




## Elephant Undercounting

Kerala may have undercounted almost 2,700 elephants in the latest elephant census conducted in 2017.

- The earlier 2017 elephant census figures indicated that Kerala had only 3,054 elephants whereas, recent number showed Kerala as having 5,706 elephants.

**Mammoth count**  
Table lists State-wise population estimates of elephants as per census conducted during 2017



State	Count	State	Count
Karnataka	6,049	Uttar Pradesh	232
Assam	5,719	Tripura	102
Kerala	5,706	Andhra Pradesh	65
Tamil Nadu	2,761	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25
Odisha	1,976	Bihar	25
Uttarakhand	1,839	Manipur	9
Meghalaya	1,754	Mizoram	7
Arunachal Pradesh	1,614	Madhya Pradesh	7
W.B. (north+south)	682	Haryana	7
Jharkhand	679	Himachal Pradesh	7
Nagaland	446	Maharashtra	6
Chhattisgarh	247		

- Elephant census, is conducted **once in 5 years** under the aegis of **Project elephant**.
- A scientist associated with the census are of the view that discrepancy had resulted from Kerala's insistence in 2017 on using a technique called the 'direct count' method.

## Elephant Counting Methods Employed in Census

- **The direct counting method** is based on sightings of elephants.
- **The indirect counting method** uses the elephant elephant '**dung decay**' formula, in which the analysis of dung is used to estimate the population of the elephant.

## Project Elephant

- Project Elephant (PE), is a **centrally sponsored scheme**, and was launched in February 1992 for the **protection of elephants**, their habitats and corridors.
- It also seeks to address the issues of **human-wildlife conflict** and welfare of domesticated elephants.

- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** provides the **financial** and **technical support** to major elephant range states in the country through Project Elephant.

**[Source: TH](#)**

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