



MALE ELEPHANTS TRANSLOCATION CASE STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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We have travelled to several countries to study best practices and implement them in India.

The foundation supports various government bodies in informed policy-making and decision-making on critical issues impacting biodiversity and the rights of animals.

Our work areas are research, advocacy, awareness, publication, and support in policy and decision-making.

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Safe Hanging Solar Fence, Sound Alert, Warning Lights



**A solution for
preventing elephants' entry into agricultural
fields and enhancing the
welfare of captive elephants**

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Acronyms & Meanings

TN – Tamil Nadu

FD – Forest Department

Makna – Male Elephant Without Tusks

Introduction

Translocation of single male Asian elephants is used as a tool to mitigate human-elephant conflict (HEC) scenarios.

Translocation of a single elephant is extremely stressful to the animal; it is highly cruel.

This document focuses on single-male elephant translocation case studies and provides alternative solutions to avoid human-Elephant conflict

Note: The word '**success**' used in this document is only from a human perspective and does not apply to elephants due to the reasons explained in this document.

Why do elephants get into conflict with humans?

There are two main reasons why human-elephant conflict (HEC) happens

Encroachment of elephant habitats and corridors (reference section gives details of research done in Coimbatore, Dharmapuri and Hosur forest regions)

Elephants' preference to consume agricultural produce (crops and other species such as plantain).

Why do elephants prefer to consume agricultural produce?

It has to be borne in mind that, according to elephants, whatever is green is food for them. They cannot differentiate between a privately owned farm and a forest resource. Elephants prefer agricultural produce as it is highly nutritious, tasty and easily available in forest border areas.

Root cause analysis and solutions to be implemented before attempting a translocation

1.) The real reason for HEC needs to be analysed with support from biologists. The root cause needs to be addressed instead of immediately translocating an elephant.

Some of the positive examples are:

Closure of several resorts encroaching on the elephant corridor in the Ooty district. (Refer to news in appendix)

Closure of several hundred brick kilns in Thadagam Valley of Coimbatore. (Refer to news in appendix)

- 2.) To protect the cultivation, the hanging solar fence method explained in the foundation's report needs to be implemented. This has a high success rate. For example, the Forest College (owned by the Agricultural University) in Mettupalayam, Coimbatore district, had implemented the double-layer hanging solar fence for its plant nursery and had zero incidents of elephant entry in the past three years (as of July 2023)

Hanging solar fences, sound alerts and warning lights to protect the cultivation

Refer to the foundation's report about hanging solar fences.

Elephants like to roam in their home range

Elephants prefer to live in their home range (**approx. 100 to 150 kms radius in the forest route**) due to the following reasons

A) In the entire home range:

- 1) They are familiar with all the migratory routes
- 2) They know all the water holes
- 3) They know all the different species of edible plants and their locations

B) Male elephants form small bachelor groups and develop strong friendships. They prefer to remain with their close friends

Note: The forest route is the route in the dense jungle used by elephants. This is different from the tar road route used by humans

What happens when a male elephant is translocated alone

In translocation, at the same time, two intense and unbearable shocking events happen in their life. They are deprived of both A & B mentioned above

They struggle to find A (1,2,3) in the new forest.

They have to develop new friends in the new forest to know A (1,2,3), which may not happen if the native herd does not accept this new elephant. (please refer to case 2 in the later section of this document)

What happens with many elephants after translocation:

They do not like the new forest and will be in deep shock.

They are not interested in developing new friends (or) the resident elephants of the new forest are not interested in becoming friends with this new elephant.

They go into a deep shock of missing their close friends in their home range.

What will such elephants do:

Such elephants start a homing journey (trying to return to their home range)

Elephants have an inbuilt system in their brain, and they know the exact direction of their home range. Even if they are sedated and dropped in a totally new forest (that is several hundred kilometres away), they start moving in the correct direction to reach their home range. [Such a miracle was observed in three cases and discussed in this document.](#)

Disconnected and connected home ranges:

If the home range is connected by forests, then it becomes easy for the elephants to return to their home range by walking through the forests. If the home range is disconnected by cities and towns, then the elephant will cross the busy human-populated cities and towns. They will walk on the tar roads, and national highways

Elephant translocation case details are covered in this report

- Coimbatore Chinna Thambhi & Peria Thambhi (Tamil Nadu (TN))
- Dharmapuri Makna (TN) & its friend (Un-named elephant)
- Chinnakanal Arikomban (Idukki, Kerala) and its friend Chakka Komban
- Radhakrishnan – Tamil Nadu
- Rolex – Tamil Nadu

Elephants returning to the home range (homing) - examples from TN & Kerala:

CASE 1: CHINNA THAMBI - TAMIL NADU - 2019

Home Range and Capture Location: Thadagam, Coimbatore in Jan 2019

Translocated to: Varagaliyar, Anamalai Tiger Reserve (adjacent to Parambikulam, Kerala). Disconnected from his home range by cities, and towns. This is a different forest range a few hundred of Kms away from the release spot of its friend Vinayagan.

Elephant Chinna Thambi (means small brother) was separated from its close friend Vinayagan in this translocation. The elephant came down from the hill (Anamalai) to the plains (near Udumalpet town) in search of his friend. He did not move in the opposite direction, towards Parambikulam (Kerala)

Final result: FD captured and tamed him. The elephant is in captivity in Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR). High Court case won by the FD because of the biased, unscientific report given by Ajay Desai (He/Him). Desai's report completely ignored the sociological and psychological factors of the elephant.

