

Tiger Watch

Annual Report

2014-15

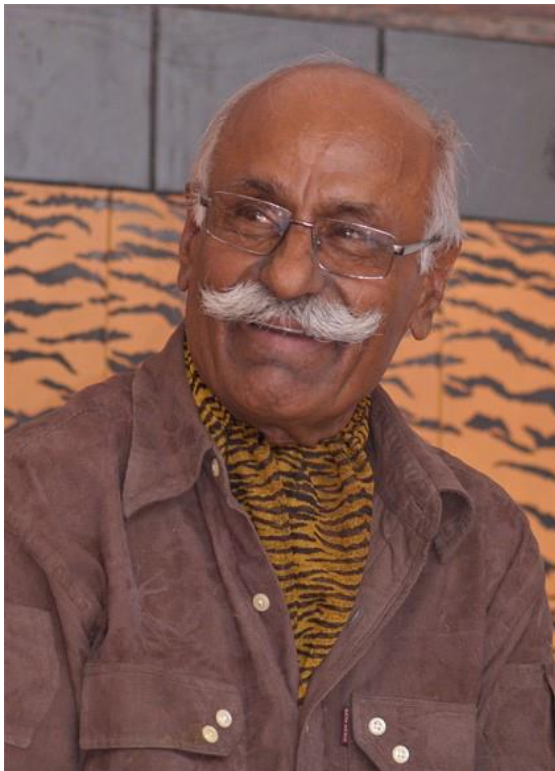


www.tigerwatch.net

Ranthambhore – Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan.

Tiger Watch

Tiger Watch is a non-governmental organization working since 1998 with the core objective of protection of wildlife in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan and adjoining areas. The organization was initiated due to the need of aid in difficult times at Ranthambhore in the 1990's. Mr. Fateh Singh Rathore's immense concern about Ranthambhore led him to start Tiger Watch even after his retirement as Field Director of the tiger reserve. His years of experience and support of other imperative conservationists led to formation of this NGO.



Late Mr. Fateh Singh Rathore
(Founder of Tiger Watch)

Ranthambhore became the place, which brought the tiger to the consciousness of the people the world over.

Fateh Singh Rathore brought glory to Ranthambhore, making it a celebrated tiger reserve. He served as the Field Director and was the founder of the prestigious organisations- Tiger Watch.

Chairman's note:



Over the years, the efforts of Tiger Watch have been unparalleled towards safeguarding the wildlife of the region. In the past year, there has been an interesting duet between the NGO Tiger Watch and the forest department & the melody is heard by the wildlife of

Ranthambhore today. This alliance makes it possible to do things unprecedented. As the tiger population rises, the areas around the park would need the attention of the protectors and programs like the Wildlife Village Watchers are a unique approach towards that conservation. Today Ranthambhore being a safe haven for wildlife is no longer a dream it looks achievable and this is a gesture of gratitude and remembrance for those forest saviours like Fateh Singh Rathore and many others who stood frontline in this pivotal battle of wildlife preservation in modern times. I wish great strength to Tiger Watch for its work towards Ranthambhore.

John Singh
Chairman
Tiger Watch

Secretary's note:



Dear friends, Tiger Watch continues to be the custodian of Ranthambhore and its unique methods to success are a fitting salute to our beloved Fatehji. In spite of the multi fold challenges that we face, whether they are habitat fragmentation, pollution, invasive species or overexploitation of resources, we continue to deal with them with a firm hand. We have raised our voice against unregulated sand and stone mining and have

managed the pollution issue during the annual Ganesh festival in an extremely unique manner. Even the village wildlife watchers program is an unprecedented way of involving local communities in conserving the environment and is a classical example to other NGO's. Several people have joined the Tiger Watch brigade including the Forest department that is walking hand in hand addressing important aspects of monitoring and research. The enormous success of the anti poaching program and the rehabilitation of the hunting tribe, is reflected through the Mogya Education program which has turned out exceptionally well with 11 children crossing the 10th standard, with some continuing on the path to academics, while others have started in industrial training programs. This will surely pave the way to professional jobs, taking them far away from their family trade of poaching. It is wonderful to see the success of these young boys who are not only building their own careers but have heavily influenced their families to stay away from hunting. This seems like changing the very DNA of an age old poaching community. To show our respect to our beloved Tiger Warrior Fateh Singh Rathore, every year on his death anniversary we honor the heroes that have joined us in this war of conservation. The support that we get from various donors is ample proof of the great work being carried on by Dr. Khandal and the field team. I thank all these donors for their unhindered support. A special thanks to Mr. Vinaykumar Nerurkar to leave behind a legacy of Rs. 1.70 cr that has laid the foundation for Tiger Watch to carry on its work uninterrupted. I take this opportunity to wish the team sincere congratulation and all the best for the coming years.

