

Saving more than Elephants

Tigers are protected by Elephant Corridors also

Ensuring the survival of 'flagship' species, such as Elephants, requires the protection of the whole habitat, which means that Elephant corridors are also safeguarding a wealth of irreplaceable biodiversity at the same time. In the Rewak-Siju corridor, Tigers, Clouded Leopard, Jungle Cat, Barking Deer and many monkeys are known to occur. In Kerala, the Kabala River, which runs close to the corridor, is an important source of water for wildlife, and the moist, deciduous forests provide refuge for Tigers.



How You Can Help

The World Land Trust, through Wildlife Trust of India, is enabling the purchase and protection of Elephant corridors as safe havens for all wildlife. Your generous support can make all the difference to saving these species.

You will receive a personalised certificate recording your support, and a donation on behalf of a loved one is a rewarding gift. You can receive **WLT News** and electronic update Bulletins if you wish, or visit our website for project updates. Please help us Invest in the Future - for future generations of humans and Elephants. Thank you.

"The WLT's policy of buying and protecting land is the most direct and certain road to conservation. It deserves the support of all who care about the survival of the wild places of the world."
Sir David Attenborough, OM, CH FRS

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Project Brief: India



The **World Land Trust** is committed to helping save Indian Elephants from extinction and is working with the Wildlife Trust of India to save their critically threatened habitats. Elephants live in family herds that travel vast distances using traditional migratory routes but this is no longer compatible with India's burgeoning populations. Elephant/Human conflict is unavoidable and the clearance of forest to make way for settlements, agriculture, mining and timber means that natural habitats only remain in isolated patches.

The **Wildlife Trust of India**, together with the Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Centre, have identified 88 'Elephant corridors' throughout the country vital to the survival of Elephants, to enable them to move safely between protected areas.

The Corridors

In order to create effective corridors for the future, funds are urgently needed to purchase land and relocate communities currently living within the corridors. These villagers are usually keen to move as they live in daily fear of their crops being wrecked by Elephants as they move in search of food. WTI works with them to identify alternative land, away from Elephants, and helps build new houses for their families. The corridors are then reforested using native species of trees which are grown, planted and tended by local people, bringing extra income for them also.

The First Corridor

The first corridor to be supported by WLT was 'Siju-Rewak' in the Garo Hills of NE India in Meghalaya state. This project is now complete and the corridor free from human habitation. 1,730 acres (720 ha) link together the Siju Wildlife Sanctuary with the Rewak Reserve Forest, and Elephants can now safely cross the Simsang River in one of the four places where the banks are shallow enough for them to get to the water.



Left: *The sandy beaches of the Simsang River, where Elephants can move safely between protected forests.*



Following the success of Siju-Rewak Corridor, WLT is now urgently raising funds for another corridor, this time in Kerala. Located in the Western Ghats montane forests, the **Tirunelli-Kudrakote** corridor runs through the Wayanad district of Kerala, and forms an important pathway for Elephants moving between the Begur and Brahmagiri Reserve Forests. Just over 6,000 Elephants live in this area which is considered a global biodiversity 'hotspot' because of its high levels of species endemism in an area that has suffered greatly from habitat destruction.



There are five sections to the **Tirunelli-Kudrakote** corridor and the first section has already been purchased. The village has been relocated, the electric fences, trenches and fire crackers have been removed. Elephants immediately moved in and their message was clear: *"This is our home and trespassers are not welcome."*



Above: *Just two weeks after the 4 families who used to live in this section of the corridor were relocated the wildlife started moving in. The photograph above shows the damage that Elephants do to crops.*



Above: *An Elephant investigates the newly created corridor in Kerala.*

The Future

Three of the five sections of the **Tirunelli-Kudrakote** corridor have now been purchased and are being protected, but there is still a lot more to do before the whole corridor is safe for Elephants. Other vital corridors are in need of protection too. Corridors provide a lifeline for Elephants, and together with the Wildlife Trust of India, the local people, and your generous donations, we really can ensure that Elephants are with us for the future.

Can we count on your support?