3.7 Different Disaster Categories and their Impacts

3.7.1 Animal Attacks

3.7.1.1 Distribution

Annual Time Series Distribution

The increase in animal attacks towards the latter part of the period under consideration can be attributed to the increased availability of data in recent years. Work is going on to gather data for prior years from other sources. During the period (1998 – 2007) the number of events fluctuated from 500-900 events per year (Figure 32).

Seasonal Distribution

One can see some seasonal variation in animal attacks. There are two peaks, one in April/May and the other in October (Figure 33), with the peaks probably coinciding with the main crop growing seasons.

Figure 32 : Annual Time Series Distribution of Animal Attacks

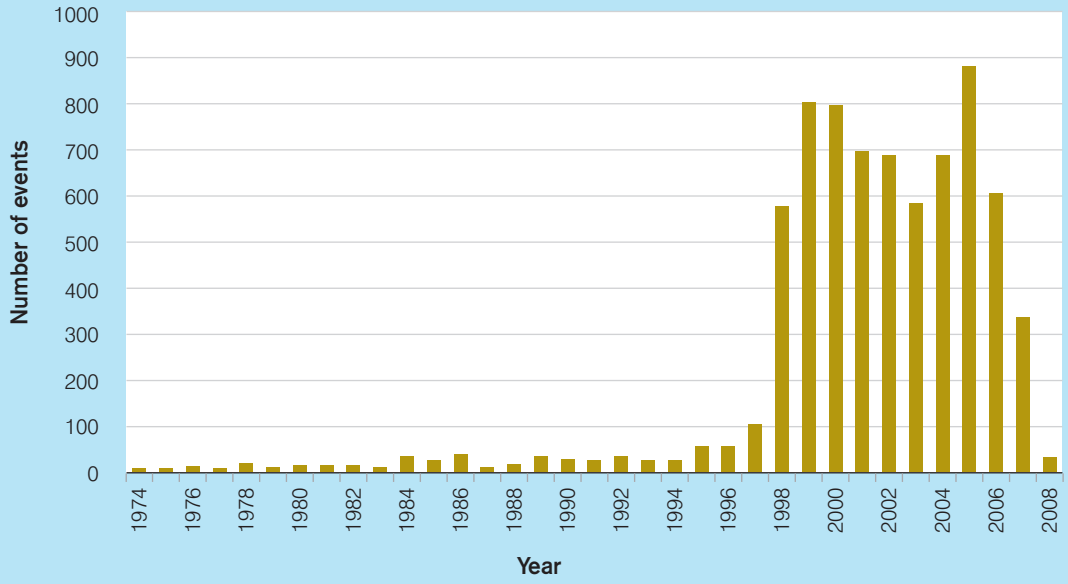

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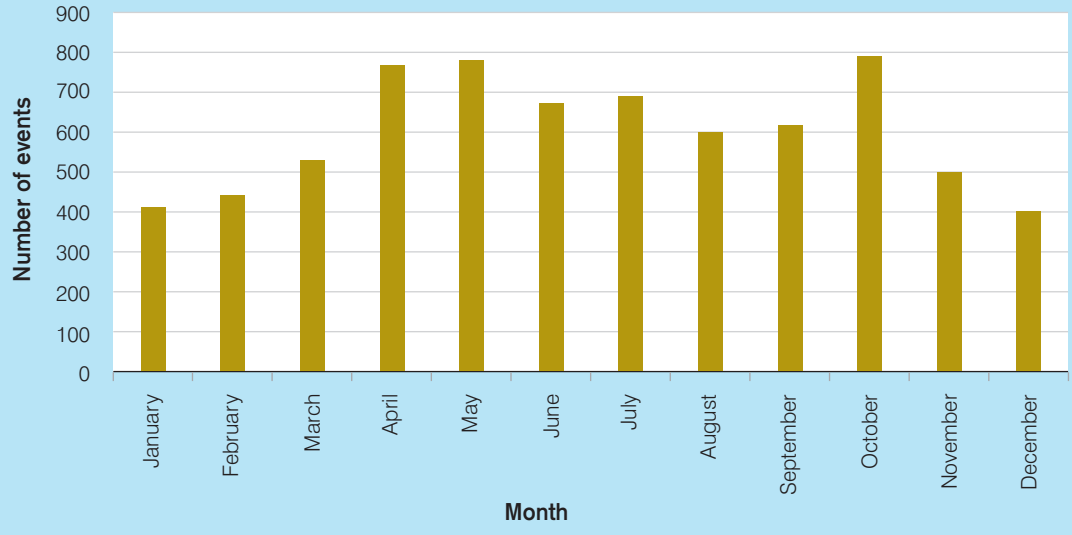
Figure 33 : Seasonal Distribution of Animal Attacks : 1974 - 2008



