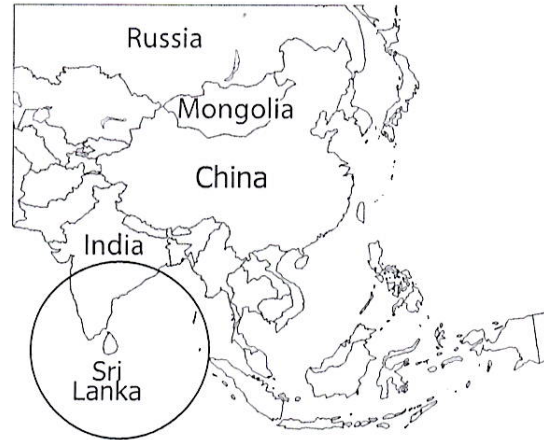


Directions: Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

Elephant Refuge

- 1 Elephants may be the largest land mammals on Earth, but they have little chance of holding their own against human progress. In both Africa and Asia, where elephants live in the wild, herds are being threatened by changes in their natural habitats. People are moving into the elephants' territories and endangering their survival. In the country of Sri Lanka, there is one place where elephants are not only protected but also respected. It is called the Elephant Transit Home (ETH), in Udawalawe National Park. The ETH was established in 1995.



People Versus Elephants

- 2 Sri Lanka is an island nation in the Indian Ocean about 20 miles off the southeastern coast of India. It is a small country, only 274 miles wide and 725 miles long. In 1900 there were 12,000 wild elephants living in Sri Lanka's tropical environment. Now that number has dwindled to fewer than 6,000. What caused this devastation? The primary cause has been the increasing competition between people and elephants for land and resources.
- 3 Today, the human population of Sri Lanka has surpassed 20 million. People are bulldozing forests into farmland. They are building highways over centuries-old elephant migration routes. Elephants are being squeezed out of their habitats. This change causes turmoil, resulting in an increased number of conflicts between elephants and humans.

Endangered Baby Elephants

- 4 The ETH's mission is to protect and nurture baby elephants that are found injured or living without their mothers in the wild. In most cases, the baby animals have been separated from their mothers and their herd. Without the protection of other elephants, the calves are in danger of perishing.
- 5 Every year about 30 baby elephants in Sri Lanka need refuge. As many as possible are brought to the ETH. After what is often a long and difficult journey, the elephant calves arrive at Udawalawe. There they are given food, shelter, and medical care. Most importantly, they are given the opportunity to be with other elephants and become part of a herd. There are normally between 15 and 30 elephants at the home. They range in age from three weeks to four years old.

A New Home

- 6 A day at the refuge begins early in the morning when the baby elephants are given their first feeding of milk. During the course of the day, each baby will drink an average of 13 gallons of milk. Older elephants are fed mostly coconut leaves as well as other native

plants. Then the elephants are released to roam on the preserve's land, grazing on the grass and forming a herd.

- 7 The cost of caring for the baby elephants is high, especially by Sri Lankan standards. The ETH spends approximately \$125,000 each year on powdered milk for the calves. To help pay for food and medical supplies the elephants need, the ETH has a foster parent program. Anyone, even schoolchildren, can become a benefactor by donating money to care for a baby elephant. While some foster parents are too far away to visit the baby elephant being cared for at the ETH, local schoolchildren are also participants in the program. Foster parents can name their adopted elephants, take photographs of them, and even help release them into the wild.

Return to the Wild

- 8 At the refuge, workers try to minimize human contact with the elephants. They also try to maximize bonds between the elephants. The goal of the orphanage is for the elephants eventually to return to the wild. It usually takes three years for a baby elephant to be released into its natural habitat. The elephants are released together with other orphans with whom they have bonded. This program helps them return to the wild as members of a herd that will communicate with each other and take care of each other.
- 9 The ETH is considered one of the best animal protection sites in the world. Not only are the elephants cared for, they are treated with respect and dignity. Most importantly, these magnificent mammals go back to live in the wild, where they belong.

12 In paragraph 3, surpassed means —

- F** been estimated to be
- G** almost reached
- H** increased beyond
- J** been growing toward