A partially known story of the elephant's friend :

Vinayagan who was separated from Chinna Thambhi was translocated (Dec 2018) and left alone in the Mudumalai forest. Initially, for a few weeks, his movements were monitored using a radio collar. After that, his whereabouts were not known.

Was this translocation necessary?

News reports say that a small section of farmers and Brick Kiln (illegal) owners in the Thadagam area had demanded this removal and also brick kiln encroachment as a main reason for HEC.

Important: The same place has hundreds of brickkilns encroaching on the forest areas. A Madras High Court order mandated the closure of all these brick kilns. (refer to news)

Note: Elephants like to eat the pith (the soft centre portion) of the palm tree wood, used to burn bricks at the brick kilns.

A large section of people were against removing Chinna Thambi from his abode and converting him into a captive elephant.

A petition was given by the public to the district collector to close these illegal brick kilns and bring back Vinayagan and Chinna Thambi to their native territory.

These two translocations could have been avoided by using hanging solar fences and other mitigation measures.

Even if translocation was done, the FD could have left both elephants in the same forest area.

The same was reflected by scientists and people involved in wildlife matters.

Case 1: Chinna Thambi
News articles and
photos follow.....

Relocate Chinna thambi to Mudumalai: Experts

Deccan Chronicle | Ananth Mathivanan

Published on: February 5, 2019 | Updated on: February 5, 2019



Drop move to make him kumki, say animal lovers.



Wild elephant Chinnathambi being tranquilized near Somayanoor on suburbs of Coimbatore. (File photo)

Coimbatore: Elephant experts have suggested relocating Chinna thambi to Mudumalai where the so-called another crop raider Vinayagan was released a month ago.

Two wild elephants named as Vinayagan and Chinna thambi by the local tribes were tranquilized and relocated from Coimbatore forest division recently following the pressure by a section people who allegedly claim themselves as farmers of Thadagam valley.

After observing a behavior change of remaining in a same forest division for many years instead of migrating the two elephants were radio collared before relocating them for further study. Vinayagan remains inside the dense forest till now without returning to human habitat after released in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).

While Chinna thambi within a few days returned to human habitat after crossing hundreds of kilometers from Varagaliyar in Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR). From Anamalai it reached Udumalpet and remains there.



People in Coimbatore protested to bring Chinna Thambi and Vinayagan back to their native territory (2-Feb-2019). There was also a fans club for the elephant at his abode Thadagam



Posters saying elephants Chinnathambi and Vinayagan abode is the jungle. It also echos the voice of the translocated elephants saving "Please let us live"

CASE 2: DHARMAPURI MAKNA - TAMIL NADU - 2023

Home Range and First Capture Location: Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu (Near Karnataka Border)

Translocated to (6 Feb 2023): Varagaliyar, Anamalai Tiger Reserve (adjacent to Parambikulam, Kerala).
Disconnected by several cities and towns. Several hundred Kms away from home range.

Even this elephant was separated from its very close friend elephant (name not kept for the friend)



Jan 2023 - Dharmapuri makna elephant along with its close friend (in front, with tusk) in Dharmapuri

The second and third attempts of capture as the elephant started its homing journey:

Please see the maps in the next two pages to understand the homing journeys

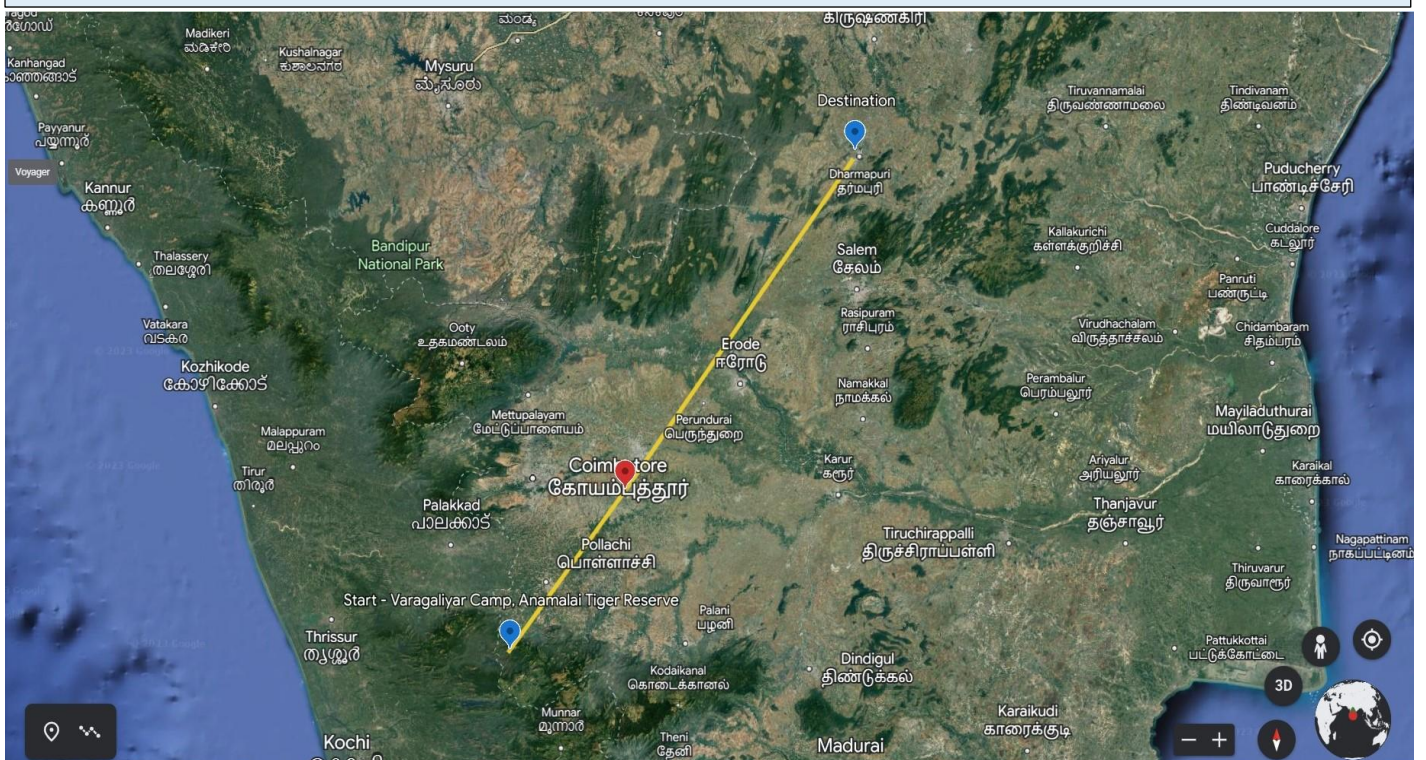
Due to the foundation's Madras High Court's Sep 2021 order "NOT to convert any wild elephant to captive elephant", the elephant was captured a second time in the busy Coimbatore city and once again translocated to another forest (Valparai Mountain Range, which is also adjacent to Anamalai & Parambikulam). During the last week of July 2023, he was roaming the villages near Pollachi town and a third attempt was completed to capture and translocate him to another forest range in Valparai.



