



Tiger Watch

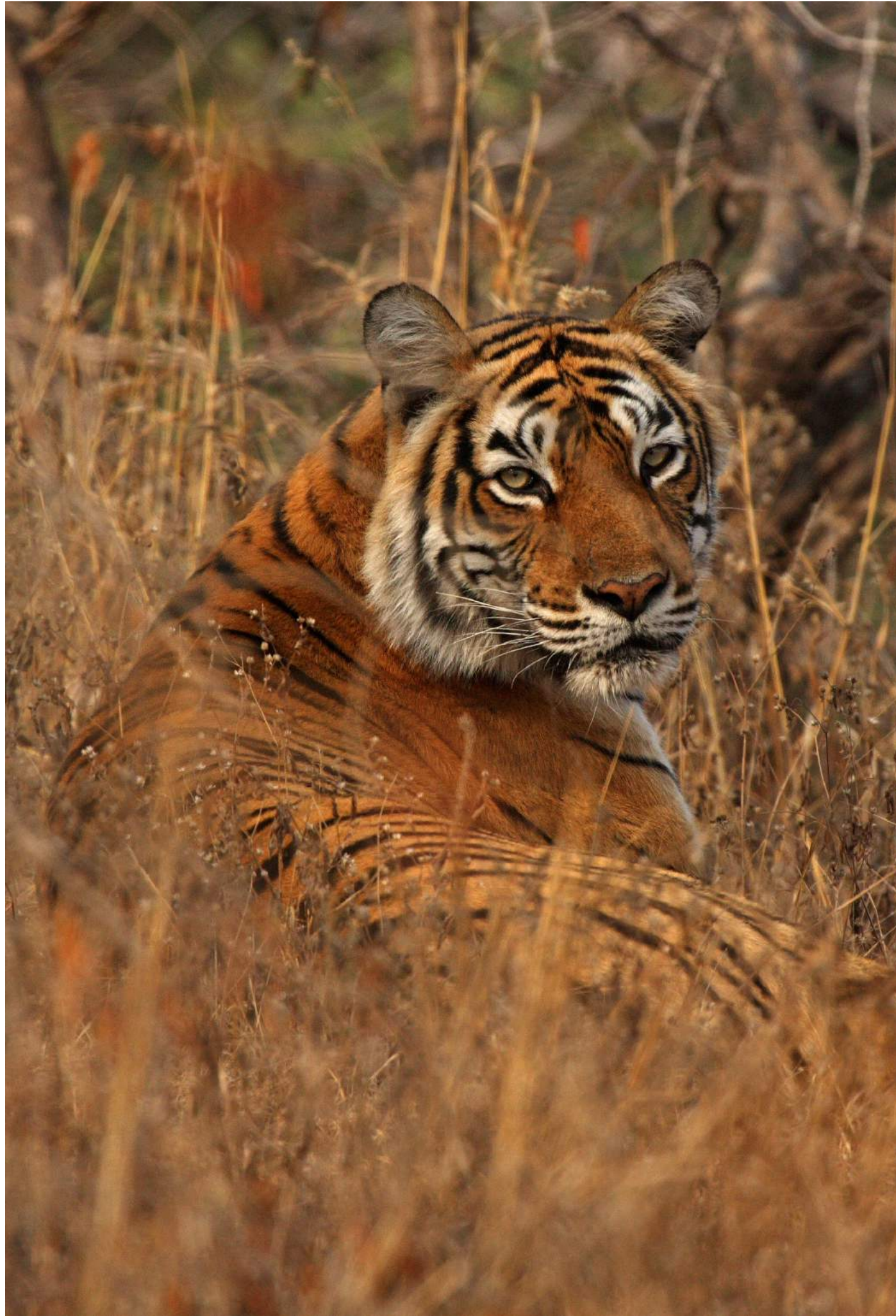
Annual Report

2018-19

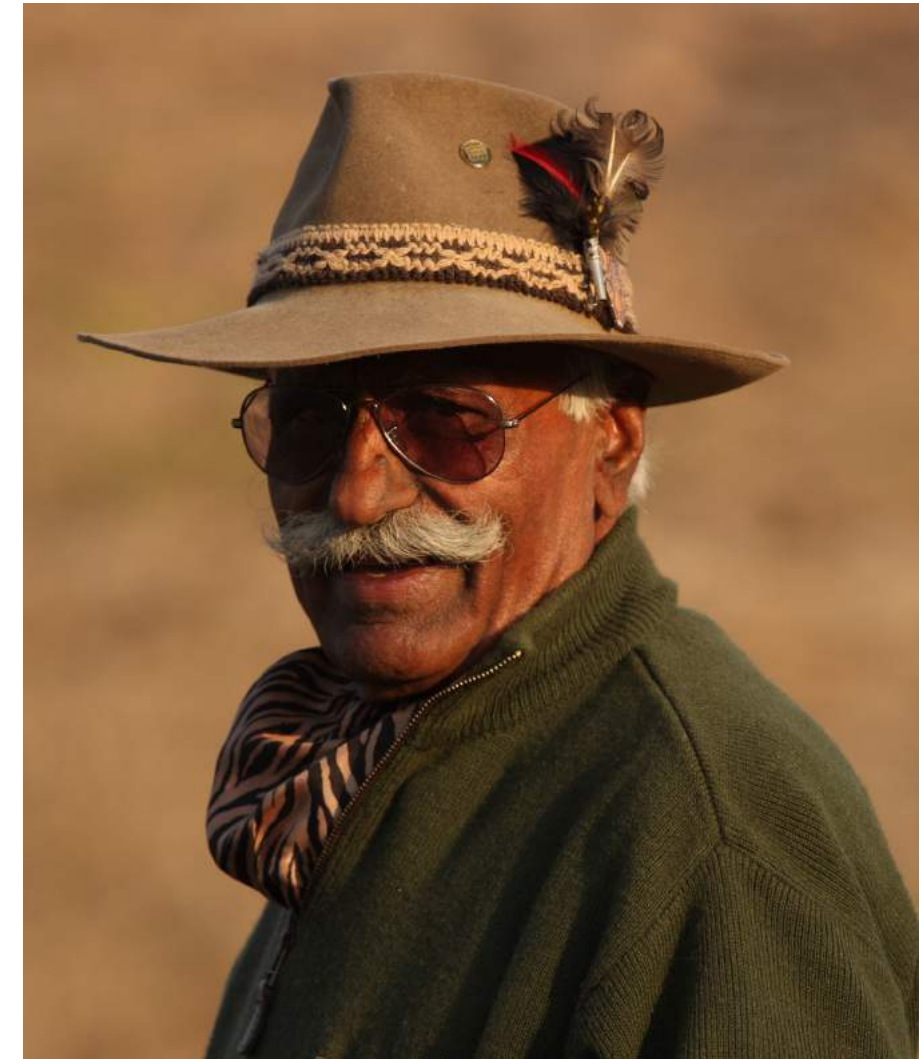


Tiger Watch

Annual Report 2018-2019



Founder of Tiger Watch



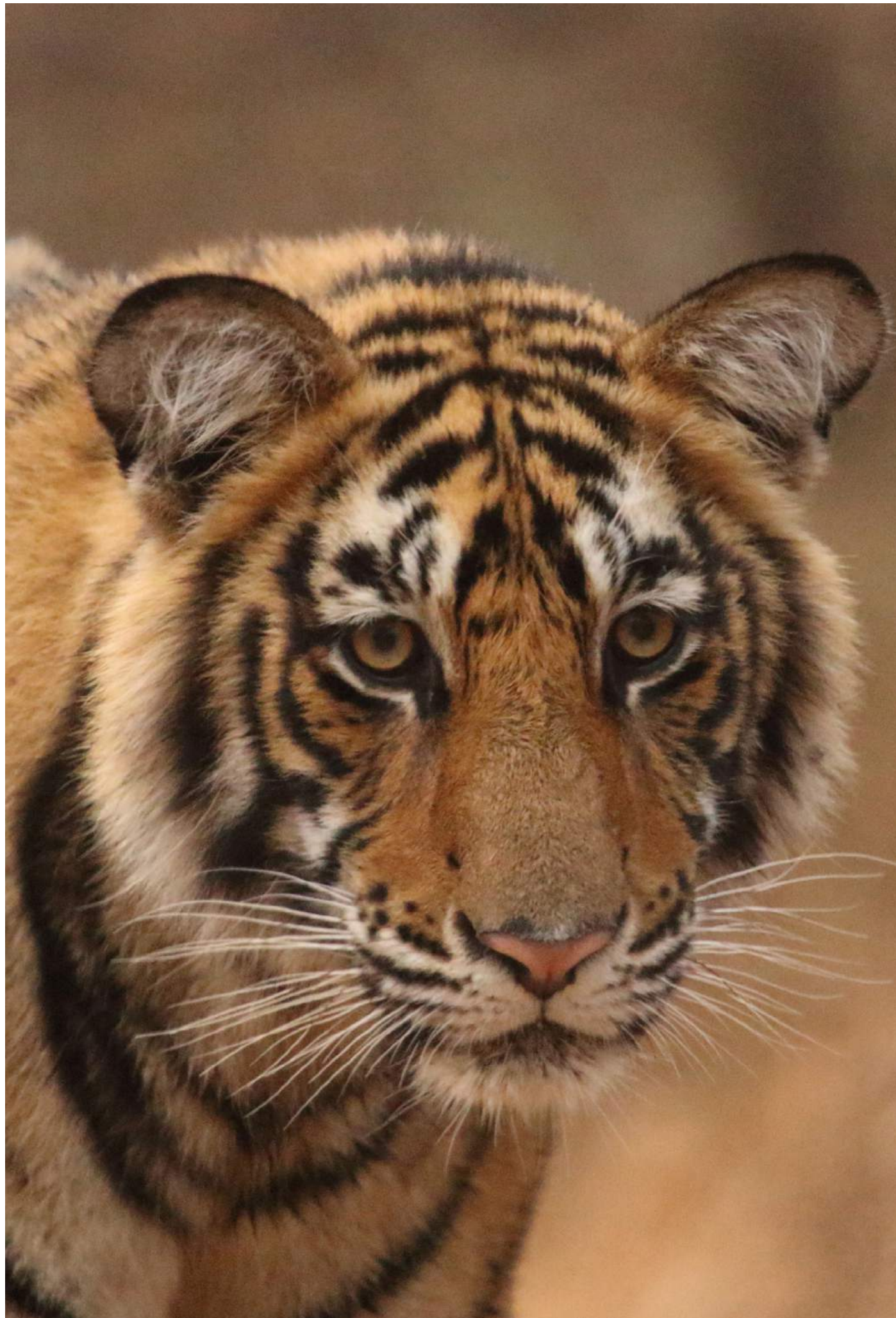
Late (Mr) Fateh Singh Rathore

Ranthambhore became the place, which brought the tiger to the consciousness of the people the world over. Fateh ji brought glory to Ranthambhore, making it a celebrated tiger reserve. He served as the field director and was the founder of Tiger Watch. He firmly believed in working with people to save the Tiger & in a country that is one billion strong, his people-centric approach is the only one that worked.



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CHAIRMAN'S NOTE



Dear friends,

It has been an exciting year for all of us at Tiger Watch. I am delighted to see not only the progress we have made in our existing programs, but also the diversity of programmes that have been brought to the table. The organisation is truly living up to its holistic mandate and there is no going back from here!

The Village Wildlife Volunteer Program under the guidance of Dharmendra has once again demonstrated just how invaluable it is. This year, outside of monitoring wildlife and anti-poaching, their presence has had a statewide appeal, with their well-acknowledged efforts in the successive Tiger relocations from Ranthambhore to Mukundra. More recently, in the tragic case of the Tiger T -104, at the request of the Forest Department, the VWV has ceaselessly monitored this conflict tiger, both before and after its capture and release. They have also played a crucial role in keeping peace with the local communities during this tense time.

This year has also been one for capacity building. During the course of the relocations, the Village Wildlife Volunteers taught the frontline staff of Mukundra how to track tigers safely and efficiently. Dharmendra has delivered key lectures to target audiences, specifically to trainees at the Central Detective Training Institute at Jaipur. This led to the police detectives of 8 States enhancing their knowledge to combat wildlife crime.

I was also delighted to see the completion of the 6 research projects carried out by Team Tiger Watch under Dharmendra. The study on the impact of religious tourism in RTR makes for both startling and interesting reading!

It is heart warming to see the Mogya Education Program continue to make significant strides and enter its 14th year on a high note. The appetite among the Mogya community for greater engagement is more tangible than it has ever been before.

I would like to thank all the board: Ashutosh, Goverdhan, Soonoo, Sachin, Ishan and Ajay for their continuing support. I would also like to thank and commend, Dharmendra and the entire field team for building Tiger Watch into what it is today.

I also thank all of our donors and supporters for their good faith, for all their encouragement and their trust in Tiger Watch. This is also the year we bid farewell to Mr. Sahu and thank him for his support and partnership in our conservation endeavours.

There appears to be a new set of challenges on the road ahead of us, particularly with the alarming rise in human wildlife conflict. Nevertheless, I am confident, that with our degree of information, leadership and community engagement, we are ideally placed to mitigate conflict and address all challenges.

Iskander Lalljee
Chairman Tiger Watch



SECRETARY'S NOTE



Dear Friends,

As I see the progress Tiger Watch continues to make, I can say it is an additional feather in Fatehji's Stetson. Just like the many colored feathers that adorned his hat this feather (of Tiger Watch) in particular, is multicolored, multi-faceted that surely makes us all proud. The vision with which Fatehji and I had formed this organization, is manifesting year by year..... all our dreams coming true.

I am happy to say that, though with a trimmed board of trustees, this is happening with a greater involvement from all, a cohesive team making the development of our NGO extremely strong and well rounded.

Our success can be truly measured by the praise showered by the DFO of Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve for the translocation of the big male nicknamed "Cowboy". I recently saw a promotional film on this Tiger Reserve and feel proud to inform our trustees that Dharmendra and VWV team have helped lay the foundation stone for more tigers in this pristine forest. Another classic example of our success is when the Mogya's are asking us to take their daughters under the MEP program. That I must say, speaks a lot, for what our Mogya rehabilitation program has done for this forgotten community and the impact it has had on the tiger and other wildlife in Ranthambhore is unparalleled in the field of conservation. To add to this our team under Dharmendra and the VWV have excelled in the collection of data on wildlife, demographic data on the hunting tribe and the people living around the park. This wealth of information will go a long way for conservation. And yes..... it has been done in such a unique and remarkable way. It has given the Mogya's a fair chance to mend ways and thereby preparing their future generations to blend in with the society. The VWV program has in a similar way made it possible for villagers to become an integral part of solving the man animal conflict.

Having successfully conducted two programs that deal with the intense problems that plague wildlife across the country and the world..... Poaching and Man Animal conflict, it has become necessary to deal with tourism, which many people term as a problem. Though I do not subscribe to this view, I believe that tourism could be used for collecting informal data on the status of the wildlife that they view. Data mining from tourists could give a lot of information to wildlife managers and the indices thus obtained can help save wildlife. I personally see a great opportunity in this area.

