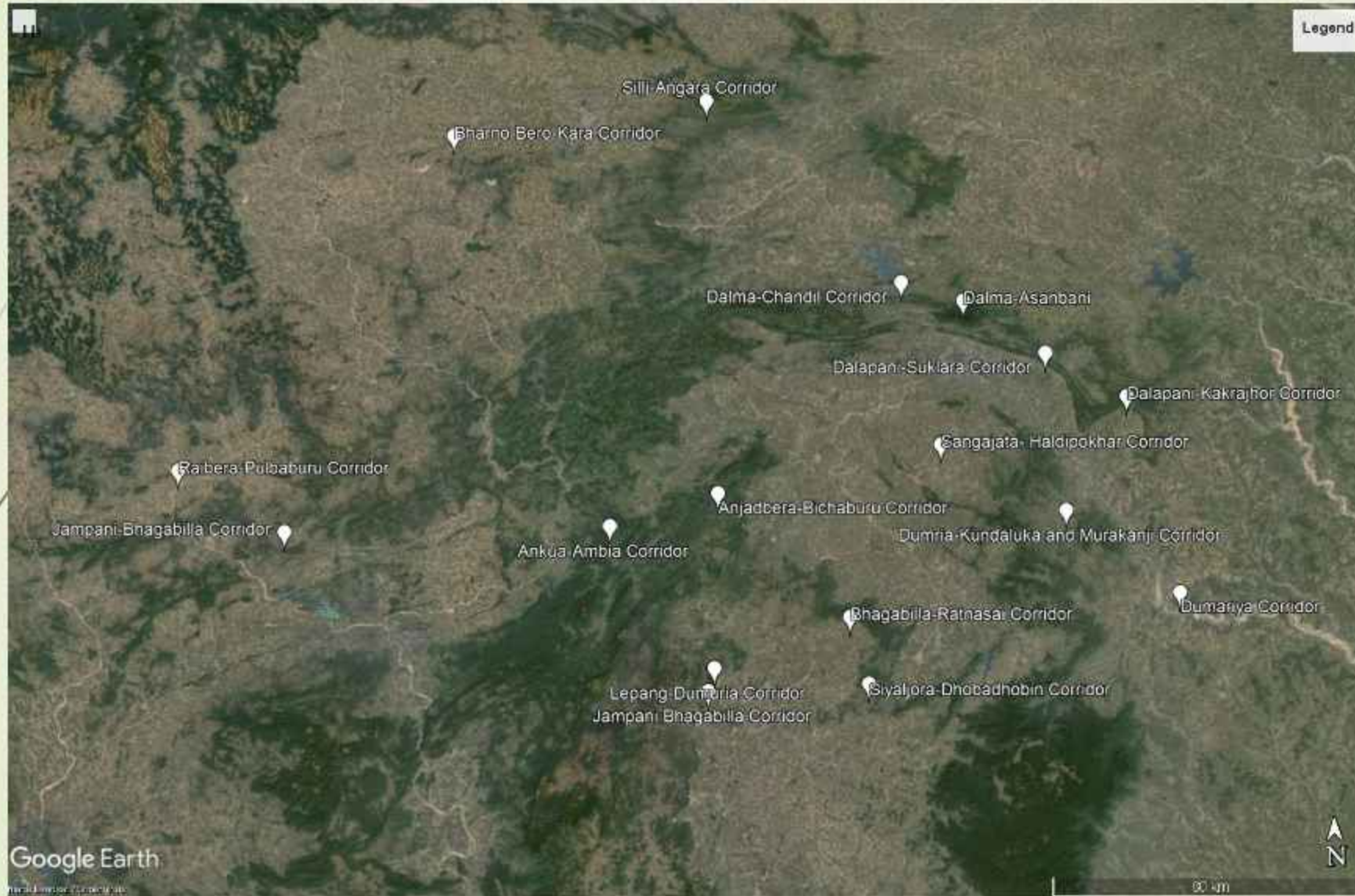


JHARKHAND



Jharkhand has identified 17 elephant corridors, a crucial step given the state's high human casualty rates from man-elephant conflicts. This identification is the first instance where the Wildlife Institute of India, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment and Forest, has authenticated and validated these corridors through ground methods. Chief Wildlife Warden Kulwant Singh emphasized the authenticity of this exercise, noting that the Wildlife Trust of India previously identified 88 corridors in 2005. The latest report, "Elephant Corridors of India 2023," shows a significant increase to 150 corridors, with West Bengal leading with 26 corridors. The identified corridors in Jharkhand will now be marked and maintained to ensure elephants can move without obstruction. Efforts will include keeping these corridors free of non-forest and private land obstructions and ensuring sufficient food resources. Additionally, Jharkhand will coordinate with neighboring states to form a regional action plan to minimize man-elephant conflict and maintain unobstructed elephant movement.

Jharkhand Corridor



ELEPHANT CORRIDOR IN BUNDU BLOCK

- ▶ In Bundu block of Jharkhand, the identification of an elephant corridor is part of the state's broader effort to manage and mitigate human-elephant conflicts. As part of the state's 17 identified corridors, the corridor in Bundu block serves as a crucial pathway for elephant movement between habitats.
- ▶ Key Points About the Elephant Corridor in Bundu Block:
- ▶ Location and Importance:
- ▶ Four corridor in Bundu Block- Silli, Angara, Sonahatu, Tamar
- ▶ The Bundu block is situated in a region where elephant movements are frequent, making the establishment of corridors essential for their safe passage and reducing human-elephant conflicts.
- ▶ State-Wide Context: - Jharkhand has the highest rate of human casualties due to man-elephant conflicts, underscoring the importance of these corridors.

