

# **BIODIVERSITY & ELEPHANT CONSERVATION TRUST**

615/32 Rajagiriya Gardens, Nawala Road,  
Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka.  
Phone 0777 895770 E-mail [romaliji@gmail.com](mailto:romaliji@gmail.com)  
5<sup>th</sup> August 2015



## **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

I am the Managing Trustee of the Biodiversity & Elephant Conservation Trust established in 1998. A profile of the trust is attached. As you will see from the profile we carry out many conservation activities mainly related to elephants. We also pay much attention to the human aspects of human-elephant conflicts.

1. We have carried a **Schools Awareness Program** in 150 schools each year for the last thirteen years. This makes a total of 1,950 schools during this period. The average attendance is 150 children per session. The subjects of the two lectures are Sri Lanka's biodiversity, the natural environment in Sri Lanka, wildlife, elephants and nature.

2. The second project is the **School Book Project** where school books and a bag, sufficient for one year, are distributed to children of families whose one parent has been killed by a wild elephant. The moment one parent is killed the family face severe economic problems and most times the children cannot go to school. This project is in our 7<sup>th</sup> year. We have on our list 150 children who receive the benefits of this project. The families are spread all over the country where there are wild elephants – from Mannar to Moneragala. Each year I personally visit each of these homes, with my colleagues, and handover the books to each child. This operation takes about ten days since we have to go to each home. Though very tiring the result is extremely satisfying.



I would like to urge you, and anyone else you know, to please consider helping these children where the family is in dire economic circumstances. The School Book Project is a very worthy effort. Two of the children we have helped all these years have entered the university this year. A very creditable achievement



The total cost per child for books, school bag etc. is Rs 4,000.00 or around US\$ 35.

Two of these children have entered the Peradeniya University last year.

**3. House Construction.** We build houses for those from amongst these families who do not have a proper. The houses are 650 square feet in size. Each house costs Rs. 500,000 or US \$ 4166.

**Jayantha Jayewardene**  
Managing Trustee.