

Promoting Human Elephant Coexistence among conflict area inhabitants of Coimbatore, South India-Refresher Course

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The International Elephant Foundation IEF sponsored the Human Elephant Coexistence Training Workshop near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The workshops were conducted in the Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park, Thoovaipathy, as well as Vadivelampalayam and Ramanathapuram villages, all in Coimbatore District in 2011.

Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park, Tulsii Trust, South Indian Consumer & Human Rights Protection Council-Kalampalayam Branch, Coimbatore and Iyaragai-Pathukappu Nala Sangam, Madathur were all organizers of the workshops. The education team from Zoo Outreach Organisation administered and delivered the workshops. The HECx workshop mean to educate villagers such that they are capable of changing their attitude towards problem elephants and attempt to coexist with them instead of fighting. Participants included 75 schoolteachers, NGO's, farmers and students.

A few months after the workshops Zoo Outreach Organization ZOO arranged one-day follow-up refresher course for selected participants at Panchayat Union Middle School in Vadivelampalayam, Coimbatore on 10 December 2011. The objective of this review was to reinforce lessons attended earlier and see to what extent they had altered their behaviour and attitude, whether they had influenced others, whether they had problems doing so. New activities, such as additional environmental games and techniques were added.

Twenty-two participants from the previous three workshops were selected for this workshop. The workshop started with an informal inaugural where Mr. Thiyagarajan welcomed all and praised ZOO and IEF for their effort to deliver these unique workshops. After introductions, a slide show on the HECx workshops participants had attended was featured and very much enjoyed when participants saw themselves on the screen. An evaluation was carried out to ascertain the impact of the workshops. Participants shared their education activities conducted after the training. They shared problems they had in carrying out education



A farmer sharing his informal HECx education activities



Environmental games: understanding elephant's communication skills



Participants keen in attending the programme

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Participants were asked to write two constraints of carrying out HECx education programmes in order to give them solution



One of the participants filling out the evaluation questionnaire

programmes and were given solutions. Afterwards new environmental games associated with elephants were conducted as well as a lesson on how to plan their own

education programmes for long and short duration, how to make an Agenda, and how to write a Report. Certificate were also issued to the participants.



The organiser and coordinators with the participants