



Livelihoods Insurance from Elephants (LIFE) in Sri Lanka Project

Inception Workshop

Thursday 10th January 2019

Mövenpick Hotel, No 24, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 03

Concept Note

Summary

A one-day workshop on the role of private insurance in reducing Human Wildlife Conflict. The workshop will present an overview of the issue, promote discussion among key stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society and launch a three-year project funded by the UK government to pilot private insurance for human wildlife in selected Districts of the North Western Province.

1. Human Wildlife Conflict in Sri Lanka

Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) imposes major economic and human costs on poor farmers in many parts of the world, particularly around protected areas – including in Sri Lanka. During the five-year period of 2011-2015, there were 414 human deaths due to elephant attacks (over 80 deaths per year), and 6320 incidents of property damages (DWC 2015) in Sri Lanka. The data is not collected on a gender disaggregated basis but generally both women and men are affected. On the other hand, 1147 elephants died due to this problem over the same period - an average of 230 a year or over 4 elephants killed per week. The Sri Lankan elephant is listed as endangered. There are only between 2,500-4,000 elephants remaining in the wild, which is a drop of 50% in the past 60-75 years. Globally, many different interventions have been tried to reduce HWC - including physical and financial measures – but have had limited success. Personal insurance has been used as an alternative strategy in a limited number of cases – but to date there have been few sustained efforts to involve commercial insurance companies.

2. The Livelihoods Insurance from Elephants (LIFE) Project

The project with funding from the Darwin initiative of the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs aims to assess over three years the feasibility of implementing insurance as a tool for reducing the impacts of HWC in Sri Lanka and Kenya in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) UK. In both countries, the project is intended to help the government to pilot new insurance schemes, learn from each other, and develop an effective national approach. The research will focus on four key challenges namely (a) Cost effective verification, (b) Timely and fair payments (c) Avoiding

perverse incentives for conflict and linking payments to good husbandry and (d) Financial sustainability. It is expected that the project will reduce losses and damage due to human elephant conflict for insured male and female farmers covered by insurance. Moreover, the introduction of private insurance is expected to reduce elephant fatalities by human elephant conflict.

In Sri Lanka, HWC is very prevalent in the North-western Province where the project's insurance pilots are planned. During the project period it is intended to pilot insurance schemes in two districts with private companies. In Sri Lanka the project is undertaken by the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) the premier economic think tank in partnership with the Department for Wildlife Conservation.

The project will be seeking to communicate, share knowledge and disseminate information on the role of private insurance to manage biodiversity to a wide variety of audiences at different levels and in different locations:

- At the farmer household and community level in selected regions where HWC is severe, the project will be seeking to communicate awareness of private insurance as an effective solution to mitigate loss and damage caused by HWC – which undermines the potential worth of biodiversity. This will be largely done by designing an effective and attractive insurance product and also by involving the collaboration of well recognised insurance companies with a strong rural presence to advertise and implement the insurance scheme.
- The second audience will be the insurance industry itself which will be engaged in shaping the insurance product so that they realise the potential new market available from providing HWC insurance and so generate worth from safeguarding the value of biodiversity.
- The third audience will be government policy makers, in particular the Department of Wildlife Conservation in Sri Lanka. The project will seek to demonstrate to them the value of engaging with private insurance companies to reduce HWC and so increase the worth of biodiversity.
- Internationally the project will be engaging with experts and practitioners from the conservation community and the insurance industry to replicate lessons to other countries and develop global best practice. To engage with these different audiences the project will ensure regular communication throughout the project.

3. Inception workshop

As part of the project, a one-day inception workshop is organized with the participation of key stakeholders and experts related to wildlife management and insurance sectors. The workshop takes a participatory approach, where the participants are expected to contribute actively for development of the next stages of the project. The morning of the workshop intends to share the situational analysis undertaken by the IPS with the stakeholders and obtain feedback from the participants. The second part of the workshop will focus on the details of the project and the workplan to consult the views of stakeholders involved.

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Draft Agenda

09.00 – 09.30	Registration
09.30 – 10.30	Inauguration and Introduction
09.30 – 09.35	Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp / National Anthem
09.35 – 09.50	Welcome Speeches <i>Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, IPS</i> <i>Director General, Department of Wildlife Conservation (tbc)</i>
09.50 – 10.10	Introduction to the Project <i>Paul Steele, Chief Economist, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK</i>
10.10 – 10.30	Human-Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka: Situational Analysis <i>Dr Athula Senaratne, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka</i>
10.30 – 10.45	Address by the Chief Guest
10.45 – 11.10	Tea
11.10 – 12.30	Technical Sessions
11.10 – 11.25	Interventions for Mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka <i>Representative from Department of Wildlife Conservation</i>
11.25 – 11.40	Role of Insurance in Mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka <i>Kanchana Wickramasinghe, Research Economist, IPS</i>
11.40 – 12.30	Discussion
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch

1.30-3.30	Project Work Planning Session
1.30-2.00	Presentation of Project Workplan <i>Dr Athula Senaratne, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka</i>
2.00-3.00	Commentary on workplan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- private insurance companies (Sanasa, Janashakhti, others)- Department of Wildlife Conservation- Development agencies (World Bank, others)- Civil society representatives and NGOs- North West Provincial Council representatives
3.00– 3.30	Discussions
3.30-3.50	Conclusions and next steps
3.50 – 4.00	Vote of thanks
4.00	Tea