In the process of returning, it had a very narrow escape from a train accident in Coimbatore

Elephants are exposed to such very high risks when they try for homing by crossing unknown cities, towns

When this elephant was trying to return, its close friend in Dharmapuri roamed near the capture spot for several days, unable to find its companion.



Dharmapuri Makna - First Homing Journey (Yellow Line)

Start: Varagaiyar camp, Anamalai Tiger Reserve (Blue placemark at the bottom in the above image)

Destination: Home range Dharmapuri (Blue placemark on the top in the above image)

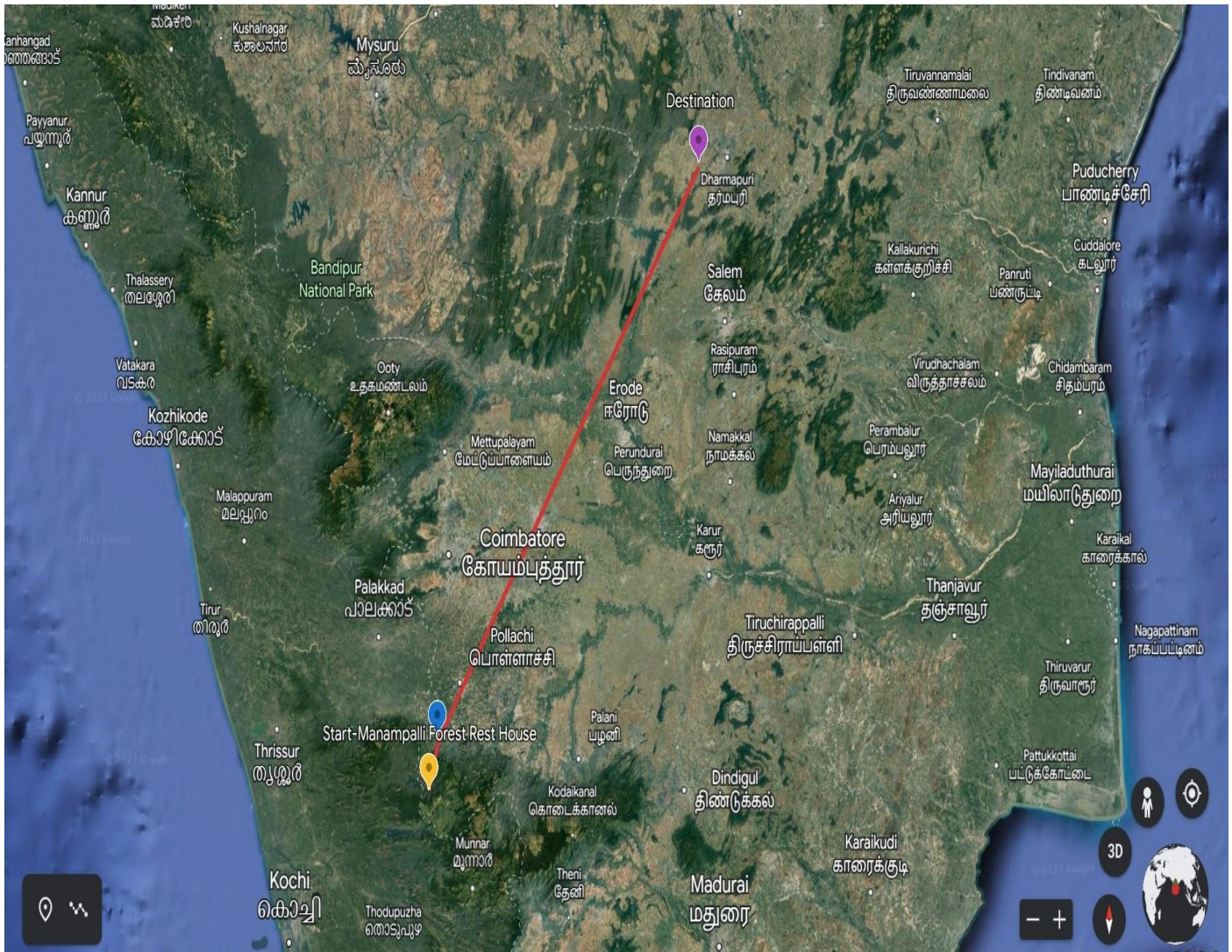
Captured 2nd time (23 Feb 2023) in Highly Populated Coimbatore City (Red placemark, in the middle, in the above image) and released in Manaampalli, Valparai, TN



