Electricity box obstructs elephant



Overview

Unauthorized electric fences kill around 50 wild elephants in. The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) says that around 50 wild elephants have reportedly died.

Key Takeaways

Electric boxes, live wires, and illegal electric fences pose a serious threat to wild elephants, often resulting in electrocution and fatalities.

Risks and Incidents

Wild elephants frequently encounter electrical infrastructure in areas where human settlements and farmland overlap with their natural habitats. In India, illegal electric fences and direct connections from distribution lines have been identified as major causes of elephant deaths, with 209 elephants electrocuted in Assam alone between 2000 and 2023. Similarly, in Odisha, low-hanging live wires caused the deaths of at least 11 elephants over two years, including two females in 2022.

In Sri Lanka, around 50 elephants have died due to unauthorized electricity connections from the national grid. In Indonesia's Aceh province, electrified fences installed to protect crops have also led to elephant fatalities as their forest habitats shrink.

How Elephants Are Affected

Electrocution occurs when elephants touch live wires or improperly installed electric fences. These incidents are particularly dangerous because elephants are large, intelligent animals that may investigate unfamiliar objects with their trunks. Sagging wires, illegal connections, or poorly maintained fences increase the risk of fatal shocks.

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Adult male elephants, which play a key ecological role, are often the most affected.

Mitigation and Prevention

Properly designed electric fences can deter elephants without causing fatalities. Effective fences typically include treated wooden posts, plastic or porcelain insulators, and live wires that deliver a short, non-lethal shock to discourage intrusion. However, illegal or poorly installed connections dramatically increase the risk of death.

Conservation authorities and electricity boards urge public cooperation to report unauthorized connections and maintain safe infrastructure.

Broader Implications

These incidents highlight the tension between human agricultural needs and elephant conservation. As elephant habitats shrink due to deforestation and farmland expansion, encounters with electrical infrastructure are likely to increase. Preventive measures, including careful land-use planning, habitat protection, and community awareness, are essential to reduce human-elephant conflict and prevent electrocution fatalities.

In summary, electricity boxes, live wires, and illegal electric fences are significant hazards for elephants, causing numerous deaths annually. Safe installation, monitoring, and public awareness are critical to protecting these keystone species while balancing human safety and agricultural interests.

Article Content

Unauthorized electric fences kill around 50 wild elephants in ...

The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) says that around 50 wild elephants have reportedly died so far this year (2024) after being electrocuted due to unauthorized electrical fences and illegally

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An elephant was caught on camera disabling an electric fence with a smart move. The video was shared on X by IFS officer Parveen Kaswan.

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Among different mitigation measures, electric fences (EFs) are commonly preferred, however, illegal usage of lethal EFs has led to increased cases of electrocution-based elephant

A wild elephant breaks through and expertly neutralises the electric ...

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A wild elephant breaks through and expertly neutralises the electric fence. □□□□Degree in electrical engineering from Nature University.

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Electric fences are widely used in human–elephant conflict mitigation. However, elephants constantly challenge and overcome fences, which is a growing concern. We studied how elephants

Lethal Fence Electrocution: A Major Threat to Asian Elephants in

Electric fences are often preferred as they keep elephants out of human habitations and discourage them from raiding crops. However, fences are lethal when powered by AC current at high

Electrocution Causes More Than 70% Elephant

The weak points include sagging wires, tilted or weak electric poles – all potential death traps for wild elephants. These threats are not confined to

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By Nicole Pinto - Mongabay In areas where human-elephant conflict is common, the forest department and affected farmers come up with multiple

Detusking Fence-Breaker Elephants as an Approach in Human-Elephant ...

Human-elephant conflict (HEC) is a recurring problem that appears wherever the range of elephants and humans overlap. Different methods including the use of electric fences are used

Electric Fences by Save The Elephants

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Electric fences are physical and psychological barriers that deter elephants from individual areas while allowing them to continue moving through the landscape to access resources.

WATCH: Clever Elephant Outsmarts Electric Fence; Stuns Internet,

Animals often surprise us with their habits and intelligence. In a remarkable display of wit, a video is going viral on social media showing an elephant cleverly disabling an electric

Old Video Shows Elephant Breaking Electric Fence Using Brilliant

Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Parveen Kaswan shared the video on Twitter on Monday. The clip showed an elephant breaking an electric fence, crossing the road and disappearing

His Go-To Move: 5 Other Times Thomas Edison Electrocuted An Elephant

In 1903, Thomas Edison electrocuted an elephant named Topsy at Coney Island in order to demonstrate the dangers of AC electrical currents. While this is arguably the most famous

ELEPHANTS AND ELECTRIC FENCES

Elephants and Electric Fences 257 Tension.—The ideal for an ordinary fence—" every wire like a banjo-string "—does not hold for " live " strands, which should be able to give a little in an emergency or

Michael Faraday Memorial in London

Michael Faraday Memorial Shiny Brutalist box commemorates a pioneer of electricity and houses a railway transformer. London, England

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