



Annual Report

2012 - 2013



Overview

Tiger Watch is a non-governmental organization that has been working since 1998 with a core objective of protection of wildlife, in Rajasthan's Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve and it's adjoining areas. Late Mr. Fateh Singh Rathore's immense concern for Ranthambhore led him to start Tiger Watch after his retirement as Field Director of the tiger reserve. His years of experience and the support of other imperative conservationists led to the formation of this NGO.



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Chairman's Message

Tiger Watch has a strong impact on the wildlife of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. It has worked from the ground level and changed its role as per the need of the forest, for more than a decade. Tiger Watch has moved from one milestone to another, be it anti-poaching or reform, research or monitoring support, and has proved its mettle in tough situations especially given that conservation is not a priority in a developing country like ours.

It may be time for Tiger Watch to expand its horizon and work on a larger canvas, as there is a lot more to be done.

I wish the Tiger Watch team success and pray they work dedicatedly towards securing Ranthambhore's future.

Best,

John Singh



Secretary's Note

This year Tiger Watch completed 15 years.

Over the years Tiger Watch has endorsed each time that this organization is very crucial for the tigers of Ranthambhore. Fatehji had always felt that there was a need for an active organization which would be ready to mould its role as per the need of the tiger and the communities living around it.

Keeping this perspective in mind, Tiger Watch started its journey with building capacity into the forest department in the form training, providing equipment, tiger monitoring, anti-poaching and finally to ensure a sustainable solution, moved to the Mogya reform program. As a part of this reform, the Mogya healthcare program this year has been an important achievement. Besides this the Mogya Education program has also got a new dimension with the children being recently shifted to the old Prakritik hospital premises. In this manner, with the amalgam of these two projects the partnership between Tiger Watch and Prakratik society has been

fortified even further. In the last year a stronger bond has developed between Tiger Watch and Forest department and this has helped achieve important projects like the tiger monitoring cell, Operation Sajag and wildlife rescue support. The results of the same are clearly visible in the form of a healthy increase in tiger numbers. Tiger Watch has also appointed the village wildlife watchers, which is a unique initiative towards creating village ambassadors especially during animal rescue from villages.

The generous and crucial funding support from Faith and John Singhji and Iskandar Lalljee of Sud Cheme, has made it possible for Tiger Watch to remain committed to its projects and achieve its mission to save the precious wildlife of Ranthambhore.

Wishing it greater success,

Ashutosh Mahadevia





Mogya Education Program

The Mogya Education program has been one of the most looked after projects of Tiger Watch; a vital initiative to reform the traditional hunting community of the tribal hunters - Mogyas. For the last eight years Tiger Watch has been working incessantly for their upliftment by imparting formal education to Mogya children. This project was started as a part of the Mogya Welfare Program following the massive anti-poaching campaign of 2005, which prompted Tiger Watch to look deep into the root cause of the problem, and to come up with solutions. So far, Tiger Watch has been successfully running the Mogya Education Program and runs a hostel facility where the children study and live getting a better lifestyle.

Currently, there are 20 students at the Mogya Hostel in Sawai Madhopur, who are getting their education at a public school nearby. The new session for 2013 has just started and 5 more students are expected to join the program this year. Last year we also started private tuition facilities for Mogya students at a private coaching centre for English and Mathematics, to help them understand the subjects better and get better grades. In addition to that, Mr. Vijay Rajan contributed two computers which were installed in the Mogya Hostel and the new 'Special Education

Program' was started under the sponsorship of the OIKOS Foundation based in Pune.

OIKOS has contributed immensely, not just financially, but also by volunteering to educate the Mogya children. Last year, Ms. Sonali Phadke, Ms. Ketaki Ghate, Ms. Anjali and Ms. Mansi Karandikar from OIKOS came to Sawai Madhopur to educate the Mogya children under the Special Education Program. In this program, the Mogya kids were educated about the environment and its importance, besides the general education and they were introduced to various sustainable professions around Ranthambhore. Under the special education program, the children were trained in map reading, measuring distances, basic mathematics and science, sketching and painting and herbarium development.

In another workshop, children were made to explore various sustainable professions around Sawai Madhopur. Children were taken to field visits to a Nursery and a Bee keeping farm. They also interacted with the people from the service industry like Policemen, Forest Guards, Forest Guides, Gypsy Drivers etc. Ms. Sonali Phadke and her associates from OIKOS raised funds themselves to support their travel and activities.





Progress Of Mogya Children

All Mogya children under the Mogya Education Program passed their exams successfully last year.