I mentioned earlier about the great team work happening between the trustees and it has translated into great results in the functioning of Tiger Watch. Chairman Iskander Lalljee has truly taken the place of our Dear John Da, generous as ever, making many of our programs not only possible but successful. Thanks to Dharmendra for his awesome leadership in the field that has brought Tiger Watch to this enviable position in the field of wildlife conservation. I am in deep gratitude to the other trustees Goverdhan, Sachin, Ishan, Soonoo, Ajay and Rishad for their never ending support. I also wish to thank our CA Rinkesh Kunteta of Ajay-kumar Vijayvergia & Associates for his prompt & timely accounting, auditing and filing of returns etc.

Finally my thanks to all the donors and the forest department for their support. We shall miss Mr. Sahu as he is transferred but a special thanks to him for the amazing support that he has given us for the last so many years making it possible to solidify our conservation endeavors.

Ashutosh Mahadevia
Secretary Tiger Watch



ABOUT 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 in Ranthambhore during the 1990s. Mr. Fateh Singh Rathore's immense concern about Ranthambhore's wildlife and natural heritage, 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 the formation of this NGO. Tiger Watch has always been up front, be it anti-poaching, wildlife monitoring, biodiversity exploration, research, community support, helping forest department, or traditional hunting community "Mogya" rehabilitation programs, providing aid in cattle compensation to mitigate man-animal conflicts and setting an example as an efficient conservation unit.

RANTHAMBHORE TIGER RESERVE

Ranthambhore is one of the most popular tiger reserves in India. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR) is located at the junction of the Aravalli and the Vindhyan hill ranges and this juxtaposition of hill ranges is perhaps the reason for the rich bio-diversity of the Ranthambhore. The 'Project Tiger' was launched here in April 1973. It was one of the first nine parks to be created as a Tiger Reserve. This meant that the tiger's habitat had to be managed efficiently in order to prevent further damage to the ecosystem and to facilitate the recovery of the ecosystem back to its inviolate natural state. RTR lies between latitudes 25°41' N to 26°22' N and longitudes 76°16' E to 77°14' E. The reserve is situated in the S-E part of Rajasthan and spreads over 3 districts viz. Sawai Madhopur, Karauli & Bundi. On the eastern side of the reserve is river Chambal. The river Banas divides the reserve into 2 parts. The N-E part of Kailadevi WLS and S-E part is the Ranthambhore National park. The total area of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve is 1473.554 sq. km, out of which 1113.364 sq. km. has been notified, as critical tiger habitat. Apart from this remaining 360.19 sq. kms of RTR is buffer area.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION RESEARCH

Tiger Watch Ranthambhore has always been grounded in a scientific approach towards the conservation of species and habitats. Scientific data, facts and logical conclusions should be considered, especially when we invest limited resources, infrastructure and funds in achieving our conservation goals.

Wildlife studies are of increasing importance since we have recognized the imperatives of species centric conservation and environmental management. Tiger Watch believes in conducting projects that are backed by wildlife research. This year we conducted 6 major research projects in Ranthambhore for the Forest Department. A team comprised of 6 wildlife biologists & researchers, 12 field assistants and 2 research assistants has been constituted to execute these projects.



Assessment of Anthropogenic Pressure in Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary

This study presents information on the various types of anthropogenic pressure faced by Kailadevi wildlife sanctuary (KWLS). The study was focused on understanding the amount of pressure and impact on the forest. The surveys took account of the pressure and impact on wildlife and were the most intensive and rigorous of their kind to date from the area. The findings are the result of 6 months' worth of field-sampling and have been analyzed and presented in this report.

Summary of the result:

There are 66 villages and a total of 19, 179 people live inside KWLS. The density of the human population in KWLS is 28 persons/ km². This study found that, there are 66 villages inside KWLS which have 4999 households with 73032 livestock and 5090 feral cows. KWLS not only faces grazing pressure from the villages inside, but also from the peripheral villages. There are 112 villages on the periphery of the sanctuary which have a total of 86700 heads of livestock and 50% of these are dependent on the sanctuary for grazing.

The sex ratio of surveyed villages in KWLS is 795 females per 1000 males. The low sex ratio has resulted in a significant proportion of the unmarried male population that are above the age of 30 years, being unmarried. The agro-pastoral communities namely Gurjars, Meenas and Bairwas are the dominant communities from the others. The literate population is only 43% (8,244 people) and the illiterate population is 57% (10,935 people) of the total population. A lack of educational institutions and the distance may be the cause of low literacy levels in the population. Out of all villages, only 44 villages have schools and the remaining 22 villages do not have any school. Out of the 66 villages, there were only 5 PHCs in the villages. There are 5090 feral cattle and many feral dogs inside the sanctuary, which roam freely and can be a risk for wild animals as they can spread diseases. Livestock keeping is the main occupation followed by agriculture. Over 70% of the households are dependent on livestock and agriculture in direct and indirect ways. The average income per capita per year gained from is 27865.1 INR. This income is generated on the expense of biomass and water consumed

by crop for growth. During the monsoon, a total of 59 cattle camps were formed by the neighboring villagers and these camps hold 32508 heads of live-stock. A total of 34.24 sq. Km. (3424 Ha) forest land is encroached upon by these villages and used for agriculture and other purposes. The average per capita consumption was found to be : 1.08 kg, Day-1 or 397.176 kg per year. The total wood consumed for Mava production = 4250 tonne/year. Considering 250 days of mava making each year. Fuelwood consumption in KWLS is very high and beyond the scope of natural regeneration. This heavy exploitation of wood for fuel has degraded the forest over the years; this fact is also confirmed by land use land cover changes over the years. The remotely sensed analysis showed that the barren area has increased by 7.49% in last 20 years. The natural dense forest cover has reduced by 5.64% in the last two decades and remains only 18.47% in 2018. The overall grazing pressure was very high in all the villages within the first 600 meters near villages. For large villages, grazing pressure was reported to be very high even after 1500 meters outside the periphery of the village.

The Kailadevi Sanctuary is facing a large amount of human pressure along with poaching activity. There are some communities, which are involved in poaching such as the Mogyas & Shehrias. During the study, our field research team observed that there is heavy illegal extraction of Asparagus roots, stem part of Grewia tenax, seeds of Occimum basilium, gum of Commiphora wightii, gum of Sterculia urens and roots of Gangadu (Vitex negundo), are done by people in local markets and those from the neighboring state of Madhya Pradesh. KWLS is rich in shale and sandstone, which is commonly used in construction. The villagers who live inside the sanctuary, extract stone only to build their houses. The anthropogenic pressure also includes pilgrims and their activities. KWLS has 12 big religious sites where a total of 49, 200 pilgrims come to visit annually.

Various methods for the management and restoration of the habitat in Kailadevi are recommended in the study inside.



Wolf Research Project in Kailadevi Sanctuary

As apex predators in Kailadevi, wolves play a crucial role in shaping ecological communities, even though big cats are present albeit in low densities. Kailadevi is one of the best wolf habitats in India but there is no systematic study that has assessed its ecological status using robust methods. Therefore, in order to access baseline data on the ecological status of the wolf, Tiger Watch with the collaboration of Rajasthan Forest Department came up with a 6 month research project on Indian Grey Wolf. The study was aimed at accomplishing four key objectives: To assess the ecological and anthropological correlates associated with the Indian grey wolf habitat-use and subsequently the density of wolves in Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Summary of the result:

Habitat-use was assessed across 672.82 km² surveying 48 grid cells, each measuring 14.4 km². Estimated habitat-use was found to be 0.79 (± 0.23). Percentage habitat availability and water availability were most reliable in explaining wolf habitat use. Our results showed that Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary supports a minimum population of 40 and maximum of 90 wolves. For any species living in a human-dominated landscape, it is important to know how what is the attitude of the people towards the species. In this case it becomes important to assess their perception, as the wolf in KWLS is responsible for causing high economic loss to the people of KWLS through livestock depredation. Hence, we conducted the questionnaire surveys in which we surveyed 442 households out of 3,353 household and we found that the people incur heavy losses due to depredation of livestock by wolves. We found that on an average they lose around 943 heads of livestock in a year which valued to be around 50 Lacs INR and that was only for the 15% of the households that we sampled and if we try to extrapolate for every household in the sanctuary, then the total amount of livestock loss in a year would be around 7,252, which will cost around 3 crores INR. Finally, based on our results we came up with a conservation plan suggesting scientific interventions like the proper management of wolf occupied habitats, efficient livestock compensation schemes, better livestock husbandry practices, management of feral dogs inside the sanctuary and a community based approach to sensitize the people of KWLS. Keeping all the interventions in mind, we hope that the wolves can co-exist with the people in relative harmony.



Ecological Impact of Religious Sites in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve has many religious sites, which attract a very large number of pilgrims throughout the year. To compound matters further, all of these sites are rapidly increasing in size which will surely create problems in the future. In this study, all of the religious sites inside the Ranthambhore division of RTR were surveyed and documentation was made of both location and the prevailing circumstances of the surrounding area. This is a very sensitive and delicate issue and need to handle this data with the utmost care. Tiger Watch respects all religions, but trends pertaining to pilgrimage show that the resulting impact on nature is negative and is increasing by the day, it is also related to our lifestyle choices.

Summary of the result:

A total of 427 religious sites were identified inside the Ranthambhore division of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. Every year a total of 21,31,560 pilgrims and 1,83,598 vehicles go inside the forest area. On festival days a total of 6,86,680 pilgrims which is 32.2% of the total pilgrims and 61,912 vehicles which is a whopping 33.7% of the total vehicles go inside forest area. In this study it was established that there were 202(47.3%) sites where pilgrims go by using vehicles and the remaining 225 (52.6%) sites where no vehicles go or in other terms only pedestrian pilgrims visit. Out of the 427 religious sites, the majority 328 (76.8%) of the sites were open structures like simple pedestals, statues and idols. Only 99(23.2%) places had enclosed structures. A total of 14 religious sites inside the Ranthambhore division had resident priests. All of the religious sites inside the tiger reserve were established by communities who lived there in the past, therefore the majority of the sites were idols and pedestals with no basic infrastructure. But with time, these sites are growing in size as well as expanding infrastructure like drinking water and electricity. These facilities will support further growth of the site whether in terms of physical size or the number of pilgrims. Therefore, the data on basic facilities available at religious sites was collected by visiting all the sites within the study area. It was discovered that 55 religious sites have handpumps

and 12 have bore wells as sources for drinking water. During the study it was revealed that out of the total 427 surveyed religious sites, the vast majority (386 sites) does not have electricity. There are many factors caused by the activities of human beings which disturb the natural environment and the wild animals living in it. Noise pollution is one such factor. The noise created at religious sites which are inside the protected area greatly disturbs any wildlife nearby. There were 99 religious sites at which music was played on festival days.

Due to a large influx of pilgrims throughout the year, natural waterbodies get polluted and have a terrible impact on wild animals. Out of 73 sites with natural water sources, 30 are polluted. There were 211 religious sites where pilgrims cooked food and fuel wood was collected from the surrounding area to enable this. When pilgrims visit religious places they often feed animals or birds like Langur Monkeys and Peafowl food like fruits, prasad and grain. Out of the total religious sites surveyed, there were 199 (46.6%) sites where pilgrims fed animals nearby. During the survey the presence of non-biodegradable waste was found near 108 sites. Grazing is prohibited in Ranthambhore but the study found signs of grazing near 227 religious sites. The presence of construction work on any pilgrimage site confirms that the site is growing in size and the increase in size will only attract more pilgrims and thus the destruction of the natural habitat of wild animals. During the study we discovered that the majority (19 sites) had ongoing construction work. All of these sites paired with an ever-growing number of pilgrims inevitably exert pressure on the forest and its wildlife; therefore it is imperative that this activity is regulated.



Ecosystem services of Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary

The term 'ecosystem services' encompasses diverse material and non-material goods and services beneficial to human beings that are provided by ecosystems. Under contemporary definitions, the good (tangible and extractable benefits derived from ecosystems) are now redefined as provisioning services.

Valuation of ecosystem services is emerging as an important policy-support tool for decision-makers. This study attempts to produce quantitative and qualitative estimates of the multiple values provided by the natural capital of the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS). To be clear, this is not a valuation of the natural capital itself (a stock value of natural assets) but of the flows of benefits (ecosystem services) produced by the natural capital of the sanctuary. This study addresses key ecosystem services produced from the KWLS, with the aim of making them visible to economies, policy-makers and wider society. The study also acknowledges limited human understanding of the natural processes contributing to the production of some services, and the consequent inability to assign robust values to them.

Summary of the study:

The economic values derived in the study are therefore conservative, comprising quantitative and qualitative estimates for up to 21 ecosystem services from the KWLS. The study addresses three streams of values provided by the KWLS:

- Ecosystem service flows originating from the KWLS, which are estimated cumulatively as INR 84.47 billion annually. In terms of unit area, this translates into INR 12.55 million per square kilometer per year;
- Conservation of natural capital stock valued at INR 367.3 billion in the form of timber and carbon stock, in terms of unit area, this translates into INR 54.59 million per square kilometer per year; and
- Recognition that a substantial quantity of ecosystem services is intangible, and hence cannot currently be ascribed an economic value.

The study also found that many ecosystem services are highly overexploited and consequently

under severe stress, for example due to practices such as fuelwood use for mava-making as and from overgrazing. It is necessary to reduce overexploitation from these and other practices if a more sustainable regime of natural resource use is to be achieved in the KWLS.

The study also advocates that adequate protection and investment in the KWLS is essential to protect or improve flows of ecosystem services into the future. This strategy not only makes economic sense, but is also essential for the wellbeing and prosperity of the large human population that depends on these flows of services.

One of the particular benefits of protection of the KWLS is that it will provide safe habitat for tigers, now repopulating and breeding in the sanctuary after a gap of many years. An ecosystem service approach will help managers sustain this re-established tiger population, and to avoid human-animal conflict. All natural ecosystems are the unique products of millions of years of evolution, and are well beyond the capacities of current knowledge and available technology to recreate. This fact should also be a guiding principle in application of the ecosystem service valuation to management policies valuation, this study providing an evidence base to best inform management of the KWLS to safeguard or restore its ecological character and the many beneficial ecosystem services that flow from it.

The direct use values reflect ecosystem services such as harvesting of fish, fuel and fodder that directly benefit people. The cumulative direct use values generated as ecosystem service from the KWLS were found to be cumulatively worth INR 346.13 billion, accounting for 81.3% of total estimate values. Values of indirect use, such as pollination and water purification, stand at INR 18.61 billion, comprising 4.4% of overall deduced values. Option value services (in this study accounted for by gene pool protection) was estimated at INR 61.24 billion, or 14.4% of the total calculated value.



However, it should be noted that many ecosystem services lack economic values, and that for many service the monetary values are merely representative of the significance of the value as reflected by surrogate markets. All monetized values should therefore be treated with caution, and seen not as a 'value of nature' but as indicative of the magnitude of value that the system provides in terms of ecosystem service flows.

Ecosystem services are broadly classified as flow benefits and stock benefits. Flow benefits are those that are regularly exploited by people ex fishing, grazing and fuelwood. Stock benefits are present in a ecosystem but are not used due to various reasons. For example, timber stock in KWLS has market value but it could not be exploited in future. The flow benefits of KWLS were valued at 84.41 billion rupees, whereas stock benefits at 367.3 billion rupees.

