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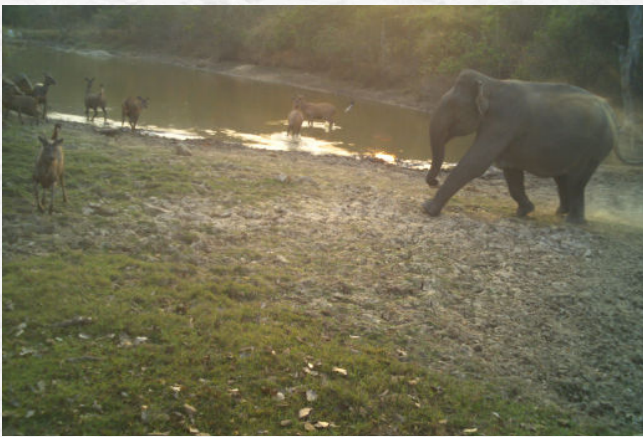
A Rocha Field Study Centre
#13, Kaserguppe Village, Bilwardahalli (Dakle),
Bannerghatta (Post), Jigani (Hobli), Anekal (Taluk),
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Project Highlights

CAMERA TRAPPING IN BANNERGHATTA WILDLIFE RANGE | WILDLIFE MONITORING PROJECT

In March, A Rocha India's Wildlife Monitoring Project advanced into the Bannerghatta Wildlife Range, marking a significant step in strengthening our understanding of wildlife movement across this critical forested landscape. Camera traps were systematically deployed across key habitats and movement corridors to document species presence, activity patterns, and habitat use. This non-invasive monitoring method continues to play an essential role in recording elusive and nocturnal wildlife while minimizing disturbance to the ecosystem.

The expansion into the Bannerghatta Wildlife Range builds on earlier monitoring efforts in Harohalli and Anekal, contributing to a more connected, landscape-level assessment of wildlife distribution across the region. Data gathered during this phase will help identify important corridor linkages, areas of conservation priority, and zones of potential human-wildlife interaction, supporting informed strategies for long-term habitat protection and coexistence.



PRIMARY RESPONSE TEAM - AANE MITRA

In March, A Rocha India strengthened its community-led conservation efforts in the Bannerghatta landscape through the Aane Mitra initiative under the Primary Response Team (PRT) project. A growing network of 75 local volunteers is being connected with Bannerghatta National Park staff through a coordinated communication platform, enabling real-time sharing of elephant movement, risk zones, and response needs. In the coming months, these volunteers will be trained in early detection, safe steering of elephants away from farms and roads, and the use of existing early-warning systems transforming local awareness into structured, rapid response support on the ground.

Through regular monitoring, alert dissemination, and support for night vigilance, Aane Mitra is building a proactive, community-based approach to reducing human-elephant conflict across the Bannerghatta region. Grounded in science, community ownership, and long-term partnerships, the initiative represents an important step toward strengthening coexistence in one of India's most dynamic human-elephant interface landscapes.



Special Highlights

COMMON GROUND DIALOGUE III | IUCN INDIA - NEW DELHI

A Rocha India participated in the Common Ground Dialogue III, convened by IUCN India in collaboration with Kshema General Insurance, focusing on "Building Financial and Ecological Resilience in Agricultural Landscapes through Managing Human-Wildlife Interactions under Climate Risk." Representing A Rocha India, National Director Avinash Krishnan shared insights from both policy engagement and field practice, highlighting evolving funding mechanisms for conflict mitigation in Karnataka and the need to better understand how social inequities including gender shape vulnerability in human-wildlife conflict landscapes.

The dialogue emphasized moving beyond compensation-based responses toward insurance-driven approaches, strengthening scientific and digital systems to assess wildlife-related damage, and promoting government-private partnerships to support mitigation efforts. It reinforced the importance of cross-sector collaboration and context-specific policy solutions, recognizing that human-wildlife conflict is not only an ecological issue but also a financial and social challenge requiring coordinated, long-term strategies.



STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOOD RESILIENCE AT THE FOREST - FARM INTERFACE

A Rocha India, in partnership with Lions Club of Bangalore Parisara, recently engaged with communities in Keserguppe along the landscape surrounding Bannerghatta National Park to support households whose livelihoods are directly affected by wildlife movement into agricultural areas. The initiative focused on identifying women and men for capacity-building and skill development opportunities that can strengthen alternative income pathways and improve access to institutional support systems.

Implemented with the support of Jeevan Mitra Social Service Trust and local stakeholders, this collaboration represents a meaningful step toward reducing vulnerability at the human-wildlife interface. Such partnerships play an important role in strengthening community resilience while contributing to long-term coexistence between people and wildlife across the Bannerghatta landscape.



Special Highlights

STRENGTHENING COEXISTENCE ACROSS LANDSCAPES | INDIA - SRI LANKA COLLABORATION

A Rocha India is working in partnership with Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM), Sri Lanka, to better understand and address human–elephant conflict through community–led approaches across high–conflict regions including Vavuniya District, Anuradhapura District, Polonnaruwa District, and Batticaloa District. Through social and key–informant surveys, community engagement, and participatory learning spaces, the collaboration is building a deeper understanding of local vulnerabilities, cultural perspectives, and practical mitigation strategies in complex human–elephant interface landscapes.

As part of this initiative, A Rocha India is providing technical support to strengthen the design and implementation of locally grounded mitigation efforts, including early warning systems and context–specific response strategies. This cross–learning partnership between South India and Sri Lanka contributes to developing long–term, community–driven solutions that support safer coexistence between people and elephants across shared landscapes.

