

Annual Report

2020-21

# Tiger Watch







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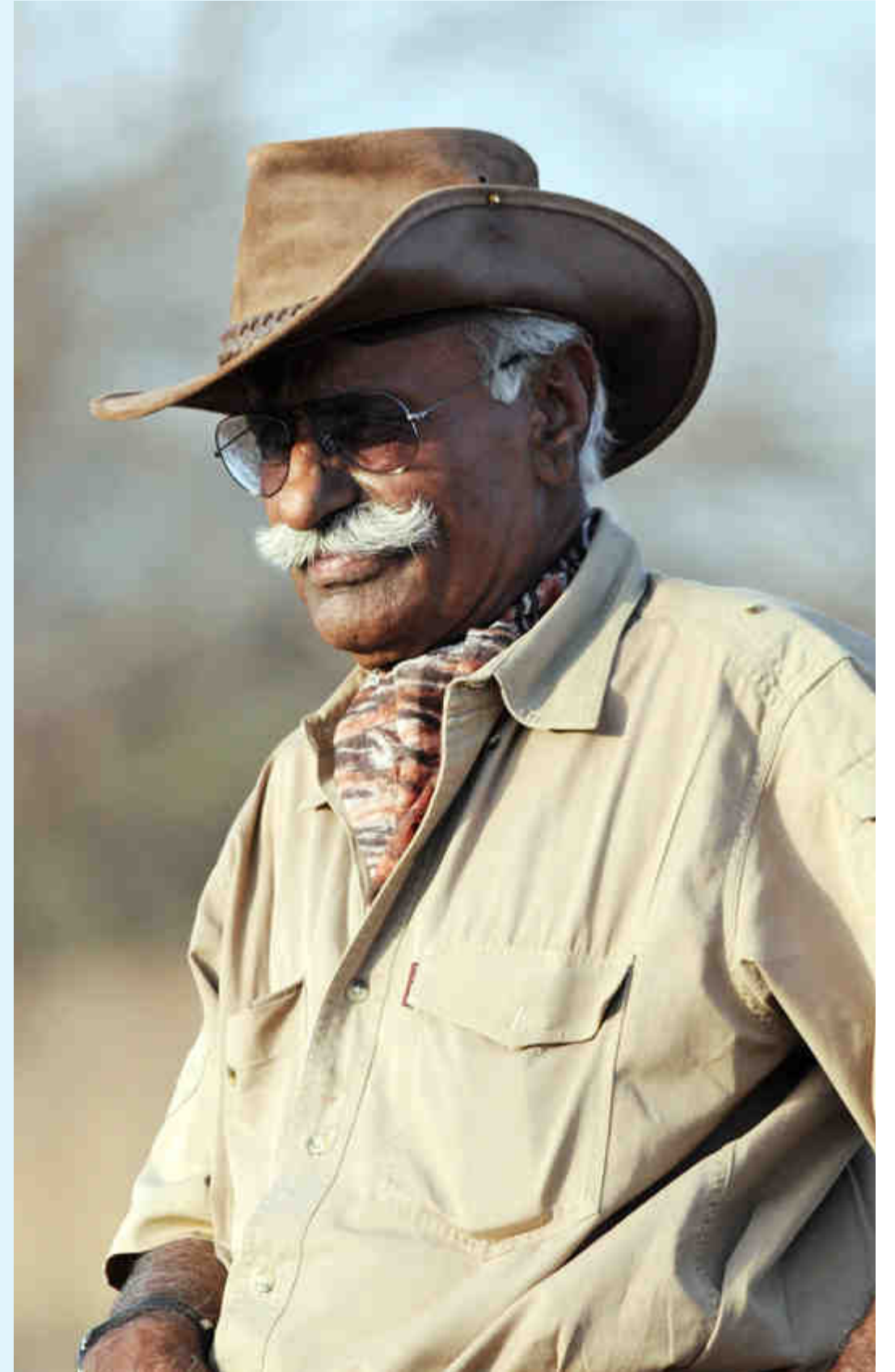


# Fateh Singh Rathore

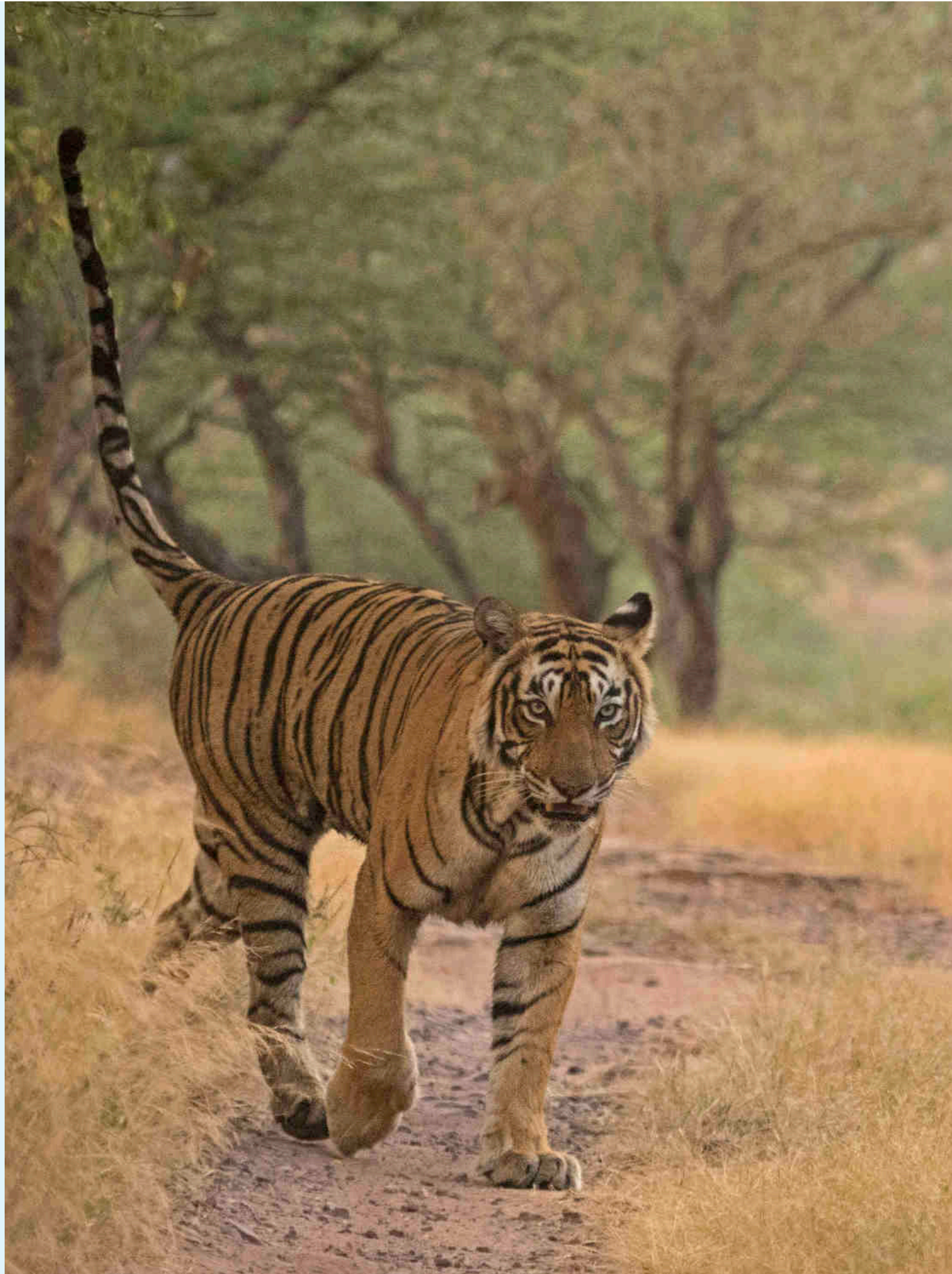
(1938-2011)

Founder

Ranthambhore was the place that brought the tiger to the consciousness of the world. Fateh Ji brought glory to Ranthambhore, and made it the celebrated Tiger Reserve it is today. He served as Ranthambhore's Field Director and later founded Tiger Watch. He firmly believed in working with people to save the tiger and in a country that is 1 billion strong, his people centric approach is the only one that worked.







## Chairman's Note



Dear friends,

2020-21 has been a challenging yet productive year for all at Tiger Watch. COVID 19 raised its ugly head yet again, however the adaptations we made in our interventions during 2019-20 stood firm in the face of such adversity.

The Village Wildlife Volunteers tiger monitoring program has been on point. They discovered and monitored new tiger cubs born to T-117 in Dholpur, and T-118 in Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary. This is the beginning of a new breeding population that would have been impossible without their efforts.

Their anti-poaching work has been formidable too. This entailed the detection of snares, gunpowder bombs, cases of electrocution and the collection of timber/non-timber plants. They have also reported cases of illegal mining, along with issues of growing concern such as human-wildlife conflict. There is no denying that interlopers of various hues saw the pandemic as an opportune moment to strike, yet the fact that the VWV were able to ensure the arrest of poachers and other criminals shows that the program can be resilient to such a crisis. The rescue of the male tiger T-108 from a deadly wire snare thanks to VWV intelligence in December 2020 was an eye opener, not only because in the absence of such an intervention, most of these cases end in tragedy in other reserves, but to also show just how numerous the number of threats to tigers and other wildlife are.

Just like the year before, COVID-19 has compelled us to close our Mogya Education Program hostel for the moment and we have improvised a home-schooling model in the meanwhile. This involves our hostel warden Meethalal Gurjer and VWV Dharm Singh Gurjer travelling to Mogya families for lessons. This resulted in girls in Mogya families also attending lessons. An unprecedented first! In fact, this new model has resulted in an increase in the number of students to 95!

The Rajasthan Biodiversity Network website has seen considerable growth with 193 articles published by 44 authors. We have also continued our capacity building efforts with Forest Departments of different states, along with law enforcement agencies among others. Tiger Watch has also published research papers, including a groundbreaking study on the caracal in India by Dr. Dharmendra Khandal, Ishan Dhar & Dr. G.V. Reddy, which resulted in the caracal being declared a critically endangered species in India by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2021.

The news of the 12 missing tigers (2020-2021) is a cause for alarm for us, and I hope that some clarity on the issue emerges. A new set of challenges are appearing on the road ahead of us. 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.

I would like to thank all the board 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.

Iskander Lalljee  
Chairman Tiger Watch



## Secretary's Note



Dear Friends,

Thanks to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the year 2020 -21 has been an extremely trying one for the entire world. While nations across the globe went under a lockdown, tourism obviously too became a victim. I believe that tourism provides informal policing of forests ensuring safety for wildlife. Yes definitely tourism also causes disturbances but has its benefits, so when all safaris were stopped I wondered what was in store for Ranthambhore. I immediately inquired with Dharmendra what the situation on the ground was. He said our VWV, despite curbs were active and were sending regular reports. Thanks to the reports gathered by our volunteers,

Dharmendra could analyse the situation of the “Missing Tigers”, so much so that the High Court has called upon him to provide comments. Where and how tigers go missing is not something one can definitely confirm but from all the various nefarious activities of the poachers - like snaring, use of explosives, poisoning, extraction of wood, one can assume that if our guard is down, one cannot put it past poachers being the reason for these missing tigers. However I must say that our VWV are not just the bearers of bad news.... they were the first ones to have discovered tigress T-117 with her cubs, first at Keoladevi and then subsequently tracked the movement of the mother & her litter to Dholpur.

Besides tracking tigers the VWV have played a key role in other wildlife related problems such as Feral Dogs, participated in many Wildlife rescue operations and have reported many instances of dead wildlife proving how important this program is for conservation efforts & wildlife management.

