International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering & Technology
Volume6, Issue3 (May-June 2026), PP: 166-171.
https://www.doi.org/10.59256/ijsreat.20260603024
www.ijsreat.com
ISSN No: 2583-1240

Elephant Detection and Repulsion System using IOT, Drones, and LoRa Technology

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To Cite this Article: *Sinchana R[1], Theertha Prasad[2], Yogini D R[3], Dr. M B Anandaraju[4], Dr. Manoj Kumar S B[5], "Elephant Detection and Repulsion System using IoT, Drones, and LoRa Technology", International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering & Technology, Volume 06, Issue 03, May-June 2026, PP:166-171.*

Abstract: *Human–Elephant Conflict (HEC) has become a major challenge in forest-border and agricultural regions due to habitat loss and increasing human activities near wildlife areas. Traditional prevention methods often fail to provide early detection, continuous monitoring, and safe elephant deterrence. This paper presents an intelligent IoT-based Elephant Detection and Repulsion System using LoRa communication, GPS tracking, camera verification, and drone technology for real-time wildlife monitoring and conflict prevention. The proposed system integrates piezoelectric vibration sensors with ESP32 microcontrollers and LoRa SX1278 modules to detect elephant movement and transmit alert information over long distances. An ESP32-CAM module is used for visual verification, while a drone equipped with Bluetooth speakers performs non-lethal elephant repulsion using warning sounds. GPS-based tracking and OpenStreetMap integration support accurate location monitoring and intrusion visualization. Experimental analysis indicates improved detection accuracy, reduced false alerts, low power consumption, and minimized human intervention. The proposed system is cost-effective, scalable, eco-friendly, and suitable for smart wildlife monitoring and forest-border protection applications.*

Key Words: *Human–Elephant Conflict, IoT, LoRa Communication, ESP32, Drone Technology, GPS Tracking, Wildlife Monitoring, Piezoelectric Sensors, Smart Agriculture, Real-Time monitoring.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Human–Elephant Conflict (HEC) has become a serious issue in many forest-border and agricultural regions due to habitat loss, deforestation, and increasing human activities near wildlife areas. Elephants frequently enter farmlands and villages in search of food and water, causing crop damage, property destruction, and threats to both human life and wildlife. Since elephants are important for maintaining ecological balance, it is necessary to develop solutions that protect both humans and animals without causing harm.

Traditional elephant prevention methods such as electric fencing, trenches, firecrackers, and manual patrolling have several limitations. These methods are expensive, difficult to maintain, and often ineffective over large forest areas. Manual monitoring also requires continuous human effort and may fail to provide early warning during night-time or poor weather conditions. As a result, delayed detection often leads to severe damage and increased conflict between humans and elephants.

With the advancement of IoT, wireless communication, and drone technology, intelligent wildlife monitoring systems have become more practical and effective. By integrating sensors, microcontrollers, GPS tracking, and long-range communication, it is possible to create automated systems capable of continuously monitoring elephant movement and responding in real time. These technologies help reduce human involvement in dangerous situations while improving detection accuracy and response speed.

This work proposes an IoT-based Elephant Detection and Repulsion System using LoRa communication and drone technology. The system integrates piezoelectric vibration sensors, ESP32 microcontrollers, GPS modules, camera verification, and drone-assisted deterrence into a single framework. The main objective is to provide early elephant detection, accurate monitoring, safe non-lethal repulsion, and real-time alerts while minimizing human effort and improving wildlife conflict management.

Our key objectives are to:

- To develop system for real-time elephant detection using piezoelectric vibration sensors.
- To implement LoRa communication for wireless transmission of elephant detection in forest environments.

- To provide GPS tracking and drone-based repulsion.
- To reduce Human–Elephant Conflict safely.

The contributions of this paper include:

- Design of a cost-effective IoT-based elephant detection system using ESP32 and LoRa modules.
- Integration of vibration sensing, GPS tracking, and camera verification for accurate monitoring.
- Implementation of an automated repulsion strategy for maintaining wildlife and human safety.

II.LITERATURE SURVEY

The integration of advanced technologies such as IoT, LoRa communication, and automation has significantly improved wildlife monitoring systems. In Human–Elephant Conflict mitigation, maintaining continuous monitoring and early detection is critical for preventing intrusion and reducing damage. This section reviews recent studies focusing on elephant detection, wireless communication, automated monitoring, and drone-based repulsion systems.