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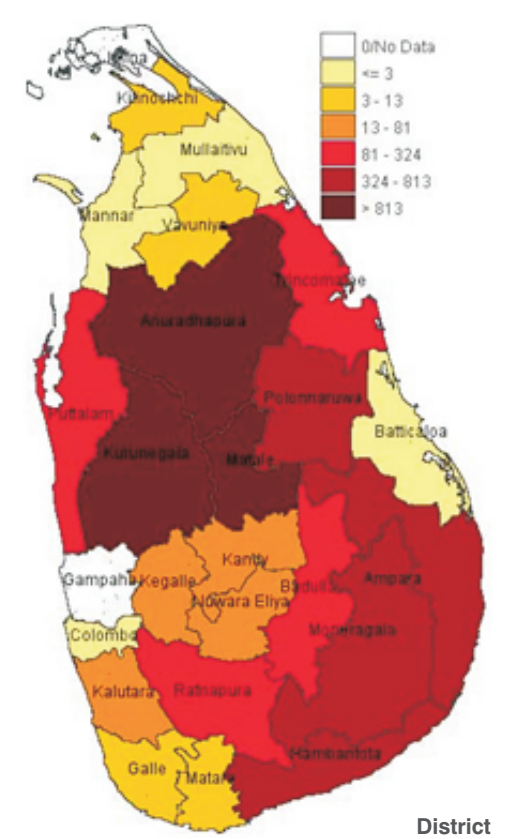
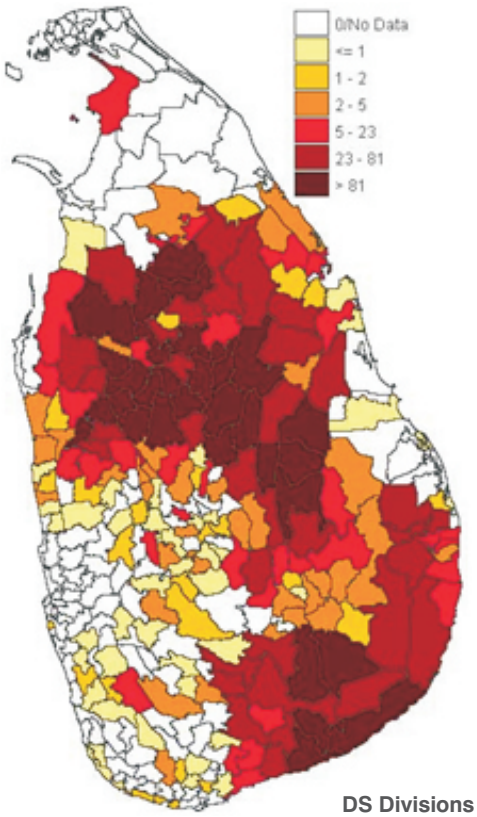
Map 14: Spatial Distribution of Animal Attacks : 1974-2008