Some of them even achieved high ranks in their respective classes. One student each from standard UKG, 2nd, 8th and 10th passed their exams and got promoted to the next standard. Two students each from each from 3rd, 5th, and 8th, and four students each from standard 6th and 9th passed their exams with good marks to get promoted to the next standard.

Some of our students even secured high ranks in their respective classes. Ajay Bavaria passed the UKG with 97.8% marks and attained the first rank in the class. Jagjugal Bawaria achieved 83.75% with second rank in the 9th standard. Abishek Bawari (Standard 2nd) and Vishram Mogya (Standard 3rd) both achieved third ranks in with 95.8% and 89% marks, respectively.

In total, Rs 576,000 was spent on the Mogya Education Program last year. The expenses were made on all the

hostel facilities, school fees, tuition fees, uniforms, books and stationary. However, this amount was an overshoot as the total fund raised for the program last year was Rs. 509,460 and the deficit came out to be Rs. 66,540. The details of the donations made are given below:

Rs. 400,000	from Sud Chemie India
Rs. 29,000	from Mr. Vijay Rajan for computers
USD 500	from Mr. Jeff Cadieux
Rs. 55,460	from OIKOS through Ms. Sonali Phadke.

Admin costs were not included.

The project is growing and will require more support to continually run as it can in future change the outlook of the community towards wildlife and help them enter main stream society.



Mogya Healthcare Program

The Mogya Healthcare Program is one of the most ground-breaking programs started by Tiger Watch in association with its strategic partner, Prakratik Society, to assist wildlife conservation in and around Ranthambhore.

This program is sponsored by the Padma Welfare Trust and has the support of the Prakratik Society. It was started in January 2013 to help the Mogya community by providing them the primary healthcare facilities they were previously deprived of as a result of their miserable poverty. Started under the Mogya Rehabilitation project, this program is meant to help improve their lives and permanently move them away from a dependence on poaching. Under this program, Mogya communities living outside the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve are identified, reached out to and made aware of the healthcare facilities available to them free-of-cost at the Sevika Hospital. Following this, each person of that particular Mogya community is registered in Tiger Watch's database and provided with an Identity Card, also called the "Mogya Card". These cards are designated as "Bagh Mitra", translated as 'Tiger's Friend' in English. Any

Mogya person can avail free-of-cost medical service at the Sevika hospital by producing their Mogya Card at the reception. Thus the program connects the hospital with the Mogya community and creates a strong sense of goodwill amongst the Mogya people.

In return, members of the Mogya community help Tiger Watch by providing information on poachers and any illegal activity that might be going on in and around the reserve. This has helped Tiger Watch build a large base of volunteers around the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve and gain a stronger foothold around the reserve by creating an active information network involving the Mogya people. On a side note, if any Mogya person benefitting from healthcare services, is found to be involved in poaching or any other illegal activities, their registration gets cancelled and all the healthcare services being provided to the person are automatically revoked.

The Mogya Healthcare Program, in the past few years, has helped Tiger Watch and the Forest Department with some critical information sharing by the Mogya people and continues to do so.





Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Awards 2012-2013

The second 'Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Awards' ceremony were held at the Fateh Public School in Sawai Madhopur on March 1, 2013. The honourable guests for this edition were Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), District Collector Mr Giriraj Singh Khushwaha, DFO Mr YK Sahu, SDO Mr Ishwar Singh Rathore, and Hon. Wildlife Warden Mr. Balendu Singh. Tiger Watch Chairman Mr. John Singh hosted the event.

To carry Fateh Singh Rathore's legacy forward and to acknowledge efforts of people who have made an immense contribution to the protection of Ranthambhore, Tiger Watch started Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Awards in 2012. These awards were given to people who have contributed to wildlife conservation in Ranthambhore and its adjoining areas in one way or other. The people, who have been awarded so far, belong to the community from adjoining villages, and also include forest guards, officers and individuals working for wildlife.

A total of 20 people were awarded in the FSR Memorial Awards for conservation in 2013 and the total amount awarded was Rs. 1,11,000.

