Project Update: September 2014

Due to the continued heavy damage to villagers' properties, especially houses, and increasing life threats, I arranged a meeting with villagers who live in areas such as Dahaiyagala, Millagala, Aluthwawa, Pokunuthanna, Laginagala, Neraluwa etc., to guide and build their moral to stand actively to find solutions to mitigate the Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) in the area. In the meeting, I emphasised the importance of working as a unit to solve the ever rising elephant problem in the area. I educated the villagers on some important skills such as the value of team work, organisation, official letter writing and documentation of the HEC incidences, etc. I explained the necessity of team work to grab the attention of the major stakeholders in the country in solving the problem which they have been continuing for decades. The meeting was held at the Dahaiyagala temple on the 14th September 2014 and about 60 villagers participated (plate 1). Villagers presented numerous problems caused by crop raiding elephants in the meeting. Various methods were discussed which would attract the immediate attention of the authorities regarding the problems the villagers are facing.



Plate 1: Villagers who participated in the meeting at the Dahaiyagala temple

The villagers decided to sign a petition and present it to major stakeholders such as the park warden of the Udawalawe national park, the director of the department of wildlife conservation, the minister of the wildlife and conservation, the minister of the economic development and some other major stake holders of the country. Over 200 villagers signed the petition (plate 2) and it was submitted to the relevant authorities.

99	0.00	චිරිතය	redeso	99	තම	BBoo	edica
(NO	08	6000		400		goasa	dama
	KILLERMEN DIFFER	かんかはなのないとう ないんしいので	salt show.		MM 3 AW 2016	722 Dange - 644 Don D	slope
	ME HOUSANDER	Zestorie	2425		,	Decimo	
	nha speson offer		5 2 233		TA 9 15 Col	4 5	~260 C-
	N Sayani		66422		KAOWSmish	N N	en Sara
	RA GRIDES	9	0-1-24		KN 1974 Side	@ B-40 -	52
	HA Bolonus		6 Arrey		IL W GADDAS	8, m 2 w 10 C	- 20
	1. 4 compidanjana		A George		NK Galver	2 robuses 2	GUNTER
	DN 30512 HOSE		300		Octe Onoda UA	2 m 5 a a 0	Tigo
	3 A perplanti		KUGUS		Bu. Oliver work	& solionos Co	JED)
	2 6 20 d Sesta		2. Flat		3 m 83802	madelle	avisate
	ON Energ		Draw		KW 9600180 LSG.	Canol.	=/s= m
	1 2 25 25 x 20 x 226		Selena		D හන්ව පහතිව	madulada	24c
	2 M erlabah		තේව <i>ර</i> ක්ක		ව ජුප්ජා වාජන	2000 20 Calu	Ranfon:
	0 36926		දියාවරු		p. 6. 35680	A.	Simode
	N. 2 866827		Seal -		P. K. もかのっるが	0	oches
_		100	Adiation .		TADS ENDS 6.165	N	39 CH23.
	ව ල දෙදිල්ලින්		045Q		K.m Gooden earles	Cosamo	Spoke
-	HA 2126 C	-	,		ය තමල් දර්ශන තුරෙ		· V-a
	RM Margari	14	MOGEL.		4 K 2357-C	Engara o	5 78 at Co
	Kr. asmagnan	4	20190		J A Grossom	t with the C	Lalon
_	Pig esoso Esamus	8	25- Ala		නත්දාලන් දලමනත්ත්	15	nate
	Kinsumon .	Ą	CARLY.		නා කිරීම පාන්දුණු C	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	parties sooned

Plate 2: Scanned copy of some pages of the petition.

Along with the petition, I submitted a corroborative short report to the authorities on the HEC in the area to support the petition (the report has been attached separately with this update).

I keep on meeting, informing and trying to persuade the authorities to pay their attention to the problem. Both the villagers request and my report emphasised the immediate attention required regarding the implementation of the following actions as the initial steps to ameliorate the severity of the problem:

- Fix six street lamps at the entrance and the exit of the Dahaiyagala corridor and the Pokunuthanna entrance.
- Re-establish the function of the guard rooms at the entrance to and the exit of the Dahaiyagala corridor
- Re-establish the function of the electric spring gate at the entrance and the exit of the Dahaiyagala corridor
- Recruit villagers to maintain the electric fence of the Udawalawe national park and the Dahaiyagala sanctuary.