

BIODIVERSITY & ELEPHANT CONSERVATION TRUST

**PROJECT FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHERE
ONE PARENT HAS BEEN KILLED BY A WILD ELEPHANT**



Dear Friend,

As you probably know I have been carrying out the above project for the last three years. This is to solicit your support, through a generous donation, towards this project. Your concern and generosity will help to make this project successful. The beneficiaries are in dire need of help.

Thank you for helping them when they needed our help most.

Your donation will go towards providing school books and to build houses.

Sincerely,

Jayantha Jayewardene

Background

Due to the pressure for land caused by an increasing human population in Sri Lanka, the wild elephants are losing a greater part of their habitat. With reducing habitats, the elephants are constantly looking for food and water which has now become scarce. The human-elephant conflicts that develop leave a trail of destroyed properties and damaged houses. Worst of all is the trail of dead humans and elephants killed due to these conflicts. Almost all the victims are from amongst the rural poor, who live close to elephant habitats.

When the breadwinner is killed the poor families become even poorer. In our regular surveys we have found that most families are now destitute.

Action by the Biodiversity & Elephant Conservation Trust

The Biodiversity & Elephant Conservation Trust carried out a survey of the families that had the father or the mother killed by a wild elephant. We initially compiled a list of 94 families and 72 children, who needed help the most. Many of these children were not able to go to school due to the lack of basic necessities like school books.

- A list of the basic requirements of the children was made so that they are able to go to school in 2008. (school books, bags, pens colour pencils, box of instruments etc. sufficient to last them for one year). The text books are provided by the government.
- In the last three years we have distributed packages of these of necessities to all the children on our list, before the new school year started.
- This will be the fourth year that we are carrying out this exercise. We now have 154 children to whom we have to distribute school books.

1. Distribution of School Books



Map showing districts where school books were distributed

Books already given

- 72 children in 2009
- 106 children in 2010
- 134 children for 2011

154 children will receive school books for use in 2012.

A set of school books etc for each child costs Rs. 2,000 or US\$ 20

2. Construction of Houses

Six houses of 600 sq.ft. have been built for families that did not have a proper house.



House at Arawatta
Mahiyangana



House at Ellewewa
Polonnaruwa



House at Sooriyawewa
(Now completed)

Each house of 600 sq.ft. costs Rs. 400,000 or US\$ 4,000

You Can Support

Visit our website: www.elephantsinsrilanka.org

Contact: Jayantha Jayewardene, Managing Trustee

romalijj@eureka.lk or romalijj@gmail.com

615/32, Rajagiriya Gardens, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka

Donations could be made

- 1. By cheque made out to the Biodiversity & Elephant Conservation Trust and sent to the address below.**
- 2. Direct to our account in the Hatton National Bank # 055 0213001**
- 3. Foreign donations to our account in the Citibank, # 531 0074219. CITILKLX Star 10999583**

In addition the following have also kindly agreed to collect money from the donors in those countries and remit it to the Biodiversity & Elephant Conservation Trust.

USA

Ms Heidi Riddle

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