Ashutosh Mahadevia

Secretary

Tiger Watch

1. MOGYA EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mogya education programme, is one of the main community conservation programme of Tiger Watch. Mogya's are a traditional hunting community, living around Ranthambhore and once they were vastly involved in the poaching of big cats. After intervention of Rajasthan Police, Forest department and Tiger Watch intelligence program, the poaching reduced drastically in the area. To bring this community in to the mainstream Late Shri Fateh Singh Rathore started this initiative through NGO-Tiger Watch. The program was started by Tiger Watch in the year 2006, with the help of Ranthambhore Forest Department and many other supporters like Madhu Bhatnagar, Shefali Bajaj, Jeff Caudix, Sharmin Panthanky, Shri Ram School and Shrirang Purohit.



MEP Children in celebration function along with the Forest Department Officials on World Tiger Day

1. The major change came in the program when Prakaratik Society gave us a beautiful building - Ranthambhore Sevika for running the hostel.

2. The second big support to the program came from Mr. Iskander Lalljee of Sud Chemie, who started supporting the 20 children hostel solely.

3. The program grew this year in tangible manner, when an additional 20 children could be enrolled in the program due to new funding support from the Ranthambhore Tiger Conservation Foundation run by the Forest Department of Ranthambhore and another organization called The Change foundation . Ten children each are supported by these two agencies.

4. Mr. YK Sahu – Field Director, Ranthambhore Tiger reserve took personal interest and appreciated this program. He sanctioned government support to this program and implemented it. He has signed a MOU where the forest department will support this program continuously for a tenure of 10 years for the ten children' education.

5. To date eleven children (Mahaveer Mogya, Mahaveer Bawaria, Manisha, Rinku, Kamlesh, Jijesh, Rajesh, Sunil Mogya, Jaggu, Rajendra, Harikesh) cleared 10th class through this program. Four children got cleared 11th and 2 of them are in ITI (Industrial Training) and they have also reached in the second semester.



6. Total 43 Mogya, Bawaria and Kalbelia children joined our program for the year 2014-15. Out of these 43 children, 41 children gave exams but two children skipped at the last moment.

These two young children joined this year and belong to Kalbelia community. They just skipped without any big reason, but wedding function in



their family. They are very young children from class 2nd so it is not a big loss for the program.

7. All children cleared this year except Balram Mogya of Class 9. Field Director Mr. Y K Sahu suggested that we should encourage and support Balram for the next exams, so that he passes with flying colours.



A consultant from Kota was invited to carry out archery workshop with the children and also some team building exercises



Team building and sports activity at Mogya Hostel



Computer class after 9th standard



Twinkling eyes of Naughty Naresh



Hostel facility



Warden Kaushal reading to the children



Dedicated staff in the hostel- A young couple from karauli are managing the hostel. They live in the premisis are are there round the clock.

Mogya Education Programme



Supported by

SÜD-CHEMIE
CREATING PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGY



Ranthambhore
Tiger
Conservation
Foundation





Positive changes came in the forest after construction of a peripheral wall, the first picture is taken in the year July 2015 while the second is in August 2005.

2. VILLAGE WILDLIFE WATCHERS

Since December 2014, Tiger Watch and Forest Department started the Village Wildlife Watcher project in an organised way, TOFTigers agreed to solely support this project and involved a number of good practice travel companies into supporting via them. The VWW's task was to report various information related to movement of wild animals especially tigers and leopards. But they also started to provide information about poaching and other illegal offences like mining and wood cutting. These villagers begun to be known as 'village wildlife watchers' (vww) and are mainly farmers or livestock keepers, who are getting remuneration and are channelized by NGO Tiger Watch for helping the forest department in such situations.

