

Where Humans and Elephants Cross Paths: A Perception Study for Understanding Human–Elephant Interactions in Coorg

The Zoo Outreach Organisation, in collaboration with Humane World for Animals, initiated perception studies in Coorg under the Human–Elephant Coexistence (HECx) Project in September 2025. During the pilot phase, Ponnampet and Virajpet taluks were identified as the primary study areas.

The study focuses on understanding human perceptions and experiences related to elephants and other wild animals, with an emphasis on identifying zones of high, medium, and low levels of negative interactions.

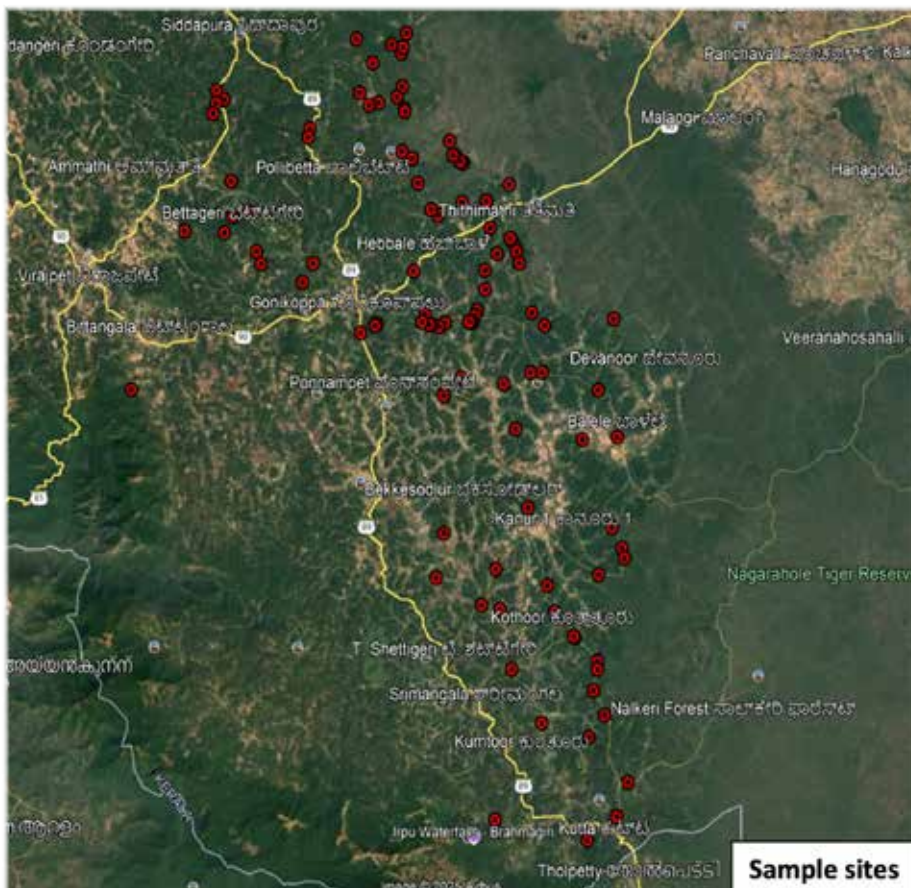
In addition, the study documents incidents of human casualties and property damage caused

by elephants, as well as details of compensation provided by the Forest Department for crop and plantation losses. It also aims to understand people’s perceptions of why elephants move out of forests into plantations, and to record their suggestions for reducing such negative interactions.

Koshik V. Rao & Trisa Bhattacharjee*

Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. *trisa@zooreach.org

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Local perspectives is crucial to the HECx Project's efforts in mitigating negative interaction and promoting coexistence.