Tiger Watch has gone beyond its commitment to keep the wildlife of Ranthambhore safe. It has become a great platform for research, becoming a hub that provides opportunity for people across the nation to carry out scientific studies & volunteers to provide services that have an impact on the park. Our society Tiger Watch has been involved in projects conducting investigation & research on the Desert Fox, the Indian Wolf, Caracal, reptiles and other local flora. Our study on wildlife corridors to neighboring districts also provides insight for future planners. I remember that during Fatehji's time we had extended extensive logistic support to K. Ullhas Karanth for the first ever photo trapping carried out in Ranthambhore. In fact our fellow trustee Mr. Punit Labhai, then only 17, participated for a month & a half long photo trapping exercise, living in the park with the guards in 45Deg C. temperatures. The tiger data collected then, formed the base on which future tiger densities/ estimates were arrived at.

The Rajasthan Biodiversity website so generously funded by Abhimanyu Golcha and the Golcha Foundation has played an enormous role in spreading awareness in the field of wildlife conservation by being one of the most credible source of information. The effort towards conservation of the Great Indian Bustard needs a special mention as it is a breakaway from our primary focus of Tiger conservation.

All the trustees are well aware of our signature Mogya Education Program which has been funded so generously by our Chairman Mr. Iskandar Laljee and his company M/s Sud Chemie India. I am sure all of you wondered how this program would continue with the social distancing diktats that had to be followed due to Covid 19. I must commend Dharmendra for coming up with a unique solution. As the hostel had to be closed, our hostel warden and his assistants travelled to individual families & groups for lessons. In this way 95 students had the opportunity to study in these classes and the cherry on the cake was that. even the Mogya girls got a chance to participate in these lessons. If you review the financial statements of Tiger Watch you will notice that the cost incurred for this program has reduced by almost 45% with the impact of the program remaining untouched.

With this I can only say that Tiger Watch has achieved what Fatehji had envisioned and, what our dear John-da had strived for, thereby making our NGO so important for the survival of Ranthambhore & its wildlife.

My heartiest congratulations to Dharmendra, Ishan, Meenu, the VWV, the hostel warden and many other team members, for their phenomenal efforts towards the success of Tiger Watch.

Regards

Ashutosh Mahadevia





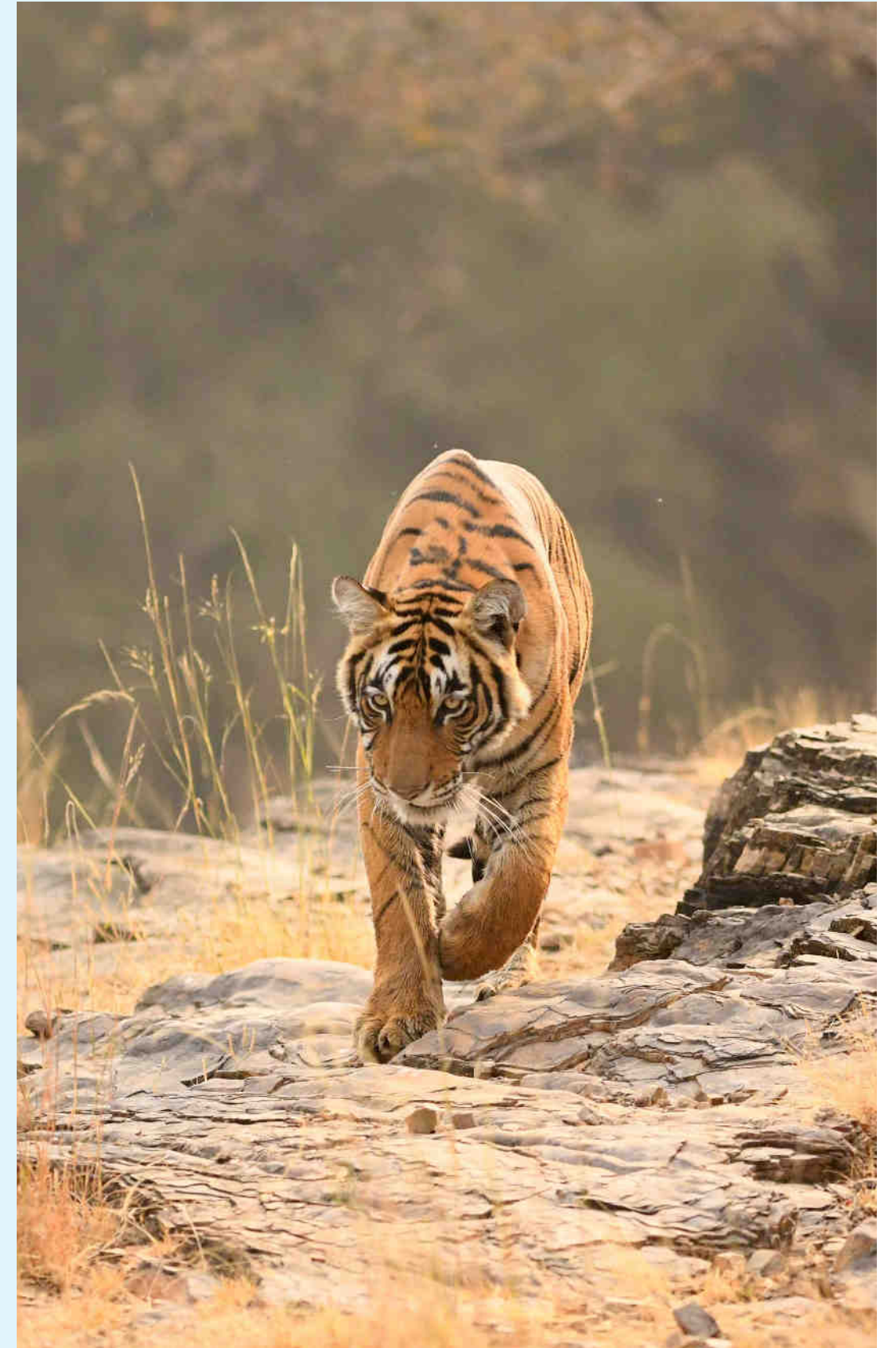
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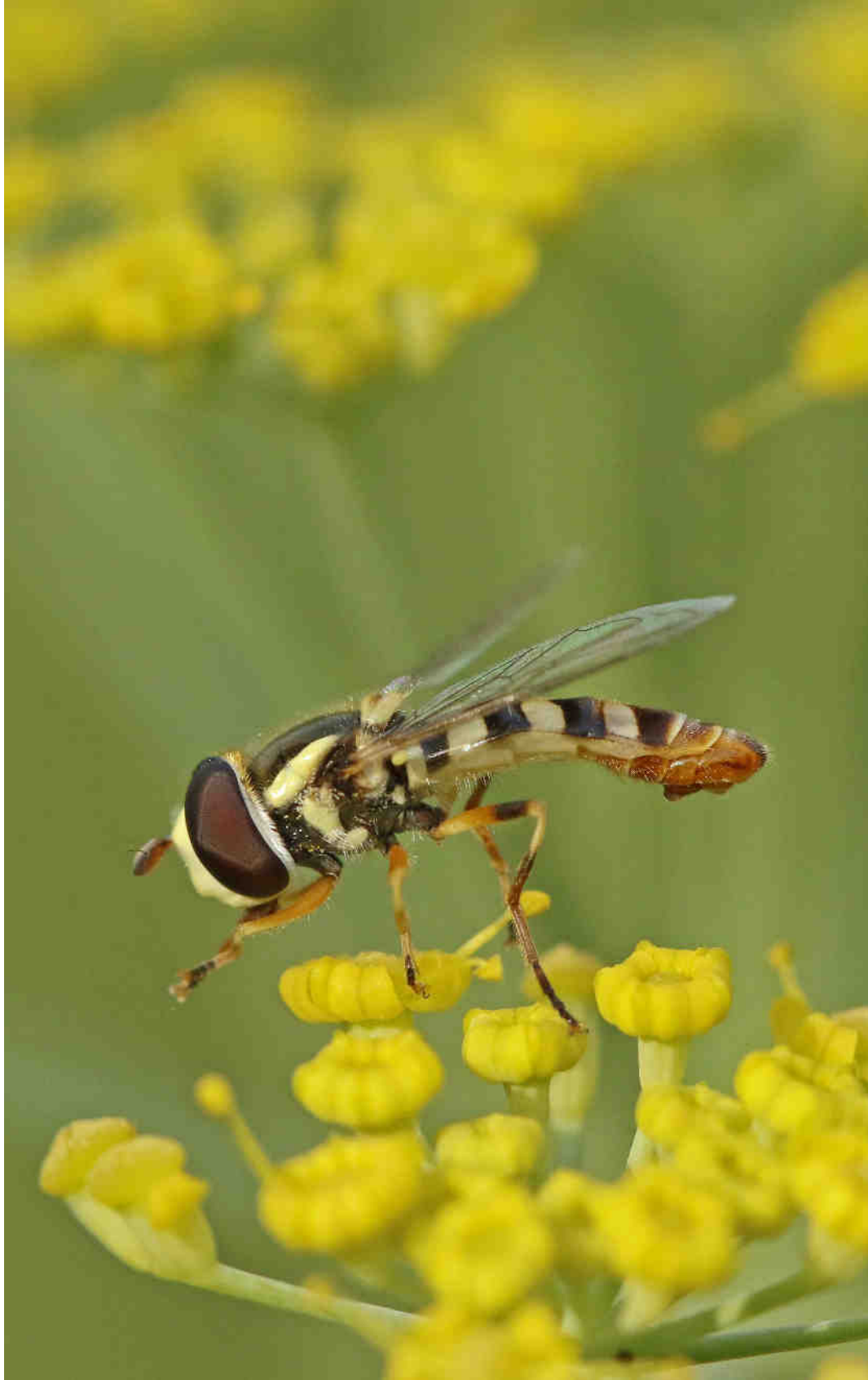
# Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

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 behind the uniquely rich bio-diversity of the Ranthambhore. 'Project Tiger' was launched here in April 1973. It was one of the first nine parks to be designated 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 Banas river divides the reserve into 2 parts. The N-E part of the Kailadevi WLS and the S-E part forms 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, the remaining 360.19 sq. kms of RTR is a de facto buffer area.







# Tiger Watch

Tiger Watch is a non-governmental organization working since 1998 with the core objective of the protection of wildlife in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan and its 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 on the frontlines, be it anti-poaching, wildlife monitoring, biodiversity exploration, research, community support, assisting the forest department, or traditional hunting community "Mogya" rehabilitation programs, providing aid in cattle compensation to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and setting an example as an efficient conservation unit.



# Scientific Research & Publications



Tiger Watch Ranthambhore has kept up its long-standing commitment to scientific research, which has a tangible impact on the ground.

Tiger Watch has been involved in the exploration of biodiversity and research projects on foxes, wolves, reptiles, local flora and wildlife corridors to the neighbouring districts. Due to a vast knowledge base of locally occurring wildlife and an unmatched extensive local network, researchers from all over the country collaborate with Tiger Watch for field assistance, while the Village Wildlife Volunteer program which generates valuable data on a daily basis has supplemented small projects conducted by Tiger Watch volunteers and MSc student interns looking to write their dissertations.

Over and above this, research investigating the presence and status of endangered species like the Gharial, the Indian Wolf and the Caracal, has been conducted by engaging volunteers from all over the country.