Dharmapuri Makna crossing a busy highway during the homing journey



Dharmapuri Makna breaking the compound wall of a house during the homing journey



Dharmapuri Makna - Second Homing Journey (Red Line)

Start: Manaampalli, Valparai (Yellow placemark at the bottom in above image)

Destination: Home range Dharmapuri (Violet placemark on the top in the above image)

Captured 3rd time (31 July 2023): Near Sethumadai Village, foothills of Anamalai (Blue placemark, in the middle, in the above image). The elephant was radio-collared and released in Chinna Kallar, Valparai, TN.

Status of elephant as of 5th Sep 2023: Forest dept staff are patrolling, monitoring the movement of the elephant and preventing it from moving in the direction of its home range.

In both the homing journeys the elephant moved in the correct direction, towards its home range Dharmapuri

Tragic End of Isolated Dharmapuri Makhna Elephant



In Nov 2023, forest officials found the decomposing dead body of this translocated elephant.

They suspected that, it had a **fatal fall** from a steep rocky terrain

CASE 3: ARIKOMBAN - KERALA - 2023

Home Range: Chinnakanal, Idukki District, Kerala

Translocated to: Periyar Tiger Reserve (Kerala-Tamil Nadu Border) on 29th April 23

This elephant was found with a group (Chakka Komban(m) and two females and two calves). After the elephant was translocated, the group came and destroyed a home and cultivation.

In this case too, the elephant started moving towards its home range, Chinnakanal (Note: It did not move in the opposite direction towards Kanyakumari (southern tip of India))

On the return journey, first it went to Mega Malai (a hill) and then to Cumbum town. The TN FD captured him at this place and shifted him further south towards Kanyakumari and released him in Kalakad Mundathurai Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Western Ghats on 6th Jun 23. The elephant is in this place as of 13th Aug 2023.

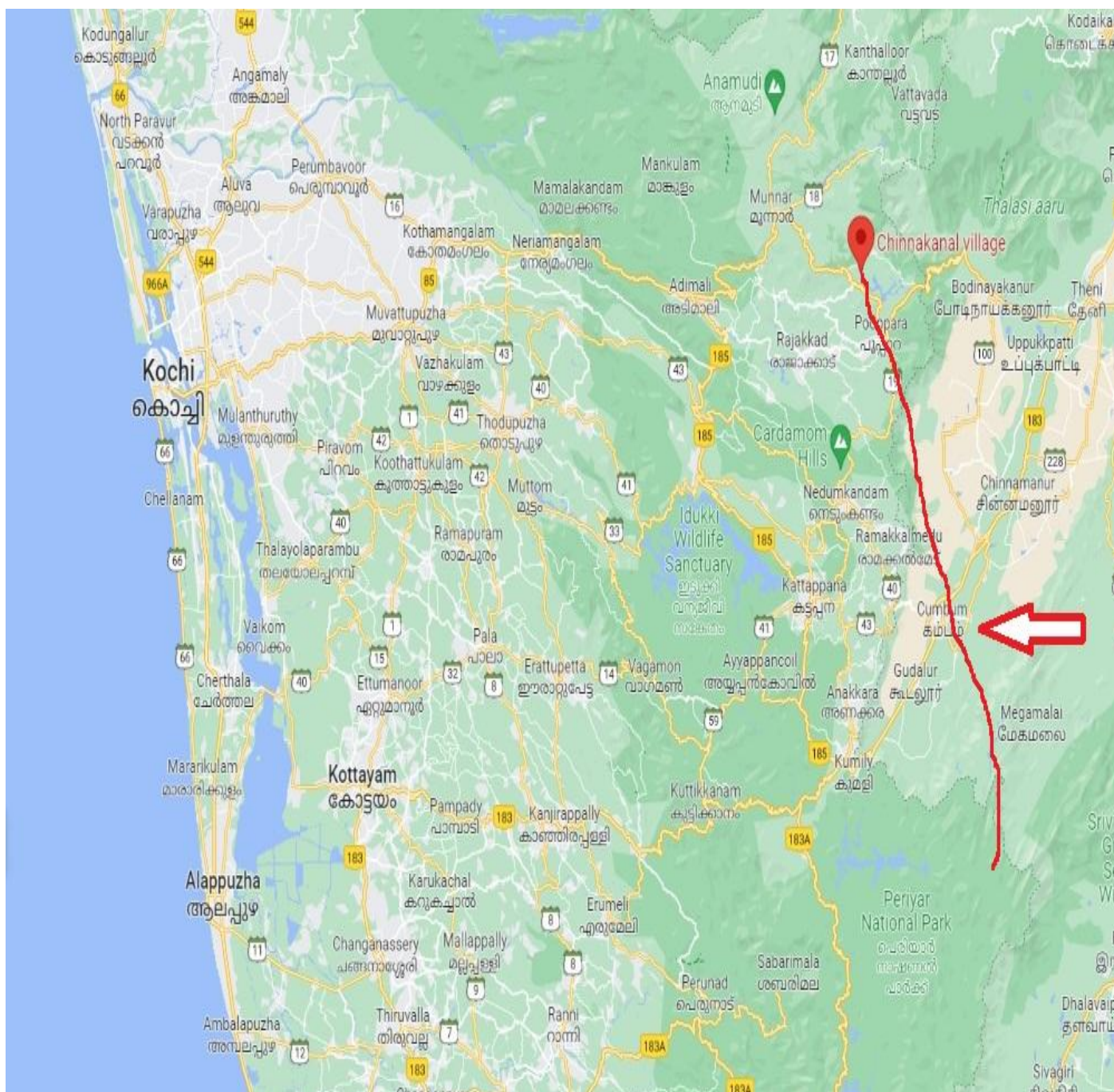
The elephant had multiple injuries on its body, in specific there was a deep wound on its trunk. Kerala FD report says these injuries were caused by a fight with another tusker before it was captured in Chinnakanal. It also said he is partially blind in the right eye.



