

## HUMAN-ELEPHANT RELATIONSHIPS AND ASSESSMENT OF CROP DAMAGE IN BABANRAFI FOREST

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### ABSTRACT

The crop damage by wild animals in Babanrafi forest with special emphasis on African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) was investigated through the administration of questionnaires designed for the local farmers. The data indicated a significant damage to crops planted by the local farmers by the elephants (57.50%). This happens when the elephants migrate from the neighbouring areas into the forest. During rainy season, the migration frequency was reported low (9.17%) however, they become more frequent in the dry season (55%) and the harmattan period (35.83%). The principal cause of their migration is in search for water (100%) and food (85%). The traditional methods of deterrence include raising of alarm by noise making (100%), fire and watching over their farms (100%). Others include the use of repellants and irritants.

**Keywords:** Crop damage, African elephants, Assessment, Babanrafi forest.