Legally the forest department cannot hire villagers without following a government recruitment process. Secondly, they may not fulfil government's basic criteria for the post of forest employee. In the past forest department hired some individuals for forestry work, but they reached the court to get permanent job. It is also seen that when the forest department hires villagers, they involve them in the routine chores. They are also detached with the village roots as they are stationed in guard posts. In this program, Tiger Watch is hiring them for part time job, while they are continuing with their daily occupation. This program allows them to move freely their by collecting information, and positive opinion making about conservation of wildlife.

An ideal VWW should be a villager who lives close to the park boundary and he should be mainly involved in farming or livestock keeping. The given remuneration is not the main income of the person, but the person should be conveyed that it is an additional money for the particular task. If the person is not able to help, the monetary help can be stopped by the agency. One agency should keep a contact with them, it can be the forest department or NGO, this will help in sending information in right channel and will help in getting the tasks accomplished. Among them one person should always monitor them, train them, guide and help in sorting work challenges. The coordinator should evaluate the information and pass to the right channel.



Dharmendra Khandal and team of the Village Wildlife Watchers

These VWW are getting some basic informal training from the forest guards about installing camera traps, using GPS and making POP pugmark cast to track tigers, outside the protected areas. They are not only monitoring tigers, but also talking to their fellow villagers to help the

forest department. The village wildlife watcher is thus a village based forest representative who is contacted by the villagers first and he acts like a buffer between forest and villagers. Immobilising and rescuing a stray tiger can be a easily manageable task, if the villagers support the forest department.



Field Training to VWW by field director of Ranthambhore



Training of the VWW by Forest Department's Tiger cell experts



3. HUMAN WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROGRAMME:

Over the years, instances of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR) have increased. Therefore, handy and durable Wildlife Rescue Equipments are needed to deal with such situation. After collating knowledge from multiple consultations, suggestions and inputs from forest department and wildlife experts. Tiger Watch has created various wild-animal rescue equipment that will aid in most situations that arise during rescue operations. The programme is supported by AID foundation. The rescue equipment have been given to the Flying Squad Team (Forest Department) of RTR – to help them in carrying out rescue operations around the Reserve.

List of Rescue Equipment:

1. Animal Tranquilizer Aid – 1 Unit
2. Animal Rescue Stretcher – 2 Units
3. Animal Floating Aid – 1 Unit
4. Y-Pole Animal Rescue Stick – 4 Units
5. Rescue Plier/Wire Cutter – 1 Unit



6. Trash Picker – 3 Units
7. Small Animal Rescue Trap (1)
8. Small Animal Rescue Trap (2)
9. Animal Rescue Harness – 1 Unit
10. Animal Rescue Net (Large) – 1 Unit
11. Animal Rescue Net (Small) – 1 Unit