District



DS Divisions

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Spatial Distribution

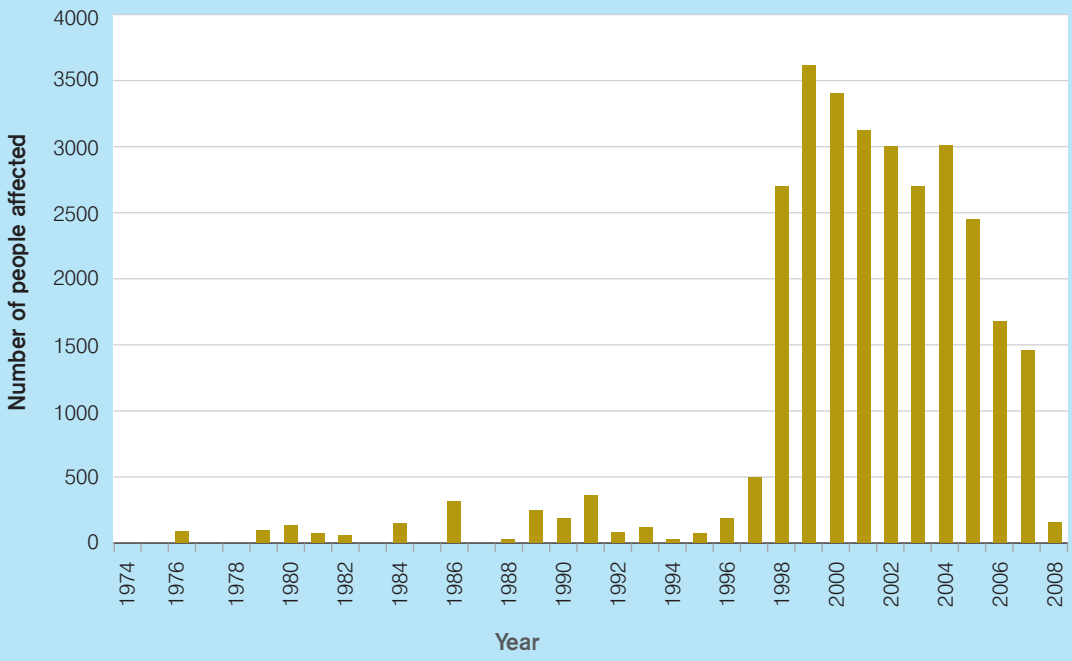
Spatially, it can be seen that animal attacks have occurred throughout the island (Map 14). However, three districts, namely, Anuradhapura, Matale and Kurunegala, have the highest number of animal attacks surpassing the upper limit of 813. Districts such as Mullaitivu, Mannar, Batticaloa and Colombo have very low levels of animal attacks (for Gampaha and Jaffna there are no data). A similar pattern can be seen in the DS divisions.

3.7.1.2 Impacts

People Affected (Annual Time Series and Spatial Distribution)

The number of people affected by animal attacks has also increased in the latter part of the period (Figure 34). However, like the number of events, the number of people affected has gradually declined starting from 3,500 people in 1999 to less than 1500 people in 2007. Spatially, as before, most people affected are in Anuradhapura, Matale and Kurunegala, while districts like Colombo, Batticaloa, Mannar, and Mullativu have a lower level of people affected. Spatially, too, a similar pattern can be observed.

Figure 34 : People Affected Due to Animal Attacks - Annual Time Series Distribution



