

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
CENTRE FOR INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC SYSTEMS (CIPS)
AND
MR. MATHEN 'RAJEEV' MATHEW - WILD LIFE CONSULTANT
WITH AN OBJECTIVE TO TACKLE HUMAN – ANIMAL CONFLICTS
& UNDERTAKE OTHER BIODIVERSITY RELATED ACTIVITIES

I. Introduction

A total of 1,144 people were killed between April 2014 and May 2017 by roaming tigers, leopards and rampaging elephants, according to statistics released by the environment & forests ministry. (Hindusthan Times – 01-August – 2017).

The human–animal conflict goes back to prehistoric times when humans first started domestication of animals for their needs – meat and skins, and later to farming, as people started to settle down. Early humans were faced with carnivores, and as farming took hold, herbivores started plundering the crops. Even though we have evolved materially and technologically, food remains one of the primordial factors binding us to our ancient roots, and the age-old conflicts with wild life.

Owing to tremendous increase in human population and habitations, the habitat of wild life has not only got fragmented but also shrunk, and the problem has become acute. Increasing wild life populations and restricted spaces for them has resulted in spillover to farms leading to huge losses to farmers especially due to depredation by wild animals. The carnivores that prey on livestock, and herbivores that ravage the agricultural fields have become a common affair off late.

With the scarcity of land, which is impoverishing people and also wild life, it is necessary to find ways and means to find a balance. The mitigation of the conflict is of utmost importance. This is the need of the hour as populations of wild animals are getting skewed and the human population is exploding. Certain animals reap the benefits by being parasitic on humans. Examples: rhesus monkeys, wild boar, leopard, neelgai and other herbivores.