Ecosystem services are also classified as tangible and intangible. Tangible services were valued at 346.13billion Rupees (81.3% of the total) and intangible services at 79.87 billion Rupees (18.7% of the total).

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA, 2005). classifies ES as provisionary (provide direct benefits, such as fuel, food), regulatory (Essential for proper function of ecosystem such as Carbon sequestration) and cultural Services such as spiritual tourism.

Provisioning services were valued at 407.37 billion rupees, regulatory services at 18.57 billion rupees and cultural Services at 0.06 billion rupees. Ecosystem services not only benefit local communities but also provide benefits at a broader national and international level. For example, climate regulation benefits are global, catchment-related services are regional, tourism services may be national and international, but fishery production may be very localized. Only 1.9 % (INR 8.61 billion) of the assessed benefits are realized at a local level, compared to 11.9% (INR 53.8 billion) at a national and 86.2% (INR 389.29 billion) at a global scale.





Socio-Economic Survey of Traditional Hunting Tribes in & around Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary

Many communities live around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve and the Mogyas are one of them. The Mogyas are a traditional semi-nomadic hunting tribe that live on the outskirts of villages and are primarily engaged in crop protection. This study focuses on the Socio-economic status of Mogya families living around the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary. The state of Rajasthan has been home to various tribal & nomadic communities, and these constitute approximately 13.5% of Rajasthan's population. Five districts in the state: Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jaipur and Sawai Madhopur contribute to two thirds of the state's tribal and nomadic population. The Mogyas and Bawariyas are well known semi-nomadic communities in Rajasthan. They traverse a large area covering the districts of Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Kota and Jaipur. According to the National commission of De-notified, Notified and Semi-nomadic tribes, the Mogya community is a de-notified and nomadic tribe. The main objective of the study is to assess their socio-economic status and the location of this tribe in the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Summary of the result:

In the present study, a total of 43 villages were identified which have Mogya settlements. Out of which 22 villages have nonresident individuals while the settlements in the remaining 21 villages, which were near the Neniya and Kailadevi ranges were permanent settlements and consisted of 81 Mogya families. The average family size was found to be 4.5 individuals per family with a total of 369 individuals. The sex ratio in the 0-14 yrs age group was 876 females per 1000 males whereas in the above 14 yrs age group, it is 1072 females per 1000 males. A total of 172 individuals were above the age of 14 years, out of which 68.02 % individuals had Aadhaar cards.

None of the surveyed families had caste certificates. Only 11.11 % families from Harikapura and Medpura villages have BPL cards. A total of 74.07 % of the families have ration cards. Child marriage still exists in the community. Illiteracy was found to be very high in the community; out of the total of 103 children from 7-14 years of age, 75.72

% were illiterate. 69.13% don't have any access to electricity. All of the families avail safe drinking water facilities through wells, water tanks, bore-wells and handpumps. As these Mogya families reside on the outskirts of villages, access to healthcare is difficult for them. Our study reported that only 11.1 % of the families have access to sanitation facilities because these families are enrolled in the BPL Card scheme.

The child mortality rate was reported to be very high among the community (259). During the survey it was found that people visit a Bhopa (similar to a 'Witch doctor') if someone is ill in the family. The Mogya community, also practices ethno-botanical and ethno-zoological traditional methods of medicine for the treatment of illness. The majority of the families 97.53% have their own houses, but none of the families own the land on which their house stands. These families have encroached on government land and have somehow managed to construct a house on that land.

Due to a lack of education, land, and livestock, the majority (62.98%) of the Mogya community is mainly involved in manual labor work and their traditional crop protection work. Therefore the annual income of these families is considerably low. The average annual income of the surveyed 81 families was 23,703 INR. We can therefore conclude that the surveyed Mogya families are socially disconnected with mainstream society and economically lie below the poverty line.

Study for appropriate Dairy Development in Sawai Madhopur

Tiger Watch did a detailed study on livestock economics as well as feed and fodder practices in and around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve which included a Socio-Economic Survey of Veterinary Doctors, villagers, cooperative dairies, research scientists, dairy expert and government officials. This study is largely based on primary data, which follows quantitative design and also includes an extensive literature review and addressing gaps in existing scholarship. The Socio-Economic survey included grazing patterns, feed and fodder, vaccination and diseases, breeds and artificial insemination, local and outstation cooperative dairies and conducting workshop for villagers. 8 government veterinary doctors were consulted and 27 villages were surveyed in and around RTR. Saras Dairy was visited to assess the outstation dairy model. A research scientist from the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute was consulted for assessing the best feeding practices.

The major focus was a detailed study of the economics of cow, buffalo and goat, their grazing patterns and their dependency on the tiger reserve. The economic study revealed that all livestock keepers were having a negative return, irrespective of what domesticated animal they rear. In goats, a major cost came from illegal grazing in forest.

The seasonal calendar of the best available fodder on the periphery of the tiger reserve was made with village wildlife volunteers and agriculturist. We suggested growing fodder like *Cenchrus setigerus* and *Cenchrus ciliaris* on common grazing land or in agricultural fields during the lean season. Suggestions were made for scientific feeding and the required amount of concentrates and fodder given.

The project covered all small and big cooperative dairies around RTR and elaborated how a revival of cooperative dairies can be made and in turn increasing livelihood of livestock keeper.

It also covered all schemes provided by the state and central governments like the National Livestock Mission, Bamashah Yojna etc.

It covered man – animal conflict through domestic animals encroaching on wild life and in turn increasing competition for food resources. The total

livestock density in and around RTR was 161.64 for cattle, 381.81 for buffalo, 860.02 for goat per thousand people.

We also did a comparative study on free ranging vs. stall fed livestock with respect to the cost of rearing, milk yield, and fodder requirement, health of the animals, water requirement and other factors. We found that livestock should be a combination of free ranging and stall feeding, where free ranging helps them exercise, stall feeding keeps them free of disease. There were also problems related to feral cattle, which were responsible for spreading zoonotic diseases. The workshop and associated training was provided to the villagers to understand the benefits of artificial insemination, various deadly diseases impacting livestock, benefits of a cooperative dairy and a history of Indian dairy practices. The survey of artificial insemination found that villagers were still following age old practice of stud bulls which was one of the reasons for the spread of diseases and also impacting the health of the domestic animal. The reports also include livestock diseases and their effects on wildlife, veterinary institutions around RTR, research institutions all over India under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, animal husbandry schemes provided by state and central governments, the perspective of villagers, recommendations and our conclusion. It was a 6 month long project with an extensive report covering all aspects.



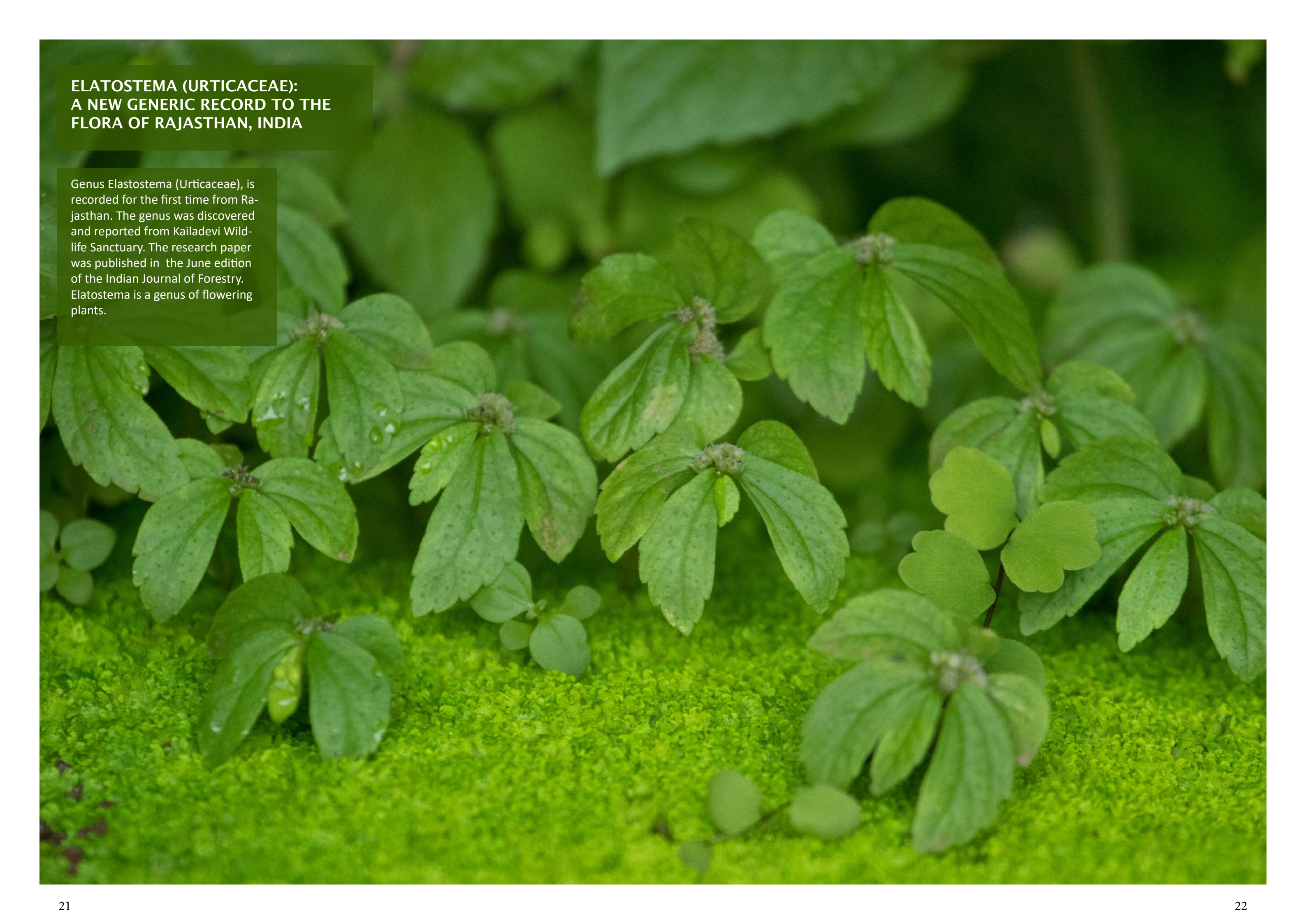
PUBLICATIONS



JHALANA: A LEOPARD FOREST OF THE PINK CITY

A hard-bound coffee table book on Jhalana was written and compiled by team Tiger Watch at the request of the Forest Department. The former Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje launched and appreciated the book. The Forest department also appreciated our contribution of the book.

The forest of Jhalana, bang in the middle of Jaipur city is home to many of these magnificent cats and they survive in harmony with the growing city. Jhalana stands out as a unique example of harmonious existence between man and nature. The lush hills balance the city's environment and offer tourists and residents, the unique experience of sighting a leopard. The book has information on the flora and fauna of Jhalana forest and talks about interesting leopard sightings, which reveal more about the behavior of the leopards. The Forest department presents this book as a souvenir to eminent guests.



ELATOSTEMA (URTICACEAE): A NEW GENERIC RECORD TO THE FLORA OF RAJASTHAN, INDIA

Genus *Elatostema* (Urticaceae), is recorded for the first time from Rajasthan. The genus was discovered and reported from Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary. The research paper was published in the June edition of the Indian Journal of Forestry. *Elatostema* is a genus of flowering plants.

VILLAGE WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS



Mission

To aid in the sustainable co-existence of man and wildlife with the participation of local communities through the ethical use of science and technology.

BACKGROUND

India is a unique place where wildlife and humans have coexisted since time immemorial. Growing human populations and depleting forest cover have resulted in a rise in human-animal conflict in India. Poaching and habitat encroachment have become a major concern for the forest department. At the same time, the forest department is short-staffed especially at the lower levels, which consist of forest guards and frontline staff positions.



Due to the limited size of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, animals routinely move into villages situated outside the reserve for food and in search of new territory. There is a need for constant surveillance for monitoring the movement of these stray animals, mainly tigers. Hence, in 2013, Tiger Watch started a very innovative program called the Village Wildlife Volunteers (VWV) in collaboration with the Forest Department of Rajasthan, with the assistance of various supporters. The initiative was developed under the guidance of Mr Y.K. Sahu, the former Field director – Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.

It is a unique example of successful collaboration between the Forest Department and an NGO in the conservation of wildlife by taking local communities on board. A first for India.

The village wildlife volunteers is a vigilant task force constituted of local villagers living around the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, chiefly engaged in rearing livestock and agriculture. Tiger Watch has recruited 50 VWV from villages adjoining RTR. They monitor wildlife along with their day to day business. They also defend the forest and the wildlife around their villages. Tiger Watch financially remunerates these volunteers. Over the years VWV has established itself as a successful model for the efficient management of Tiger reserves.

The Village Wildlife Volunteer Program is conducted in the forest around the critical tiger habitat of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, which is comprised of the Ranthambhore National Park, the Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary and the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary.

HOW IT WORKS

A contagious ambience of rush and excitement peaks every morning at 9 am. Camera trap images start pouring in from a network of 50 cameras installed at the fringe of RTR. The VWV use smartphones to download the photographs and send these using WhatsApp. Our staff identifies each and every tiger from photos after consulting our tiger image database. The location of every tiger is then marked on the map to keep track of its movements.

The main intention behind this program was to monitor tiger and leopards movements outside RTR. Slowly the VWV also started providing information regarding poaching and other illegal activities like mining and logging in the forest. Due to timely intelligence provided by VWV, the forest department has successfully averted poaching multiple times. VWV have played a very important role in managing human-wildlife conflict situations. They have also come up with important natural history documentation like the brown sloth bear and the elusive small cat caracal.

We have now expanded the scope of the VWV program. In addition to keeping a track of wildlife, we are following stray tigers to ensure their safety. For example, our team of skilled VWV trackers, have continuously tracked tigers T-91 and T-56 for more than 4 months when they had strayed on different occasions. It was observed that these tigers covered more than more than 150 km in distance from RTR.

The VWV are playing an important role in creating a positive perception among villagers towards wildlife and the forest department. They assist their fellow villagers in receiving compensation for the loss of crop and livestock caused by wild animals. This has been very instrumental in reducing incidents of human-animal conflicts around RTR. The VWV have played a very important part in rescuing stray animals outside RTR, including Leopards and Tigers. The management of the 'buffer zone' is very important for a healthy core zone of any protected area and the VWV are effectively doing this job at RTR.



SELECTION AND TRAINING

Tiger Watch selects and trains all the VWV. Most of them are villagers who live close to the park boundary and are from agrarian or pastoral communities. They are hired for a part-time commitment; therefore the volunteers continue to be engaged with their original respective occupations. The remuneration provided is not their main source of income, but very specific task based payment. If the individual VWV is not able to fulfill the role desired of him, remuneration is halted. New recruits are also selected by the VWV themselves. VWV with a good track record are elevated to coordinator posts where feasible. Coordinators monitor, train, and guide their teams of VWV to overcome challenges whilst working. Generally, one coordinator handles a team of 5-6 VWV. He also analyses the voluminous information they provide and makes sure it reaches the correct channel on time. Coordinators receive a fix monthly remuneration.