A. IoT-Based Elephant Monitoring Systems.

IoT-based wildlife monitoring systems have been widely adopted for real-time elephant detection and movement tracking. Sharma et al. (2023) developed an IoT-enabled system for monitoring elephant movement using vibration sensors and wireless communication, demonstrating improved early detection accuracy. Similarly, Nair et al. (2024) implemented an ESP32-based monitoring system that provided real-time alert transmission and remote monitoring through LoRa communication.

These systems significantly reduce manual monitoring efforts; however, most of them primarily focus on detection and lack efficient automated repulsion mechanisms, which limits their effectiveness in preventing Human–Elephant Conflict.

B. Automated Wildlife Monitoring and Repulsion Systems.

Automation plays a vital role in maintaining continuous elephant monitoring and rapid response mechanisms. Huidrom et al. (2022) proposed an automated elephant detection system using vibration sensors and wireless communication to identify elephant movement near forest- border areas. Their results showed improved detection accuracy and reduced manual monitoring compared to traditional methods.

Nguyen et al. (2024) introduced an energy-efficient wildlife monitoring system that integrates multiple sensors with automated alert and repulsion mechanisms to reduce Human– Elephant Conflict. Although these systems improve monitoring efficiency, they often involve higher implementation complexity and operational cost, making them less suitable for large-scale rural deployment.

C. Image Processing and Machine Learning Approaches.

Machine learning techniques, particularly computer vision and AI-based monitoring systems, have been widely used for wildlife detection and tracking. Patel et al. (2022) developed an IoT-based elephant monitoring system integrated with machine learning models to identify elephant movement and automate alert generation processes.

Zakeri et al. (2024) introduced a vision-based wildlife detection framework for identifying elephant movement patterns with high accuracy using image processing techniques. While these approaches provide valuable monitoring capabilities, their implementation in embedded systems remains challenging due to computational and power limitations.

D. Integrated IoT and Vision-Based Systems.

Recent research has focused on combining sensor-based monitoring with image-based verification for wildlife management. Rahman et al. (2022) proposed a system integrating IoT sensors with camera analysis techniques to improve elephant detection accuracy. The study demonstrated enhanced identification of elephant movement and reduced false intrusion alerts.

Despite these advancements, most existing systems either lack full integration or require high computational resources, limiting their practical deployment in low-cost and large- scale forest monitoring environments.

From the reviewed literature, it is evident that:

- Existing systems focus mainly on detection rather than prevention.
- Camera-based verification lacks proper IoT system integration.
- Many existing solutions involve higher complexity and implementation cost.

To overcome these limitations, the proposed system integrates real-time elephant detection, LoRa communication, camera verification, and drone-assisted repulsion into a unified, cost-effective IoT framework specifically designed for Human–Elephant Conflict mitigation.

III.PROBLEM STATEMENT

Human–Elephant Conflict, particularly near forest-border and agricultural regions, requires continuous monitoring and early detection of elephant movement. In traditional prevention methods, elephant intrusion is monitored manually, which introduces several challenges.

Another major limitation is the lack of real-time monitoring mechanisms for elephant intrusion and movement. Without camera verification or automated alerts, authorities may not identify elephant presence until significant crop damage or conflict has already occurred. Furthermore, manual response methods often lead to delays in preventive actions, reducing overall system

efficiency.

Therefore, there is a need for an intelligent system that enables real-time elephant detection, automated monitoring, and safe non-lethal repulsion to ensure effective Human– Elephant Conflict mitigation.

IV.PROPOSED METHOD

The proposed system is an intelligent IoT-based elephant detection and repulsion framework designed to automate wildlife monitoring and conflict prevention in forest-border and agricultural regions. It integrates sensing, processing, communication, verification, and drone-assisted repulsion into a unified system.

A. System Architecture

The system consists of the following major components:

- **Sensors:** Piezoelectric vibration sensors are used to continuously monitor ground vibrations caused by elephant movement near forest-border and agricultural regions.
- **Processing Unit:** The ESP32 microcontroller acts as the central controller, receiving sensor data, processing it, and executing detection decisions based on predefined threshold values.
- **Image Acquisition Unit:** The ESP32-CAM module captures real-time images of the intrusion area, enabling visual monitoring and verification of elephant movement.
- **Repulsion Unit:** A drone equipped with Bluetooth speakers is used to safely repel elephants by producing warning and distress sounds.
- **Communication Module:** The LoRa SX1278 module enables long-range wireless communication between transmitter nodes and the receiver station.
- **User Interface:** A web dashboard displays alerts, GPS locations, system status, and captured images for real-time monitoring.

Working Principle.

The system operates through continuous monitoring, detection, and repulsion processes:

1. Piezoelectric vibration sensors continuously monitor ground vibrations near forest-border regions.
2. The ESP32 processes sensor data using threshold values.
3. The GPS module captures intrusion location.
4. LoRa transmits alert data to the receiver station.
5. The ESP32-CAM verifies elephant presence.
6. The drone produces warning sounds to repel elephants safely.