<https://tigerwatch.net/research/>



# 1. Historical and current extent of occurrence of the Caracal *Caracal caracal* (Schreber, 1776) (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae) in India

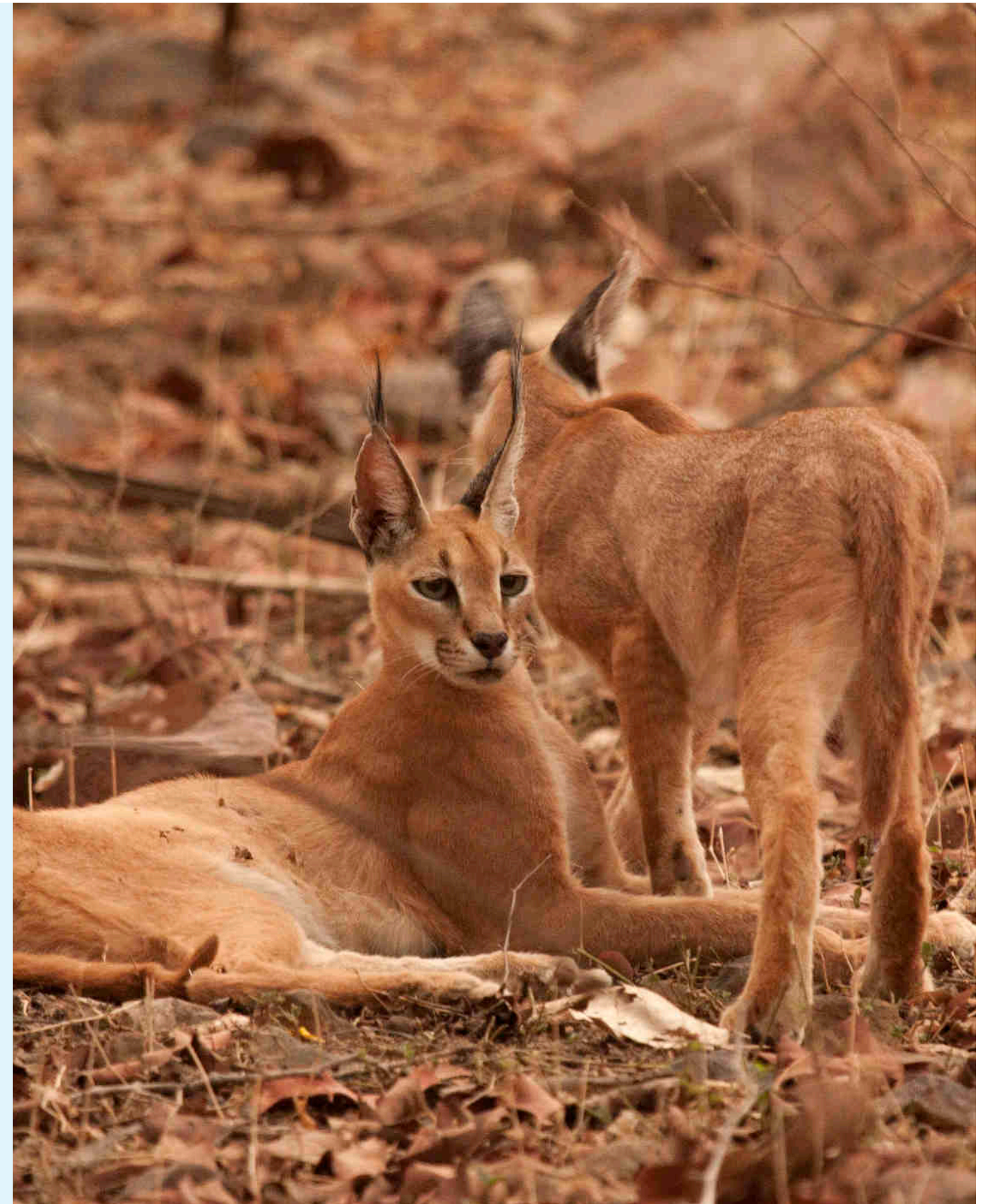
A pathbreaking new study on the Historic and Current Extent of Occurrence of the Caracal in India by Dr.Dharmendra Khandal, Ishan Dhar & Dr. G.V. Reddy, published in the Small Cats Special Edition of the Journal of Threatened Taxa in December 2020. This has been deemed the most significant study on the Caracal's ecology in India during the 21st century and in less than a month post publication, the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) approved the addition of the Caracal to the list of “critically endangered species” in India. The Caracal thus became the twenty-second species on this list in India, and a tentative programme was announced for recovery of the species. This crucial decision was announced by the Union Minister for Environment and Forests, on 6 January 2021. Thus, India now finds itself at the forefront of the battle to conserve the Caracal.

Coverage of the aforementioned study in print and digital media

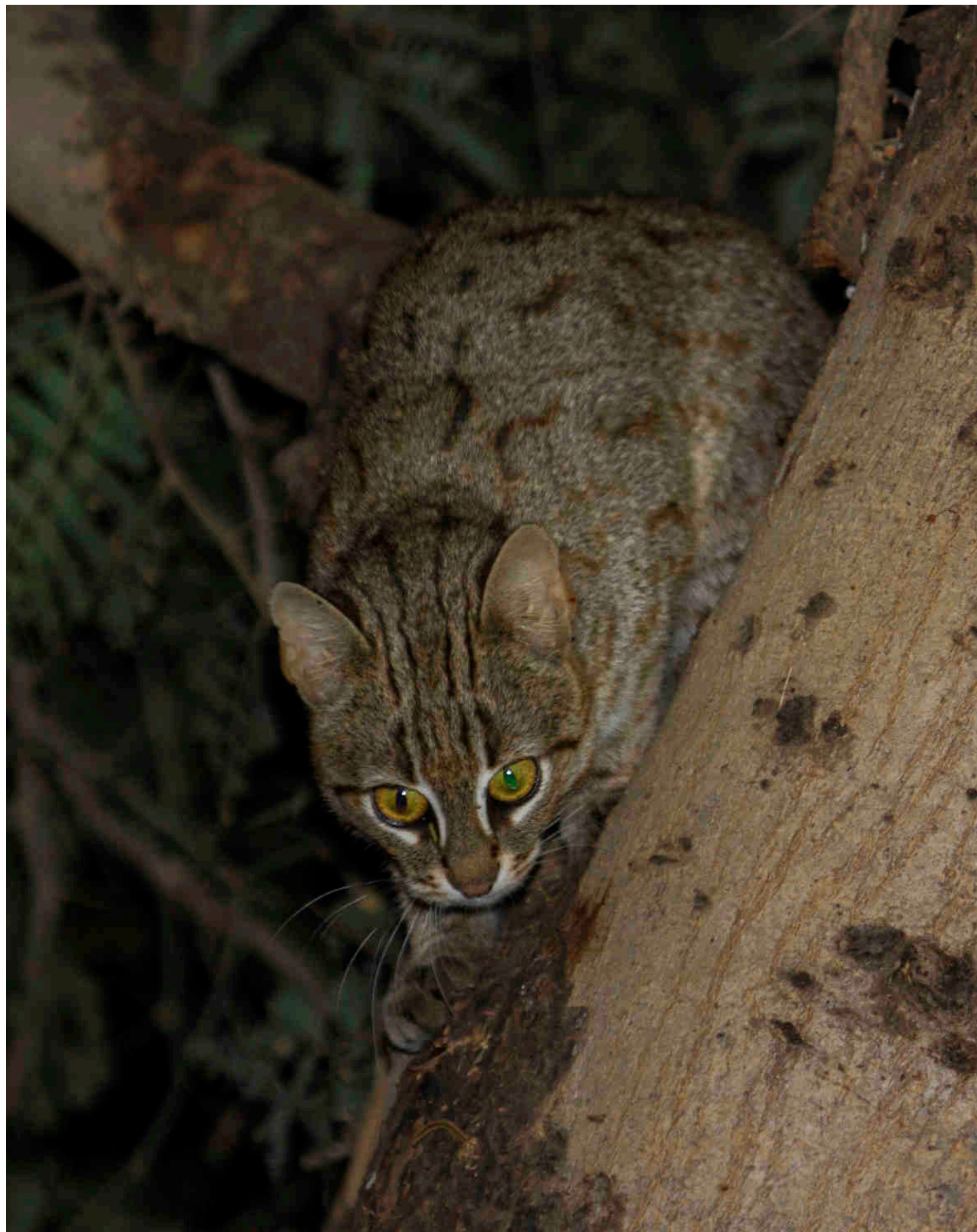
a. <https://www.indiatimes.com/?fbclid=IwAR1I-4g9cJRXf-geaWJ38fugLEVDpaDUPjlekCVMzliuPxJWJ2XwOqBCr7FY>

b. [https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/another-endangered-cat-in-guj-safe-haven/articleshow/79747857.cms?fbclid=IwAR1pTmSreO52ef8WEG6nglsjWeuPNvWhnTR-8jR4q45UFqTC\\_7zVrhhMnhWE](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/another-endangered-cat-in-guj-safe-haven/articleshow/79747857.cms?fbclid=IwAR1pTmSreO52ef8WEG6nglsjWeuPNvWhnTR-8jR4q45UFqTC_7zVrhhMnhWE)

c. <https://lifestyle.livemint.com/smart-living/environment/conserving-the-caracal-one-of-india-s-rarest-wild-cats-111613226432255.html?fbclid=IwAR3XTRMIaUFxeu-B761rBs1XF-EM5Tt5OkSxVP5KP0o9iDhzqmzZevhLbDz8>







### 3. The Rusty-spotted Cat *Prionailurus rubiginosus* (I. Geoffroy Saint-Hillaire, 1831) (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae) in Rajasthan, India – a compilation of two decades

A study on The Rusty-spotted Cat *Prionailurus rubiginosus* (I. Geoffroy Saint-Hillaire, 1831) (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae) in Rajasthan, India – a compilation of two decades. By Dr. Satish Kumar Sharma & Meenu Dhakad published in the Small Cats Special Edition of the Journal of Threatened Taxa in December 2020.

In Rajasthan, the presence of the Rusty-spotted Cat *Prionailurus rubiginosus* was first reported in 1994 in Udaipur District, the southernmost district of Rajasthan. Since then, it was also recorded in four more districts scattered over an area of about 86,205km<sup>2</sup>. We compiled information about the occurrence of the Rusty-spotted Cat in Rajasthan based on direct sightings, road kills, rescued kittens, and camera trap images. Our data set shows that the Rusty-spotted Cat is also present in eight more districts of Rajasthan that form part of the Aravalli Hills and Vindhyan Hills in the semi-arid zone of eastern Rajasthan. The area encompassed by these records amounts to 71,586km<sup>2</sup>. Kittens were rescued in six instances. Adult cats were recorded in 45 instances including 41 live cats and four road kills. Ten adult live Rusty-spotted Cats were sighted in the mornings, and 31 were recorded after dark between late evenings and early mornings. They were recorded in eight habitat types including foremost thorny and dry deciduous forests, but also ravines and agricultural fields adjacent to forests, and in forest patches in the vicinity of human settlements. The preservation of forests is of utmost importance for the long-term viability of the Rusty-spotted Cat. We strongly recommend surveys outside protected areas to determine the connectivity between Rusty-spotted Cat population units in Rajasthan.