The VWVs receive additional on the job training from senior VWVs, coordinators and the forest guards they associate with. They are taught to use camera traps, GPS, compasses, range finders, conduct line transects and collect ecological data, construction of POP pugmark casts, tracking tigers, etc. They are also trained in using the most modern communication devices, like smartphones. They are equipped with smartphones, OTG card readers (to transmit camera trap photos on whatsapp), motorcycles and 4x4 vehicles for the more of efficient tracking of tigers. All the VWV are also provided with uniforms and shoes.

The VWV also regularly visit the Tiger Watch head office, to discuss issues related their work. We also conduct bi-monthly meetings with the VWV coordinators to assess their work.

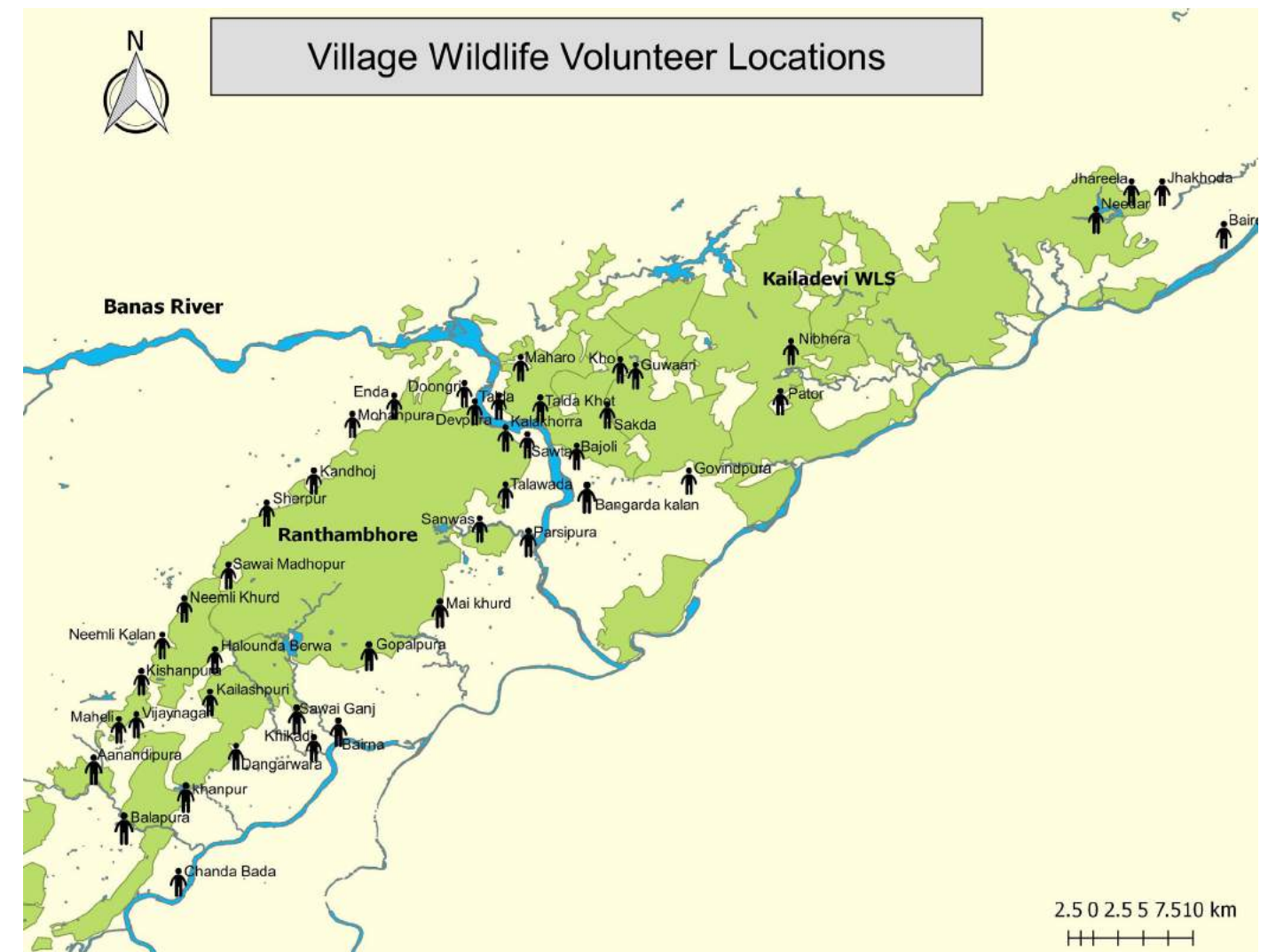


GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Ranthambhore is one of the most popular tiger reserves in India. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR) is located at the junction of the Aravalli and the Vindhyan hill ranges and this confluence is perhaps the reason for the rich bio-diversity in Ranthambhore.

Project Tiger was launched here in April 1973. It was one of the first 9 parks to be created as a Tiger Reserve. This meant that the tiger's habitat had to be managed efficiently in order to prevent further damage to the ecosystem and to facilitate the recovery of the ecosystem back to its inviolate natural state.

RTR lies between latitudes 25° 41' N to 26° 22' N and longitudes 76° 16' E to 77° 14' E. The reserve is situated in the S-E part of Rajasthan and spreads over 3 districts viz. Sawai Madhopur, Karauli & Bundi. On the eastern side of the reserve is the Chambal river. The river Banas divides the reserve into 2 parts. The N-E part of Kailadevi WLS and S-E part is the Ranthambhore National park. The total area of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve is 1473.554sq.km, out of which 1113.364 sq.km. has been notified, as Critical Tiger Habitat. The remaining 360.19 sq. kms of RTR is a 'buffer area'.



WILDLIFE MONITORING

The VWV regularly install camera traps in the areas outside of the park and keenly monitor tiger and the movements of other wildlife . They have managed to capture several tigers on camera tap.

32
Different tigers were captured from last one year (Aug2018-2019).

272
Total capture numbers in last one year (Aug2018-2019).



Tracking of T104: Our VWVs use to monitor tiger T104 in the kundera area regularly. But then the tiger suddenly moved towards the Kailadevi area and the forest guards found his pugmarks. The vwv and forest guards installed camera traps near the Gorehar river in Kailadevi area to confirm the tiger's identity. On July 19th, the VWV got a picture of the tiger and it was tiger T104. The tiger was already radio collared by the forest department but the vwv & FD was not able to track the tiger by using its radio collar frequency number. They started monitoring the tiger by pugmark tracking and found the tiger on 25 July near the village Durgeshi, in the Karauli district. It was discovered that tiger had killed a cow calf and sadly, also a human . Due to this incident, the whole area was surrounded by thousands of people but the vwv & FD staff continued to track the tiger. It was found that the tiger was moving ahead and that area had many more villages. Finally, the tiger stopped near the Goshaala in the karauli area and the FD decided to tranquilize and shift the tiger. The vwv teams helped the FD in controlling the mob and shifting the tiger safely.

Tracking of T98: Tiger T98 was regularly monitored in the Phalodi area by our team of VWV. In the

month of January the tiger moved to an area called Indergarh and then further moved to Sultanpur. The Forest Department staff took a camera trap photograph of the tiger. But it was found that the tiger was regularly moving towards the outer fringes of the tiger reserve. Then our team of VWV followed the tiger for 20 days until the tiger reached the Mukandara Hills Tiger Reserve, Kota. T98 travelled from Khandar range in Ranthambhore to the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve along the Khanduri river, the total journey was 150 km long.

T92 cubs monitoring: The Two cubs born to tigress T92 (Sundari) are the first tiger cubs recorded to have been born in the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) in last thirty years. These cubs were first reported by the VWV team from KWLS. Since then the VWV team has constantly recorded their movements outside the protected area. The pugmarks of tigress T92 and Tiger T72 (Sultan) were regularly observed by the VWV team. The pugmarks of the cubs were missing since last week of the July 2018 for around 15 days. The VWV team scanned the area carefully for the pugmarks. After an intense search which lasted 3-4 days, the pugmarks of the cubs were found.



ANTIPOACHING



Keeping eye on a floating population of opportunistic poachers: In the early months of the winter season, members of the Mogya traditional hunting tribe who serve as crop guards, arrive from neighboring state Madhya Pradesh. As per our past experiences, besides guarding the crops, they take the opportunity to poach wild animals for the pot and also to sell on the black market. The VWV team is keeping a close eye on these families, especially those with firearms. Tiger Watch is creating a database on this population, which will be very useful in anti-poaching operations.

Poacher arrested with Bushmeat in Baler range: As the monsoon recedes and winter begins, the foliage and water inside the forest also reduces. All of these conditions made wild animals to depend on a few water bodies or come out of the forest area for water. This makes it easy to spot animals both in and outside the forest. Poachers also take advantage of these conditions and try to poach wild animals in this season. Two poachers Devilal Mogya (S/o Ladu Mogya) and Omprakash Mogya (S/o Hiraral Mogya) were seen with the meat of a Wild Boar, they had killed a day before in a forest nearby. They were trying to sell the meat in a village called Narodka Tapara. This information was provided to the forest department. Acting on this intelligence, a forest department team reached the spot and arrested the poachers with both the bush meat and the motorcycle used in the crime.

Poachers arrested with bush-meat and gun in Phalodi range: Chotmal, also known as Savaleya is a notorious poacher regularly operating in Phalodi range. He is proficient in hunting using snares, gunpowder explosives and guns. On receiving information about him, the VWV team had kept him under surveillance. On 12th October 2018, he was trying to sell some bush meat he had poached from the forest. VWVs Ramsingh Gujjar and Rajesh Gujjar provided this key input to the forest department. On the basis of this information, the forest department and police laid a trap and apprehended him. After interrogation, he also revealed the location of his gun, which was also confiscated.





A poacher camera trapped: During one of the camera trap sessions, a poacher with a gun passed in front of a camera trap and got photographed . The Tiger T42 also passed through the same area. The Forest department was informed about the incident.

Mogya poachers reported from the Bheret area: VWV Biharisingh spotted 4 Mogya individuals (3 men & 1 women) with two guns roaming inside the forest area. Upon further investigation, the vwv found that the Mogya poachers killed a wild boar on the spot. They started butchering the meat, whereas theVWV stood there like an intrigued local villager and surreptitiously took pictures and videos of all the activity. He immediately informed the forest department.

Raid on gun powder seller: Crude explosives made using gun powder and potassium nitrate have become a favourite of poachers around Ranthambhore. Explosive balls of various sizes are prepared, depending on the size of the target animal and are placed on forest trails. These balls are then covered with flour or other food material to lure animals. When an animal bites into the lure it explodes, killing the animal. Sometimes animals survive and die a

slow, agonizing and painful death. Human casualties have also been reported due to the mishandling of such explosive material. The VWV team was investigating the source of these explosives around Ranthambhore. The investigation lead to two non-descript shops in Khandar town. Two VWV visited the shops and confirmed their intelligence. This intelligence was then provided to the local police and forest department. Acting on this intelligence, two shops were raided by the police, one person was arrested and 7kgs of explosive material was confiscated.

Illegal gun confiscated: On the basis of information provided bythe VWV team, the Forest Department raided poachers and confiscated weapons twice. In one incident, the forest department raided the poachers who killed a wild boar. In another instance they raided Kesariya Mogya's house. Kesariya Mogya isa notorious poacher operating around the Baler range. VWV Vishnu Gujjar saw him with a gun near the village of Bijapur. Acting on the intelligence provided by the vwv, the forest department promptly conducted a raid at the poachers house. No arrests were made, as the poacher noticed the approaching forest vehicle but the gun was confiscated by forest department.



SNARES

Wire snares are used by poachers to kill animals. These snares are made from the break wires of motor bikes, which are then perfectly positioned to trap wildlife. The path to the snare is also narrowed down so that the animal is to walk along that path alone and as the animal sticks its head inside the loop, the wire only tightens as the animal struggles to escape, cutting sharply into its neck. The animal dies in severe pain. Sometimes animals break-free of the trap, but they have to live with the barbed wires embedded in their skin causing agonizing and fatal injuries. One such incident was reported from the Khirkadi near the village of Lahsoda inn which a female Blue-bull died from a snare injury. These wire snares are used to kill wild ungulates and antelopes, but many times carnivores are also killed. On 3rd June 2019 one such case was reported from the Bherupura area. VV Harisingh gave us information about a leopard that was found killed by a snare. The Forest department was informed of the incident. Then the VV found three more snares on the same farm. The Forest officials removed those snares and arrested the owner of the farm. One female hyena was camera trapped with a snare around her neck near the anicut in the Badpur area.



S. No.	Date	Poaching/ Hunting Cases	Location	V.W. V Name
1	24/9/2018	One snare found	Bagarda Khurd	Harisingh
2	10/1/2019	Bluebull was killed by using snare	Surkad kirkari	Harisingh
3	15/2/2019	Bluebull was killed by using snare	Basi ke gangal me ranj indergarh	Harisingh
4	3/6/2019	One leopard died by Snare	Ramveer ke bageche ke pas fanda	Harisingh Gurjar

ENDORSEMENT BY UNION MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE



Hon Union Minister of Environment Forests & Climate Change Sh. Prakash Javadekar encouraged our Village Wildlife Volunteers program and appreciated the book on the program titled "Wildlife Warriors".

प्रकाश जावडेकर
Prakash Javadekar



मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय,
सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
Minister
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India
Date: 29th July, 2019

No. 1-58/MEF&CC/2019

To,
Tiger Watch,
Maa Farm, Sherpur Khlijpur,
Dist. Sawai Madhopur,
Rajasthan-322001

Team Tiger Watch,

I am in receipt of your book on "Village Wildlife Volunteer Program". I found this book to be really helpful for wildlife conservationists, students, wildlife researchers & scientists in many ways. It touches various aspects related to combating wildlife crimes, wildlife addressing conflicts, etc in a very lucid manner.

It is equally important to involve local communities in conservation programmes, as they are the major stakeholders in this process. India's wildlife and tiger conservation success stories are due to the tolerance of local communities towards the wildlife, which largely emanates from our rich cultural heritage, where these animals are worshipped.

Hence, involving local communities in conservation projects like the Village Wildlife Volunteer Program is a "win-win" situation for both people and wildlife. I commend the Mogya Education Program and appreciate efforts of the 'Tiger Watch' and encourage them to continue this endeavour. These efforts will further inspire others for wildlife conservation through people's participation, which is one of the thrust areas of this Government.

With best wishes,


(Prakash Javadekar)

GUN POWDER EXPLOSIVE

The use of crude gun powder explosives has become a serious problem. These crude bombs are deliberately planted on forest trails which are used by wild animals. Our Village Wildlife Volunteers reported a total of 14 cases involving gun powder bombs during their routine monitoring activities. In one such instance the VWV saw 2 poachers planting a crude explosive in the forest area near Dudh Ghati, Bajoli. Poachers used to place these explosive mixed with grains and fruits to lure the animals. These explosives are not only hazardous to wild animals but could be fatal for villagers and for their livestock. One such incident happened when a buffalo was fatally injured by biting a crude bomb on the forest trail. VWV Ramsingh meena from Pator, reported gun powder

explosives planted in the Karanpur range. The Forest Department was informed. Forest officials arrived on the site and diffused the bomb using water. A video was also made while defusing the crude bomb, which could be used to educate forest staff and other concerned persons. Our VWV became aware of an associated practice: before planting the actual explosives in the forest, poachers put food material such as flour, flour balls, fruits etc. on the trails for a few days. This is done to habituate animals to the area and the food. Once the unsuspecting target animal becomes a regular in the area, the poacher plants the explosive disguised as food material.