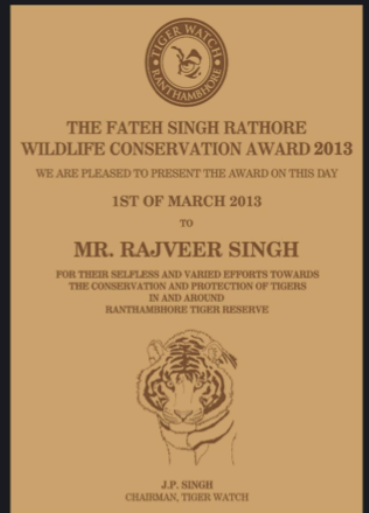
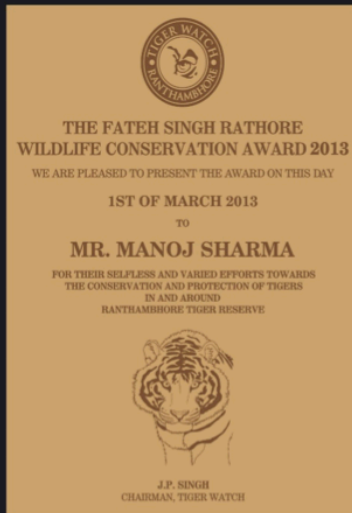
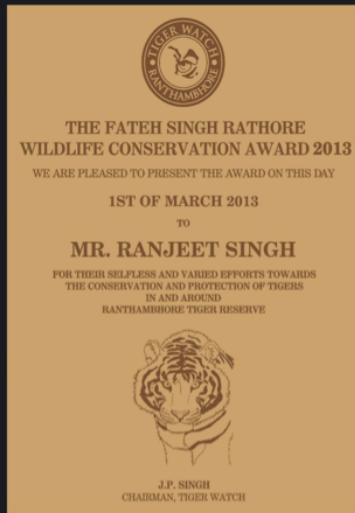
Awards were given under these categories:

1. Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Conservation certificates.
2. Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Appreciation Awards.
3. Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Conservation Awards
4. Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Special Conservation Award
5. Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Tiger Warrior Award

The second Fateh Singh Rathore memorial awards 2013 were a success and ended with thanks giving and dinner for all guests and participants at the residence of Late Shri Fateh Singh Rathore. The whole ceremony provided a perfect ambience to old friends and close associates of Shri Fateh Singh Rathore with a promise to the people who religiously work towards conservation and creating awareness around Ranthambhore, that their efforts will continue to be acknowledged and supported in the years to come.

Full list FSR Awardees 2012-2013

S. No.	Name	Place of residence	Awarded for	Amount
<i>Recipients of Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Certificate Award:</i>				
1	Mr. Kamlesh Meena	Mai village	Anti-poaching	Rs. 2000/-
2	Mr. Mukesh Meena	Mai village	Anti-poaching	Rs. 2000/-
3	Mr. Chhitar Rajoria	Sawai Madhopur	Legal services	Rs. 2000/-
4	Mr. Moti Meena	Jadawata	Anti-poaching and Animal rescue	Rs. 2000/-
5	Mr. Ramphool Gurjar	Kailashpuri	Education and Awareness	Rs. 2000/-
6	Mr. Mukut Meena	Uliyana	Support to Forest Department	Rs. 2000/-
7	Mr. Rahis Khan	Sawai Madhopur	Support to Forest Department and Animal Rescue	Rs. 2000/-
8	Mr. Nathulal Bairwa	Khilchipur	Services to Ranthambhore National Park	Rs. 2000/-
9	Mr. Ramavtar Salawat	Amli	Support to Forest Department	Rs. 2000/-
10	Ms. Arti Sharma Rawal	Sawai Madhopur	Services and Support to the Forest department	Rs. 2000/-
11	Mr. Vijendra Singh		Anti-poaching	Rs. 2000/-
12	Mr. Mukesh Sharma	Baler	Tiger monitoring	Rs. 2000/-
13	Mr. Hanuman Gurjer	Bangad Da	Tiger monitoring	Rs. 2000/-
14	Mr. Ramcharan Sharma	Phalodi	Anti-poaching	Rs. 2000/-
15	Mr. Deshraj Mogya	Hindwad	Mogya Welfare Program	Rs. 2000/-
<i>Recipients of Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Conservation Award:</i>				
16	Mr. Manoj Sharma	Sawai Madhopur	Services to the Forest Department	Rs. 10000/-
17	Mr. Ranjeet Singh	Sawai Madhopur	Services to the Forest Department	Rs. 10000/-
18	Mr. Rajveer Singh	Sawai Madhopur	Services to the Forest Department	Rs. 10000/-
19	Mr. Dilip Singh Chouhan	Kuno, MP	Services to the Forest Department	Rs. 10000/-
<i>Recipients of Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Tiger Warrior Award:</i>				
20	Late Shri Ghesu Singh	Sawai Madhopur	Services to the Forest Department	Rs. 21,000/-
<i>Recipients of Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Special Conservation Award:</i>				
21	Dr. Rajeev Garg		Wildlife Health	Rs. 20000/-
<i>Recipients of Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial - Appreciation Award:</i>				
22	Dr. Ashu Agrawal	New Delhi	Education and Healthcare Services	
23	Mr. Mohammad Wakil	Sawai Madhopur	Anti-Poaching	
24	Ms. Susanne and Mr. Jim	Yorkshire, UK	Education	
25	Ms. Ratna Malhotra	Sawai Madhopur	Support to the Forest Department and local communities	
TOTAL AMOUNT				Rs. 1,11,000/-