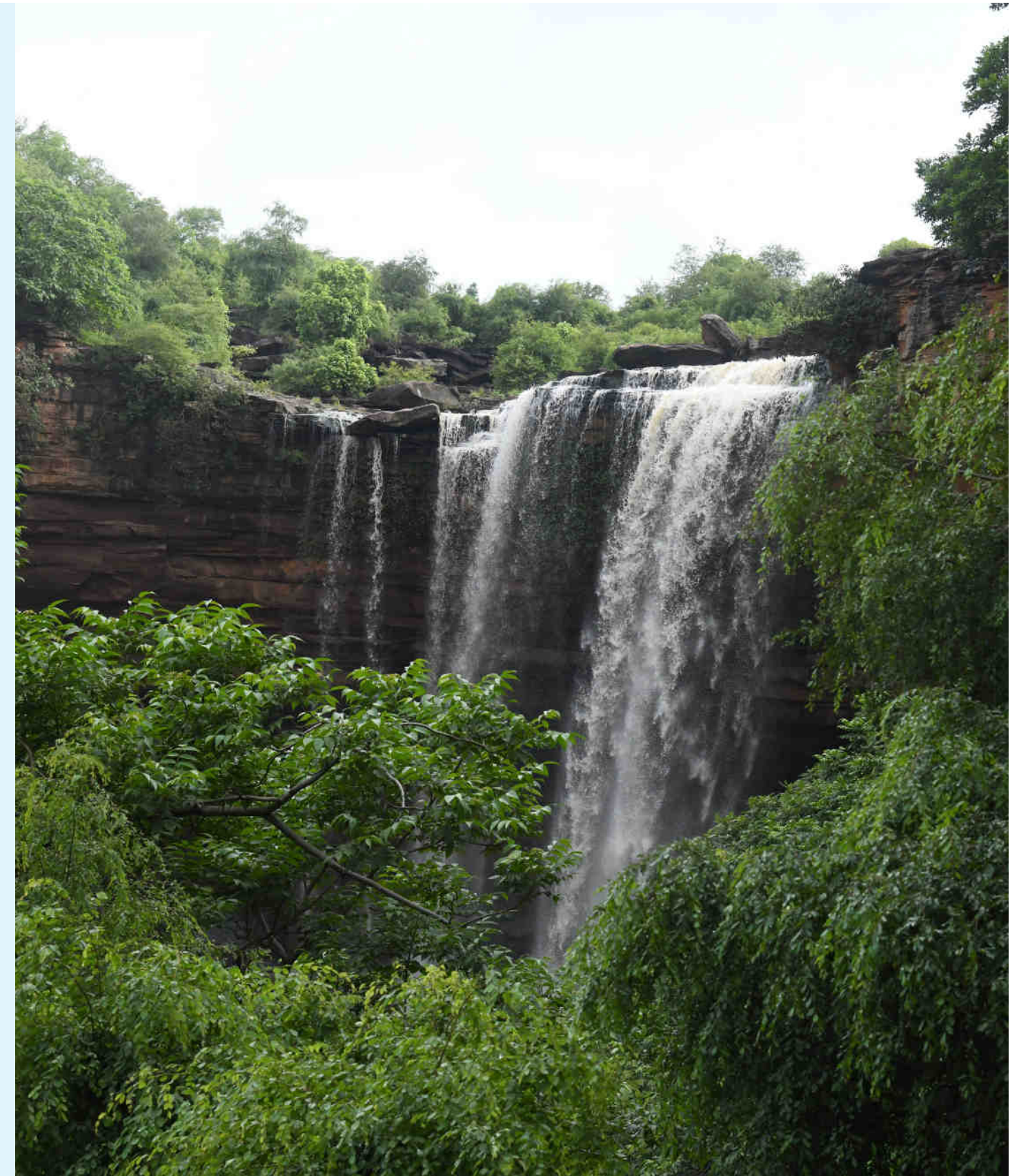


### 3. Ecosystem Services of Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary

A study on Evaluation of the ecosystem services provided by the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan, India. By Vishal Rasal, Mark Everard, Dharmendra Khandal, Kapil Chandrawal and Yogesh K. Sahu published in the PARKS Journal in MAY 2021.

The term ‘ecosystem services’ encompasses diverse material and non-material goods and services beneficial to human beings that are provided by ecosystems. This study attempts to produce quantitative and qualitative estimates of the multiple values provided by the natural capital of the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS).

An evaluation of ecosystem services is emerging as an important policy-support tool for decision-makers. It serves this purpose in three principal ways. Firstly, a recognition of ecosystem services with some indication of their significance raises awareness about the crucial role of natural ecosystems in supporting human wellbeing. Secondly, an evaluation of services helps focus resource use to inform better management of ecosystems. Thirdly, ecosystem services evaluation provides a rational economic basis for the protection of or more sustainable management of natural systems. Though globally relevant and of his priority to underpin sustainable development, these roles of ecosystem service valuation are particularly pertinent for rapidly developing countries like India where forests could be easily be traded-off for short-term non-forestry uses.







## Economic Evaluation of Livestock around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

In July 2020-21 an insightful study conducted by team Tiger Watch on the Economic Evaluation of Livestock around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve published in the Indian Forester. The study was authored by Ankit R. Toshniwal, Vishal Rasal, Dharmendra Khandal and Meenu Dhakad.

The study assessed the economics of livestock keeping around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR). There are 165.64 cattle, 168.56 buffaloes and 860 goats per thousand people in and around RTR. The various cost components were identified under gross cost and net return were calculated accordingly. The study found that livestock productivity is low and highly subsidized by the free fodder from RTR forest. Grazing cost accounted for most of the expenditure in livestock which is borne by forest.



# VILLAGE WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS





## Village Wildlife Volunteers

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-wildlife 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 an 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 are 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 up to 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 on the fringes 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 & Training

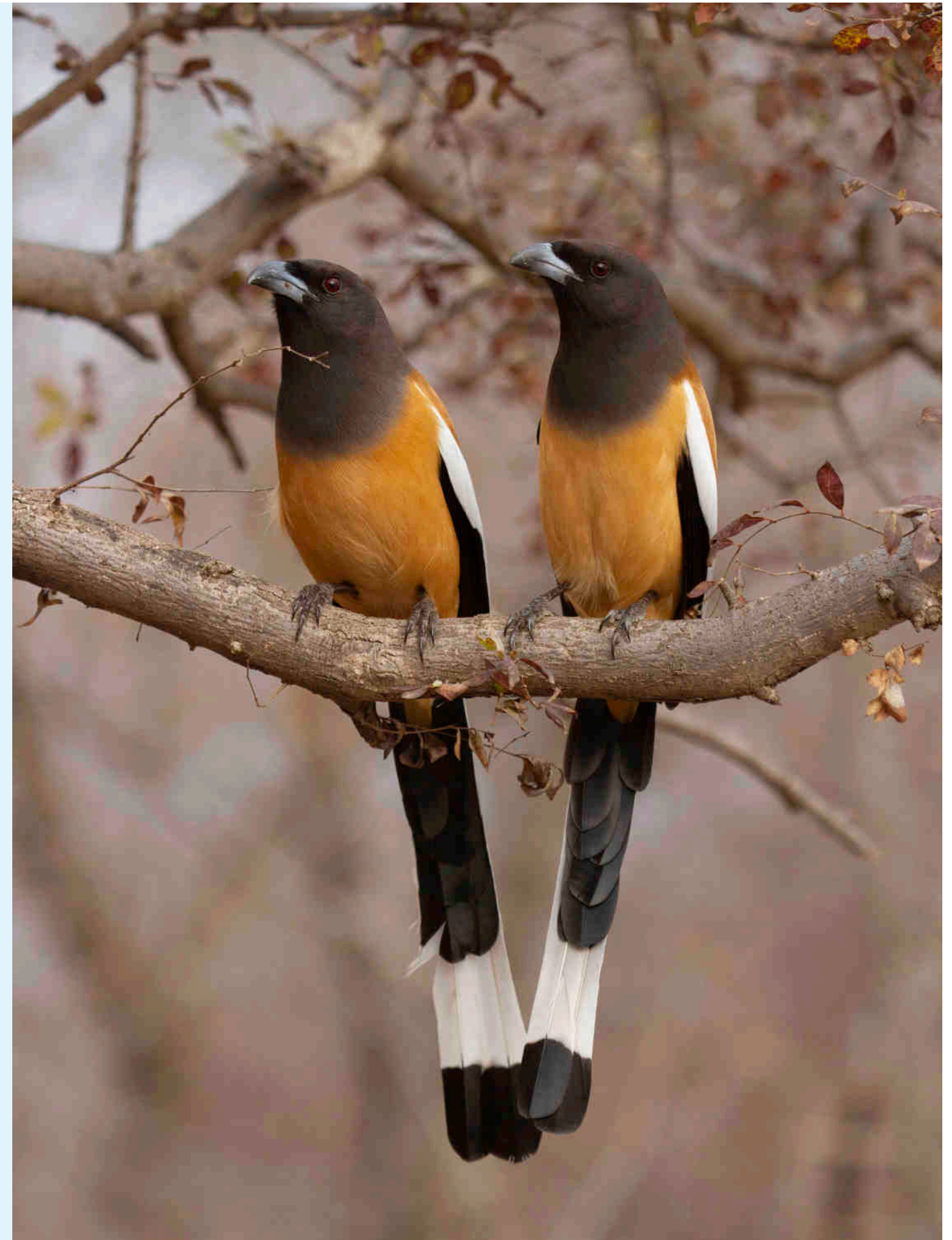
Tiger Watch selects and trains all of the VWV. Most of them are villagers who live close to the park boundary and are from agrarian or pastoral communities. They are hired for a part-time commitment; therefore the volunteers continue to be engaged with their original respective occupations. The remuneration provided is not their main source of income, but very specific task based payment. If the individual VWV is not able to fulfil 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 1473.554 sq. km, out of which 1113.364 sq. km. has been notified, as Critical Tiger Habitat. The remaining 360.19 sq. kms of RTR is *ade facto* 'buffer area'.

<https://tigerwatch.net/village-wildlife-volunteers/>





## Anti-Poaching:



### Snaring

1. Our Village Wildlife Volunteers camera trapped and reported that male Tiger T-108 had unfortunately been caught in a deadly wire snare in December 2020. We are happy to report that the Rajasthan Forest Department was able to remove the snare.
2. On 30th April 2021, VWV Ramesh Gurjar found a dead Nilgai and calf in Khochin nala, Talda area. After a careful investigation he found that the nilgai was snared to death. He immediately informed the Forest Department.
3. On 7th May, A snared hyena was camera trapped in the Dangarwada area.
4. December 12th, a hyena was camera trapped with snare in the neck near Devpura area, Phalodi range. The VWV informed forest department about the incident.
5. On 10th June, VWV Ghanshyam Gurjar found a dead Nilgai in Futa balaji Phalodi area. After a careful investigation he found that the Nilgai was snared to death. He immediately informed the Forest Department.