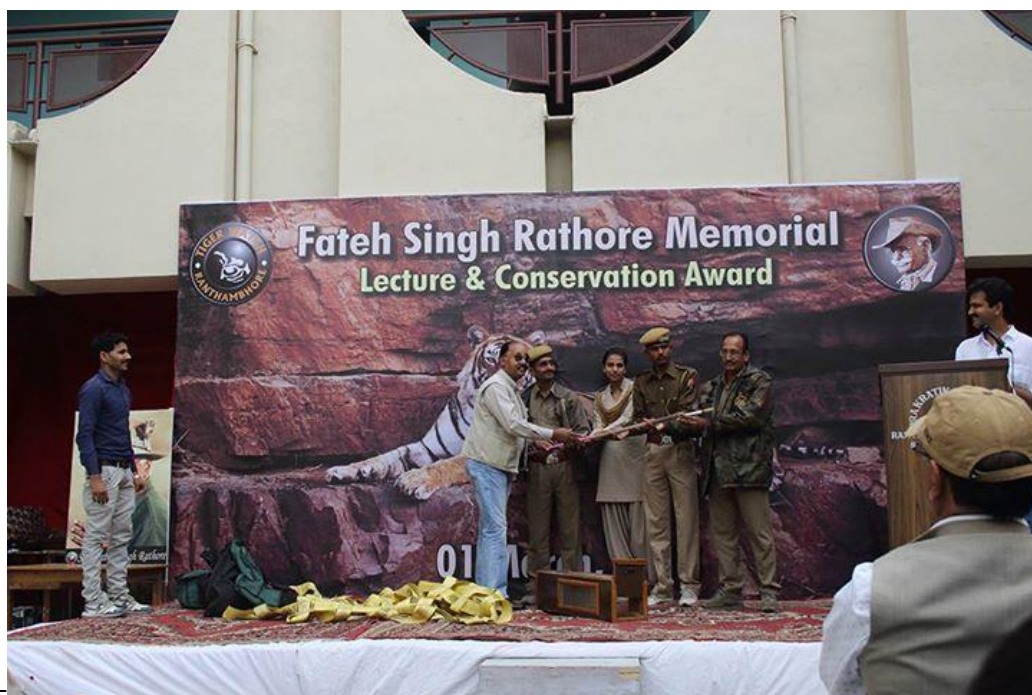
12. Snake Rescue Kit – 5 Units



4. FATEH SINGH RATHORE CONSERVATION AWARD

This year Tiger Watch organised the 4th Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture and Conservation Award function, on 1st March 2015 at Fateh Public School. Ranthambhore has always stood as model Conservation Park due to the best practices it has developed and implemented. Fateh always took the first step in acknowledging the hard work done by individuals and appreciated it wholeheartedly. This award is a mark of celebration and encouragement to individuals who are working for wildlife conservation. The Wildlife Conservation Award Ceremony has been an 8-year-old practice started by Fateh himself; Tiger Watch conducts it on his death anniversary as a mark of respect and remembrance to the Tiger Warrior, it is held in the guidance of Tiger Watch Chairman - Mr John Singh, we are continuing what Fateh had started.

This year, a memorial lecture was delivered by Mr. Divyabhanusinh, a dear friend of Fateh and board member of Tiger Watch. He is also associated with some respected conservation organisations in past & present such as BNHS and WWF. He is an expert of the history of conservation. His two books '*The end of a trail: The cheetah in India*' (1995) and '*The story of Asia's Lions*' (2005) are considered best document on Asiatic Cheetah and Asia's Lion. The list of award recipient as follows...



ACF Daulat Singh Saktawat distributing the rescue equipment to the flying squad during the ceremony



Abhimanyu Singh Rajvi – a young politician of Rajasthan distributing tough terrain shoes to the Village Wildlife Watchers