Anti poaching

Ranthambhore Forest Department launched “Operation Sajag : a war against poachers and poaching”, Tiger Watch has assisted and planned in this program apart from this it has also supported Forest departments initiatives from time to time.

Operation Sajag - anti-poaching initiative comprised of four “cobra” teams with forest guards for intensive patrolling. It is unique by way of being an all-inclusive effort of local NGO, tourism department, police and district administration along with local communities. The teams were provided with metal detectors and other required facilities for more efficacy.

One of the major highlights of the operation is night vigilance being conducted by “cobra teams”, or special night squads constituted to keep vigil at susceptible locations. While maintaining watch and ward at waterholes, check posts and pickets would be deployed at important roads and river ferry.

Ranthambore crack teams to protect big cats

MOUSHUMI BASU ■ NEW DELHI

Close on the heels of intelligence inputs on “supari killers” on the prowl for Big Cats and recent nabbing of 18 poachers from various districts of Central India, Ranthambore National Park (RNP) in Rajasthan has launched “Operation Sajag — a war against poachers and poaching”.

This novel anti-poaching initiative comprises four “cobra” teams with forest guards for intensive patrolling. It is unique by way of being an all-inclusive effort of

detainees, from the arrested gang of poachers, has admitted of killing a tiger that had ventured out barely 250 yards from Ranthambore National Park into Shivpuri district in MP.

As per intelligence reports, an international poaching racket has given ₹40 lakh to poachers—mostly Pardhis, and Bahelias tribes from MP, kill 25 tigers in India.

“Looking at such rising incidences of tiger poaching and recent arrest of large number of poachers in Maharashtra and MP a high alert has been declared in



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being conducted by “cobra” teams

and traps etc, using metal detectors particularly on animal trails and near waterholes,” pointed out Sahu. While maintaining watch and ward at waterholes, check posts and pickets would be deployed at important roads and river ferry.

Brushing aside prevailing controversies related to tourism and conservation, the operation has involved tourism infrastructure. Four safari vehicles have been taken from the Tourism department for patrolling purposes.

The local communities would



Hanuman Mr. Gurjer and Mr. Mukesh Sharma are two Village Wildlife Watchers. Both of them honored by Collector Shri Giriraj Singh Kushwaha. Both the villagers are hired by the forest department/tiger watch for tracking tigers. They tracked a tiger 230-250 kilometer from Ranthambhore and camera trapped (documented second longest distance covered by any tiger). Tiger Watch also provides logistics to these VWW.

Village Wildlife Watchers

Tiger Watch has helped the Forest Department by finding and recruiting 7 village wildlife watchers. They serve the department from time to time and are always on alert so that their services could be used in any emergency.

Field director of Ranthambhore, YK Sahu planned a very interesting methodology to manage straying tigers. He recruited about 20 villagers in various villages around Ranthambhore to help forest rangers when a tiger would move outside.

These villagers are known as 'village wildlife watchers' are mainly farmers who get some remuneration from the eco-development committee or local NGOs for helping the forest department in such situations. These watchers have been given basic training from forest guards about installing camera traps, using GPS and making POP pugmark casts to track tigers when they are outside protected areas. They are not only monitoring tigers, but are also talking to their fellow villagers to help the forest department. The village wildlife watcher is now, a

village based forest representative who is contacted by the villagers first and he acts like a buffer between forest and villagers. Immobilizing and rescuing a stray tiger is not a big issue when villagers support the forest department.

When villagers volunteer to manage stray tigers

RECENTLY, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) issued an advisory for all the park managers of the tiger reserves in regard to straying tigers. This document has a standard operating procedure (SOP) to deal with emergencies arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscapes.

The document ensures that the straying tigers are handled in the most appropriate manner so as to avoid and minimise casualty or injury to human beings, tigers, cattle and property. Such SOPs are good for the system and would avoid negligence for the rescue of tiger-like important species.

Usually situations in this field are more complicated and gruesome. Park managers, at times, have to act beyond the prescribed SOPs. Sometimes it is also possible that funds, managerial limitations and other conditions do not permit the ground force to adhere to the SOPs.