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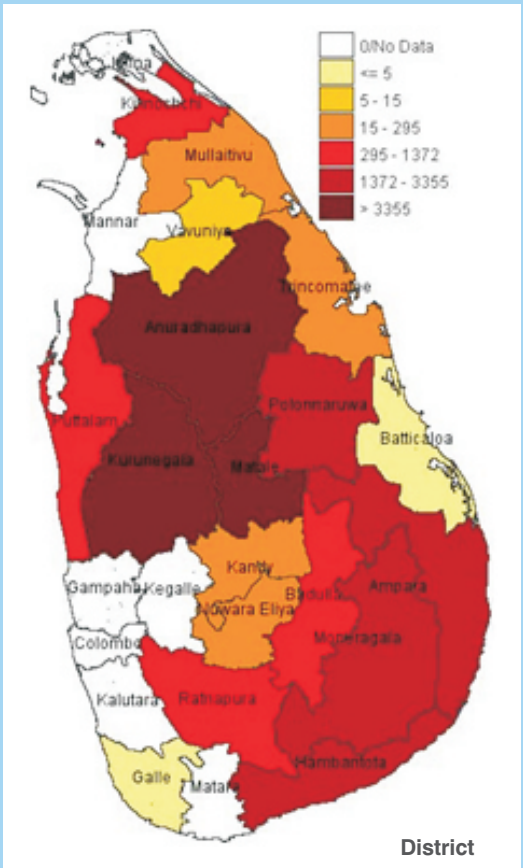
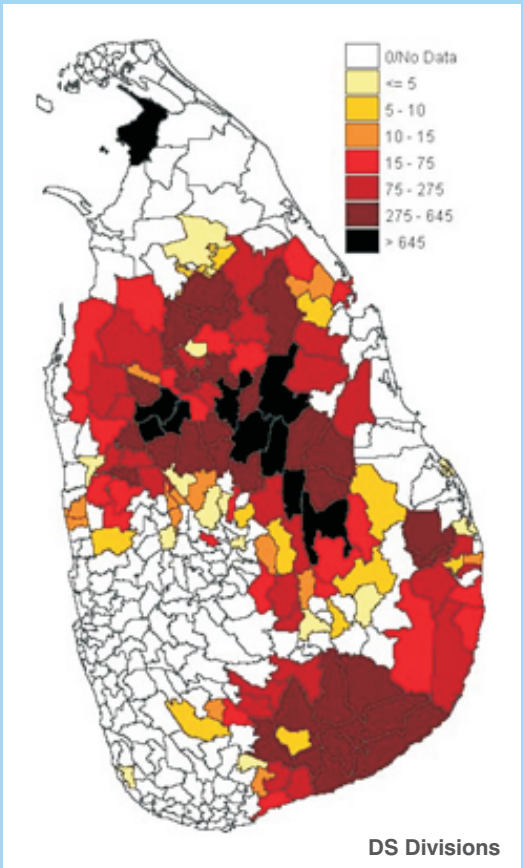
Map 15 : People Affected Due to Animal Attacks - Spatial Distribution : 1974 - 2008





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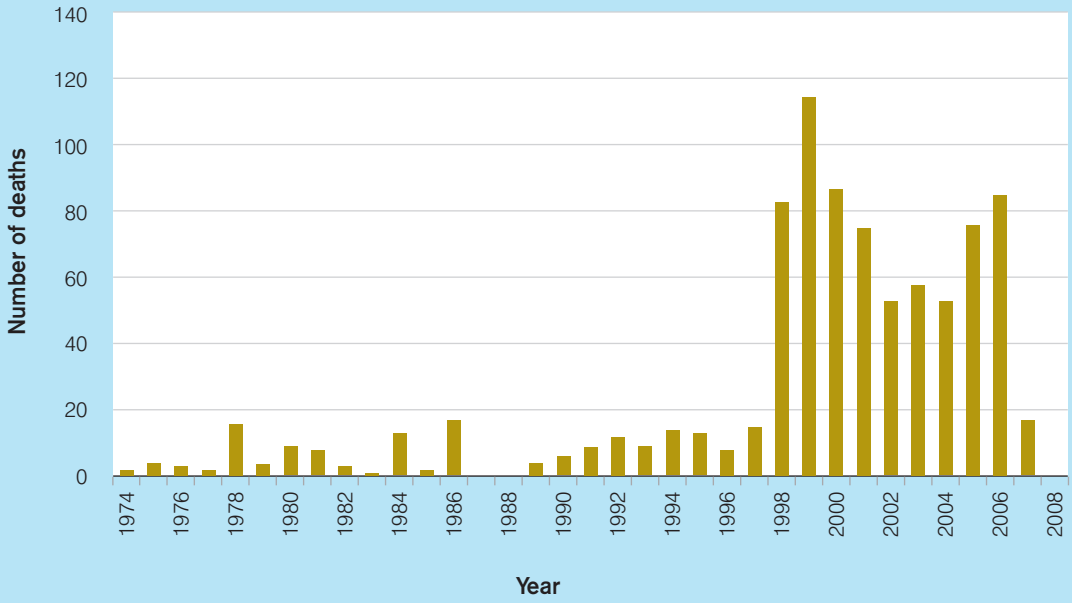
Loss of Life (Annual Time Series and Spatial Distribution)

Loss of life due to animal attacks has been generally quite high with a peak of more than 100 deaths annually (Figure 35). However, it takes on a fluctuating pattern during the period 1998-2008. Spatially, deaths take on a similar pattern as people affected (Map 16).

