



STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO MANAGE HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Summary of key findings and overview of the strategy and action plan

A RAPIDLY CHANGING ELEPHANT LANDSCAPE

Arunachal Pradesh contains some of the eastern Himalaya's most important elephant habitats, spanning forests, river valleys, foothill ecosystems, and human settlements. However, changing land use, expanding infrastructure, shifting cultivation patterns, and habitat fragmentation are increasingly intensifying interactions between people and elephants across the state.

WWF-India and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department conducted an assessment between December 2024 and March 2026, to document elephant distribution, conflict hotspots, habitat pressures, and landscape connectivity across the state.

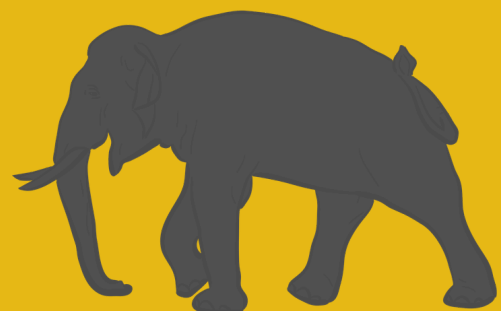
The assessment represents the first comprehensive effort to understand the scale, geography, and drivers of Human–Elephant Conflict (HEC) across Arunachal Pradesh.

STATE-WIDE ASSESSMENT

19 FOREST DIVISIONS

surveyed to assess:

- Elephant presence
- Human–elephant conflict
- Habitat connectivity
- Crop and property damage
- Human casualties
- Landscape-level threats



COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT HOTSPOTS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Division	Major challenges	Average annual crop damage incidents (2007–2024)	Average annual human casualties (2007–2024)	Extent of issue
Pakke Kessang	Crop damage	33.5	0.01	Eastern border Seijosa. Occasional cases on the western border
Papum Pare	Crop damage and human casualties	17	0.47	Spread along the foothills and Assam border
East Siang	Crop damage	30.54	0.18	Spread across the district
Lohit	Crop damage	15.6	NR	Hotspot in the western edge of Kamlang and along the riverine grasslands/islands
Changlang	Crop damage	8.50	0.18	Western fringe of Namdapha
Tirap	Crop damage, property damage, and human casualty	15	0.45	Clustered around Deomali town, but also spread in the northern areas of the division

Pakke Kesang, Papum Pare, East Siang, Lohit, Changlang, and Tirap emerged as major hotspots of elephant-attributed crop damage and human casualties across Arunachal Pradesh. Among these, Papum Pare, Pakke Kesang, and East Siang recorded the highest levels of crop damage, with 93–373 reported incidents between 2014–15 and 2023–24. Pakke Kesang emerged as the hotspot of property damage. Papum Pare and Tirap emerged as hotspots of human casualties with three incidents of human deaths due to elephants reported from these districts.

INCREASE IN BUILT-UP AREAS IN HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT HOTSPOT DISTRICTS OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH (2018 AND 2023)

District	Area (Km ²)		Difference (Km ²)	Percentage increase
	2018	2023		
Changlang	51.96	77.57	25.60	49.27
East Siang	38.84	50.57	11.73	30.20
Lohit	22.18	30.37	8.19	36.90
Pakke Kessang	5.26	8.91	3.65	69.40
Papumpare	69.40	113.92	44.51	64.14
Tirap	10.60	19.22	8.62	81.37

Source: <https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/landcover/>

SUMMARY: STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO MANAGE HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

First-ever state human-elephant conflict management strategy developed for Arunachal Pradesh

The strategy focuses on:

- Reducing conflict and damages
- Securing elephant habitats
- Protecting movement corridors
- Improving response systems
- Strengthening long-term landscape planning

CONVERGENCE FOR CONSERVATION

The strategy highlights the role of:

Data + Technology + Capacity building

to support:

- Monitoring systems
- Spatial planning
- Policy decisions
- Conflict mitigation
- Conservation implementation

ASSESSMENT TO ACTION

The *Strategy and Action Plan to Managing Human-Elephant Conflict in Arunachal Pradesh* will provide support to the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department and other stakeholders in:

- Identifying conflict hotspot divisions and developing context-specific action plans
- Selecting suitable interventions based on local conditions and prioritisation criteria
- Preparing division-level budgets for conflict management measures
- Identifying critical research and knowledge gaps to strengthen long-term HEC management efforts

TOWARDS COEXISTENCE

The Action Plan highlights the urgent need for landscape-scale conservation approaches that secure habitat connectivity while enabling safer coexistence between people and elephants across Arunachal Pradesh. It subsequently provides a strategic framework for managing human-elephant conflict by identifying desired outcomes, followed by activities to be carried out to achieve desired outcomes.