Many of the tigers' straggle into areas have large prey and do not come back to the park. These tigers become victims most of the times. The curious crowd surrounds such animals and the trouble starts. Another thing that has changed over the past decade is that in most of the human dominated landscape, common land like pastoral land or non-cultivation land and wastelands among oth-

BUSINESS OF WILD

DHARMENDRA KHANDAL



thambhore, YK Sahu planned a very interesting methodology to manage straying tigers. He recruited some 20 villagers in various villages around Ranthambhore to help forest rangers when a tiger would move outside. These 'villagers' are known as 'village wildlife watchers' are mainly farmers who get some remuneration from the eco-development committee or local NGOs for helping the forest department in such situations. These people are getting some basic informal training from forest guards about installing camera traps, using GPS and making POP pugmark casts to track tigers when they are outside protected areas. They are not only monitoring tigers, but also talking to their fellow villagers to help the forest department.

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Supporting The Forest Department

Kits distributed to the Flying Squad members

During the Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial award ceremony held at the Fateh Public School in Feb, 2013, Tiger Watch presented the kits with essential field gear to the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve's Flying Squad members. These kits contained materials like sleeping bags, hiking shoes, torches, ruck sacs, mosquito repellants and first aid kits. The contribution of fund was made by Mr. Vinayak.

The distribution of kits to the Flying Squad members was yet another initiative by Tiger Watch to support the Forest Department to enhance the mutual cooperation, which is much required for the effective conservation management in the region. Also, the vision behind such an initiative was to motivate the workforce to deliver their best, considering the nature of the job they perform sometimes under extremely difficult conditions.

Assistance to Forest Department during wildlife census 2013

In May, 2013, the Wildlife Census – Waterhole Survey was conducted in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in which over 250 volunteers from different places across the country participated. The Waterhole survey is an

annual exercise in which hundreds of wildlife enthusiasts show interest in participating in the mega-event. They apply for volunteering in large numbers and it becomes very difficult for the forest department to manage as such huge number of applications and sorting them out. This year was no different, and the just 10 days before the event, which took place on May 26, 2013, Tiger Watch was asked for assistance by the Forest Department of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve to manage and sort out the applications.

Tiger Watch assisted the Forest Department for 10 consecutive days with by sorting the applications and helping in selection of the appropriate candidates. Tiger Watch extended its help and also helped the forest department with managing volunteers on the day of the waterhole count survey. Dr. Dharmendra Khandal, and Mr. Soujanya Shrivastava, Project Officer at Tiger Watch, joined the patrolling teams of the Forest Department and assisted the volunteers who were sitting the machans counting the animals with supplies.

Mr. Shrivastava helped the Forest Department on the concluding day also, with preparation of the participation certificates for the volunteers. The event was a success, although there was some scope for improvement as far as the management is concerned.



Assistance to the Tiger Cell of the Forest Department

The Tiger Cell of the Forest Department, functioning efficiently since 2011, has been successful in maintaining records of all the tigers of the Reserve. This practice, known as tiger monitoring, has helped keep track of almost all the tigers of Ranthambhore so far, since they are assigned with unique IDs. The regular camera trapping and updates in the database has worked so well, that it has made Ranthambhore the only Tiger reserve in the country where tiger numbers are actually counted, and not 'estimated'.

Tiger Watch provides assistance to the Tiger Cell from time to time. This year in May, Tiger Watch's volunteer Dinesh Dadlani assisted the Tiger Cell for 2 weeks (2 may-15 may) and produced a report on the status of tiger numbers in Ranthambhore for that month. These initiatives from Tiger Watch have helped strengthen its strategic relations with the forest department.

Preparation of plan for the Centre for Excellence in Wildlife and Forestry Training and Research

In April, 2013 Tiger Watch took up a task from the Forest Department following a request from Mr. YK Sahu, DFO, Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve to assist in development of the plan establish a Centre for Excellence in Wildlife and Forestry Training and Research (CEWFTR) in Sawai Madhopur. The vision

behind establishing such an institution was to impart training to various target groups related to forest and wildlife conservation. This institution, supposed to be a sub-centre of the main institution at Jaipur with the same name, would be a setup where various people can come and use the training facilities, which is for the forest management, forest personnel's fitness, emerging conservation and wildlife management techniques. Trainers would be individuals and organizations with expertise in their respective field.