Figure 35 : Loss of Life Due to Animal Attacks - Annual Time Series Distribution



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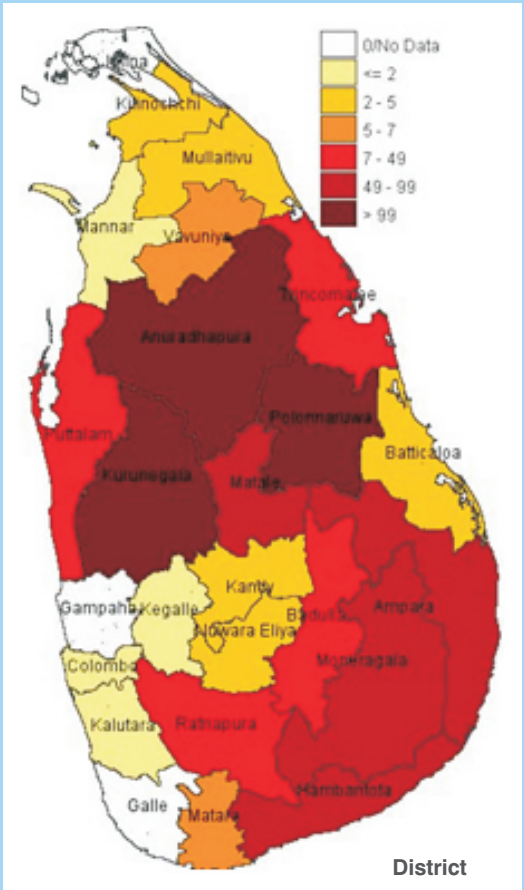
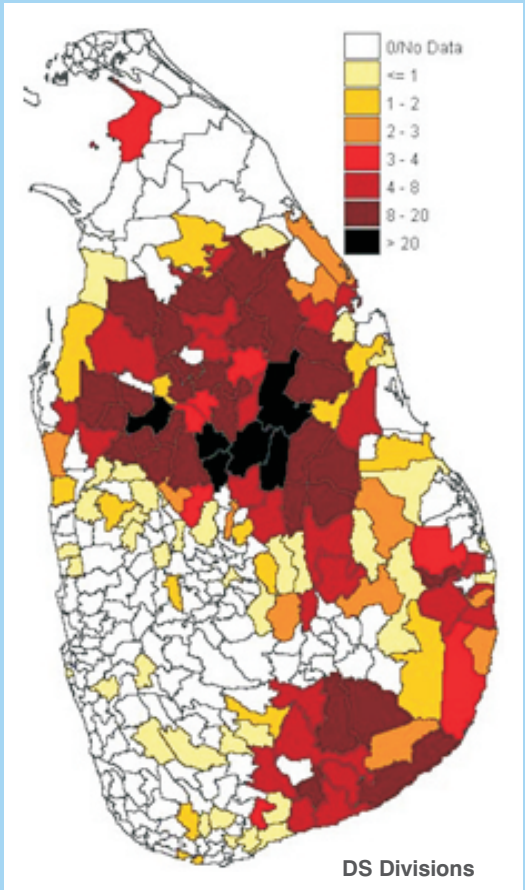
Map 16 : Loss of Life Due to Animal Attacks - Spatial Distribution : 1974-2008