Injuries on the leg



Trunk injury was there before the first capture in Chinnakanal, Idukki, Kerala



Homing journey of Arikomban

The map above shows his journey back to his native territory before he was captured the second time in Cumbum (TN) (Arrow in map) by Tamil Nadu FD.

The journey was from Periyar Tiger Reserve to Chinaknal, Idukki (his home range indicated on top)

Current status of Arikomban is unknown (as of Oct 2026)



Arikomban in Cumbum town, Tamil Nadu, during homing journey



Multiple skull fractures, extensive haemorrhage suffered during fall caused elephant Radhakrishnan's death: autopsy

When the signals from radio-collar stopped on November 16 afternoon, the search for the elephant started that eventually led to the detection of the dead 'Radhakrishnan' around 9 a.m. on November 18 suggesting that the animal might have breathed his last on November 16.

Updated – November 21, 2025 01:30 pm IST – IRUNELVELI

THE HINDU BUREAU



Forest Department officials inspecting the carcass of elephant Radhakrishnan at Upper Githaiyar area of Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve as the tusker suffered fatal fall on November 18, 2025 | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

The **death of translocated elephant 'Radhakrishnan'**, which was found dead in the Upper Gothaiyar area of Kalakkad – Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) in Tirunelveli district on November 18, 2025, was due to multiple compound skull fractures and extensive haemorrhage resulting from a fall from height, leading to sudden collapse, the post-mortem report has concluded.

The elephant was **captured in Ayyankolli in the Nilgiris** on September 23 after the tusker was blamed for 12 human deaths that occurred over a period of more than 10 years, with the recent incident being the death of **K. Mani, a 62-year-old retired tea estate worker who was killed** after allegedly being attacked by the elephant on August 11.

Later, it was rehabilitated in the Varakaliyar camp before being released in the Upper Gothaiyar area of KMTR on October 26. The 30-year-old animal was healthy, foraging well and actively moved around Upper Gothaiyar dam with the radio-collar fitted on the elephant. And, the forest personnel monitoring its movement received the signals from the radio-collar till 3.30 p.m. on November 16 (Sunday).

When the signals stopped, the search for the elephant started that eventually led to the detection of the dead 'Radhakrishnan' around 9 a.m. on November 18 suggesting that the animal might have breathed its last on Sunday.

The post-mortem subsequently done on Thursday (November 20) by Professor of Veterinary College and Research Institute, Ramaiyanpatti, Muthukrishnan and Assistant Professor of Pathology Kumar has found that the elephant had fatal fall from a height.

The post-mortem report said the carcass was found on a tar-topped slope below a 20-foot steep roadside cut, positioned head-down. Above the cut was an eight-meter gentle slope with a large rock at its upper-end and a medium-sized movable stone near the edge. Footmark impressions indicate that the animal first slipped with its right forelimb on the large rock, then inadvertently stepped on the movable stone with the left forelimb.

While attempting to regain balance, both legs knuckled at the edge causing the elephant to slip off the 20-foot drop and fall approximately 15 feet onto its right side on the hard tar surface. Absence of struggle or paddling marks at the site suggests an instantaneous death.

Even though the condition of the bloated carcass was good with well-built muscles and sub-cutaneous fat depositions, the fall had caused multiple and compound fractures in the skull to cause profuse bleeding from the trunk and mouth.

“The paranasal sinuses were filled with extensive haemorrhage and blood clots. Extensive subcutaneous haemorrhage on the right side of the body was found. There was no evidence of electrocution. Hence, the cause of the death was due to multiple compound skull fractures, severe trauma and extensive hemorrhage resulting from a fall from height, leading to sudden collapse,” the report concludes.

P.T.O.

Translocated elephant 'Rolex' found dead in ATR; fact-finding team to find out reasons

Updated - November 26, 2025 09:51 pm IST - COIMBATORE

THE HINDU BUREAU



The tusker nicknamed 'Rolex' being tranquillised and captured from Ichukkuzhi, near Thondamuthur, in Coimbatore district on October 17, 2025. | Photo Credit: SPL

A male wild elephant that was translocated by the Forest Department from a village near Thondamuthur to Manthirimattam in Manabololly forest range of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) was found dead on Wednesday.