S. No.	Date	Poaching/ Hunting Cases	Place	V.W. V Name
1	12/22/2018	Poachers tried to kill a wild animal by means of a Gun-powder explosive	Karadaki village	Roopsingh
2	12/29/2018	Gun powder explosive found from forest area	Matoriyaki	Harimohan
3	12/30/2018	Two poachers were seen planting crude explosives on a forest trail	DudhGhati, Bajoli	Battilal Gujjar
4	1/4/2019	Gun powder explosive recovered	Bhuripahadi	Bhagchand meena
5	1/4/2019	A Buffalo fatally injured by gunpowder explosive	Fatehpur village	Harimohan
6	1/11/2019	Poachers tried to kill a wild animal by means of a Gun-powder explosive	Karadaki village	Roopsingh
7	1/13/2019	A Gun powde explosive was found during patrolling	Badhlav area	Dharm Singh
8	1/16/2019	Gun-powder explosives planted in forest area	Ghisnotanala, karanpur range	Ramsingh meena
9	1/17/2019	Four flour balls was found in forest area	Mandrail range	Bihari singh
10	1/21/2018	Gun powder bomb found in forest area during patrolling	Neniyaki area	Harimohan
11	1/17/2019	Poacher BabuMeena planted crude gun powder explosiveson	Bank of banas river	Hanuman Gurjar
12	2/5/2019	Gunpowder explosive recovered from Bhuripahadi	Bhuripahadi.	Siyaram
13	2/14/2019	Two Crude gun powder explosives confiscated	Basso lake	Bhagchand meena
14	2/26/2019	Crude gun powder explosives confis-cated	Khandoj	Forkesh

ILLEGAL EXTRACTION OF NON TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE



ily collects 40-50 kg roots in one day. These people extract and sell this root in large quantities because it was observed that they sell 1-1.2 tons (50-60 bags and each bag is of 20 kg) of roots every 10 days. The illegal extraction of these plants from forest areas has various negative consequences for the wildlife as well as on the plant itself. For example, it is the primary food source for porcupines. A total of 6 cases were reported by the VWV team. In a successful joint anti-poaching initiative, the Ranthambhore forest department conducted a raid which resulted in the seizure of 5000 kg of Shatavari roots



Poaching of Shatavari (*Asparagus racemosus*):

Every winter, a few hundred Seharia tribals from the neighbouring state Madhya Pradesh come here and poach tons of Shatavari and sell it in the local market of Sheopur town and in the nearby market. It was also found that these days all of the members of Mogyia traditional hunting community are also engaged in such extraction work. Shatavari is a perennial, prickly climber excessively branched under shrub found throughout tropical and subtropical India upto 1200m. It's roots are tuberous, 15-40cm long greyish in color. The roots of Shatavari are locally known as "Mama khadulya ki jad". Shatavari roots are one of the most important medicinal plants in traditional Indian medicine. It has a very good market value and is therefore heavily poached from the reserve. These people extract the roots of this plant by digging in the forest area. Every plant has approximately 4-5 kg roots due to the moisture content and one fam-

from Khandar area. The intelligence report given by the VWV team played a crucial role in raid. The whole haul was estimated to be worth INR 4.5 lac. 45 people from the neighbouring state of Madhya Pradesh were contracted by smugglers for this job. The Forest department also caught a truck carrying roots on the Pali bridge on the river Chambal at the border of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The intelligence provided by the VWV team helped the flying squad of the Forest Department confiscate approximately 400kg of Shatavari roots which worth 1 lac rupees.



Guggul gum extraction:

Our Village Wildlife Volunteer Ramsingh meena from the Pator area, reported that 2 men came from Madhya Pradesh bought 25 kgs of guggul gum from Ranthambhore area and were going back to MP from the Chambal area. Immediately, the ranger of the area was notified but the suspects escaped before Forest officials reached there. Guggul is a flowering small tree or shrub with a papery bark, thorny branches, simple or trifoliate leaves, red to pink flowers and small round fruits. It is scientifically known as *Commiphora wightii*. The plant bark yields gummy resin that is commonly used in perfumery and in incense. Its extensive use in India has resulted in its scarcity and therefore according to the IUCN Red data book, this tree is critically endangered.

Barna Wood Extraction:

VWV Biharisingh from the Mandrayal range reported that some individuals of the Seheria tribe of Madhya Pradesh were extracting wood of Barna tree (*Crateva adansonii*). They were also removing the bark of the tree because the bark is used for making some kind of traditional medicine for cattle. The Forest Department was informed of the incident.

S.No.	Date	Location	Quantity	Approximate cost
1	12/27/2018	Khandar	5000kg	4.5lac
2	1/10/2019	Bairna	200kg	20000
3	1/22/2019	Kalakhet	1600kg	1.5lac
4	1/26/2019	Pali bridge	400kg	1lac
5	1/31/2019	BhuriPahadi	100kg	10000
6	2/10/2019	Kuikanala	200kg	20000

MISCELLANEOUS

Wildlife Rescue: RTR is surrounded by a human population of a million, which means that there is often widespread panic whenever an animal strays into a populated area. Therefore our VWV team also does rescue animals whenever they get such information. In one instance, the VWV team received a rescue call in the morning, regarding a palm civet that had fallen into a trench dug for a septic tank in the village of Bajoli. Incidentally a day before, a common civet had fallen in the same pit and has been rescued by the Forest Department. The incident was reported to the Forest Department. Forest officials requested the VWV team to rescue and release the animal. The VWV volunteers are well trained in rescue pro-

cedures. Tiger watch has also designed tools for the efficient and safe rescue of wildlife without putting the animal in distress and keeping the safety of rescuer in mind too. VWV Hanuman Gujjar, Visnu Gujjar and Roopchand Bairwa rescued the animal and released it in the nearby forest. On 2nd Sept 2018, a Sloth Bear was seen by local villagers in the Guava orchard in the village of Bairna. The animal was hiding in a bathroom on a farm! The incident was reported to the Forest department. After receiving the information, a team of the Forest Department arrived on the scene. The bear was truly tranquillized and safely rescued by the Forest Department.

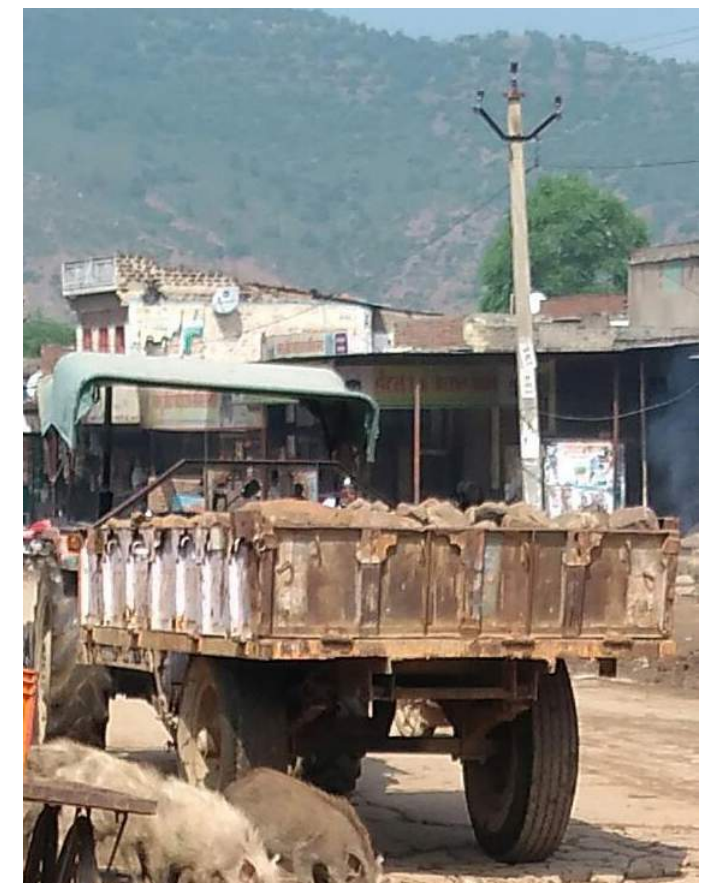


Open Electric Wires: Shooting, snaring and road kills are not the only reason for the deaths of wild animals. Many times open live electric wires are also dangerous for wild animals. In the last one year, a leopard and a sloth bear died due to electric shock when they came into contact with an open electric wire. On 16th November 2018, a leopard was electrocuted to death when it stepped on a broken transmission cable on a farm near the village of Bichpuri in Baler range. Similarly a Sloth Bear also died in the village of Dungari. Both cases were accidental but were a definite consequence of the irresponsibility of the Electricity Department.



Illegal Mining from Forest Area: Illegal mining in the forest area is accelerating de-forestation and causing severe habitat loss for wildlife. Ranthambhore is comprised of the Aravali and Vindhyan hill systems, therefore illegal stone mining is practiced in this area. The VWV team reported many such incidents from the peripheral areas of tiger reserve. In the last one year the mining of stones was reported from the Jojeshwar area, Itawada, Khandar and Bhadlav area. In one instance, illegal stone excavation was reported from the Lambi Ghati stream in the Bhadlav area. The VWV reported that everyday approximately 200 tractor trollies filled with stones are transporting the contraband to construction sites. Along with stone, Murrum is also extracted boundary area. Murrum is a gravelly soil, often used to surface minor roads and filling material for construction sites in India. Large quantities of murrum have been excavated in the Bhadlav area near Bhuri Pahadi.

Encroachment on Forest Area: The encroachment of forest land for cultivation and other purposes continues to be a most pernicious practice endangering forest resources throughout the country. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve is surrounded by many villages and lakhs of human & livestock populations. Every passing year, these villagers encroach on forest land by expanding the boundaries of their crop lands. The VWV team reported many such cases from areas near Ranthambhore. For example, VWV Harisingh Gurjar reported that the forest area in Jhoheswar, Phalodi area is encroached by fencing. Forest land in the Mojipura area, has been encroached by Ramesh Gujjar, son of Motilal Gujjar. Encroachers were seen installing a borewell on the said land to irrigate their winter crop. An incident was reported to the Forest Department. Forest land in the Dangarwada area, Phalodi range had been encroached. The encroachers had fenced the land using cement poles and metal meshing. The expansion of crop land is not the only way to encroach on a forest area, many other things such as religious sites also occupy forest area. There are hundreds of religious sites inside RTR. If left unchecked, they grow in patronage as well as size, resulting in further encroachment of the forest land. A tin roof over the Sudkiya Bheruji temple was removed by the Forest Department. Nearly a 100 people gathered at the site and re-installed roof. The incident was reported to the Forest Department.





FERAL DOGS

Feral dogs have emerged as a great threat to wildlife throughout the world. They harass and more often than not, kill wildlife, spread disease and compete with carnivores. They also carry transmissible pathogens for diseases such as rabies, parvovirus and canine distemper virus (CDV). There are recorded incidents of dogs causing significant population declines of native and endangered species. These attacks are closely linked with a growing human population and the resulting garbage which sustains the dog population. The Village Wildlife Volunteer team has reported 5 incidents of wild animals being attacked by feral dogs during Aug 2018 –Aug 2019. All the incidents took place in the villages outside the protected area. As per our primary observation, due to an intense summer, there is a scarcity of water in the forest. Human settlements become an assured source of water during this period. Due to this fact, wildlife from the forest regularly visit water wells and other sources of water in villages. This gives an opportunity for dogs to make several easy kills.

S.No	Date	Kill	Location	VWV
1	16/8/2018	Bluebull	Mohanpura padli	Chetram meena
2	9/10/2018	Spotted deer	Kutalpura	Radhyshyam mali
3	8/6/2019	Bluebull	Kundera	Dharm Singh
4	10/6/2019	Bluebull	Kundera	Chetram meena
5	24/6/2019	Bluebull	Bodal naka range phalodi	Nagaram
6	17/7/2019	Bluebull	Bhadlao	Dharm Singh gurjar



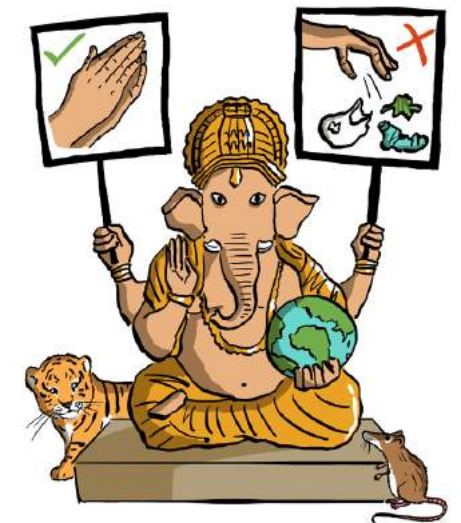
DEMISE OF WILDLIFE

The VWV team had also reported the dead bodies of wild animals such as wolf, jackal, fox, hyena, crocodile etc., found in and around Ranthambhore. VWV Hai-mohan Gurjar found a dead, female wolf on the road near Balaji lake. The death had occurred hours before the VWV reached the spot as her body was already in rigor mortis. The incident was reported to the Forest Department. A post-mortem was performed; it revealed a fight with another wolf as the reason for death. On 17th November 2018, a golden jackal road-kill was reported near the village of Kundera. VWV Rajesh Gujar reported a dead Crocodile from the Chaan Nala. It was a sub adult crocodile approximate 1.5 m in length. The incident was reported to the Forest Department



GANESH FAIR SANITATION

Every year during Ganesh Chaturthi, the 3 day festival is held at Ranthambhore National park. During the 3 day festival, the Trinetra Ganesh Temple in the Ranthambhore fort is visited by hundreds of thousand pilgrims from UP, Rajasthan and MP. Last year's festival was on the 12th to 14th September 2018. Like every year, a team of 30 VWV volunteers helped the Forest Department in maintaining law and order inside the forest. They discouraged pilgrims from littering in the forest and urged them to stay away from water sources, patrolled the forest route from Khandar to Ranthambhore and distributed reusable cotton bags so that pilgrims didn't use polythene bags. After the festival, the VWV team helped the Forest Department clean up the forest. A total of 10 bags of trash were collected from the forest.



MAN ANIMAL CONFLICT

1. Two tigers were seen by local villagers in Bha-jan Laal Meena's Guava orchard in Shaympura village at around 12 PM. As news spread, a crowd began to gather from nearby villages to see the straying tiger. Nearly 250-300 people gathered at the scene. The Forest Department and the Police Force also arrived on the scene. Our VWV team was also there to help them. Meanwhile a few people managed to enter the area and a young man was injured by one of the agitated tigers, when people tried chasing them away. The next day both the tigers returned to the forest in the wee hours of the morning.