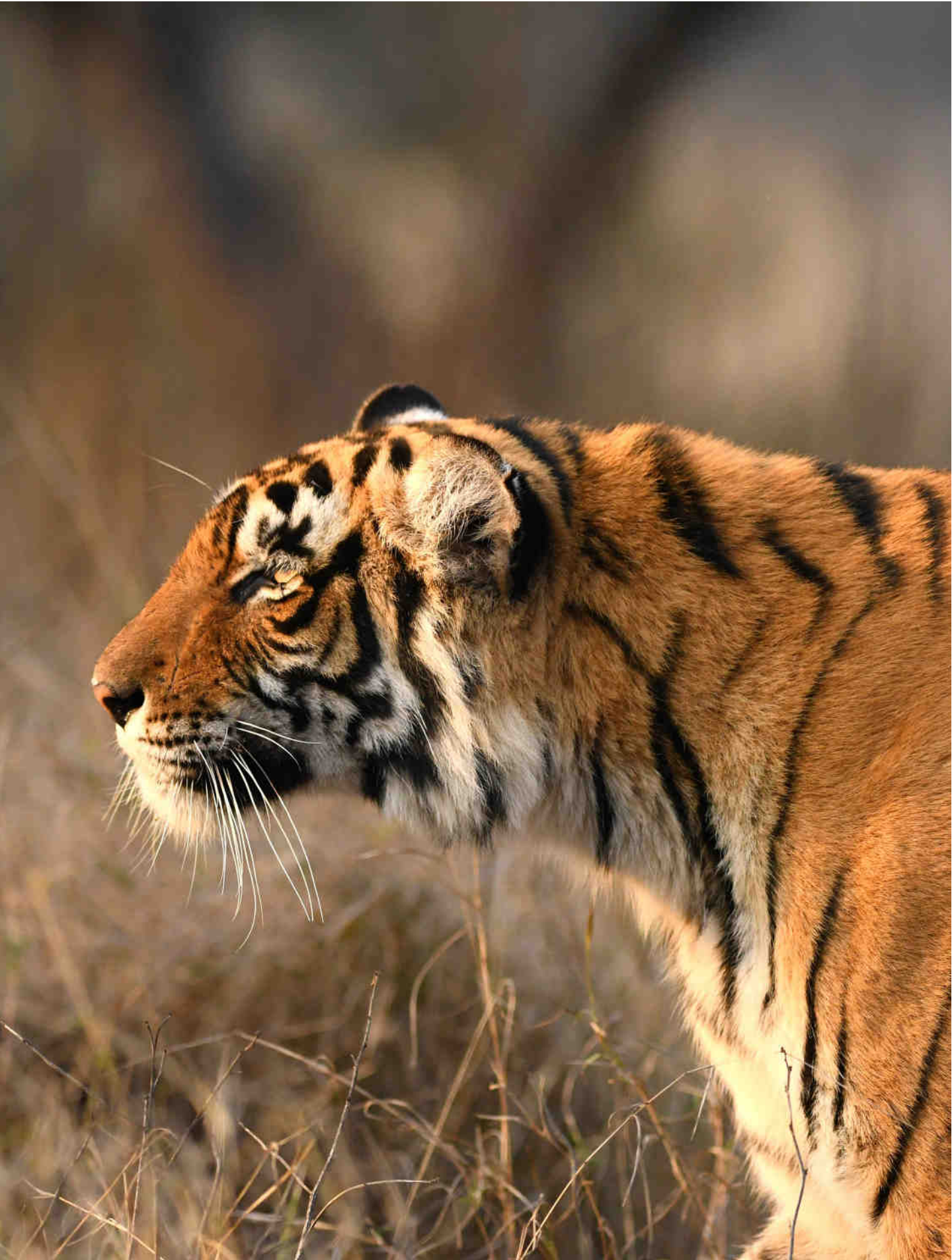




# Jungle Meat Poaching

- 1. On 22th October, VWV Ramvir Gurjar found 4 poachers roaming around Saanp khaad near Khandar area. After approaching them he found that, they have killed two porcupine. VWV somehow managed to clicked their pictures and imediately informed to his coordinator. The forest department was informed and possible actions were taken.
- 2. December 17th 2020, the VWV received intelligence that poacher Ramdayal Bairwa and his son along with three people killed a Chinkara near Badpeepal, Kailadevi area. The VWV informed the Forest Department.
- 3. December 22nd, VWV found some hair and blood of a Wild boar near Marakuaa village road, Mandrail. After investigating the location, the VWV found marks of bushmeat butchering and vehicle signs. The VWV informed the Forest Department.
- 4. On January 21th, A wooden trap was found in Mojipura area. These types of traps were used by poachers to hunt francolins. VWV Jagdish reported this incident to the Forest Department.
- 5. On February 10th2021, Poachers were roaming near the forest and VWV Jagdish Bherupura heard two Gun shots.The VWV reported this incident to the Forest Dept.
- 6. On February 12th2021, the son of poacherRa-

- motaarMogya went to guard agricultural farms with a gun near Dorin, Acher area. VWV Magilal reported this incident and also informed the Forest Dept.
- 7. On February 4th2021, VWV Harimohan Gurjer gave intelligence that 4 poachers along with Ramdayal-bairwa armed with guns went to farms near BairwabastiSopadike pas, Nainiyaki range and planned to ambush wildlife. The VWV immediately informed the Forest Department.
  - 8. On 28th March 2021, poacher Sattu Mogya S/O Meethalal Mogya fired a gun in the night near Dam in Qwalji area. VWV Ghanshyam, Bahadur and Jagdish immediately informed theForest department. The forest officials successfully arrested the poacher with his gun and two poached partridges.
  - 9. On 3rd June 2021, poachers were cameratrapped near Devpura area, Phalodi Range. The poachers were going inside the forest with a hunting dog and after a while they returned with a poached hare. VWV Mangilal Gurjar immediately informed the Forest Department.





# Gunpowder Explosives & Poisoning

- 1. On November 4th2020 a cow has its jaw torn asunder open upon biting into an explosive. The incident took place in Dolara village of Devpura outpost, Falodi range. Our VWV, Mangilal Auchar reported the incident to Forest Department.
- 2. November 27th, Some Mogya poachers planted an explosive ball called a gola in Peela Khad area of Devpura outpost. A Jackal died upon eating the explosive ball. VWV, Mangilal from Kishanpura informed the Forest Department.
- 3. Another explosive ball was found in Bagheli near Chitara village in Falodi range. Mangilal Achar reported the incidence on November 28.
- 4. December 9th, A Wild boar died upon eating a crude bomb near Banya khaad, Devpur village. Our VWV Mangilal from Kishanpura found blood marks at the location. The VWV suspected that Meethalal Meena and his partners from Karampura did this. The incident was reported to Forest Department.
- 5. On January 19th , VWV Mangilal Gurjar reported the presence of two crude bombs near kheda village, Nahari area. The VWV immediately reported it to the Forest Dept.

- 6. On January 19th, A cow’s mouth was torn asunder upon biting into a crude bomb. This incident happened in the Mohamadpura area and VWV Mangilal reported it to the ForestDepartment. On January 27th, two crude bombs was found in Agricultural field of Dolara village, Devpura naka area. VWV Magilal reported this incident and also inforemed the forest officials.
- 7. January 19th, Village Wildlife Volunteer Roops-inghGurjar found poison in an agricultural field near Kho naka. He immediately informed the Forest Department.
- 8. On February 10th 2021, A sheep’s jaw was torn asunder upon biting into a crude bomb. This incident happened in the Chitara area, Devpura naka, Phalodi range and VWV Mangilal reported the incident to the Forest Department.
- 9. On 16th March 2021, A cow’s jaws were torn asunder by a crude bomb near Bagheli, near Chitara village. VWV Mangilal gave this information and informed the Forest Department.
- 10. On 29th March 20201 , VWV Omprakash found signs of a crude nomb and some blood stains near the forest boundary wall of Mei Khurd. The VWV reported this incident to the Forest Department.





# Poaching of NTFP & Illegal Extraction of Wood

- 1. December 16th, 2020 10-15 members of the Sahriya tribe were extracting wild asparagus from forest areas and they were living near Kyarda village. VWV Harisingh Gurjar reported the incident to the Forest Department.
- 2. December 14th 2020,some members of the Sahriya tribe were extracting wild asparagus from forest areas and they were living near Pasiyadeh, Sarmathura range. VWV Bihari Singh reported the incident to Forest Department.
- 3. January 27th 2021 members of the Sahriya

tribe were extracting wild asparagus from the Dholpur forest area. VWV Bihari Singh reported the incident to the Forest Department.

Barna wood extraction: On 11th June 2021,VWV HarimohanGurjar reported that some individuals were extracting wood of theBarna tree (Cratevaadan-sonii) in Sarmathura range. 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 about the incident.

4. On 21st June 2021, three trolleys of illegally harvestedDhonk wood. VWV Harimohan Gurjar gave this information and informed the Forest Department.