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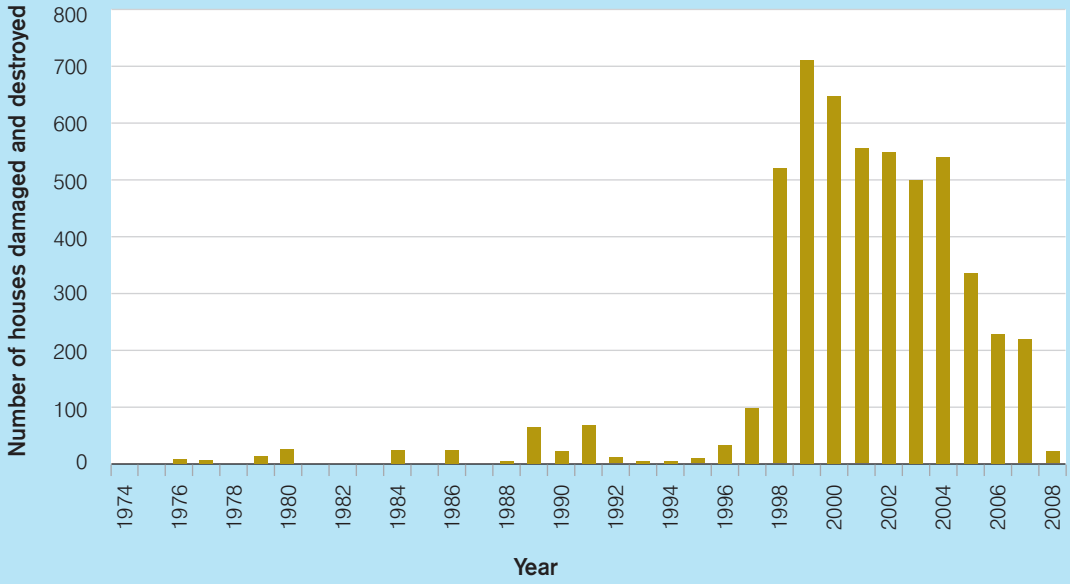
Destroyed and Damaged Houses (Annual Time Series and Spatial Distribution)

Damage to houses due to animal attacks has also been relatively high (Figure 36). Taking a similar pattern as the number of people affected, over time it has gradually declined from a peak of 700 houses damaged in 1999, to nearly 200 in 2008. Spatially, too, it takes a similar pattern as people affected and deaths due to animal attacks (Map 17).

Figure 36 : No of Houses Destroyed and Damaged Due to Animal Attacks – Annual Time Series Distribution