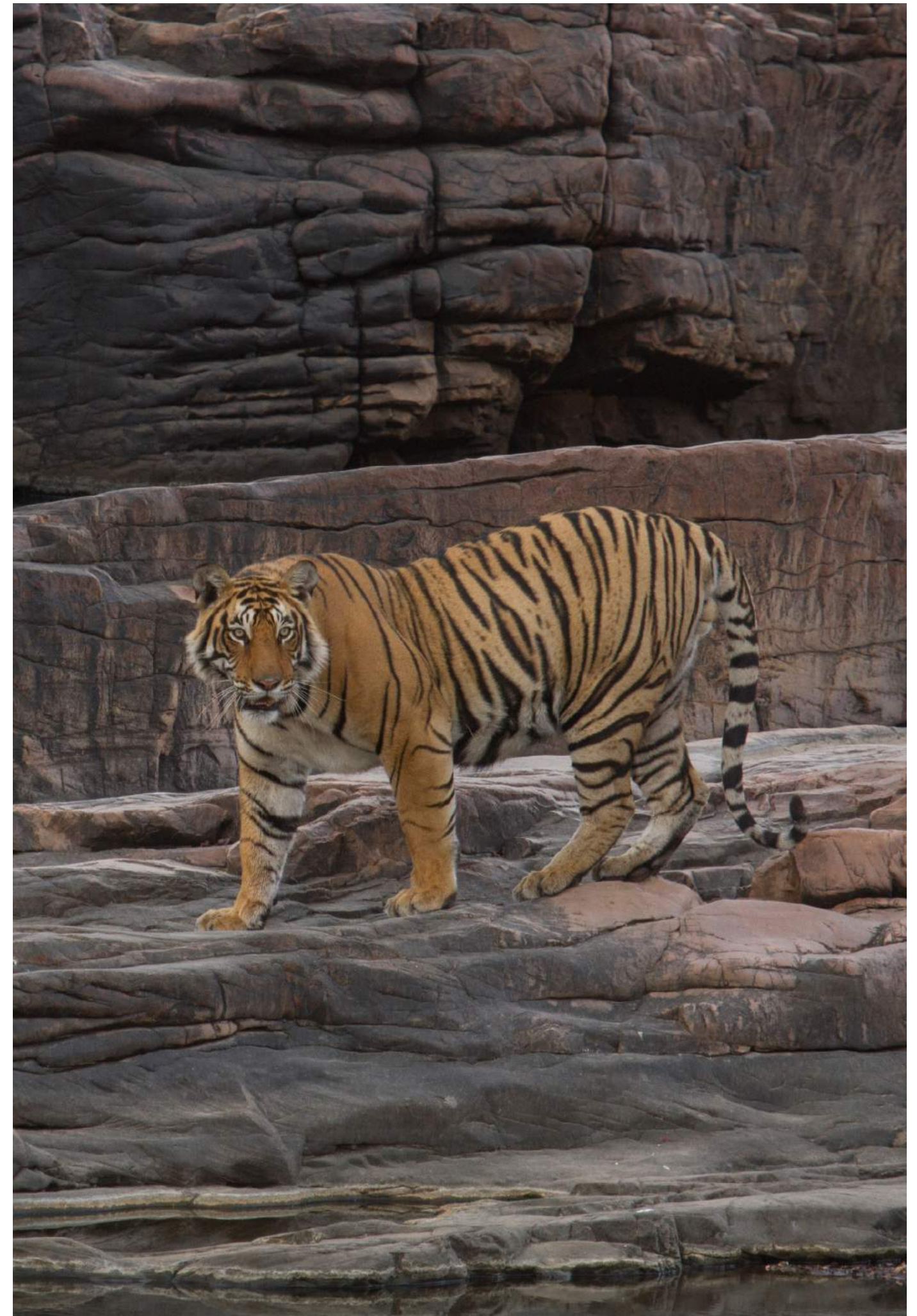
2. 1st February 2019, Tiger kills woman in Kundera: A tiger killed a 40 year old lady in the village of Kundera, situated right next to the Kundera range of RTR. The incident happened at 6 am when the deceased, Munni Devi was returning home from her farm. She had gone to relieve herself in the fields. The villagers had informed the police and forest officials after tracing three parts of her body from an agricultural field. It is the second time in the history of Ranthambore where a tiger killed someone outside the park. The conditions around the tiger reserve always leave one vulnerable to attack, dawn and dusk are critical times for animal movement and a squatting posture gives the wrong impression that it must be an ungulate. Villagers should be made aware of ways to avoid tigers and other predators. Tiger Watch staff and volunteers helped the forest department in collecting DNA samples from the site to establish the identity of the tiger and tracked the tiger in the fields of mustard.

3. Attack by Sloth bear: A lethal incident was happened on 24 August 2019 when Prabhu Gurjar from village Kudka, was attacked by a sloth bear. He was guarding crops in his field in night time when suddenly a sloth bear attacked on him. Sloth bear badly injured the person. Immediately vwv informed the forest officials and took man to the nearest primary health care.



87
CASES WERE
REPORTED IN TILL
JULY 2019

192
CASES WERE
REPORTED IN 2018



MOGYA EDUCATION PROGRAMME

**MOGYA KIDS
ARE GETTING
FREE
EDUCATION**

**14
YEARS**

**SINCE
2006**

**40+
STUDENTS AT
PRESENT**

**1ST
GENERATION
OF MOGYA IN
EDUCATION**

**15
STUDENTS
PASSED 10TH**

Getting a holistic education is the only way a person of any caste and region will ascend to a respectable position in the mainstream society. In 2006, Tiger Watch initiated an education program for the children of the ex-poachers of the Mogya traditional hunting community i.e. “Mogya Education Programme” (MEP). Most of the poachers were caught by the police or the Forest Department after a series of anti-poaching raids in Ranthambhore’s history on the basis of information provided by Tiger Watch’s intelligence team. The aim of the program is to bring the Mogya traditional hunting tribe into the mainstream by educating the tribe’s next generation. The Mogya community has largely been involved in the poaching of big cats in Ranthambhore. After the intensive anti-poaching work by Tiger Watch in 2005, it was understood that simply arresting the Mogya poachers was not enough in long run. It was found that the community was isolated and alienated from mainstream society; therefore, they easily got involved in poaching and other criminal activities.

It was felt that there is a strong need to bring the community in mainstream society and education is the key to this reality. The first to be enrolled in the program were the children of the very poachers arrested in the raids carried out between 2005-06. This was the first generation of the Mogya tribe to ever receive a formal education. Therefore, it was initially very difficult to convince members of the Mogya tribe to enroll their children in the program. In the beginning, there were only 9 children, but there are now 40+ students at the MEP hostel. One batch of the 40 children has already finished schooling & the community now also has its first ever university students as well as those pursuing vocational training. Being the first formally educated generation from their community, this is a big achievement.

The MEP program has successfully completed 13 years of growth and progress. The program is financially supported by 3 major groups- Sud Chemie India, the Ranthambhore Tiger Conservation Foundation (RTCF) and The Change Foundation. Several groups and institutions also came forward to support certain logistics for the hostel.



The MEP is run through a hostel facility in Sherpur. The hostel & all activities conducted within are managed by Mr. Meethalal Gurjar (Teacher and Warden) and Mr. Govind Gurjar (Assistant Warden). The hostel building has all necessary facilities like a spacious sleeping area, games/play areas, computer and TV room. The students are provided with meals, clothes, sports, school education and extracurricular activities. All of the students attend various schools as per their talent, academic strength and interests. Additional classes are conducted in the hostel to improve their understanding of subjects taught in the school. Attention is provided towards the overall physical and mental growth of the students in the hostel. The Hon. Former Chief Minister of Rajasthan Smt. Vasundhara Raje Scindia visited the MEP hostel and appreciated Tiger Watch's work.

The objectives of this education program are:

- 1) Sustain the younger generations of the Mogya community and help them stand toe to toe with their peers and be accepted in conventional society.
- 2) Provide a quality education, which will lead to job opportunities in the mainstream for the community.
- 3) Creating awareness within the community and bridging the gaps.
- 4) Guiding them away from their traditional hunting work, therefore weaning them by providing them with necessary skills and an education.
- 5) Education is an integral part of the Tiger Watch Reform Program, as it would impact the next generations of the community organically after the first generation.



Events and Activities

1. Poetry Writing and Painting Competition Organized by the Natural History Museum: A painting and poetry writing competition and prize distribution ceremony was organized on the subject of "Our Nature" by the Rajiv Gandhi Natural History Museum. All of the Mogya students wrote poems related to nature & wildlife and also made paintings which depict forests and wildlife. The students presented their understanding of nature & wildlife taught by



schools and books in the form of the most beautiful poetry and pictures. In both competitions a total of 6 students were awarded; Dilkhush Bawaria, Harimohan Bawaria, Kapil Bawaria, Balram Bawaria, Dhanraj Bawaria and Surajmal Bawaria.

2. International Tiger Day Celebration: On the occasion of International Tiger Day, the MEP hostel warden Mr. Meethalal Gurjar had an interactive session with the Mogya children. He gave a lecture about the importance of the Tiger in the forest ecosystem, why we celebrate tiger day and also about Project Tiger. The children also shared their views about the importance of the tiger and other wildlife in our ecosystem. They also made drawings of the forest landscape and tigers.

3. Session on Personal Hygiene: The maintenance of personal hygiene is essential for good health. An interactive session on personal hygiene was held at the MEP hostel by Ms. Meenu Dhakad. Several short films on the importance of personal hygiene were screened for the children. Various demonstrations were also given on how to properly wash hands, clothes and maintain the cleanliness of their bedrooms.

4. Workshop by Ranthambhore Foundation: The Ranthambhore Foundation organized a workshop for the MEP children. In this workshop Mr. Hanuman Sharma gave a lecture on the importance of the forest, the ecosystem services we are getting from the forest and the importance of different wild animals. The children also played some games related to wildlife. They also had a painting competition in which the children made drawings of a forest landscape and won exciting prizes.





S.No.	Student Name	Father's Name	Class	Percentage (Grade)
1.	Jaggulal Mogya	Shri Kishor Mogya	B. Com 3 rd yr	59%
2.	Abhishek Bawaria	Shri Puranmal Bawaria	9 th	B
3.	Pradhan Bawaria	Shri Suwalal Bawaria	8 th	A
4.	Dilkhush Bawaria	Shri Bhajanlal Bawaria	7 th	A
5.	Vishnu Bawaria	Shri Suwalal Bawaria	7 th	B
6.	Rahul Bawaria	Shri Balendra Bawaria	7 th	B
7.	Roshan Bawaria	Shri Keshav Bawaria	7 th	B
8.	Omprakash Bawaria	Shri Chothmal Bawaria	7 th	B
9.	Dhanraj Bawaria	Shri Pahalwan Bawaria	6 th	B
10.	Dildar Bawaria	Shri Pahalwan Bawaria	6 th	B
11.	Mahendra Bawaria	Shri Puranmal Bawaria	5 th	B
12.	Kapil Bawaria	Shri Roopsingh Bawaria	5 th	A
13.	Surajmal Bawaria	Shri Ramprasad Bawaria	3 rd	A
14.	Harimohan Bawaria	Shri Ramprasad Bawaria	3 rd	A
15.	Vinod Bawaria	Shri Pappu lal Bawaria	3 rd	B
16.	Karan Bawaria	Shri Bhajanlal Bawaria	3 rd	B
17.	Arjun Bawaria	Shri Balendra Bawaria	3 rd	B
18.	Sonu Bawaria	Shri Ramswaroop Bawaria	3 rd	A
19.	Kaalu Bawaria	Shri Ramswaroop Bawaria	3 rd	A
20.	Sonu Bawaria	Shri Kalyan Bawaria	3 rd	A
21.	Manish Bawaria	Shri Kailash Bawaria	2 nd	A
22.	Deepak Bawaria	Shri Roopsingh Bawaria	2 nd	A
23.	Shankar Bawaria	Shri Kalu Bawaria	2 nd	A
24.	Dilkhush Bawaria	Shri Ramprasad Bawaria	2 nd	A
25.	Lokesh Bawaria	Shri Ramprasad Bawaria	2 nd	A
26.	Kamal Bawaria	Shri Ashok Bawaria	2 nd	A
27.	Balram Bawaria	Shri Ashok Bawaria	2 nd	A
28.	Sachin Bawaria	Shri Pappu lal Bawaria	2 nd	A
29.	Vishnu Bawaria	Shri Keshav Bawaria	2 nd	A
30.	Dhanraj Bawaria	Shri Ramprasad Bawaria	2 nd	A
31.	Chetan Bawaria	Shri Keshav Bawaria	1 st	A
32.	Akash Bawaria	Shri Ashok Bawaria	1 st	A
33.	Satveer Bawaria	Shri Jugraj Bawaria	1 st	A
34.	Dasram Bawaria	Shri Jugraj Bawaria	1 st	A
35.	Dheeraj Bawaria	Shri Malkhan Bawaria	1 st	A
36.	Kuldeep Bawaria	Shri Banwari Bawaria	1 st	A
37.	Bharat Bawaria	Shri Pratap Singh Bawaria	1 st	A

WORKSHOPS

Camera Trap Training for Moreton Morrell College Students: A group of students from Moreton Morrell college, England, visited Tiger Watch. The students were interested to know about Ranthambhore and the role of Tiger Watch in the conservation of tigers and other wild animals. Ms. Meenu Dhakad introduced Tiger Watch and gave a presentation about the Village Wildlife Volunteers Program. The students were also interested in knowing more about camera traps; therefore a short talk was given on camera traps and their use in wildlife monitoring. Then all of the students participated in an activity, in which they divided into two groups and each group installed a camera trap on the Maa farm premises. Then the students removed the camera in next morning and saw pictures of animals captured last night. They found Hyena, Peafowl and Sambar deer on the camera traps. All of the students were happy that they learned something new about conservation and more interestingly how to involve local communities in conservation work



Interaction with Canisius Ambassadors of Conservation Team: A group of Students from the Canisius Ambassadors of Conservation visited Tiger Watch. The Canisius Ambassadors of Conservation are a group of college students dedicated to spreading a positive attitude about wildlife conservation to people around the world, so that the human race can work to reach a state of sustainable harmony with nature. To do that, they immerse themselves in extensive field studies, then return home to serve as public educators at zoos, schools and in their daily lives. The Tiger Watch team interacted with the students and talked about ongoing research projects as well as briefly described the methodology used, the possible outcomes and other scenarios. Dr. Khandal discussed Ranthambhore and its flora & fauna. He also discussed the role of Tiger Watch in the conservation of tigers in Ranthambhore. He gave a presentation on the work of the Village Wildlife Volunteers. Then an interactive session was held in which students asked about the behavior of tigers, man-animal conflict in India, Rajasthan & Ranthambhore and the perspectives of and behavior of local communities towards tigers & other wild animals.



Interaction with Indian Administrative Service Probationers: A group of 20 IAS probationers came to Ranthambhore on a visit to know more about the area, wildlife, communities and conservation processes going on here. Tiger Watch organized an interactive session for them on behalf of the Ranthambhore Forest Department. In which Dr. Dharmendra Khandal gave a presentation on Ranthambhore, its biodiversity, Village Wildlife Volunteer Program, tiger monitoring, anti-poaching operations and community behaviors. The session was also joined by Deputy Field Officer of Ranthambhore Mr. Mukesh Saini and he shared his work experience with the trainees. The former biologist of the Ranthambhore Tiger Conservation Foundation (RTCF) Mr. Girish Punjabi described methods of wildlife monitoring and methods used for Tiger estimation and identification.