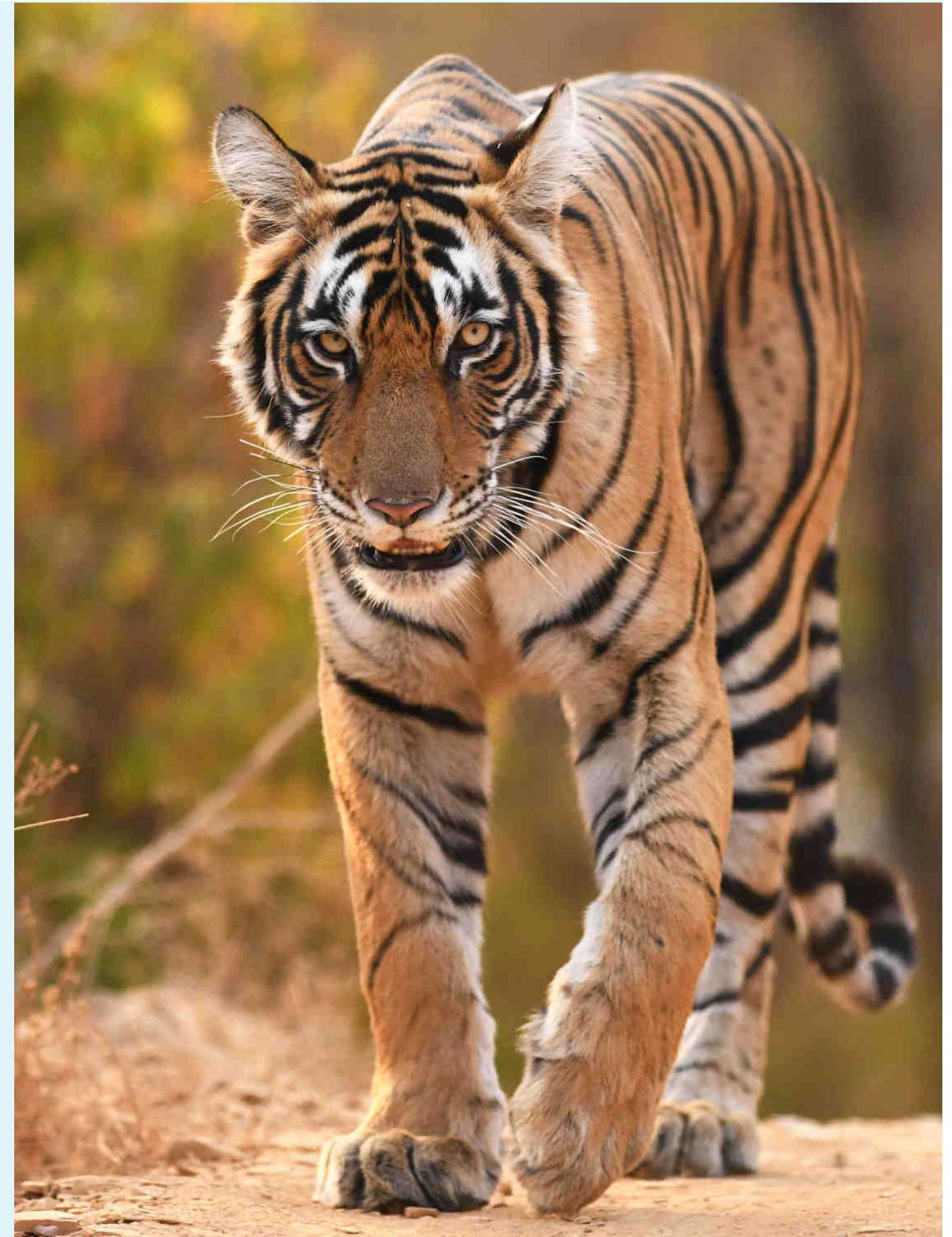
# Monitoring of Tigers

## The Return of T-38:

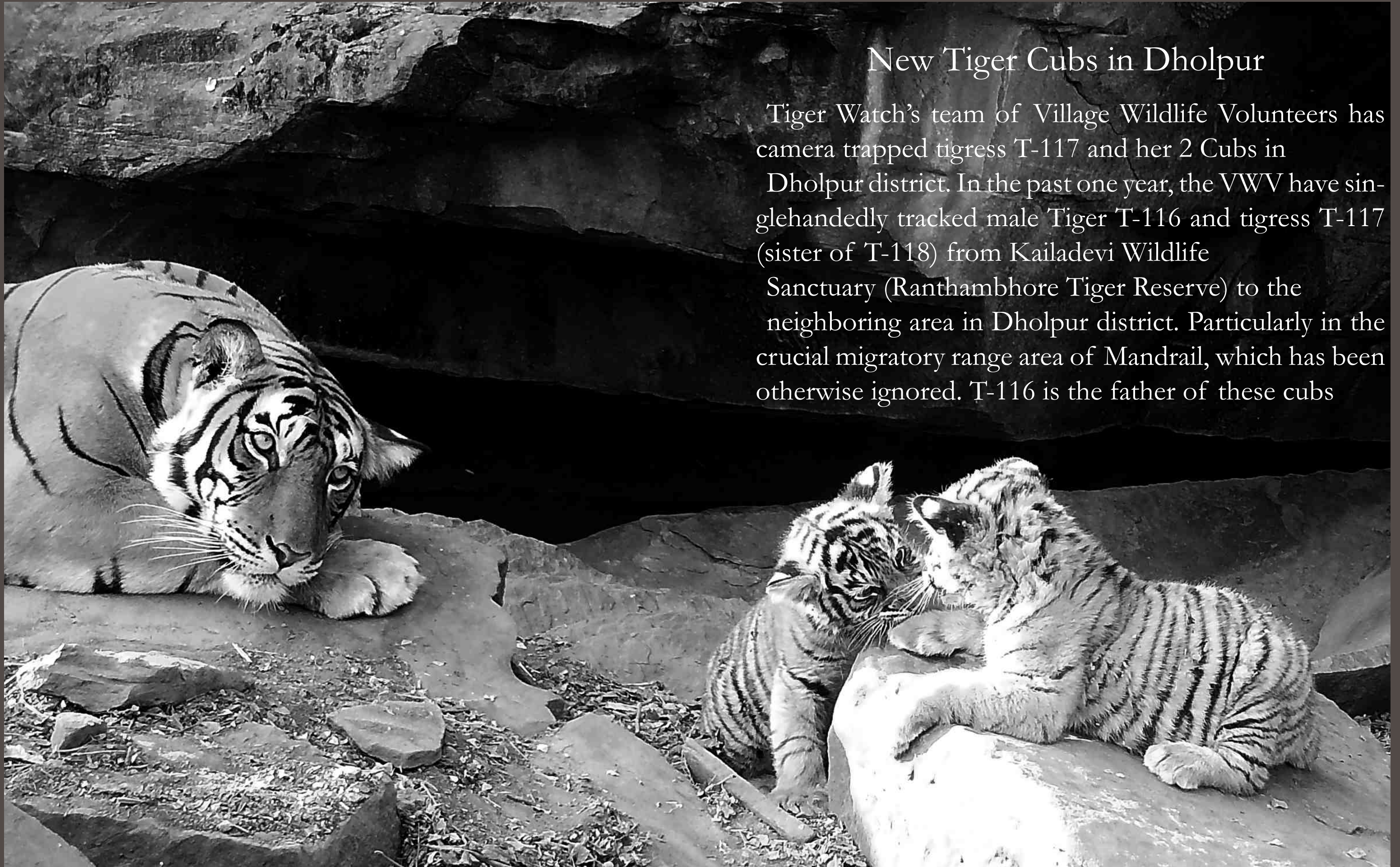
In the first week of January 2010, a 3 year old male tiger , codenamed T-38 migrated from Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan to the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh . This was the first tiger to have been recorded to do so, confirming the existence of a corridor between Ranthambhore and Kuno, and the act was repeated by tigers T-71 and T-56 over the years. T-38 is the brother of the famous tigress T-39 (Noor), both were born to the tigress T-13. A week earlier adept Head Coordinator, Village Wildlife Volunteers, HarimohanGurjar and his team camera trapped T-38 in Ranthambhore. While we cannot reveal precisely where for safety purposes, the fact that the Ranthambhore -Kuno corridor is still intact is excellent news. We speculate that there might have been even more tiger migrations from Ranthambhore to Kuno , displacing and forcing the now 13 year old T-38 to make the arduous journey back to Ranthambhore 10 years later. T-38 eventually reached Kailadevi WLS.



New Cubs in Kailadevi(T-118): Tiger Watch team of Village Wildlife Volunteers - HarisinghGurjarJanaksingh-GurjarBiharisinghGurjar and LakhanGurjarhave camera trapped 2 Cubs born to tigress T-118 in the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary ( a part of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve).T-118 is the daughter of the male Tiger Sultan (T-72) who migrated to Kailadevi in 2015.







## New Tiger Cubs in Dholpur

Tiger Watch's team of Village Wildlife Volunteers has camera trapped tigress T-117 and her 2 Cubs in

Dholpur district. In the past one year, the VWV have singlehandedly tracked male Tiger T-116 and tigress T-117 (sister of T-118) from Kailadevi Wildlife

Sanctuary (Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve) to the neighboring area in Dholpur district. Particularly in the crucial migratory range area of Mandrail, which has been otherwise ignored. T-116 is the father of these cubs



# The Missing Tigers of Ranthambhore 2020-2021

The most common questions people asked us during the pandemic were- what is the effect of the lockdown on tigers in Ranthambhore? are they safe? has poaching increased in Ranthambhore?

Firstly, it should be clear that there was not a single year when tigers did not go missing in the last 18 years of my career in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. Every year 2-3 tigers went missing unnoticed and no one knows where they go. There were only a few indications that tigers are disappearing from certain areas. Please refer to an earlier article on the subject by TigerWatch (The Mystery Behind the Missing Tigers - Tiger Watch).

Table 03 in the aforementioned article shows 30 tigers went missing in a 12 year period. Not a single year has a blank entry, at least one tiger went missing each year. A maximum 6 tigers went missing in the year 2013. Among those 30 missing tigers- young tigers, tigers in their prime, old tigers, males and females all were included. We did not include dead tigers in this figure. However between January 2020- March 2021, a shocking total of 12 tigers have gone missing.

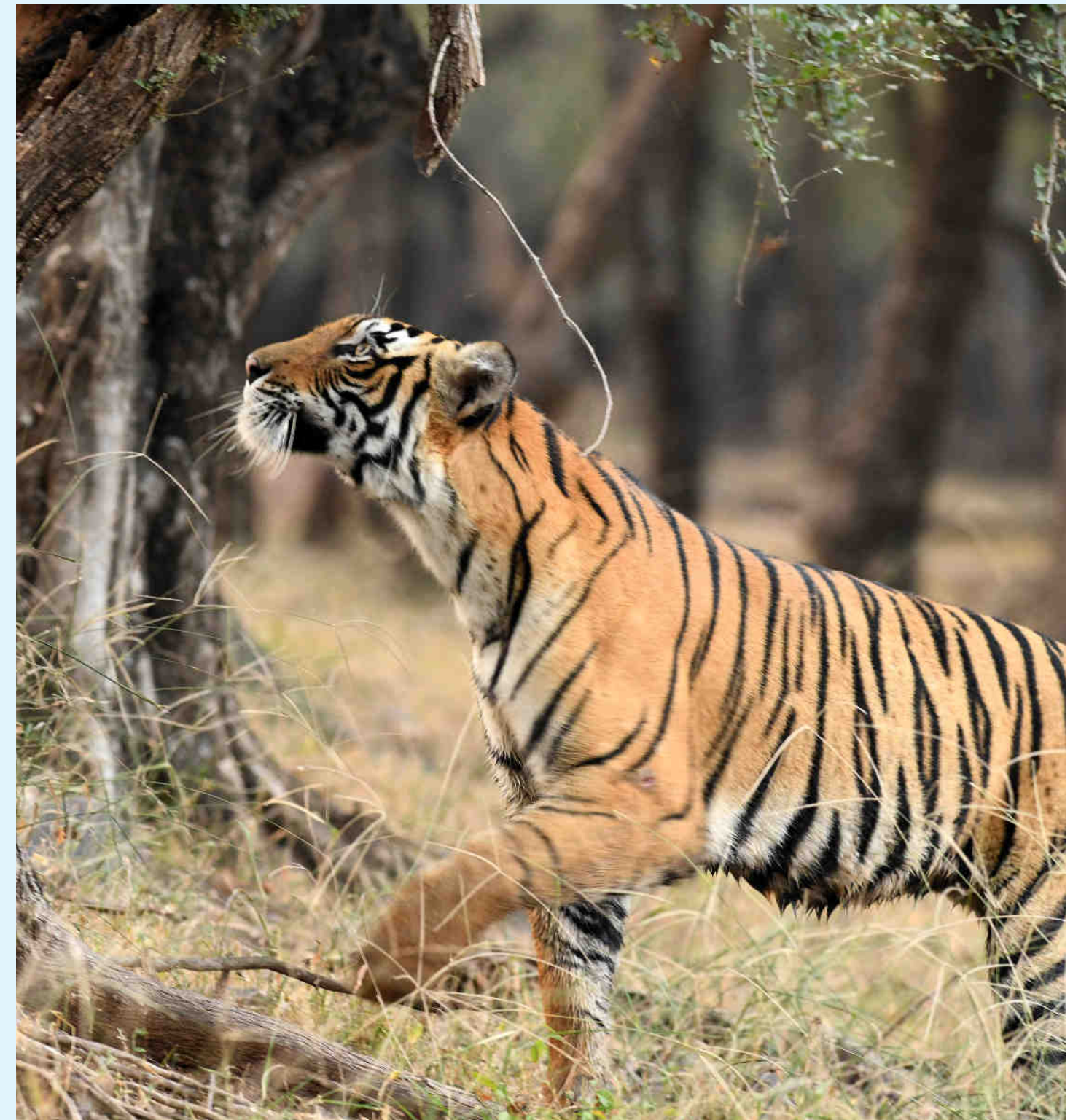
This included male T-47, male T-42, male T-62, male T-65. male T-72, female T-73 and her 3 cubs, female T-92, male T-95, male T-97. This figure is enormous and more than a cause of alarm for us. I (Dharmendra Khandal) also discussed the matter with the current DCF of Ranthambhore, whose response was to try to pin it on the shoulders of his predecessor, and said that there was very little he could do since they disappeared before he was posted to Ranthambhore. He showed me some papers, and wrote a letter to the CWLW.

Facts behind the 12 missing tigers (January 2020-March 2021)

1. Only T-47 was an old male tiger, which was recorded for the first time in the Kailadevi WLS. No one knows about his parentage.
2. Male T-62 was in his prime but a young male pushed him out and he reached the Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary ( 4-5 years earlier). He later returned, but was possibly killed by an intruding male tiger T-110.
3. Family of 5 tigers - Male T-65 and female T-73 with 3 cubs (1 year old) suddenly disappeared. It is very suspicious that the entire family of 5 suddenly disappeared from the Bhadlao-Shyampura- Dhundermal Darra area.
4. Male T-95, reached very close to the Bhadlao- Shyampura area while searching for new territory and disappeared soon after.
5. Male T-97, was active from Talda to Dhundermal area.
6. Male T-72 and female T-92 both have been disappeared from the Mandrail area of Kailadevi WLS. T-72 disappeared just before the first lockdown, and the female T-92 disappeared after one year .
7. The famous male tiger T-42 known as 'Fateh' also vanished in early 2020 from the Sawai Mansingh WLS.

While poaching cannot be ruled out as a causal factor, there is little evidence at the moment to suggest the re-

turn of organized poaching. There has however been an increase in cases of electrocutions from unethical crop protection methods (3 men have died in the last 5 years) and poisoning ( T-65, the male tiger who died earlier this month possibly succumbed to a poisoned cattle kill). Wire snaring has also been a problem, in December 2020, the male tiger T-108 was rescued from a wire snare by the Forest Department after timely intelligence was provided by Tiger Watch's Village Wildlife Volunteers.