The target groups, to whom the trainings will be imparted, will include the forest officers, field staff of the Tiger Reserve, nature guides, safari drivers, hoteliers, university students, forestry and wildlife workers from NGOs and other institutions, officials from other government departments, village wildlife watchers (VWW), EDC and VFPMC members, public representatives, media workers and local villagers.

Tiger Watch developed some sections of the plan, like proposing trainings in the fundamentals of conservation biology, basics of anti-poaching and new techniques in anti-poaching, role and responsibility of media in wildlife conservation, hospitality training and best practices in off-road driving.

This plan is still under the review of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, Bharatpur, Rajasthan.



Rescue of Tiger T-20 from village Mai.

On July 17, 2012 at 10:51 hrs, Dr. Dharmendra Khandal received a phone call from a village informer that a tiger had entered a village called Mai Kalan, located near the border of the park in the Khandar range. The tiger had already injured a villager before Dr. Khandal received the information. The villagers were hostile towards any outsiders entering the village and took the SDM hostage. A woman among the villagers even attacked a policeman from behind with a stick, badly injuring him.

At 11:00 hrs Dr. Khandal and Mr. Mohammad Vakil, with driver Mahavir left for the village met the DFO YK Sahu on the way at around 13:10 hrs. At 13:20 hrs the Police Cobra team arrived at the spot and 7 minutes later Dr. Khandal's vehicle reached the same place. The Cobra team consisted of 6 jawans, an in-charge, and a driver, and was fully equipped with AK47 guns. Mr. Rajveer, the forest guard, came in with the tranquilizer gun and kit. Around 700-800 people had gathered to see the events being unfolded, and Mr. Giriraj Gurjer, the Pradhan of the gram-panchayat was helping to control the situation. Dr. Khandal joined the tranquilizing team, which included CF Rajesh Gupta, DFO YK Sahu, Guard Rajveer, and Rahees Khan.

The tiger was sitting in a nullah in front of dense P. Juliflora bushes. This is where the tiger has killed a

domestic bull and few domestic pigs. At 13:58 hrs, Rajveer shot the dart and it hit the target; on the thigh of the tiger. The tiger was later identified as T-20, known as Jhumroo, a young male from the second litter of tigress T-16 (Machali-II). At 14:23 hrs, Dr. Khandal and Rajveer went towards the tiger, and threw a stone at it from some 12 meter distance. The tiger was still not completely tranquilized at that time. Rajveer darted the tiger once again, perfectly on the thigh, and this time it was made sure that tiger was completely sedated. At 14:27 hrs, three more people came in with a Khatia (cot), axe etc to help. It took some more time to clear the bushes to make way. Raghuveer Jat, a Tiger Watch volunteer also joined in to help lifting the tiger. At 14:40 hrs, the tiger was finally lifted and loaded in the truck and sent to Gilai-Sagar area. At 14:50 hrs, the tiger was given the dose of revival drugs.

After reaching Gilai-Sagar at 15:20 hrs, the instructions came in from the CWLW that the tiger to be released in its home range. Finally, the tiger was released in the Jailkho area. At 16:30 hrs, the half sedated tiger came out of the enclosure and sat on the ground.

The next day, at 17:30 hrs, RFO Mr. Kala reported that he and his team has seen the tiger recovered and walking in poise near a water hole.



T-24 taking it easy

Recovery of Gheesu Singh's body after being killed by Tiger T-24

In an extremely unfortunate incident, that happened on Oct 25, 2012, Gheesu Singh, a Forester with the Forest Department of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, was killed by the resident male tiger called T-24 inside the national park. T-24's fatal attack on Gheesu Singh was surprising, since it was made in broad daylight and he was walking in the middle of two groups of laborers when attacked. T-24 has a large area adjacent to Sawai Madhopur town, and has been alleged to have attacked 4 people killing 3 of them including Gheesu Singh.

T-24 was not letting go the dead body of Gheesu Singh. At that time, Dr. Dharmendra Khandal, with another forester drove T-24 away to help recover the body. After the incident, Dr. Khandal monitored and tracked the tiger T-24 for the next 10 days in order to understand his behavior. He reported that the tiger was normal and was residing near Ganesh Road with no abnormality in behavior. He is, however, not sure if T-24 was the tiger involved in the previous two killings, as those incidents happened over a long period of time.





Trainings

Training to students from Kota University in Geographic Information System (GIS)

In July 2013, students from Kota University, approached Tiger Watch, requesting a short training program in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS is a very important tool in modern wildlife research and is becoming increasingly popular among students, scholars and scientists who conduct research in wildlife conservation around the globe. The leading institutions in India like the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and the National Centre for Biological Sciences in collaboration with Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore and many others offer courses in GIS for their students studying wildlife biology and conservation. Unfortunately, Kota University's Wildlife Science department doesn't have the set-up to offer training courses in GIS.