Tiger Watch Chairman John Singh giving Award to Dy SP Ranvijay Singh



The dignitaries at the award function

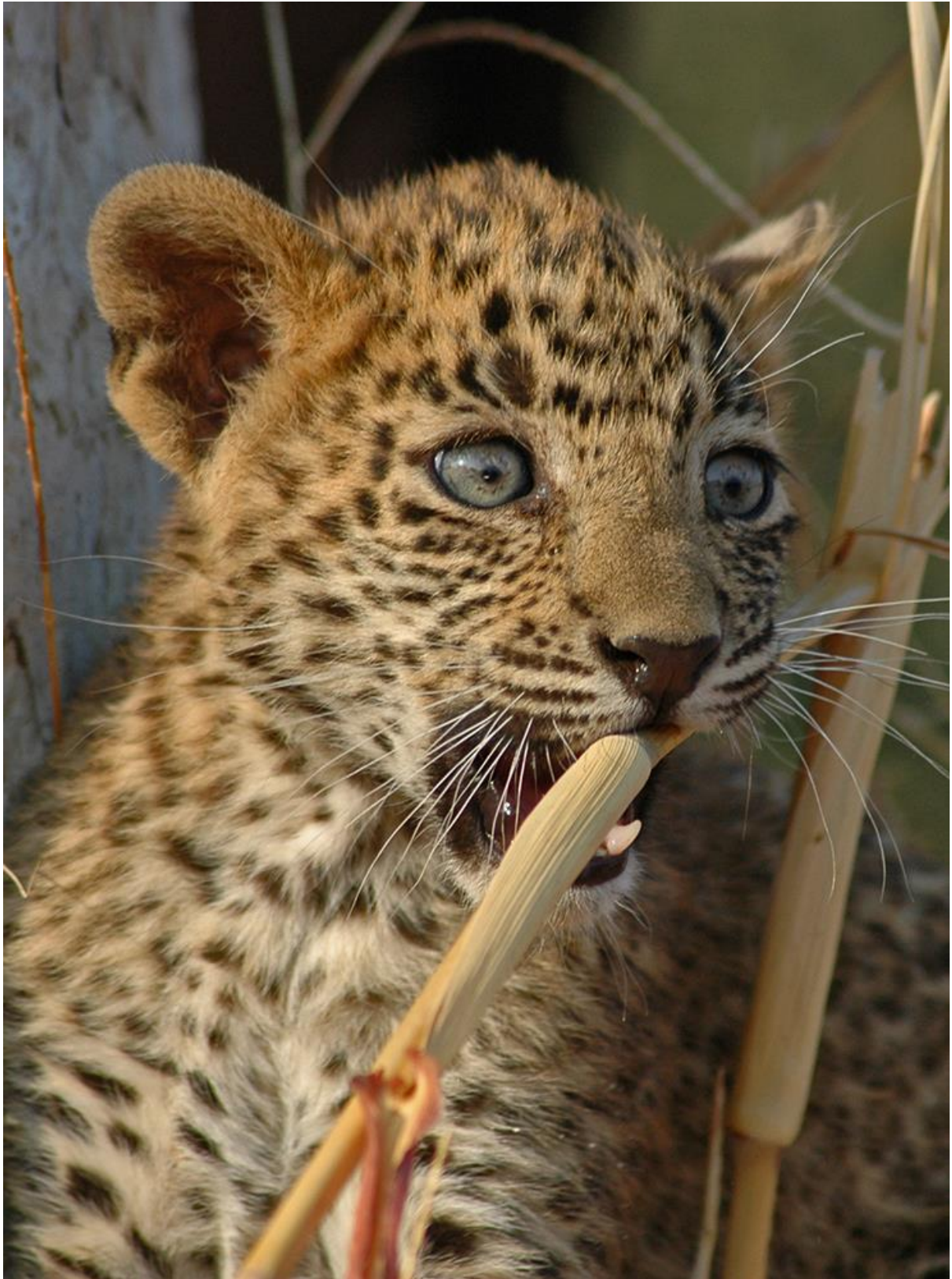


Kalyan Singh ji with a Village award recipient Mahadevia addressing the dignatories



Tiger Watch Secretary Ashutosh

SHRI FATEH SINGH RATHORE CONSERVATION AWARD 2015 ON 1st MARCH 2015			
S. No.	Name	Village Name	Amount
Forest Guard and Police Man Category			
1	Sh. Mohan Singh	Range SWM	10,000
2	Sh. Murari Lal	Work Charge (SWM)	10,000
3	Sh. Ramkishan	Asst. Forester Kaila Devi	10,000
4	Sh. Dharm Singh	Asst. Forester , Palighat	10,000
5	Sh. Ranvijay Singh		10,000
Villagers Category			
6	Sh. Kailsah Chand Meena	Ranwal	2,000
7	Sh. Suresh Chand Meena	Uliyana	2,000
8	Sh. Ramkalyan Gurjar	Indargarh	2,000
9	Sh. Lakhan Singh	Barnavda	2,000
10	Sh. Manraj Meena	Taleda	2,000
11	Sh. Ramkesh Gurjar	Hajjamkheri	2,000
12	Sh. Mullya Raibari	Baler	2,000
13	Sh. Parasram Jat	Mai	2,000
14	Sh. Badrilal Sahu	Aamli	2,000
15	Sh. Asharam Bairwa	Madhosingh Pura	2,000
16	Sh. Rudra Pratap Singh	Palighat	2,000
17	Sh. Ghamandi Meena	Ranwal	2,000
		Total	74,000



5. SUPPORT TO LOCAL SCHOOLS:

Every year Tiger Watch supports the local government school in which some of the Mogya Kids are going for education. This year we distributed full furniture to the school of Kutalpur. Principal's chair and table, five classrooms chair & table, black boards were been given to the school. Total worth of the furniture is INR 30 thousand.