## Feral Dogs

1. August 6, 10 and 17 2020, three incidents of feral dogs attacking wild animals were reported from range Khandar. Volunteer, Omprakash Mei reported that some 40 wild boars entered the village Mei Khurd on August 6, of which one was killed by feral dogs of the village and rest of the boars escaped the village. On August 10, a bluebull (f) was killed near Vijay Nagar village. A peafowl was attacked and killed by dogs on August 17 in Mei Kalan village.

2. August 15, 2020 a bluebull being attacked by dogs entered a house in Vijay Nagar village. An old lady resting in the house was injured by the bluebull. VWV Omprakash and forest guards rescued the bluebull and released it in the forest area.

3. December 2nd, 2020 A bluebull calf was attacked by feral dogs near Mei village. The VWV successfully saved the calf and reported the incident to the Forest Department.

4. December 13th, 2020 A bluebull was attacked by feral dogs near Vistapit Padra village. The VWV informed the Forest Department.

5. On January 17th, 2021 A Sambar deer was killed by feral dogs near Vasova village.

6. On February 5th, 2021 A Sambar deer was injured by feral dogs near Khawa khandoj village. VWV Dharm Singh Gurjar informed Forest officials.

7. On February 15th, 2021 A Sambar deer was injured by feral dogs near Mei area, Khandar range. VWV Omprakash Gurjar informed Forest officials.

8. On 3rd March, 2021 A Sambar deer was injured by feral dogs near Devpura area, Khandar range. VWV Mangilal Gurjar informed Forest officials.

9. On 29th April, 2021 A Nilgai was injured by feral dogs near Mei Khurd area, Khandar range. VWV Omprakash Gurjar informed Forest Officials.

10. On 5th May 2021, A Nilgai was injured by feral dogs near Mohanpura Heeraman Dungari area. VWV Dharam Singh Gurjar informed Forest officials.

11. On 26th June 2021, A Chital was injured by feral dogs near Badpur area. VWV Harisingh Gurjar informed Forest officials.



## Wildlife Rescue:

1. On 11th September 2020, a wild pig was found fallen inside a open well. The vwv shri Harisingh Gurjar immediately informed range officer and the pig was rescued successfully.

2. On 14th May 2021, A Nilgai was found fallen inside a pit in Bhadlav area. VWV Dharm Singh informed Forest officials, then Villagers and staff rescued the Nilgai.

3. November 23rd, 2020 A bluebull was found injured on the wire fencing of an agriculture field in Devpura, range falodi. Our VWV Mangilal reported the incident.



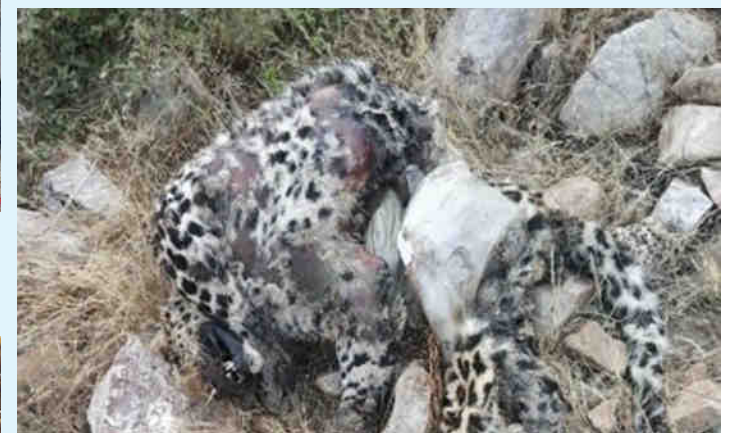
## Reports of Dead Wildlife

1. On 29th October 2020, the VWV found a dead leopard and mongoose near Lundhavadi, Maharo area. Forest Officials were informed about the incident. Doubt of poisoning.

2. February 23rd 2021 A dead leopard was found near Baharda village, Kailadevi Range. VWV immediately informed the Forest Officials. The Forest Staff reached there and carried out all procedures.

3. On 14th April 2021, VWV Dharm Singh from Maharo village found the carcass of a sloth bear near Sawata dam. He immediately informed Forest Officials. They took the carcass and postmortem was conducted, but as the body had decomposed, it was difficult to determine the actual cause of death.

4. On 30th June 2021, the VWV found a dead leopard in the Mohammadpura area. The VWV reported it to the Forest Department.





# RAJASTHAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK



Tiger Watch has incrementally worked towards building a pan-Rajasthan approach to wildlife conservation, and has recognized the need for a, 'Rajasthan Biodiversity Network' (RBN). The RBN's agenda is implemented by Tiger Watch and since its inception, the network has been consistently supported by Sh. Abhimanyu Golcha, and the Golcha Foundation.

[www.rajasthanbiodiversity.org](http://www.rajasthanbiodiversity.org)





## Background

The importance of Rajasthan's biodiversity simply cannot be overstated. An ecosystem's biodiversity reflects the health of that particular ecosystem. Each species, no matter how big or small has an extremely important role to play. It is on the services provided by these very ecosystems on which our existence is dependent. The state's rich biodiversity is a reflection of the wide variety of ecosystems found in Rajasthan and it provides the perfect impetus for their protection.

Tiger Watch has incrementally worked towards building a pan-Rajasthan approach towards wildlife conservation, and has recognized the need for a, 'Rajasthan Biodiversity Network'. Implemented by Tiger Watch, the network seeks to consolidate on going conservation efforts for key umbrella species across fragile landscapes in the state of Rajasthan, and thus seeks to engage the most dynamic individuals for the purpose. The network was born at the 9th Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture & Award Function in March 2019, and was formally inaugurated by Sh. Valmik Thapar, India's foremost tiger expert. Since its inception, the network has been consistently supported by Sh. Abhimanyu Golcha, and the Golcha Foundation.

The network is currently led by Sh. Abhimanyu Golcha, Sh. Y.K. Sahu, Dr. Dharmendra Khandal and Dr. Satish Sharma.

[www.rajasthanbiodiversity.org](http://www.rajasthanbiodiversity.org)



## Activity

1.) Conservation: Consolidating key conservation efforts in the state of Rajasthan is the primary raison d'être for the Rajasthan Biodiversity Network. There are multiple conservation efforts being led across the state from those focused on the Tiger in Ranthambhore to the perilously close to extinction, Great Indian Bustard in the Desert National Park. All are of equal importance to their ecosystems and all credible efforts to conserve them will be made a part of a broader narrative.

2.) Exploration: The implication of focusing on umbrella species is that a multitude of ecosystems across fragile landscapes will be protected. This will include pioneering and ground breaking research expeditions across landscapes in Rajasthan. Any conservation interventions emanating from the network will be the most scientifically informed to date.

3.) Awareness: Awareness is the 3rd pillar of the network. All of the network's findings will be available on an online portal. The network will also be accessible to the general public to constructively engage with via the portal. The network will be the MOST credible source of information on all matters relevant to Rajasthan's biodiversity .



[www.rajasthanbiodiversity.org](http://www.rajasthanbiodiversity.org)





## Update

The network's website has made very significant strides towards becoming the most credible source of information on all matters relevant to the biodiversity of the state of Rajasthan. To date, we have published 193 articles by 44 authors. The articles encompass a broad range of categories such as species, landscapes, conservation, and most recently to popular acclaim, the annals of history. Authorship has also been varied, and has included eminent individuals from multiple backgrounds, such as wildlife conservationist Sh. Valmik Thapar, investigative journalist Sh. Jay Mazoomdaar, and veteran forest officer, Sh. Gobind Sagar Bharadwaj as well as individuals from local communities living near protected areas. Readership has been steadily increasing, and there is also positive feedback from outside the state of Rajasthan. In addition, updated species checklists for the state of Rajasthan, have been made available to the public on the website.

We are also in the process of making all scientific literature on the flora and fauna of Rajasthan available on the website. While this is a mammoth undertaking, such consolidation will only serve the purpose of more nuanced wildlife conservation interventions, as well as encourage far more research with a tangible impact on ground zero.

[www.rajasthanbiodiversity.org](http://www.rajasthanbiodiversity.org)



# MOGYA EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tiger Watch started the Mogya Education Program (MEP) in 2006. Most of the students in the program are first generation learners of this community.

Supported by





# Mogya Education Program

## Background:

The Mogyas are a semi-nomadic traditional hunting community from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In the past, they used to accompany local rulers on hunting expeditions and provided protection to crops. After the introduction of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, their traditional profession became illegal. The complete lack of other professional skills and formal education resulted in their being relegated to the periphery of the society. However, due to excellent tracking and shooting skills, they were roped into organised wildlife crime. Since the declaration of Ranthambhore as a protected area, law enforcing agencies consider them a threat to wildlife.

Tiger Watch, a non-governmental organization (NGO) with the core objective of the protection of wildlife in and around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR) since 1998, played an important role in the conservation of tiger in Ranthambhore. Since the very beginning Tiger Watch has been involved in anti-poaching. While doing this work, the need to tackle the long term involvement of the Mogya community in poaching was realized. Due to their semi-nomadic nature, formal education was almost unheard of among the Mogyas.

Formal education is the key to opening many doors and breaking free from poverty. Without education, it is difficult to live a life of dignity. Considering the fact that education is a key instrument for social and economic change in society, Tiger Watch decided to educate the Mogyas for the future of both wildlife and the community.

Tiger Watch started the Mogya Education Programme (MEP) in 2006. Most of the students in the program are first generation learners. It was initially difficult to convince members of the Mogya community to enrol their students in the program. In the beginning, there were 9 students, there are now 95 Students from the Mogya community in the program.

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 gaps.
- 4) Guiding them away from their traditional hunting work, therefore weaning them off poaching by providing them with 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.

This program has successfully completed 16 years of growth and progress. The program is supported by Sud-Chemie India.

<https://tigerwatch.net/poaching-community-reform/>





## COVID 19 Update

Ever since the outbreak of COVID 19, our Mogya Education Program (MEP) temporarily closed its hostel facilities and shifted to a home school model. Hostel warden Shri Meethalal Gurjer, Shri Dharm Singh Gurjer and Shri Giriraj Gujar travel to individual families or groups of families for lessons. They visit - Halonda, Dundipura, Rodawat, Mui Khedli, Laxmipura, Roshan-pura, villages to teach the children. Total 95 students study in these classes. This led to girls in Mogya families (at times even adults) participating in lessons! A first for the community which has quickly evolved into a new normal since 2020.