Study Area Location



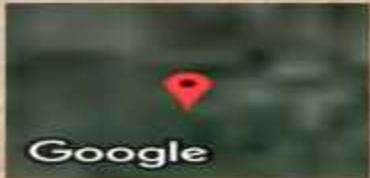
Affected Villages In Bundu Block

- Khudi MaduKama
- Chitodih
- Dalkidih
- Baghadih
- Sirkadih
- Erika
- Sutilong
- Lepadih
- Paramdih
- Kuriamu
- Reladih
- Powadiri
- Jintu
- Serenghautu
- Birsaldih
- Hethburadih
- Buradih
- Badlo
- Haradih
- Nawadih
- Peraidi
- Chirgaldih
- Serenhatu
- Sosodih
- Ragrabarang
- Chaladih
- Kurkuta
- Jilingsereng
- Sumandih
- Koradih
- Birdih
- Laba
- Chunidin
- Bamandih
- Ulihor
- Lowadih
- Koradih
- Ulilohar
- Hesadih
- Paprida
- Sadih
- Jilingsereng
- Jilingadar
- Palna
- Kurchudih
- Haram Lohar
- Kokadih




Case Study -1

Dukhi Ram, a dedicated farmer and the sole breadwinner of his family, was tragically killed by an elephant while returning to his uncle's house at 5:00 PM, leaving behind his wife, children, and possibly other dependents who relied on his agricultural income. This unforeseen incident has devastated his family emotionally and financially, as they struggle with profound grief, trauma, and increased anxiety about their future. The immediate loss of their primary income source has led to a financial crisis, making it difficult to meet daily needs such as food, shelter, and medical expenses, and creating uncertainty regarding the children's education and other long-term financial commitments. In the long term, the children's education is at risk due to a lack of financial resources, potentially leading to school dropout if financial aid is not secured. Additionally, the family faces challenges in maintaining and managing their agricultural activities, which may result in a decline in productivity and income due to a lack of skilled labor. To adapt, Dukhi Ram's son has taken on the responsibility of supporting the family, attempting to balance his education with managing agricultural duties, and facing significant challenges in acquiring the necessary agricultural knowledge and skills to sustain the farm.