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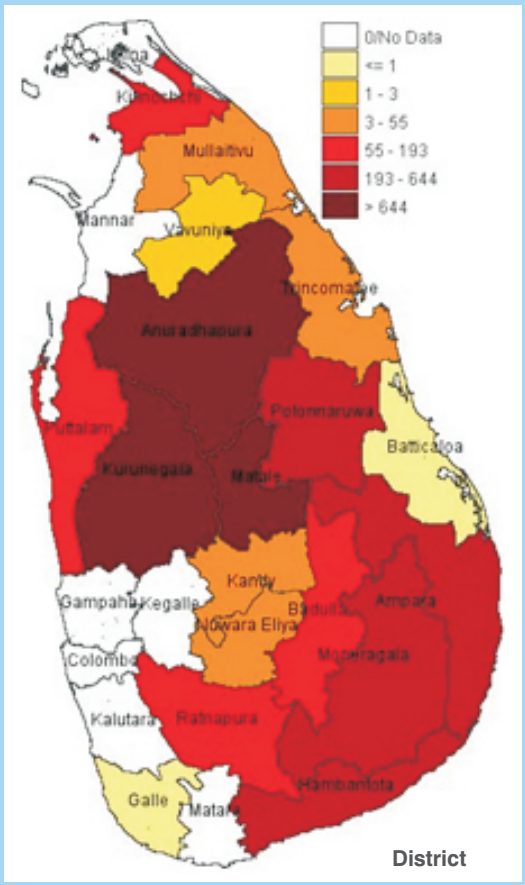
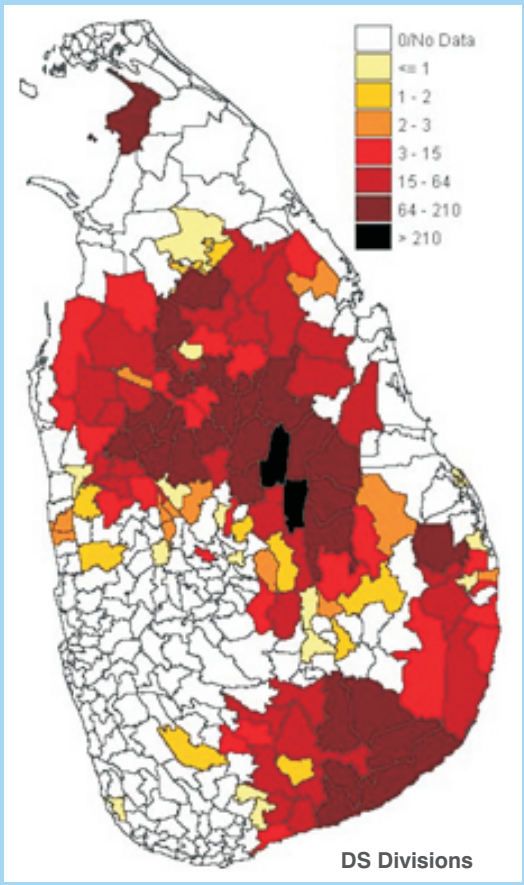
Map 17 : No of Houses Destroyed and Damaged Due to Animal Attacks – Spatial Distribution : 1974 - 2008





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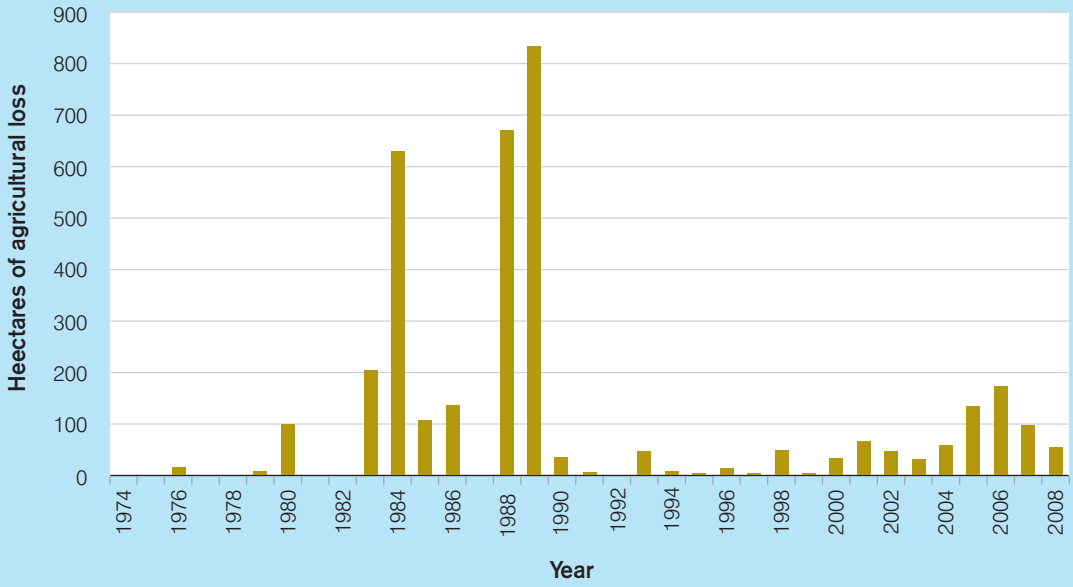
Losses to Agricultural Crops (Annual Time Series and Spatial Distribution)

Agricultural loss in hectares of crop damage due to animal attacks has been generally low (Figure 37). However, a peak can be seen in the years 1984, 1988 and in 1989, surpassing a figure of 800 hectares. Spatially too it has taken a different pattern (Map 18), with districts like Anuradhapura, Moneragala and Badulla having the highest agricultural losses. However, many districts have experienced low levels of agricultural loss and these are clustered around the Northern and South Western areas of the island. Overall, the level of agricultural loss is quite low.