Mr. Soujanya Shrivastava, who is currently working as Project Officer with Tiger Watch and holds Masters Degree in Conservation Biology from the University of Kent, UK has been trained in GIS and he offered basic trainings in GIS to the students free-of-cost. The students benefitted greatly from the training imparted to them, since they had no prior knowledge of the subject and had learned how to perform basic GIS functions and analysis. Tiger Watch is considering

starting more organized and structured training programs for the students in future, as it now has expertise in subjects such as Community Based Conservation, Field Biology, GIS and many more.

Training to forest staff (forest guards) in GPS

The use of Global Positioning system (GPS) has proved to be instrumental in spatial management of wildlife. The modern GPS devices are extremely useful for wildlife monitoring and the collection of spatial data cannot be done without them for modern wildlife research. Therefore, both the wildlife managers as well as researchers require GPS devices. Though it is easy to use them, some basic training is still required for the people who have no experience of using them. The forest guards, rangers (all the field staff) and students of wildlife conservation especially required trainings in handling GPS devices.

Dr. Dharmendra Khandal, arranged for a small workshop under the title 'METER' at Jogi Mahal, inside the Ranthambhore National Park in January 2013 to train the forest guards and the MSc Wildlife biology students from the Kota University in using GPS devices. Around 25 forest guards and 20 students attended the training and benefitted from it. The training exercise was conducted at no cost.





Wildlife Monitoring

Tracking T-36's cub from Ranthambhore to Datia Forest Division in MP

A young adult tiger, the male cub of the tigress T-26 ventured out of Ranthambhore National Park in January this year. Tiger biologists have established a scientific fact that young tigers in search of new territories sometimes cross boundaries to move away from protected areas. This has happened before, with a young male tiger called 'Broken Tail' who left its mother's (Machali) territory to establish the same for itself outside Ranthambhore. Sadly, that tiger died in a train accident near Darra forest towards south close to Kota. T-26's male cub travelled an astonishing 220 km all the way through Kailadevi, crossing Chambal River, through Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and finally settled in the Datia Forest Division near Datia district. Tiger Watch hired Mr. Hanuman Singh Gurjer, from a village called Bagad Da to track down the tiger. Initially he was assisted by Dr. Dharmendra Khandal and ACF Mr. Narendra Sharma of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. Hanuman went all the way from Ranthambhore to Kuno finding signs of the tiger's presence such as kills, scats and claw marks and confirmed the tiger's presence in Birpur range of the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary. A few days later he assisted Mr. Soujanya Shrivastava who went with him to track



the tiger and both collected more evidences of the tiger's presence in several areas on the way. Hanuman continued his expedition and finally reported the tiger's presence in Datia forest division. A comprehensive report of the tiger's journey was then submitted to the Forest Department with the joint collaboration of Tiger Watch with Mr. Ayan Sadhu, Junior Research Fellow from the Wildlife Institute of India.



Wildlife Monitoring

Wolf den site survey (In progress)

Vidya Athreya, a renowned field biologist based in Pune is a supporter of Tiger Watch and has been associated with the organization. She has also provided her services to Tiger Watch in the past when she delivered valuable lectures for the commencement of Tiger Watch's annual Conservation Leadership Course in 2010 and 2011. In July, 2013 she asked for assistance from Tiger Watch to conduct her study on Indian wolves for which she need data on the presence of wolf den sites in the eastern part of Rajasthan.

Tiger Watch team initiated the survey and collected some preliminary data on wolf den sites, using an innovative approach by contacting Marwari shepherds who are nomadic / semi-nomadic tribesmen of the 'Marwar' region of Rajasthan. They collected information on their travel routes and instances of when and where these shepherds encountered wolves. This data collection process was then continued by Mr. Soujanya Shrivastava and Mr. Hanuman Singh Gurjer and at the time of writing this report, the first phase of the program was finished.



Research

Study of impact of pilgrim places and pilgrim traffic on wildlife habitat

There are several holy shrines inside the Ranthambhore National Park, which are important for both Hindu and Muslim devotees, and are frequently visited by the people living around the protected area. Devotees come to visit the shrines in large numbers every year, especially during the annual festival held at the 'Ganesh Mandir'.

The flux of people getting in and out of the park who visit these shrines may have a certain impact on the biodiversity on Ranthambhore. To study such impacts, Tiger Watch conducted a project to study the impacts of the traffic of people visiting the holy shrines on the wildlife habitat.