Meeting with Members of “Awely”: Tiger Watch had a two day interaction with conservationists from the French organization Awely. The French conservationists came here to receive new ideas about wildlife conservation and human wildlife conflict mitigation. On day one, the Tiger Watch team discussed about ongoing research projects as well as briefly described the methodology used, possible outcomes and other scenarios. The team also discussed research projects done in the past. Dr. Khandal gave them a brief idea about Ranthambhore’s history, about tiger poaching in the past and the role of Tiger Watch in catching poachers and the role of the Village Wildlife Volunteers. On day two, all VWV Coordinators had an interactive session with the French conservationists. The VWV coordinators discussed monitoring wildlife, especially tigers, gathering poaching related intelligence and the mitigation of human-animal conflict. The conservationists asked VWV coordinators about human-animal conflict situations near their villages and how they control the villagers anger and attitude. On the other hand the VWV coordinators asked them about their country, the human-animal conflict situation there and the behavior of communities & their Government towards wildlife.

Interaction with Indian Administrative Service Probationers: A group of 20 IAS probationers came to Ranthambhore on a visit to know more about the area, wildlife, communities and conservation processes going on here. Tiger Watch organized an interactive session for them on behalf of the Ranthambhore Forest Department. In which Dr. Dharmendra Khandal gave a presentation on Ranthambhore, its biodiversity, Village Wildlife Volunteer Program, tiger monitoring, anti-poaching operations and community behaviors. The session was also joined by Deputy Field Officer of Ranthambhore Mr. Mukesh Saini and he shared his work experience with the trainees. The former biologist of the Ranthambhore Tiger Conservation Foundation (RTCF) Mr. Girish Punjabi described methods of wildlife monitoring and methods used for Tiger estimation and identification.

Workshop at Central Detective Training Institute: Dr. Dharmendra Khandal delivered a lecture on wildlife crime and anti-poaching at the Central Detective Training Institute- Jaipur. Thereby building the capacity of police detectives from 8 different Indian states in tackling wildlife crime.

Forest Ranger Training: Tiger Watch organized a training session for 30 forest rangers from Sunder-



nagar, Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Dharmendra Khandal guided the trainees during a nature walk in Ranthambhore national park. In which he talked about the geography, climate, history, flora and fauna of Ranthambhore. During the walk he also explained how to track the pugmarks of wildlife. After the nature walk, an interactive session was held at Dhonk café premises where Dr. Khandal gave a talk about Village Wildlife Volunteers, community perspectives about tigers & their conservation.

Participation of Tiger Watch team in other Workshops and seminars: Tiger watch team regularly participates in various workshops organized by various groups especially by the Forest-Department like-

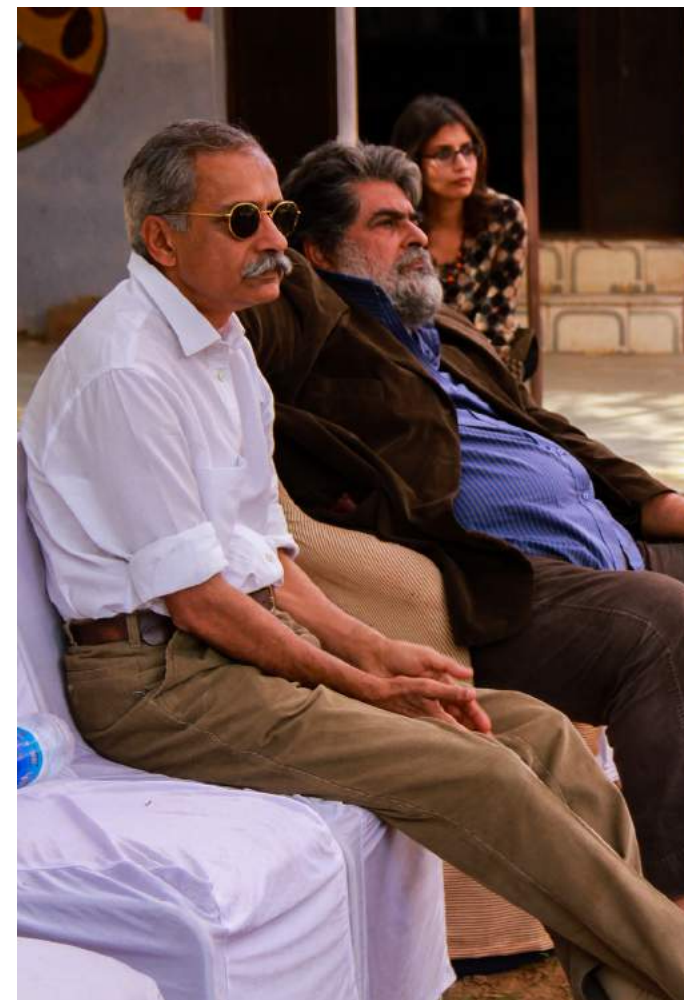
- A workshop for IFS probationers organized by the Forest Department in Ranthambhore in 2019 attended by Dr. Dharmendra Khandal.
- A workshop for Human – Wildlife conflict organized by the Forest Department- Rajasthan for DFO’s and ACF’s in Jaipur on Nov. 2018, and a lecture was delivered by Dr. Dharmendra Khandal.
- A workshop for GIB conservation in Rajasthan state organized by the Forest department Rajasthan at Jaipur on Jan. 2019 and a lecture was delivered by



Dr. Dharmendra Khandal.

D. A talk on conservation for college lectures of 7 different states organized by Rajasthan University at Jaipur on July 2019, and a lecture was delivered by Dr. Dharmendra Khandal.

Teacher Training Program: The Ranthambhore Foundation, which works in environment education and awareness with school students, organized a teacher’s training workshop. The workshop was organized on the premises of the MEP hostel. A total of 20 school principals attended the workshop. Tiger Watch actively participates in the workshop: Dr. Dharmendra Khandal delivered a lecture about Ranthambhore and its fauna & flora. In his lecture he discussed the history of Ranthambhore, how conservation work started here, about its flora and its faunal diversity. Ms. Meenu Dhakad gave a talk on consumerism and its impact on the environment. The talk discussed how our demand for goods increases with time and the need to produce these goods also increases. This leads to more pollutant emissions, increased land-use and deforestation and accelerated climate change. Then a general discussion was held about why environment education & awareness is important and how to involve students more actively in this area.



FATEH SINGH RATHORE MEMORIAL LECTURE & AWARD CEREMONY 2019



SINCE
2006
164
TOTAL AWARDS
GIVEN
4
STATE AWARDS
15 TO 20
AWARDS
EVERY YEAR

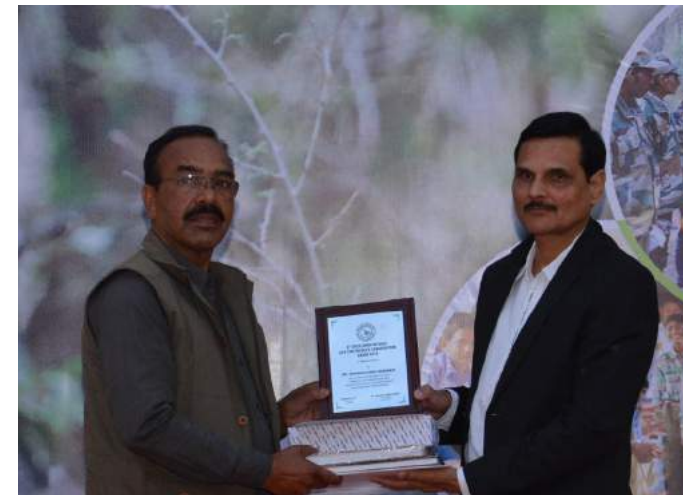
Mr. Geoffrey C. Ward presenting award to Wildlife
Conservator Mr. Mal Singh Jamra



Mr. Satish Sharma presenting award to farmer Mr. Ramprasad Meena.



Mr. Kalyan Singh presenting award to forest guard Mr. Atul Kumar Gurjar.



Mr. Mahendra Singh presenting award to former CCF Mr. Yogesh Kumar Sahu.



DFO Mr. Saxena presenting award to Wildlife Conservator Mr. Pradeep Sukhwil.



Mr. Balendu Singh presenting award to villagers Mr. Mukhtyar gafur khan and Mr. Jahid khan.



Mr. Kishore Singh presenting award to forest guard Mr. Manjeet Singh Solanki.



Ms. Padmini Rathore presenting award to Wildlife Conservator Mr. Joy Gardner.



Mr. Vijendra Sharma presenting award to Wildlife Conservator Mr. Tapeswar Singh Bhati.



Mr. Kalyan Singh award to forest guard Mr. Bachchu Jat.



Mr. Mukesh Saini presenting award to wildlife conservator Mr. Pancharam Dhara.



Mr. Manoj Parasar presenting award to Professor Mr. Sumit Dookia.



Mrs. Diane Raines Ward presenting award to Wildlife Conservator Mr's. Sarita Mehra



The 8th Fateh Singh Rathore memorial lecture and conservation award was held on 1st March 2019. The program was organized by Tiger Watch. The award function is organized every year to celebrate the life and work of our founder and mentor, the Late Fateh Singh Rathore. He was Field Director at the Ranthambhore National Park from 1978 to 1988. He played a pioneering role in making Ranthambhore an internationally acclaimed forest with a healthy Tiger population. He also played an instrumental role in the relocation of villages inside the National Park, to provide space to the growing tiger & wild animal population and to avoid man-animal conflict. He was also a member of the cat specialist group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and spoke at international forums on the



Respected guests during the award function.

Tiger and co-authored 6 books on the tiger. After his retirement as the Field Director of the Tiger Tiger Reserve, he established Tiger Watch Ranthambhore, a non-governmental organization working since 1998 with the core objective of protecting wildlife in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan and its adjoining areas. Today the main flagship programs of Tiger Watch are:- The Mogya Education Programme (MEP) and the Village Wildlife Volunteers (VWV). The award ceremony was initiated by the Late Fateh Singh Rathore himself, in 2005-6 as an overt gesture of appreciation for the people who are doing exceptional work for the benefit of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.

After the demise of Fateh Ji in 2011, we decided to continue this award program as a part of his abiding legacy. We seize this opportunity to honor people for their contributions in saving and protecting wildlife in the state of Rajasthan.

Dr. Dharmendra Khandal (conservation biologist of Tiger Watch) introduced all the board members along with other guests present at the event. It is also a day we express our gratitude towards our funders, friends and supporters who continue to stand by us in our endeavor to uphold the cause of conservation. Those present were Fatehji's family members, Tiger Watch board members, officials of the Forest Department, students of the MEP and people who knew him from all over the world.



Mr. YK Sahu during his lecture

The program started with the ritual garlanding the portrait of Fateh Singh Ji by his family members including, his son Dr Govardhan Singh Rathore, and his daughter, Padmini Singh Rathore. The Award function formally began with Dr Rathore, welcoming all the guests & board members. On this note, we honoured a farmer of the village of Badhlao-Padli, Mr Ramprasad Meena. He was presented with a certificate and a cash price of INR 5,000. Two forest volunteers Mr. Jahid khan and Mr. Vajid Khan were honored with a certificate and cash price of INR 2100. The former sarpanch of the village of Chhan, Mr. Mukhtyar Gafur khan was honored with a certificate and cash price of INR 5000.





Mrs. Faith Singh presenting award to former CCF Mr. Yogesh Kumar Sahu.

Then a short film on Mr. Y K Sahu, the former Field Director of RTR, was screened. The film was about all the conservation work done by him for the wildlife of Ranthambhore during his tenure. The film was followed by a lecture by Mr. Y K Sahu, in which he talked about how to work for wildlife conservation in collaboration with local communities and Tiger Watch. Sahuji enlightened the audience about his experiences in Ranthambhore and also his personal experiences with Fateh Ji.

Tiger Watch also made two important announcements in which a sum of INR 10 lac was given for GIB conservation in the Desert National Park as well as iconic species conservation in Rajasthan.



Candid moment of Mr. Dharmendra Khandal (R) and Mr. Vijendra Sharma (L).

S. No.	Name	Prize Money (INR).	Designation
1	Mr. Yogesh Kumar Sahu	-	Ex-Field Director & CCF
2	Dr. Sumit Dookia	10,000	Professor at GGS Indraprastha University
3	Mr. Pancharam Dhara	10,000	Wildlife Conservator
4	Mr. Tapeswar Singh Bhati	10,000	Wildlife Conservator
5	Mr. Joy Gardner	10,000	Wildlife Conservationist
6	Mrs. Sarita Mehra	10,000	Wildlife Conservator
7	Mr. Pradeep Sukhwai	10,000	Wildlife Conservator
8	Mr. Mal Singh Jamra	10,000	Wildlife Conservator
9	Mr. Atul Kumar Gurjar	10,000	Forest Guard (Rescue Team)
10	Mr. Manjeet Singh Solanki	10,000	Forest Guard
11	Mr. Bachchu Jat	10,000	Forest Guard
12	Mr. Mahendra Singh Shekhawat	10,000	Forest Guard
13	Mr. Mukhtyar gafur khan	5,000	Ex- Sarpanch
14	Mr. Jahid khan	2,100	Forest Volunteers
15	Mr. Vajid Khan	2,100	Forest Volunteers
16	Mr. Ramprasad Meena	5,000	Farmer



Announcement of Great Indian Bustard conservation fund. (L to R) Mr. Pancharam Dhara, Mr. Mal Singh Jamra, Mr. Kishore Singh, Mr. Sumit Dookia, Mr. YK Sahu and and Mr. Dharmendra Khandal.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT





Great Indian Bustard Conservation Fund:

Tiger Watch announced the launch of the Godavan conservation fund at the 8th Fateh Singh Rathore memorial lecture and conservation award. The seminal amount for this fund is INR 5 lac and has been made available by Sujan and Sud Chemie Pvt. Ltd. to Tiger Watch Ranthambhore for this purpose. The fund seeks to address the grave crisis faced by the Great Indian Bustard in the Desert National Park in Rajasthan and thus seeks to engage the most dynamic individuals on the ground for the purpose. The following individuals will execute the fund and its mandate; Shri Malsingh Jamra, Shri Sumit Dookia, Shri Pacharam Dara and Shri Kishore Singh (represents Tiger Watch Ranthambhore on the team). The executors of the fund Dr. Sumit Dookia and Sh Malsingh Jamra organized a Great Indian Bustard awareness program and function involving 11 schools and also provided infrastructure to the same schools to help facilitate such learning. DCF Sh. Kapil Chandrawal of the Rajasthan Forest Department also participated in and supported the program.