Tiger Watch personnel distributing the furniture to the school Principal and teachers



6. SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY STUDENT:

This year Tiger Watch supported two local community boys. Son of Ramphool Gurjer has been give support of INR fifteen thousand. His son is studying Polytechnic in Jaipur. Ramphool is an example of a big sacrifice for the park. His father left the park thirty years back and they shifted outside thus motivating many other fellow villagers to do the same. Late Mr. Fateh Singh Rathore always respected this family for leaving their ancestral home. The second boy who gets scholarship for the education is son of Rampal Mali who was recently killed by a tiger in the park during his duty. His son is still in a school and Tiger Watch supported 4600/- for his books and stationary. Diya Banerjee through Mr. Saptarishi Sahgal generated the first support and Subhro Bhattacharya gave second support.

7. Keladevi Research program

Keladevi sanctuary is 50% area of the tiger reserve. Researcher and scientists from the biodiversity point of view have minimally explored the area. The area is future of Ranthambhore. A Pune based organisation- Pugmark and Tiger Watch jointly organised a two weeks long prey base study for forest department. Around 18 volunteers participated in the task. Collected data has been given to forest department for national level monitoring of tigers and its habitat. The volunteers learned a lot from the fieldwork during this two-week period.

8. Research work for Gharial conservancy

This year Tiger Watch started primary level Gharial population data collection between Pali to Rameshwaram area of Chambal River. The finding revealed that a very good population of Gharial has grown in the area. A three month long camera trapping exercise was also executed in the Pali land and we found that various animals using the secured habitat of Pali. Most important finding was existence of leopard, chital and Ratle (honey badger) in the area. Number of wild pigs, blue bulls, hyena, porcupine, and jungle cat are also fairly good. A local Keer community man Mr. Chhotu Keer collected all the data.

9. Facility for researchers

The present Mogya hostel facility at the Sevika building is also helping many researchers. Many researchers from India come to Ranthambhore, for various research exploration works. We provide them basic facility with nominal charges and provide them lodging boarding facility and our village wildlife watchers accompany them during the survey. Two researchers from Indian institute of Sciences, one

researcher from NCBS came this year. They also spend time to teach new advancement of science to Tiger Watch team.

10. Solar Light contribution for the local Police department

On the requirement of basic facility to local police station around the reserve Additional SP Mr. Dasarath Singh asked for some solar lights. Ten solar lights were arranged for them and Advocate Padmini



Singh Rathore donated lights to the police department on behalf of Tiger watch. Tiger watch and police are closely working to control poaching and other anti-forestry activity around Ranthambhore.

11. Village beautification

Fred Smith an African Ranger, donated US \$ 1000 to Tiger Watch, Tiger Watch used his money in a very interesting project. The project is an effort towards making an 'Adarsh Gaon' - Ideal village in Modern India. Volunteer Divya Khandal started a drive to encourage villagers towards creating beautiful surrounding in their villages. The present government is taking the initiative of cleanliness and hygiene, now it is important for individuals and responsible organizations to participate in all ways that they can to create a better India. Tiger Watch adopted one village near the Ranthambhore National park and work continuously for its betterment, this will encourage the others around to follow suit. The selected village is called Madhosinghpura Bairwa basti. This village is situated at the periphery of the Ranthambhore National Park; its population is about 450 individuals (including children), about 45 families reside in it. Most of the villagers are working as daily wagers or employed in close by hotels or establishments. The village had cemented road and two walls sided cemented drains, bottom of this is earth so it would accumulate dirt, because of this reason, the villagers filled it with soil and closed it. This led to the water and wastes to flow on the streets. The slippery roads due to the

drain water have not only created heaven for mosquitoes and flies but also the kids slip on it and bikes skid too! Divya approached villagers and motivated them to clean the drains and clear the garbage from the surrounding periphery. In addition, the money was used in rebuilding the drains, renovating the community hall, putting streetlights and making a wall in front of the common well, which is used by the women for bathing.



The mucky road before the cleaning drive



Villagers cleaning the surroundings



Same road after cleaning drive



Divya Khandal addressing villagers

12. Healthcare Support:

This year Prem Devi Mogya w/o Jugraj Mogya has been supported by Tiger Watch for her treatment. The financial contribution was given by Fateh Singhji's German friend Mr. Dieter Gutman. Jugraj is a reformed poacher and now he is working in the DCF office. Jugraj had killed three tigers from the park. DCF Mr.



