

PREM project summary

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Number: **14**

Title:

Poverty Alleviation Through Managing Human Elephant Conflict in Dry Zone of Sri Lanka

Country:

Sri Lanka

Involved persons:

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Abstract:

Human-elephant conflict has a severe impact on rural poverty in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka. Poverty alleviation programmes implemented in those conflict areas pay no attention to this issue. A similar situation can be observed with the elephant conservation programmes, which ignore the poverty issues. With this background this study attempts to: (i) establish the link between human-elephant conflict and poverty; (ii) examine the agenda of GOs and NGOs involved in either poverty reduction or elephant conservation; (iii) estimate the value of the elephant conservation related attributes and their trade offs; and (iv) identify the cost-effective measures that alleviate poverty while conserving elephants.

GIS mapping, choice modelling and evaluation of direct payment via field experiments will be used to analyse the data, in addition to conventional econometric techniques.

Impact on policy:

This study suggests incorporating the link between rural poverty and human-elephant conflict into the poverty reduction programmes in problematic areas. Moreover, it will identify cost-effective strategies that reduce poverty while conserving elephants.

Therefore, results of the study will facilitate and suggest more appealing solutions in mitigating poverty and, consequently, the human elephant conflict.

With different programmes on human development and conservation of elephants and their habitats, transformation of the human-elephant conflict into a human-elephant coexistence via sustainable practices like ecotourism is one of the final expected outcomes of this research.

Dissemination:

Final outreach of the research has several components.

- The final report of the research: this report will contain the comprehensive output of the study;
- Presentations: the findings will be presented at the related institutions and workshops will be organized to disseminate the findings among professionals and policy makers (e.g. Presentations at SLAAS (Sri Lanka Association of Advancements in Science));
- Newspaper articles: these will disseminate the findings and raise awareness among the public.

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