A team, which had been monitoring the elephant with signals from the elephant's radio collar, found the animal dead around 2.30 p.m. near a stream in Manambolly range.

The tusker, believed to have killed four people and regularly raided farm crops, was captured from Ichukkuzhi near Thondamuthur on October 17. It was lodged in a kraal at

Varagaliar in ATR and **released into the wild** at Manthirimattam on November 12.

D. Venkatesh, Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director of ATR, said the tusker had been grazing in the wild in a two-km-radius around the place of release for the past two weeks. It moved for a total distance of 17.50 km within the two km radius from the date of release. The tracking team was getting its location update every 30 minutes.

According to him, the release location is known for good natural fodder and water sources, where the elephant had been found grazing and mingling with other elephants. This was confirmed by the monitoring team stationed at Manthirimattam camp daily by directly observing the elephant and sending videos and reports.

The team monitored the elephant directly on Wednesday, too, based on the radio collar signal received at 11.45 a.m. Mr. Venkatesh said the team found the tusker moving towards a stream around 2 p.m. However, the elephant slipped in the drain-drenched slope and fell.

“Though the staff saw the elephant falling, they could not approach the animal due to the presence of a herd nearby. They approached the animal around 2.30 p.m. and found it dead. Due to unavailability of telephone networks, the staff had to travel for some distance to inform officers about its death,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Chief Wildlife Warden constituted an independent fact-finding team headed by Assistant Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Venu Prasad, Director of Tamil Nadu Wildlife Crime Control Bureau V.C. Rahul and Forest Veterinary Officer K. Sridhar from Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur and directed them to inspect the site, monitoring records, GPS data of radio-collar and treatment history and find out reasons for death.

The post-mortem examination on the carcass will be performed by a team of veterinarians on Thursday.

From “Millennial Male Elephants of the Eastern Ghats” by Dr. Nishant Srinivasaiah.



Young male elephants group in Hosur, TN – Image Vinod Moses

Conclusion:

What may have triggered the initial movement of elephants out of the forested habitats of this region could be the extensive degradation, within their home range, of large forest patches south of North Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and Bannerghatta National Park because of cattle grazing and other human-induced disturbances.

Therefore, our priority should be to provide space, time, and safety to elephants within the forest and to improve their habitats south of these two protected areas. The forest would then be more attractive to elephants in terms of availability of resources and lack of disturbances. This is no doubt a herculean task, very easy for foresters and researchers to talk about, but it is easy to lose focus and target the elephant instead.

Immediate ‘conflict management’ in this highly volatile landscape, where the main issue is crop damage and human and elephant deaths, should not be focused on the capture and removal of male elephants, but on landscape-level planning and modifying lifestyles and farm-based practices of humans in and around the conflict areas. Such a strategy would help reduce risks of injuries and deaths for both people and elephants and crop loss.

The 'State Of Affairs' Of The Asian Elephant *Elephas Maximus* In The Hosur And Dharmapuri Forest Divisions Of Tamil Nadu, India by Ramesh Babu et al.

Study done from Nov 2006 to June 2007

Conclusion:

The forests and elephants of Hosur-Dharmapuri reserve forests face threats from heavy livestock grazing, competition for water resources, woodcutting, exploitation of bamboo, collection of minor forest produce, proliferation of the invasive *Lantana camara*, outbreaks of fire, increase in road network and traffic, among others, also resulting in severe levels of HEC. Besides local threats, Hosur-Dharmapuri faces external threats due to its proximity to the towns of Bengaluru (=Bangalore), Hosur, Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri.

During surveys, we recorded around 70 (fuelwood-based) brick kilns in the area with a concentration in the Jawalagiri Range. These mainly cater to the construction boom happening in Bengaluru and elsewhere. The pressures will only increase in the coming years with growing human populations both in rural areas and nearby towns. The human population of the former undivided Dharmapuri district has risen by 16.7% since 1991 and has now a density of c. 297 individuals/sq. km.

Krishnagiri and Hosur are two large towns in the Krishnagiri district, while Dharmapuri is the main town in the Dharmapuri district. Hosur, which was earlier a village, has developed into a busy industrial town and manufacturing base for major Indian companies with a population of about 84,000 people. The metropolis of Bengaluru, 40 km from Hosur, is expanding rapidly. The human population of Bengaluru is now around 6.5 million, having grown by 34.8% during the last ten years.

Considering all these, there is an urgent need to tackle the conservation issues facing the forest and its elephants, or there will be a further exodus of elephants out of the area, as witnessed during the 1980s. The conservation initiative in Hosur-Dharmapuri has to be essentially linked to the rest of the contiguous tract of the southern Eastern Ghats ranges, as the establishment of large and contiguous protected areas is crucial for the long-term survival of wildlife (see Johnsingh *et al.* 2010) and especially elephants, which have a large home range. The adjoining forest divisions of this region face threats of their own, and these forests are gradually getting degraded and fragmented due to various developmental activities and biotic pressures (AERCC 1998). Hence, it is vital that the forest integrity and habitat quality over this entire tract are ensured for the overall survival of elephants and that each site is not looked at in isolation.