This automated system ensures continuous monitoring, early detection, and safe Human–Elephant Conflict mitigation with minimal human intervention.

B. Control Strategy.

A rule-based control mechanism is implemented for automatic elephant detection and response. The control logic is defined based on threshold conditions:

- If vibration level > threshold → Detect elephant movement.
- If elephant presence is verified → Activate drone repulsion system.
- If intrusion is detected → Transmit alert through LoRa communication.

This approach ensures a simple yet effective method for continuous monitoring and safe conflict prevention.

C. Key Features of the Proposed System.

- Real-time elephant movement detection
- Long-range LoRa communication
- Camera-based intrusion verification
- Drone-assisted elephant repulsion
- Remote monitoring through web dashboard

V.METHODOLOGY

The overall working process of the proposed IoT-based Elephant Detection and Repulsion System is illustrated in the flowchart shown in Fig.1. The system begins by initializing the ESP32 controller, vibration sensors, LoRa module, GPS module, and camera module. Ground vibrations caused by elephant movement are continuously monitored, and images are captured periodically for verification.

The collected data is transmitted to the receiver station and web dashboard, where it is evaluated against predefined threshold values. If the detected vibrations are within the normal range, the system continues monitoring. Otherwise, alert transmission, camera verification, and drone-assisted repulsion mechanisms are activated. Additionally, warning alerts are generated when elephant intrusion is confirmed. The process runs continuously in a loop to ensure real-time monitoring, early detection, and safe Human–Elephant Conflict mitigation.

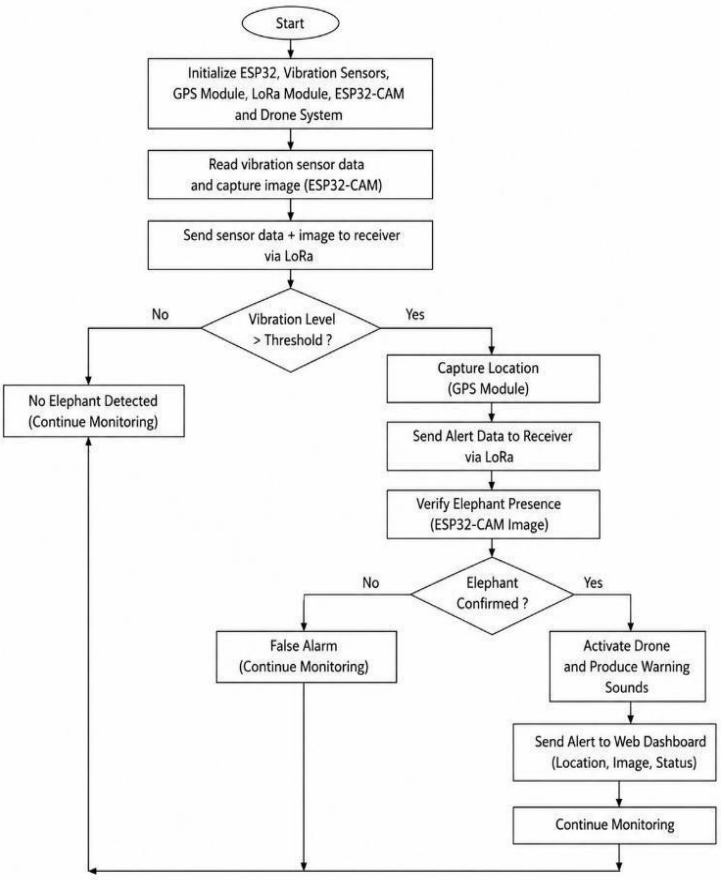

Fig.1: Proposed Flowchart

VI.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of the proposed IoT-based Elephant Detection and Repulsion System successfully enables real- time elephant monitoring, automated alert generation, and safe wildlife conflict prevention. The system was tested under different operating conditions, including normal environmental disturbances, elephant movement detection, and drone response scenarios, to evaluate its performance and reliability.

During experimentation, the system continuously monitored ground vibrations using piezoelectric sensors integrated with the ESP32 microcontroller. The ESP32-CAM module captured images periodically, allowing visual verification of elephant movement. The collected data was transmitted to the web dashboard, where real-time updates were displayed.

When vibration levels remained within the normal range, the system maintained continuous monitoring without activating any alert mechanism. However, when abnormal vibrations were detected, the system responded immediately by transmitting alert data through LoRa communication. After camera verification, the drone was activated to produce warning sounds and safely repel elephants from the intrusion area.

