

EVALUATION OF TRADITIONAL METHODS TO REDUCE HUMAN ELEPHANT CONFLICT IN BATTICALOA DISTRICT IMPLEMENTED BY CARE INTERNATIONAL

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CARE International Sri Lanka has been implementing development projects in Sri Lanka over sixty years for ending poverty among the poor people. Local Initiatives For Tomorrow 2 (LIFT2) project is one of those projects funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for improving the livelihood security of the people affected by conflict. In the LIFT2 project under applied research and pilot activity, finds feasible methods to overcome the underlying causes of poverty in the project implementation areas of Batticaloa District such as Porativupattu and Manmunai Southwest divisions. It was identified Human elephant Conflict (HEC) as one of the main reasons for poverty. Therefore LIFT2 project has decided to implement suitable methods to reduce HEC in the working areas.

Sri Lanka has in depth experience with HEC in several districts. However, in Batticaloa district, HEC is high in the recent past. In other areas it is controlled by erected electric fences by private companies, Government and Non Governmental Organizations, investing lot of money where the HEC is intense. However, in some African countries where the people and stakeholders have inadequate money, community based management system worked well.

So that LIFT2 project decided to reduce the HEC in the working areas by improving their traditional chasing methods and introduced some techniques such as chili bomb, grease, bee hives and spiny tree cultivation, which are practiced in other countries and other parts of Sri Lanka.

At the end of this pilot activity, it was found that the improved traditional methods reduce HEC significantly in a short term. However, the permanent structures will prevent the negative impacts in longer terms.

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