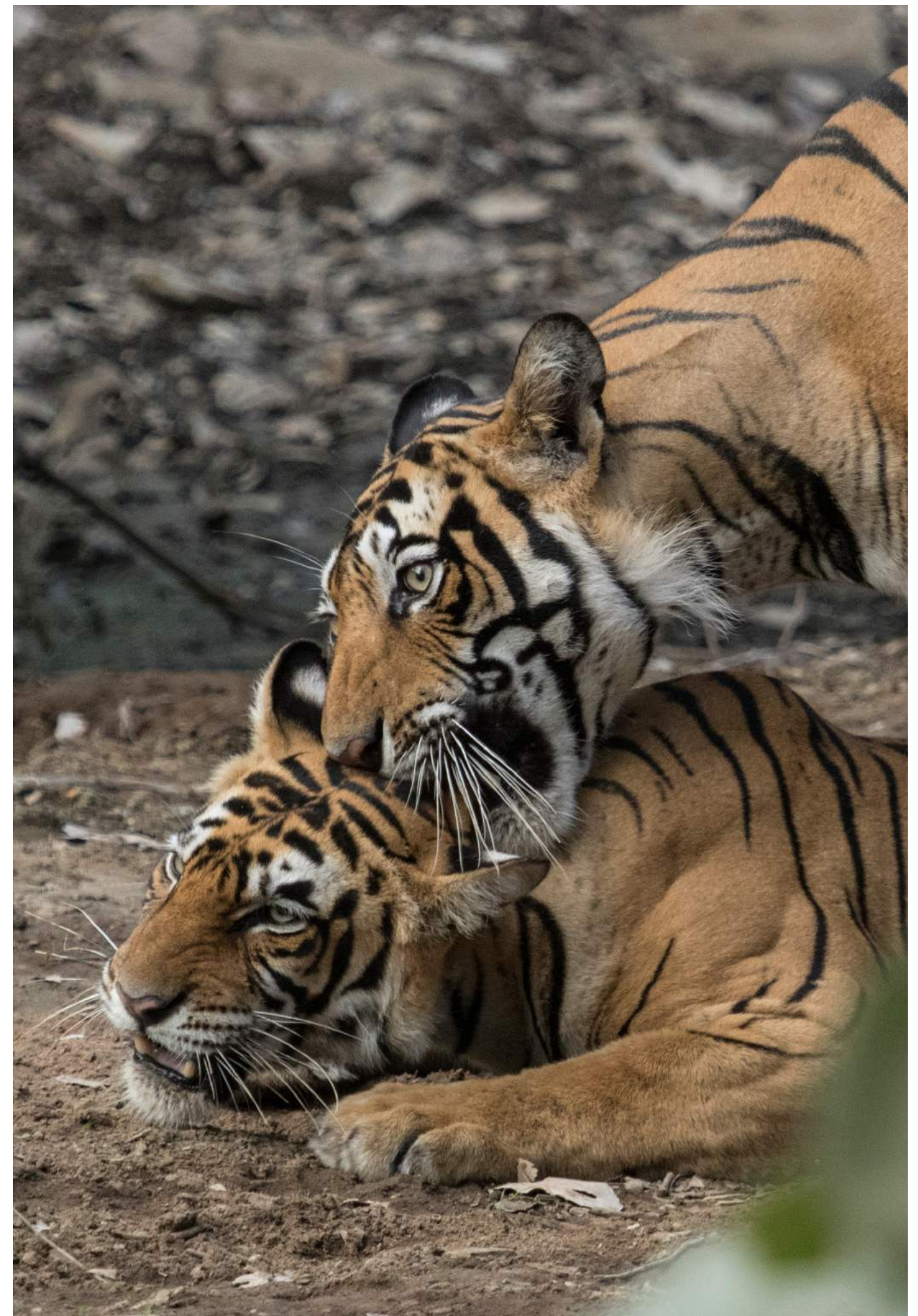
Forest Guard training in Mukandara hills Tiger Reserve:

Our VWV coordinators Hanuman Gurjar and Niranjan Sharma spent 45days in Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve with their staff to track and monitor the relocated tigers. They made sure that the post tiger translocation periods went smoothly and even mentored and taught their staff how to track tigers safely and efficiently. There by significantly adding to their skill sets.

Support to relocation village: Tiger Watch gave support to a relocated village Girrajpora for the repairing of roads.

Pension to ex-poacher widow: Tiger watch is giving monthly pension of 5000 INR to a ex-pocher widow Mr's Prem bai.

Infrastructure support to school: Tiger Watch gave inverter to Sherpur Government School.



CONTRIBUTORS & SUPPORTERS

1. Sherbagh Hotel (Sujan)
2. Ranthambhore Tiger Conservation Foundation (RTCF)
3. Hem Chand Mahindra Foundation (HMF)
4. Krishna Mines
5. Cotton Kachnar Craft
6. United world college of Southeast Asia
7. Tnq Books & Journals pvt. Ltd.
8. Roots Advertizing
9. Nerolac Kansai
10. Highlights of India
11. Association For India Development USA (AID)
12. Felis Creations
13. Studio Verandah
14. Mr. Iskander Lalljee

15. Mr. Jaisal Singh & Mrs Anjali Singh
16. Mr. Dieter Gutmann
17. Mr. Ajay Chopra
18. Mr. Ashok Mahindra
19. Mr. Irfan Quadar
20. Mr. Sachin & Mr's Divya Rajkrishnan
21. Mr. Devendra Bhai Kothari (Nerolac)
22. Mr. Anshuman Jain
23. Mrs Mona Patel
24. Ms. Ratna Malhotra (Oberoi Hotel)
25. Mr. Tarun Bansal
26. Mr. Rahul Khosla
27. Mr. Shivrang Keshav Purohit
28. Mr. Siddharth Date
29. Ms. Vrinda Mehtani
30. Mr. Kran Tibrawala



Mr. Jaisal Singh & Mrs Anjali Singh



Mr. Iskander Lalljee



Mr. Shivrang Purohit



Mr. Rahul Khosla



BOARD MEMBERS OF TIGER WATCH



Mr. Iskander Lalljee
(Chairman)

Isky Sir, recently joined as Chairman of Tiger Watch. He is one of the main financial supporter of the organization and has played pivotal role in shaping the Mogya Education Programme.



Dr. Goverdhan Singh Rathore
(Vice-Chairman)

Trained as a medical Doctor but also runs an NGO called Prakartik Society, He is son of the legendary conservationist & founder of Tiger Watch Mr. FSR.



Mr. Sachin Rai
(Joint-Secretary)

One of the finest photographer of the country. Sachin Rai is engaged in the business of travel. Also a multimedia expert, he has tuned in with his expertise in making several films, website & document.



Ms. Sonoo Taraporewala
(Treasurer)

Retired from British library, she has written biography on the life of Fateh Singh Rathore, and followed his passion as a disciple of wild. She has always stood by the side of Tiger Watch and her bond continues.



Mr. Dharmendra Khandal
(Member)

Mr. Dharmendra Khandal is a conservation biologist who has been with Tiger Watch since 2003. His work with Tiger Watch has involved anti-poaching, monitoring of wildlife and research in & around the Ranthambhore.



Mr. Ishan Dhar
(Member)

Ishan is currently Research Officer at All@Delhi. Ishan became associated with Tiger Watch when the Village Wildlife Volunteer Program commenced & he fundraised for & co-authored book on the program.



Mr. Ashutosh Mahadevia
(Secretary)

He is the main founder of Tiger Watch, He is a business man based at Mumbai and his heart is always in Ranthambhore.



Mr. Rishad Naoroji
(Member)

Rishad Naoroji was not only a friend and supporter of Fateh Singhji, but also a guide to propagate and support species other than Tigers especially Raptors.



Dr. Ajay Veer Khurana
(Member)

A surgeon of fine repute. Based at Jaipur, he advocates Tiger Watch in the political & bureaucratic corridors.

FIELD TEAM OF TIGER WATCH



Ms. Meenu Dhakad
(Assistant Conservation Biologist)

Meenu Dhakad is a Master in Biodiversity & Conservation and works as an assistant field biologist with Tiger Watch. Being familiar with the software GIS, she compiles much of the extensive data transmitted by the Village Wildlife Volunteers and manages various on-going projects.



Mr. Meethalal Gurjar
(MEP Warden)

Meethalal Gurjar is a graduate from arts stream and have done ITI mechanical. He is presently the warden of Mogya hotel and also a teacher. He grooms young Mogya children in the hostel and this is where his education as well as social skills comes to play.



Mr. Bihari Singh Gurjar
(VWV Coordinator)

Bihari singh Gurjar is a VWV coordinator in Tiger Watch. His main responsibilities is to monitoring wildlife and anti-poaching in Mandrail range of Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary. He is working from last 4 years.



Mr. Niranjana Sharma
(VWV Coordinator)

Niranjana Sharma is matric and serves as a VWV coordinator in Tiger Watch. His main responsibilities is to monitoring wildlife and anti-poaching. He is working from last 2 years. He has done various survey in & around Ranthambhore. He also trained forest guards of Mukundara hills Tiger Reserve in tiger tracking & monitoring.



Mr. Harimohan Gurjar
(VWV Coordinator)

Harimohan Gurjar is a post graduate in Sociology and serves as a VWV coordinator in Tiger Watch. His main responsibilities is to monitoring wildlife and anti-poaching. He is working from last 4 years. He has done various Socio-economic survey in and around Ranthambhore.



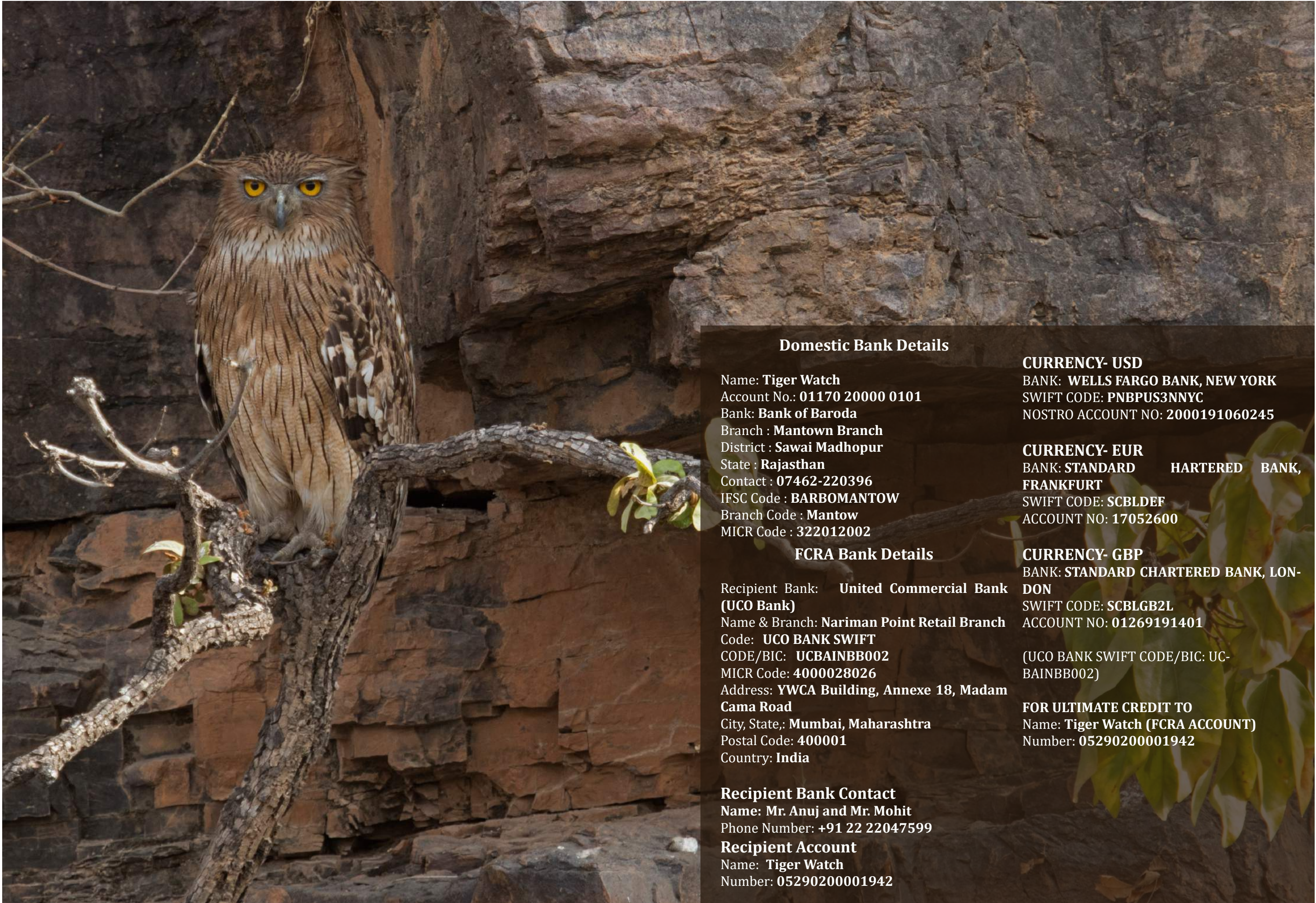
Mr. HariSingh Gurjar
(VWV Coordinator)

HariSingh Gurjar is matric and serves as a VWV coordinator in Tiger Watch. His main responsibilities is to monitoring wildlife and anti-poaching. He is working from last 4 years. He has done various survey in and around Ranthambhore.



Mr. Dharm Singh Gurjar
(VWV Coordinator)

DharmSingh Gurjar is a graduate in Sociology and serves as a VWV coordinator in Tiger Watch. His main responsibilities is to monitoring wildlife and anti-poaching in Kundera range. He is working from last 1 years.



Domestic Bank Details

Name: **Tiger Watch**
Account No.: **01170 20000 0101**
Bank: **Bank of Baroda**
Branch : **Mantown Branch**
District : **Sawai Madhopur**
State : **Rajasthan**
Contact : **07462-220396**
IFSC Code : **BARBOMANTOW**
Branch Code : **Mantow**
MICR Code : **322012002**

CURRENCY- USD
BANK: **WELLS FARGO BANK, NEW YORK**
SWIFT CODE: **PNBPUS3NNYC**
NOSTRO ACCOUNT NO: **2000191060245**

CURRENCY- EUR
BANK: **STANDARD HARTERED BANK, FRANKFURT**
SWIFT CODE: **SCBLDEF**
ACCOUNT NO: **17052600**

FCRA Bank Details

Recipient Bank: **United Commercial Bank (UCO Bank)**
Name & Branch: **Nariman Point Retail Branch**
Code: **UCO BANK SWIFT**
CODE/BIC: **UCBAINBB002**
MICR Code: **4000028026**
Address: **YWCA Building, Annexe 18, Madam Cama Road**
City, State,: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
Postal Code: **400001**
Country: **India**

CURRENCY- GBP
BANK: **STANDARD CHARTERED BANK, LONDON**
SWIFT CODE: **SCBLGB2L**
ACCOUNT NO: **01269191401**

(UCO BANK SWIFT CODE/BIC: UC-BAINBB002)

FOR ULTIMATE CREDIT TO
Name: **Tiger Watch (FCRA ACCOUNT)**
Number: **05290200001942**

Recipient Bank Contact
Name: **Mr. Anuj and Mr. Mohit**
Phone Number: **+91 22 22047599**
Recipient Account
Name: **Tiger Watch**
Number: **05290200001942**



Tiger Watch

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