

VFAES' Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025

- 1) Continue to focus on the three elephant range states in India
 - i. Kerala in Southern India
 - ii. Odisha in Central India
 - iii. West Bengal in Northeast India
- 2) Expand the projects that have been implemented in these three states as follows:
 - i. Buying out plantation land from private land owners who cultivate plantations inside the forests by partnering with Kerala Forest Department (southern India)
 - ii. Expand the EleSense project across West Bengal to prevent elephants from getting killed on train tracks (Northeast India)
 - iii. Install elephant friendly fencing to prevent elephant electrocution in West Bengal
 - iv. Install barricades around 250-500 open wells across Odisha (Central India)
 - v. Cultivate elephant friendly saplings and plant them in depleted forests of Odisha
 - vi. Create waterholes in fragmented forests of Odisha for elephants to provide them with ample water during the dry summer months
- 3) Build broad public awareness through film, education, nature immersion, and multi-media campaigns, to foster thoughtful shifts in ethical and cultural attitudes
- 4) Provide basic necessities to people living on the forest fringes, starting with flashlights, in order to help mitigate human-elephant conflict
- 5) Purchase a one-acre plot of land to create a permanent nursery and grow elephant friendly saplings, which will then be transplanted in forests
- 6) Collaborate with Forest Departments to create corridors, and promote biodiversity, so elephants have enough land to sustain themselves
- 7) Conduct Gentle Giant Summit to foster collaboration and communication between various governmental agencies to build consensus and work together in protecting wild elephants, while enhancing the living conditions of captive elephants
- 8) Conduct town-hall meetings with communities near the forest fringes to build awareness of the rescue program and engage them as partners in mitigating human/elephant conflict

In order to implement the aforementioned objectives, we have fostered strategic partnerships with grassroots organizations on the ground:

1. In West Bengal we've partnered with Nature Mates India to implement grassroots projects
2. We have also partnered with Solitary Nature and Animal Protection (SNAP) Foundation to implement indigenous technical solutions
3. In Odisha we've partnered with Wildlife Protection Society of India to install barriers around open wells
4. In Odisha we have also partnered with PARIBARTAN to provide food and water for elephants in fragmented habitats
5. In Kerala we are working directly with the state government, supporting its Navakiranam Project aimed at rewilding plantation land by buying several plots from private citizens who are growing cash crops like rubber and bananas inside the forests

VFAES also has fostered partnership with the local media to shed light on the pathetic plight of elephants in the three aforementioned states. We are currently working on developing corporate partnership and hire people on the ground to expand some of our projects.

Fundraising Strategy:

1. Rebranding and redesigning the website (currently underway)
2. Recruit additional volunteers
3. Recruit additional Board of Directors
4. Conduct regular Strategic Planning sessions and Board retreats
5. Organize quarterly meetings with donors