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Kochi, Wild Elephants Died, Heavy Rain, Monsoon Related Diseases

Four wild elephants die in three days

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FOUR wild elephants have died due to heavy rain and monsoon-related diseases in the state during the past three days. On Tuesday, an eight-year-old elephant succumbed to illness at Bodimettu near Pothamedu under the Devikulam Forest Range in Munnar. The elephant was spotted by a team of forest officers on Monday morning.

"As the animal was weak, we were monitoring its movements. By Monday evening, the elephant collapsed and it died early on Tuesday morning. Thekkady Assistant Forest Veterinary Officer P M Abdul Sattar conducted the post-mortem examination and the carcass was buried. We suspect the animal was infected by elephant herpes. We have collected the samples, which will be sent to the veterinary lab at Palode," said Range Officer C O Nibu Kiran.

On Tuesday evening, tribals informed the Forest officers in Edamalayar Range that an elephant has died in the interior forest after it was caught in the flash floods triggered by the heavy rain. A team of forest officers are scouring the forest to locate the carcass.

Meanwhile, the Forest officers from the Athirappally Range Office recovered the carcass of a baby elephant from the Periyar river on Tuesday. The carcass of the one-year-old elephant was floating in the river for the past couple of days. On Tuesday, the carcass got stuck under the Purappallykavu Bund in Paravur.

The Forest officers had a tough task as the river was in full spate and the water was gushing down in full force. The forest team had to brave the strong currents and reach underneath the bund to retrieve the carcass. It was later taken to the Malayattoor Forest office, where it was buried after conducting postmortem examination. According to the forest officers, the elephant calf might have got swept away by strong currents while crossing the stream in the Pooyamkutty forest area.

A six-year-old elephant had drowned after it accidentally fell into an open well at Kaithappara, a hamlet on the forest fringes in Kanjikuzhy panchayat on Saturday night. The carcass of the animal was recovered from the 15-feet-deep well on Tuesday and buried.

The elephant calf entered the village along with a herd of wild elephants. The animal fell into the well located in the farm land of Kulambel Joseph. As the calf fell into the well, other elephants ran amok and destroyed the houses of Joseph, Kulambel Mathew, Jose and Baiju in the village.