Jintu, Jharkhand, India
6MH7+2HG, Jintu, Jharkhand 835204, India
Lat 23.22697°
Long 85.663121°
29/05/24 04:52 PM GMT +05:30

GPS Map Camera



Case Study-2



Abhimanyu Mahto and the Elephant Encounter

Abhimanyu Mahto, a farmer, experienced a significant hardship when an elephant broke into his house while searching for food, causing extensive damage. Despite reporting the incident, he received no compensation from the authorities, leaving him unable to afford repairs due to his poverty. As a result, his family faces severe difficulties during the rainy season and winter. Abhimanyu suggested that the forest department should provide lighting in areas prone to such wildlife encounters, as elephants tend to avoid well-lit places. This preventive measure could potentially deter elephants from approaching human settlements, offering a simple yet effective solution to protect homes and livelihoods.



Serenghatu, Jharkhand, India
6MHH+P4, Serenghatu, Jharkhand 835204, India
Lat 23.229112°
Long 85.680448°
18/05/24 02:16 PM GMT +05:30

GPS Map Camera

DISCUSSION

Farmers in this region, like Abhimanyu Mahto, are facing escalating challenges due to frequent elephant incursions, which started in 1997 with a small population of 2-3 elephants and have now grown to herds of 70-80. These elephants damage crops regardless of their readiness for harvest, forcing farmers to prematurely cut their crops or abandon their fields to protect their homes, resulting in decreased agricultural productivity and financial strain. When farmers report these incidents, the forest department advises them to prioritize their safety and offers minimal compensation, which is insufficient to cover the losses. The increasing elephant population further exacerbates the situation, making it increasingly difficult for farmers to sustain their livelihoods.





Gujjar Elephant


In the community, the presence of a specific elephant known as Gujjar has become a significant concern for the villagers due to his dangerous behavior of frequently positioning himself near the village's central area, or "chowk," where people often gather. This unusual behavior brings Gujjar into close proximity with humans, causing deep fear and concern among the villagers as he has been known to attack people, possibly due to previous negative encounters with humans. This constant threat restricts the villagers' movements and disrupts their daily lives, impacting activities like farming, fetching water, and socializing, creating a pervasive sense of insecurity. Addressing the issue with Gujjar requires immediate intervention from wildlife authorities, including potential relocation to a suitable habitat, creating physical barriers or using deterrents, implementing monitoring and early warning systems, and providing community education and training on safe responses and non-lethal deterrents. . Long-term solutions are also necessary, such as habitat restoration to ensure elephants have sufficient natural resources, and ongoing education programs about coexisting with wildlife. The situation with Gujjar underscores the broader challenge of human-wildlife conflict and highlights the need for a balanced approach that protects both human lives and livelihoods while ensuring the conservation and welfare of elephants. By working together, the community, wildlife authorities, and conservationists can develop and implement strategies to create a safer environment for both humans and elephants.



PEOPLE'S DEMAND

After many discussions, the community has come together to support the safety and well-being of elephants. They have a few main goals they want to achieve:


1. **Safety for Elephants**: People are very concerned about keeping elephants safe. They want to make sure that elephants are not harmed by things like illegal hunting (poaching), losing their homes (habitat destruction), or conflicts with humans. To do this, they want to set up special protected areas where elephants can live without danger. They also want stricter laws and better enforcement to prevent poaching and illegal logging.
2. **Provision of Food for Elephants**: Elephants need a lot of food, and sometimes they leave their natural habitats to find it, which can cause problems. The community wants to ensure that elephants have enough food where they live. This could mean planting more of the types of trees and plants that elephants eat, or even setting up special feeding areas. By doing this, elephants will be less likely to wander into farms and villages looking for food.



These actions aim to strike a balance between conserving wildlife and supporting local communities. By protecting elephants and helping farmers, both can prosper. Ensuring elephants are safe and well-fed reduces the risk of them damaging crops, which helps farmers. At the same time, finding non-harmful ways to protect crops ensures that elephants are not injured or killed.

By working together, the community hopes to create a future where both humans and elephants can live in harmony. This involves careful planning, education, and cooperation from everyone involved. If successful, these efforts will not only save elephants but also improve the quality of life for people living in these areas.





3. Protection of Agriculture: Farmers are worried about their crops being damaged by elephants, which can be a big problem for their livelihoods. To protect the farms, the community is looking at ways to keep elephants away from crops without hurting them. This might include building fences, using noise or other deterrents to scare elephants away, or planning land use in a way that keeps elephants and farms separate.

