



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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INDIA: PRESERVING WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

VIDEO

PADDY FIELDS

TEA GARDENS

WOMEN PICKING TEA

DAMAGED FIELDS

VADA PACKING RICE PADDY
INTO TRUCK

FIELDS

VADA ON CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

Assam, northern India is rich with countless paddy fields // and lush tea gardens // It's also a place that's home to India's wildlife, especially elephants....animals revered by Indian society for centuries. (20)

But lately, tea pickers worry about them leaving their habitat and wandering into tea gardens. (6)

Rice farmers have also complained that these animals are ruining their crops. (5)

VADA: (local dialect) M

"A herd of elephants came last night." (2)

NARRATION

Twenty-nine year old, Omilo Vada owns 14 acres of land here. (4)

VADA: (local dialect) M

"A lot of damage was done. I lost about eight to

nine thousand rupees.” (4.5)

NARRATION

OMILO LOADING TRUCK

That’s almost 200 US dollars, equivalent to a local small farmer’s income for nine months. Omilo says it happens every year and it’s devastating as he and his family depend on rice for a living.

(14)

CUTTING BALES

Fearing the elephants may return tonight, Omilo is cutting the harvest quickly to store it before nightfall. (6.5)

WWF OFFICIALS DRIVING

FOREST

ELEPHANTS GRAZING

Both the World Wildlife Fund, WWF, and forest officials fret about the increasing conflict between humans and elephants. They decided to investigate why so many elephants were leaving their habitat and roaming into villages. They found some startling facts – the forest in the north has lost 65% of its canopy. (22)

NARRATION

CAR DRIVING AWAY

Soumen Dey specializes in elephant conservation at WWF. (5)

DEY: (In English) M

DEY ON CAMERA

“...naturally the shrinkage in habitat has made the elephants more visible...since they don’t find enough food inside the forest...they tend to come and raid the crops that people grow around the fringes of the reserved forest.” (13.5)

NARRATION

To protect their crops, villagers have been using

VILLAGERS THROWING
FIRECRACKERS TOWARDS
ELEPHANTS

firecrackers provided by WWF to scare the elephants away. But this only worked for a brief period as the elephants soon became accustomed to the sound. (13.5)

KUNKIS

Villagers had to think of new strategies...like using domesticated elephants to drive out wild ones from crop fields. (7)

DE MEULENAER: (In English) M

“People don’t tolerate Asian elephants that may come and eat their crops, destroy houses, and threaten generally livelihoods. “ (5.5)

INTRO TO DE MEULENAER

Tom De Meulenaer works as a coordinator at CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, supported by United Nations Member States. (10.5)

DE MEULENAER ON-CAMERA

DE MEULENAER: (In English) M

“So in Asia we have a very lively, a very serious human-elephant conflict.” (4.5)

CORRIDOR GRAPHIC

NARRATION

In an effort to minimize the human-elephant conflict in India, the Government created elephant corridors in 13 States, including Assam. This initiative will allow elephants to move safely from one territory to the next, through a system of fencing and overpasses that direct wildlife away from crop fields. (20)

VILLAGERS AND ELEPHANTS

This is the first step in a long process to protect crops and elephants. But restoring the habitat of

these animals is key to their long-term survival as well as preserving the harmony between humans and wildlife. (14)

NARRATION

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Mary Ferreira for the United Nations. (4.5)