The system demonstrated consistent performance with minimal delay in detection and response. The average response time for sensor data acquisition and alert transmission was observed to be within a few seconds, ensuring real-time monitoring. The alert mechanism successfully notified intrusion events, allowing timely preventive action when required.

A. System Performance Evaluation:

To evaluate the efficiency of the proposed system, several performance parameters were analyzed, including detection accuracy, response time, communication reliability, and alert generation.

The results indicate that the system successfully detects elephant movement and provides real-time monitoring in forest-border regions. The vibration detection and camera verification process showed high accuracy with minimal false alerts, demonstrating effective system performance. The system reliability of 98.5% confirms stable operation over extended periods, while the alert mechanism ensures accurate detection of elephant intrusion events.

The results also show that the system operates with minimal communication delay and fast response time during intrusion events. The LoRa communication module successfully transmitted alert data over long distances, while the drone- assisted repulsion mechanism responded quickly after verification. Continuous monitoring through the web dashboard enabled real-time tracking of elephant movement, improving overall system efficiency and supporting timely preventive action.

The results show that the system operates efficiently, with all processes completed within a short time. The fast response of the detection and alert mechanisms ensures immediate identification of elephant movement, reducing the risk of Human–Elephant Conflict. The communication delay is minimal, enabling continuous real-time monitoring through the web dashboard.

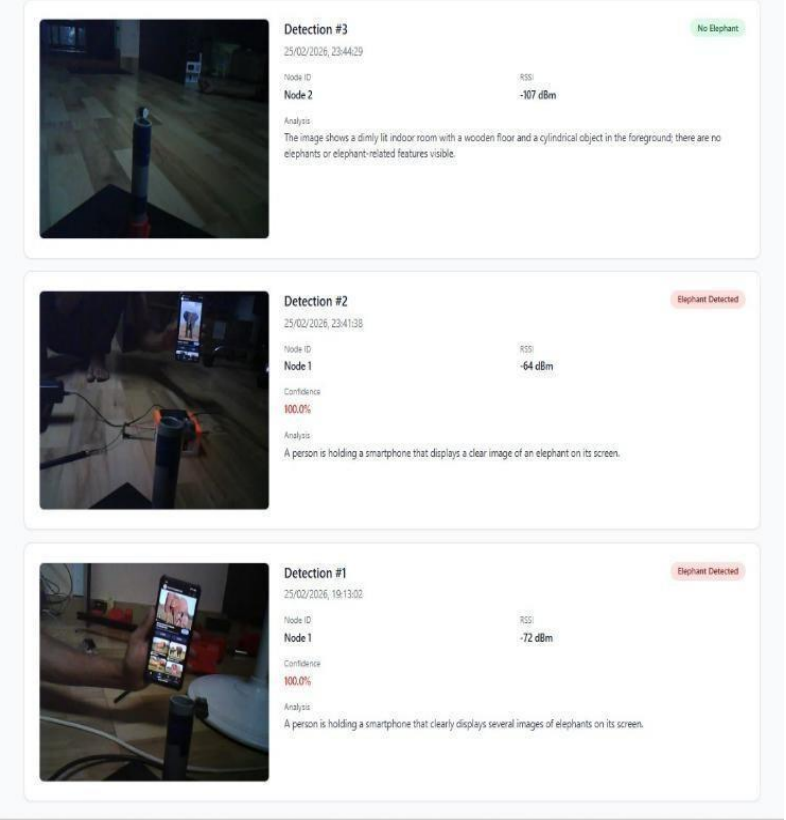

Fig 2: image of elephant detection

VII.CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The proposed IoT-based Elephant Detection and Repulsion System successfully addresses the limitations of traditional manual monitoring by providing real-time elephant detection and automated alert generation. The system effectively detects elephant movement using vibration sensors, GPS tracking, and camera verification, ensuring early identification of intrusion in forest-border and agricultural regions. The integration of ESP32 with LoRa communication, sensors, and drone-assisted repulsion enables continuous monitoring and quick response to elephant movement, reducing human intervention. The experimental results demonstrate that the system achieves high reliability and accuracy, with stable communication and efficient alert mechanisms. The inclusion of drone-based warning systems further enhances the system by enabling safe and non-lethal elephant repulsion.

Future enhancements of the system can focus on:

- Integration of deep learning models for accurate elephant detection and classification
- Development of a mobile application for real-time alerts and monitoring
- Implementation of cloud-based analytics for elephant movement prediction
- Addition of solar-powered autonomous monitoring units for remote regions
- Enhancement of system scalability for large-scale forest-border deployment.

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