Recommendations

Single male elephants cannot bear two highly intense & harsh shocks given to them at the same time, in translocation

A – Suddenly dumping them, all alone, in a new & completely unfamiliar forest terrain

B – Removing them from their very close friends (bachelor group)

For these reasons, translocation needs to be totally avoided. Mitigation methods such as **“Hanging Solar Fences”** to prevent elephants entry into agricultural fields have given excellent results. Many hanging solar fence projects were tried and tested. This system is easy to install, very low maintenance, affordable for poor farmers and safe for the animals.

The government should provide maximum subsidy for the erection of hanging solar fences

The subsidy should reach the farmers without hassles.

Note: Refer to the foundation’s report about hanging solar fences.

Important: Do not try to install horizontal fences. The elephants will break them easily.

Harming the elephants that enter villages by throwing crackers on them or weapons at them needs to be banned; this may lead to injury to the body and eyes or may result in death. The operations of moving the elephants back to the forest should be done only by the forest department staff. The public should be prevented from doing this. The use of negative, harsh words by the media to describe elephants that consume agricultural produce needs to stop due to the facts explained here. (Please refer to MoEF’s circular about this, on the foundation’s website)

How do Indian single-elephant translocations differ from African translocations?

In Africa, single elephants are never translocated.

Large populations of elephants ranging from 60 to 500 elephants are translocated in a single operation.

This large-group translocation helps the elephants support each other and survive in the new environment.

The survival rate and success rate are high in this approach

Refer to the appendix for details about African translocations. #

Indian Elephant Biologists Project References

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- # All-Male Groups in Asian Elephants: A Novel, Adaptive Social Strategy in Increasingly Anthropogenic Landscapes of Southern India by Nishant Srinivasaiah et al.
- # The Rurban Elephant: Behavioural Ecology of Asian Elephants in Response to Large-Scale Land Use Change in a Human-Dominated Landscape in Peri-Urban Southern India - Nishant Srinivasaiah et al.
- # Millennial Male Elephants of the Eastern Ghats by Nishant Srinivasaiah.
- # Usual Populations, Unusual Individuals: Insights into the Behaviour and Management of Asian Elephants in Fragmented Landscapes by Nishant Srinivasaiah et al.
- # “Lost River Disturbed Wildlife” - Encroachment of elephant routes by brick kilns in Thadagam Valley, Coimbatore by ERC
- # Consequences of land use, land cover changes in elephant migratory routes of Coimbatore by Ramkumar (Late), Ramakrishnan et al.
- # The ‘state of affairs’ of the Asian elephant in the Hosur and Dharmapuri forest divisions of Tamil Nadu, India. - M. Ramesh Babu et. Al. (Dec 2012)

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- # Phase one of Siyapei-Masai Mara elephant translocation by Mijele, D., Rono, B., Kimutai, D., Kiambi, S., Mutwiri, J., Hongo, P., Nyaga, V., Ngene, S.M., Gakuya, F. Lekolool, I., Ndeere, D. and Omondi, P.
- # The behaviour and fate of translocated bull African savanna elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) into a novel environment by Lydia N. Tiller | Lucy E. King | Benson Okita-Ouma | Fredrick Lala | Frank Pope | Iain Douglas-Hamilton | Chris R. Thouless¹
- # The outcome of an elephant translocation from Isiolo to Tsavo East National Park, Kenya by Lydia Tiller, Lucy King, Fredrick Lala, Frank Pope, Chris Thouless, Jake Wall, Iain Douglas-Hamilton
- # IUCN guidelines for translocation of African elephants - 2003
- # Assessing translocation outcome: Comparing behavioral and physiological aspects of translocated and resident African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) Noa Pinter-Wollman, Lynne A. Isbell, Lynette A. Hart
- # Identifying the Effects of Social Disruption through Translocation on African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), with Specifics on the Social and Ecological Impacts of Orphaning by Marion E. Garaï, Victoria L. Boulton and Heike R. Zitzer
- # Spatial behaviour of translocated African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in a novel environment: using behaviour to inform conservation actions by Noa Pinter-Wollman
- # Importance of old bulls: leaders and followers in collective movements of all-male groups in African savannah elephants.- Connie R. B. Allen et. Al.

A pachyderm perfume: odour encodes identity and group membership in African elephants by Katharina E. M. von Dürckheim, Louwrens C. Hoffman, Carlos Poblete-Echeverría, Jacqueline M. Bishop, Thomas E. Goodwin, Bruce A. Schulte & Alison Leslie

Adolescence in male African elephants, *Loxodonta africana*, and the importance of sociality - Kate E. Evans & Stephen Harris; School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol

Reference Web Links

Translocation of 500 elephants

<https://www.africanparks.org/campaign/500-elephants>

The socialisation of male elephants at a zoo

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/people-environment/45740/socializing-more-important-to-zoo-elephants-than-space>

Brain cell damage to elephants in solitary confinement

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/what-happens-when-captive-us-elephants-live-alone?loggedin=true&rnd=1691037738723>

Rhinos slaughtered by orphan adolescent elephants due to lack of guidance from senior bulls

<https://familyandcommunityimpact.org/this-story-about-elephants-can-teach-us-about-building-stronger-human-communities/>

Video References

Dharmapuri Makna's narrow escape from the train accident in Coimbatore, while trying to home

<https://elsafoundationcharity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Darmapuri-Makna-Escape-from-Train-in-Coimbatore.mp4>

TedEx talk by elephant biologist Nishant Srinivasaiah about the importance of keeping the male elephant groups intact, the important role the senior male elephants play in guiding the younger males and the serious negative impact of capturing the senior male elephants

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCyAQy54D-Y>

**Case studies from
Africa follow.....**

KENYA - 62 Elephants Translocation

Phase one of Siyapei-Masai Mara elephant translocation

¹Mijele, D., ²Rono, B., ³Kimutai, D., ¹Kiambi, S., ¹Mutwiri, J., ⁴Hongo, P., ¹Nyaga, V., ^{3*}Ngene, S.M., ²Gakuya, F. ²Lekolool, I., ²Ndeere, D. and ³Omondi, P.