Figure 37 : Agricultural Loss Due to Animal Attacks (in Hectares) – Annual Time Series Distribution



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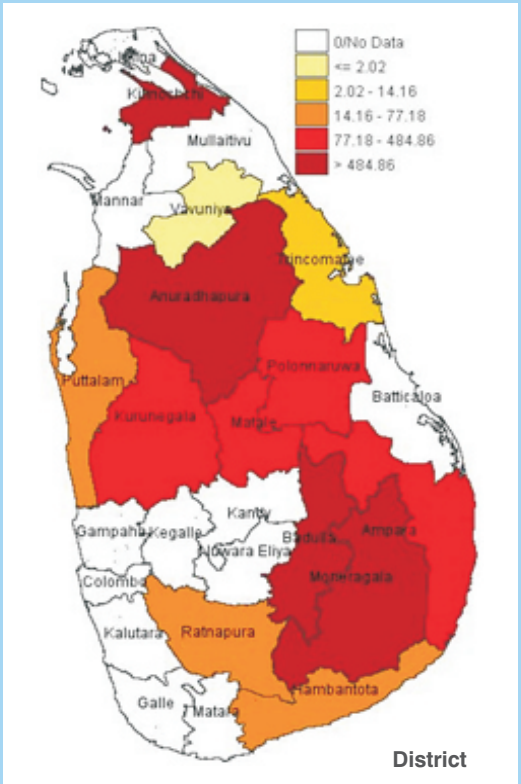
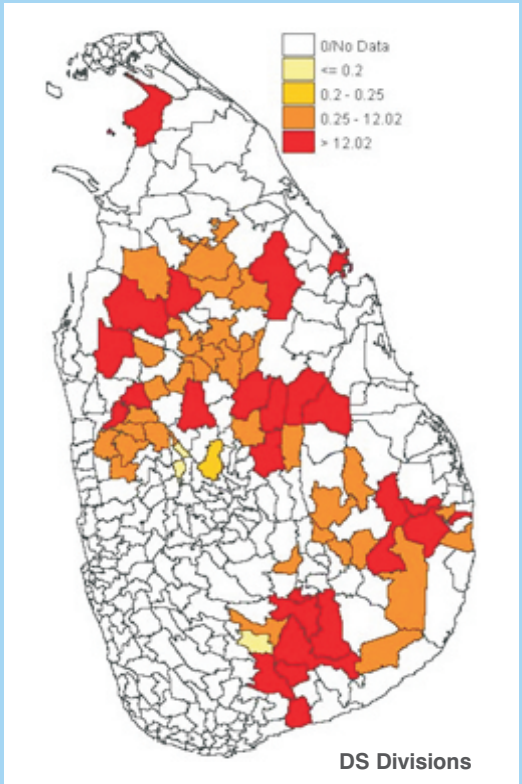
Map 18 : Agricultural Loss Due to Animal Attacks (in Hectares) – Spatial Distribution : 1974 - 2008





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Box 7 : Conclusions on Distribution and Impacts of Animal Attacks

The number of events of animal attacks has increased towards the latter period of the 34 year timeline under consideration. This is due to better data collection methods in the recent years. Spatially, animal attacks are clustered around the centre of the island.

People affected by animal attack have increased in the latter years, but has gradually declined. However, unlike people affected, deaths appear to be fluctuating within the last ten years. Damage to houses also takes a similar pattern as people affected. Spatially, all three factors follow a similar trend with most losses seen towards the centre of the island, while districts like Colombo, Batticaloa, Mannar, and Mullativu are least affected. Agricultural loss takes a different time trend with most losses seen in the middle of the time line.

Further, districts like Anuradhapura, Moneragala and Badulla have the highest agricultural loss and districts clustered around the Northern and South Western parts of the island have experienced low levels of agricultural loss.