4. Coexistence Strategies: The ultimate goal is to find a way for humans and elephants to live peacefully together.


This involves several steps:

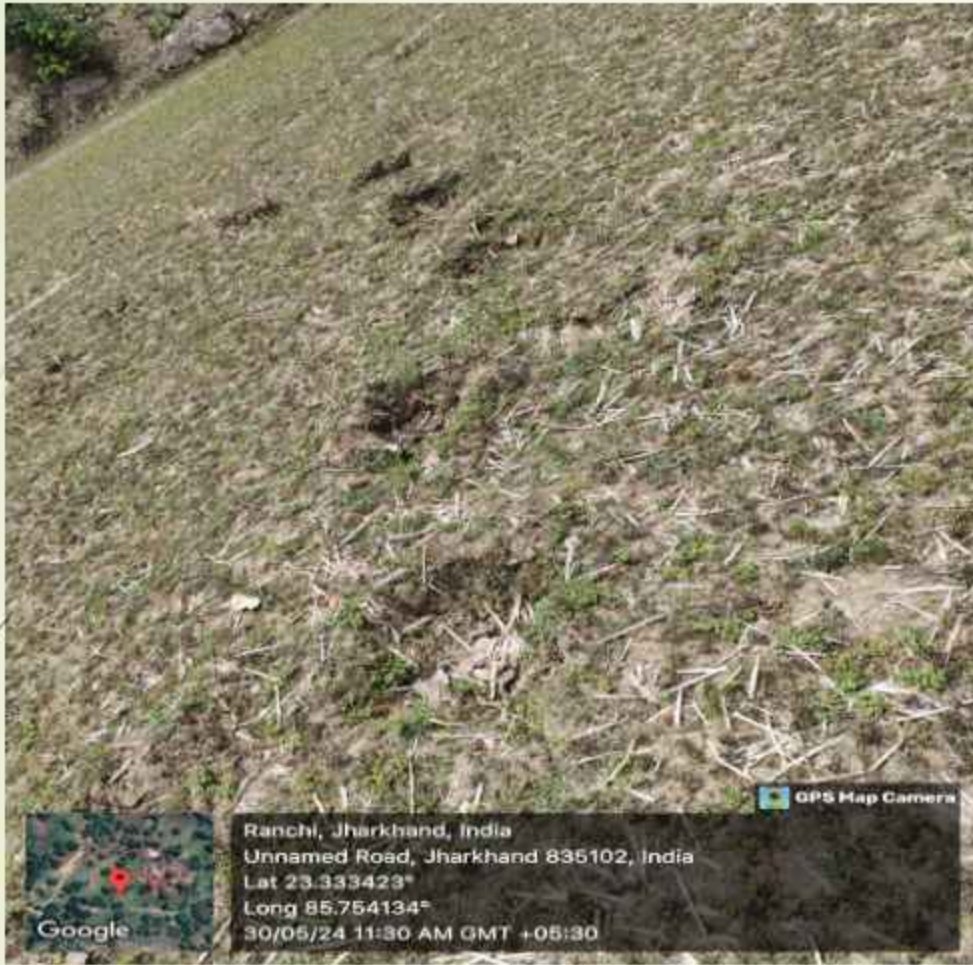
- **Education:** Teaching people about elephants and how to live with them. If people understand more about these animals, they might be more willing to find ways to coexist.
- **Early Warning Systems:** Setting up systems to alert communities when elephants are nearby. This way, people can take precautions to avoid conflicts.
- **Wildlife Corridors:** Creating paths that elephants can use to move between different areas. These corridors help elephants travel safely without coming into contact with humans or their farms.




CONCLUSION

These actions aim to strike a balance between conserving wildlife and supporting local communities. By protecting elephants and helping farmers, both can prosper. Ensuring elephants are safe and well-fed reduces the risk of them damaging crops, which helps farmers. At the same time, finding non-harmful ways to protect crops ensures that elephants are not injured or killed.







 **GPS Map Camera**



Aral, Jharkhand, India
Aral, Jharkhand 835102, India
Lat 23.337326°
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30/05/24 11:56 AM GMT +05:30



THANK YOU