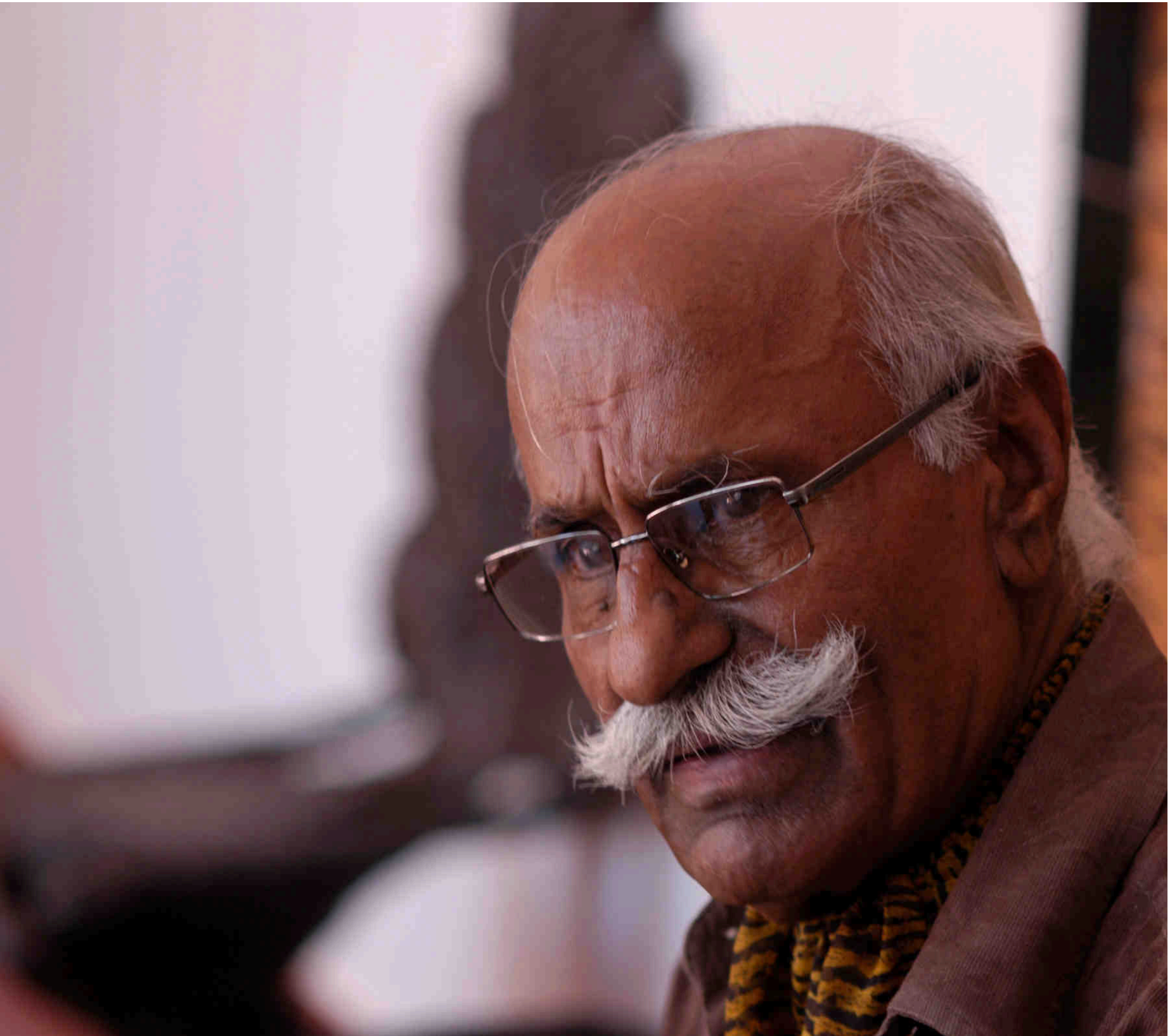




# FATEH SINGH RATHORE MEMORIAL LECTURE AND CONSERVATION AWARDS

We organise this event every year to celebrate the life and work of our late founder Sh. Fateh Singh Rathore. The award ceremony was initiated by Fateh ji himself in 2006. It was his way of providing a platform to recognise the outstanding work done by people locally and other parts in India to help further the cause of wildlife conservation. 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 honour people for their contributions in saving and protecting wildlife in the state of Rajasthan.

Unfortunately, this year, lockdowns in connection to COVID-19 have compelled us to put such events on hold for the moment. We hope to resume this cherished annual tradition as soon as public health circumstances allow us to.





## LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Two workshops at Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI): Dr. Dharmendra Khandal delivered four online lectures on wildlife crime and anti-poaching at the Central Detective Training Institute- Jaipur. Thereby building the capacity of police (Inspectors to Additional Supritendent of Police level) detectives from 10 different Indian states in tackling wildlife crime.
2. To commemorate Van Mahostav 2021, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)organized a National Webinar Series Talk on Involving Local Communities in Wildlife Conservation. The talk was delivered by Dr. Dharmendra Khandal and was attended by 250 participants which included school and colleges students, academicians, and teachers.
3. On July 29th 2021, Dr. Dharmendra Khandal was invited on a panel of speakers for a one day national webinar on Acquaintance with Animals and Human Welfare by the Department of Zoology, L.B.S Govt. College Kotputli
4. On 27th June 2021, an online talk delivered by Dr. Dharmendra Khandal in a Citizen Science Talk series organised by Oasis Eco Club of IISER- Behrampur.
5. On 25th August 2021, Dr. Dhaermendra Khandal delivered a lecture on Grassland work shop organised by Rajeev Gandhi Natural History Museum, Sawai Madhopur. The topic was Fauna of Grassland Ecosystem.
6. Dharmendra Khandal and team Tiger Watch provided 4 video lectures and 8 presntations to IIIT for developing a wildlife course. We also guided them to plan the course and connected to various experts. The course was brain child of Shri Giriraj Singh Kushwaha, IAS. This online course has been attended by 15000 students.





# Support to the Local Community

1. In an extremely unfortunate incident yesterday, Sh. PappuGurjer is believed to have been killed by a Tiger near the village of Kaneti. This was outside the Tiger Reserve in the Banas Ravines area, which forms a crucial corridor between the Ranthambhore National Park and Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary. Jaisal Singh of SUJAN has contributed INR 50,000 to his widow. Tiger Watch Ranthambhore has also contributed INR 50,000 to his widow. We would like to thank local Forest Guard, Sh. Vishal Gurjer for handing over the cheques to the family on behalf of both parties. The Rajasthan Forest Department has compensated his widow with INR Four Lac. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sh. PappuGurjer and his family at this difficult time.



2. Felicitating the Auxiliary Network 2021  
Our Village Wildlife Volunteers rely on local community members for crucial actionable information on the movement of tigers, antipoaching & human wildlife conflict outside the protected areas of Ranthambhore. Many such local community members have

slowly evolved into tremendous wildlife warriors in their own right. Starting 2019, we began to formalize their participation through an auxiliary network, an additional community led frontline in the protection of Ranthambhore's wildlife. Seen here are VWV Coordinators felicitating network members. The auxiliary network would not be possible without Abhimanyu Golcha & the Golcha Foundation.

3. Pension Support to Prem Bai W/o of the late Jugraj Mogya  
Prembai is wife of a reform poacher. Jugraj Mogya was initially a poacher and had killed many Tigers in and around Ranthambhore, but during the anti poaching drive led by Tiger Watch, he surrendered and went to jail for quite some time. After serving his time, he came out a reformed poacher & Tiger Watch helped him in procuring job in the Forest Department. Due to his severe illness, he passed away in February 2017 leaving his family of seven kids and wife behind. Tiger Watch played a crucial role in the re-settlement of the family by providing a monthly pension of INR 5,000 to the wife of Jugraj Mogya after he passed away. This pension fund is provided by an ardent supporter of Tiger Watch – Mr. Dietr Gutman from Germany.







## In Memory of Sh. P.K. Sen

We mourn the loss of Sh. P.K. Sen, who passed away this morning as a result of COVID-19. Sen sahib served as Director of Project Tiger for a very precarious period for tigers in India during the 1990s and was awarded a Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2010 for his stellar efforts in the conservation of tigers in India. He worked as an executive director of NGO Ranthambhore Foundation.

Sen sahib was a firm supporter of wildlife conservation endeavours in Ranthambhore and a friend to Tiger Watch. The entire team at Tiger Watch Ranthambhore expresses its heartfelt condolences to all his loved ones, and keeps him in our thoughts and prayers.





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Mr. Harimohan Gurjar  
(Head VWV Program)



Mr. Meethalal Gurjar  
(Head MEP Program)



Mr. Dharm Singh Gurjar  
(Head Bagh Mitra School)



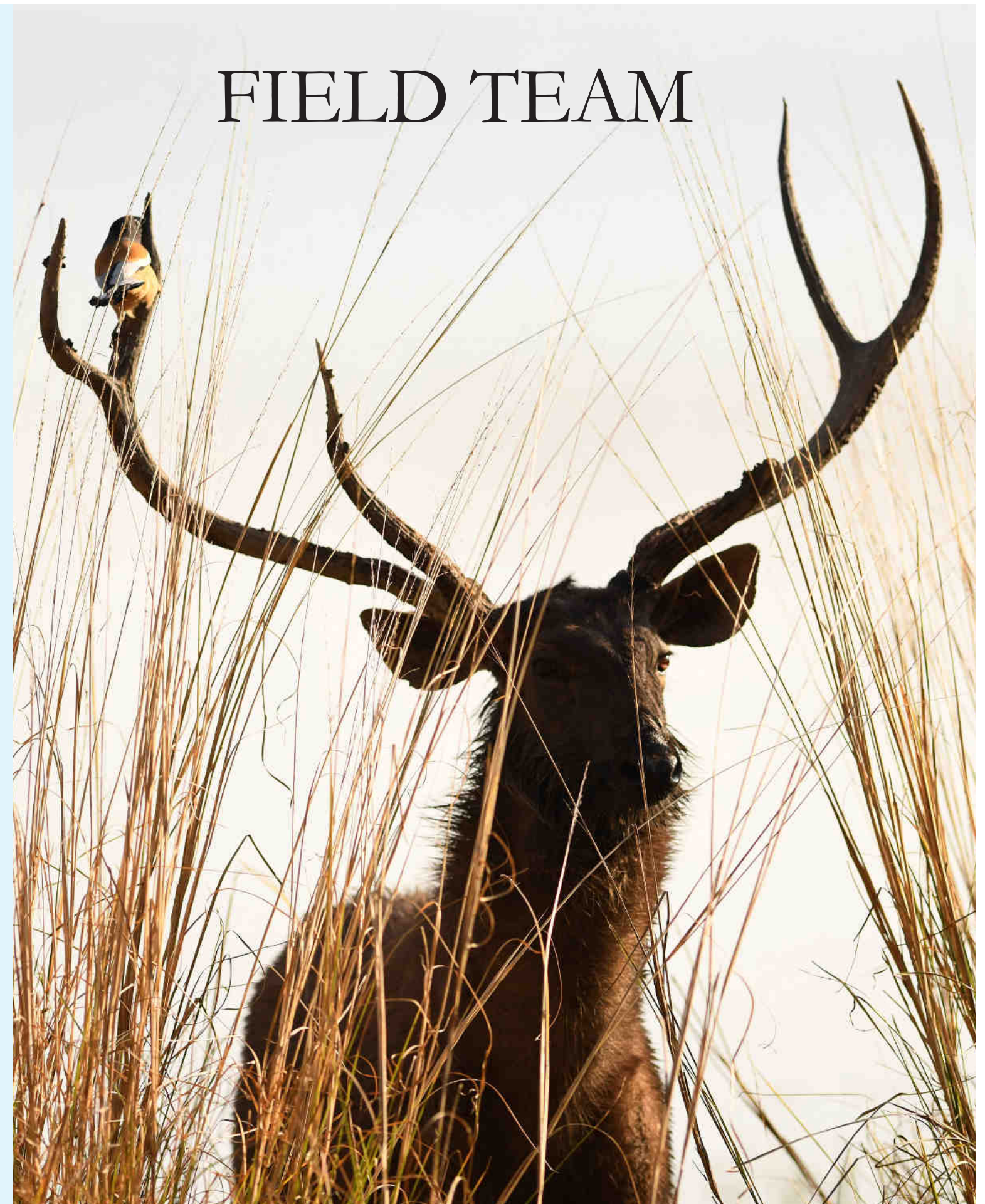
Mr. Bihar singh  
(VWV Coordinator)



Mr. Dharm singh Gurjar  
(VWV Coordinator)



Mr. Harisingh Gurjar  
(VWV Coordinator)





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Mr. Ajay Chopra





## 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

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