Sudarshn Sharma appreciates his rehabilitation work. The entire medical help was provided by Ranthambhore Sevika hospital.

13.ANTI SNAKE VENOM SERUM:

Snakebites are common around Ranthambhore. Crisis of anti-venom serum is frequent in the government hospitals. We bought 50 ASV for the Prakartik society hospital. These ASV they can use free for forest guards, forest conservation related people, and needy people from the villages around the park area. They can also use the ASV for other people who are from the city and can afford, but it could be chargeable for this group.



Executive Board Members

Mr. John Singh — Chairman

Mr. Ashutosh Mahadevia — Secretary

Mr. Sachin Rai — Joint Secretary

Mr. Iskander Lalljee

Dr. Goverdhan Singh Rathore

Ms. Soonoo Taraporewala

Dr. Ajay Veer Khurana

Mr. Divyabhanu Singh Chavda

Mr. Rishad Naoroji

Mr. Ravi Singh

Mr. Sharookh Mehta

Mr. Pradip Shah

Ms. Shefali JB

Ground Team

Mr. Dharmendra Khandal, Ph.D

Mr. Mansingh Rajpoot

Mr. Kaushal Tiwari

Mr. Seema Tiwari

Mr. Pyarelal Saini

Mr. Hanuman Gurjer

Mr. Vijay Gurjer

Mr. Harikesh Gurjer – Talada khet

Mr. Giriraj Gurjer- Talda

Mr. Ramlal Saini – Suanas

Mr Ramkesh Gurjer – Talawada

Mr Vijay Singh Gurjer – Dangda

Mr Girdhari Gurjer – Khata ki

Mr. Naresh Gurjer - Sanwata

Mr. Dharm Singh Gurjer - Kalakhora

Mr. Badri Sen - Gotbihari

Mr. Amar Singh Gurjer - Kalakhora

Mr Ramswaroop Jagga – Bajoli

Mr Ramesh Gurjer – Matoria ki

Mr Babulal Gurjer – Bhavpur

	Tiger Watch fund detail 2014-15	
S.no.	Donor's name	Amount
1	Sh. John Singh / Faith Singh Ji , Jaipur	12,00,000
2	Sud Chemie India Pvt Ltd , Delhi	8,50,000
3	Tnq Books & journals pvt ltd , Chennai	3,25,000
4	Ranthambhore Tiger Conservation foundation	2,67,700
5	The Oberoi vanyavilas	1,85,863
6	Mr. Iskander lal I khan	1,50,000
7	Mr. Dieter Cuttman	50,000
8	Mr. Vijay Raj Bali Singapore	60,000
9	Mr. Tarun Bansal , Jaipur	27,400
10	Mr. Anirudh Choji , Pune	24,000
11	Mr. Irfan Quader	20,000
12	Ms. Emily, Brooke , Kery , james, Mendy Boswilveronika	20,000
13	Mr. Jim & Susan fateh Public school	16,100
14	Ms. Julie Jayton	11,600
15	Mr. Ankit Desai	11,000
16	Mr. Avneet mayer Jalandhar	10,000
17	Ms. Diya Banerjee	9,500
18	Jungle Lore Mumbai	6,000
19	Ms. Lydon USA. By Dhonk	7,080
20	The Tiger Safari SWM	5,000
21	Mr. Charan Jeet Sahgal	5,000
22	Ms. Reshma Kulkarni	5,000
23	Mr. Satyendra Umaria	4,200
24	Khem Vilas	2,000
25	Ms. Karen Henken By Dhonk	900
26	Without name Amount	45,000
27	SBBj Zonal Office kota	13,93,000
28	HDFC Ltd Mumbai	8,00,000
29	Atree Project	85,000
	Total	55,96,343

FCRA Account Details		
S.no.	Donor's Name	Amount
1	Ms. Reena Batra	80,000
2	By NEFT	1,000
3	Ms Sharda Sundaram	9,000
4	NEFT	54,981
5	Vidya Chander	1,60,878
6	TOFT UK	2,25,000
7	Mr. Dieter Gutman NEFT	23,057
8	Association For India Development USA	3,50,000
	Total	9,03,916