¹Kenya Wildlife Service, Maasai Mara Research Station, P.O. Box 40-20500 , Narok; ²Kenya Wildlife Service, Veterinary Department, P.O. Box 40241-00100, Nairobi, Kenya; ³Kenya Wildlife Service, Species Conservation and Management Department, P.O. Box 40241-00100, Nairobi, Kenya; ⁴Kenya Wildlife Service, GIS Unit, P.O. Box 40241-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

*Corresponding Authors: Dominic Mijele; Email: dmijele@kws.go.ke; Shadrack Ngene; E-mail: sngene@kws.go.ke

Abstract

This report outlines the translocation exercise of elephants from Siyapei in Narok North District to Masai Mara National Reserve (MMNR) in Narok South District. The translocation was intended to minimize human-elephant conflict (HEC) in the district. The underlying cause of high HEC was brought about by diminished elephant habitat due to their conversion to farmland and increased human population. The translocation team was divided into three: the search team, the darting team, and recovery ground team. The translocation exercise was planned to take place in 2 phases. This report covers lessons learnt from the first phase that targeted 50 elephants. But a total of 62 elephants were successfully moved to MMNR. The trans-location was preceded by intensive pre-trans-location monitoring and community sensitization. Five of the trans-located elephants were fitted with Satellite collars to assist in post-release monitoring. An intensive post-release monitoring using the collars, aerial survey and ground sightings is ongoing. The second phase of the translocation will depend on results of post translocation monitoring of phase one.



Due to poaching, habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict, elephants are being decimated across Africa. “500 Elephants,” however, is a different story – one of hope and restoration and of securing the future for Malawi’s elephants.

When African Parks assumed management of Majete in 2003, all of the elephants had been hunted out. Today, after restocking the reserve, there are more than 400 elephants in the reserve and the area is a thriving tourism destination. Following Majete’s success, African Parks assumed management of [Liwonde National Park](#) and [Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve](#) in 2015. Nkhotakota once had more than 1,500 elephants but due to poaching fewer than 100 remained when we assumed management of the reserve.

However, thanks to the historic 500 Elephant translocation, this once near-empty forest is alive with the sounds of a growing elephant herd. More than 520 elephants and 2,000 other animals were moved from Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in northern Malawi between July 2016 and August 2017. We are already seeing some incredible results. Tourism is on the increase and the births of new calves have been documented in Nkhotakota.

The Journey



350 elephants from Liwonde National Park and 150 elephants from Majete Wildlife Reserve were moved to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. Each elephant traveled approximately 350 km from Liwonde or 600 km from Majete to get to their new home in Nkhotakota. Ensuring the safety of both people and wildlife is our highest priority. We overhauled law enforcement to ensure the park was safe for the elephants to return. We also constructed reliable perimeter fencing, working closely with local communities, to decrease human-wildlife conflict and ensure that where

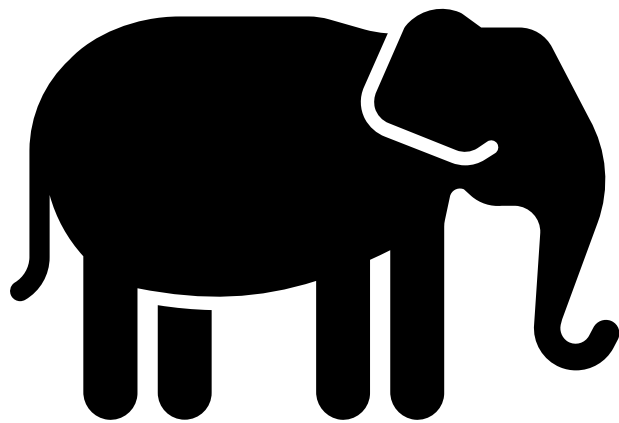
wildlife thrive, people thrive.

African Parks | 03 August 2022

Significant Wildlife Translocation Completed in Malawi to Support Biodiversity Efforts

Lilongwe, Malawi: The 31st of July, 2022 marked the conclusion of the successful translocation of 263 elephants and 431 additional wildlife from Liwonde National Park to Kasungu National Park in Malawi. The translocation was undertaken by Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife ([DNPW](#)) in partnership with [African Parks](#) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare ([IFAW](#)), in an effort to maintain healthy habitats in Malawi's national parks, establish viable elephant populations, and ensure the prosperity of local communities living around the park.

"We are overjoyed that the exercise has been completed successfully, thanks to all of the partners who worked hard to finish the work on time. The addition of elephants and other wildlife species to Kasungu National Park will benefit Malawi tourism as well as communities through job creation, thereby fuelling a conservation-driven economy," said Brighton Kumchedwa, Malawi's Director of National Parks and Wildlife.



Elsa Foundation

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Male Elephants Translocation Case Studies and Recommendations