This study was of utmost importance, as some of the impacts are very obvious and visible, such as the litter thrown by the devotees on the way during their pilgrimage. Also, the noise pollution which disturbs the wildlife is produced during their visits.

The increasing flux of people visiting these shrines may result in an enhancement of the shrines, and thus cause more noise and disturbances in the park.

Research on Human-Wildlife Conflict in and around Ranthambhore TR (Paper in progress)

Tiger Watch has been witness to many cases of human conflicts with Ranthambhore's wildlife. Over the past few years, the numbers of recorded cases of human-wildlife have sharply increased. However, these cases are not well documented and no study has been done using the modern scientific approach to understand these cases. Therefore, Tiger Watch started a scientific study to understand patterns of these conflicts and come up with appropriate recommendations. Tiger Watch arranged all records of conflicts made at the Forest Department and converted them into electronic format. More data was collected, as Mr. Soujanya Shrivastava conducted field visits for ground-truthing. Mr. Hanuman Singh Gurjer helped in the process. The preliminary report showing basic statistical figures has already been submitted to the Forest Department. This report shows some interesting patterns in tiger and leopard attacks, which happened in the last nine years and also, reveal some interesting patterns in compensations which were made against these conflict cases by the Forest Department. The research paper is being written by Mr. Soujanya Shrivastava, in association with Mr. Girish Punjabi, a wildlife scientist from Pune. The manuscript is expected to be ready for submission by the end of August 2013.



Volunteer Programs

Voluntary involvement of Ms. Sonali Phadke and her team from OIKOS, Pune in Mogya Education Program

The Mogya Education Program has been benefitted from time to time from various supporters and volunteers. In 2012, Ms. Sonali Phadke, Ms. Ketaki Ghate, Ms. Anjali and Ms. Mansi Karandikar from OIKOS, an environmental NGO based in Pune, visited Tiger Watch and used their innovative ways to educate Mogya children. They raised their own funds to travel all the way from Pune to Sawai Madhopur and to support their activities for Tiger Watch.

They organized several workshops in a span of two weeks to teach the Mogya kids about the environment and its importance, besides general education. The 'Special Education Program', which they started to train children in map reading, measuring distances, basic mathematics and science, sketching and painting and herbarium development was quite innovative and interactive. In another workshop, children were made to explore various sustainable professions around Sawai Madhopur, which they may be able to take up as vocations when they grow up. Children were taken to field visits to a Nursery and a Bee keeping farm. They also interacted with the people from the service industry like Policemen, Forest Guards, Forest Guides, and Gypsy Drivers etc. Their program included many fun activities also, such as wildlife film screening, games such as web of life and many more activities which enhanced the Mogya children's knowledge

through fun. Tiger Watch provided all the logistical support required by Ms. Sonali Phadke and her team-mates. The support of the volunteers has been crucial in Tiger Watch's successful endeavours over the years.

Study of anthropogenic effects on Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve from communities living in surrounding areas

Mr. Preetham Paes and Ms Aditi Rajan from 15th to 30th conducted a pilot study in December 2012 to determine the effects of anthropogenic pressures on Ranthambhore National Park and Sawai Mansingh Wildlife Sanctuary, from people living around these protected areas. They conducted a social assessment of people living in the region and documented their views on conservation in the region they live in. This 15 day field study determined various factors which could be important in addressing social factors influencing conservation in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. The final report of their study was submitted in January.







Dr. Goverdhan Singh Rathore receiving the Carl-Zeiss Lifetime Service Award in New Delhi

Awards

Carl Zeiss award for Dr. Goverdhan Singh Rathore

Dr. Goverdhan Singh Rathore, executive member of Tiger Watch and founder of Prakratik Society received the prestigious Carl Zeiss Lifetime Service Award for Conservation on March 23, 2013 at New Delhi's Habitat Center. This award was presented to him by the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Digvijay Singh and Mr Vaidyanathan Srinivasan, MD, Carl Zeiss India.



Dr. Dharmendra Khandal receiving the Green Guard Award in Kolkata

Awards

Green Guard and Vasundhara award for Dr. Dharmendra Khandal

Dr. Dharmendra Khandal was conferred two grand awards this year for his active role in conservation in Ranthambhore. The first award was the Green Guard award, conferred by Junglees, an NGO and advocacy group for wildlife conservation, and second one was the Vasundhara award, which Dr. Khandal received in a ceremony held in Pune during the 7th Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival in March, 2013.



Dr. Khandal receiving the Vasundhara Award in Pune



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