

Slide 1 / FATEH SINGH RATHORE



Good afternoon, dear Members of Tiger Watch, audience and friends of nature

My name is Dieter Gutmann, from Hamburg – Germany;

Slide 2 / VILLAGE SCHOOL



As you know, we have been sponsoring the Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Awareness Program, accomplished in more than 50 schools running a special campaign on TIGER HABITAT in Sawai Madhopur. More than 10,000 children were by this means enlightened on the enormous significance and value of them for Nature and Mankind. Supposedly, the majority of these children talked about this to their parents, who in their youth, often had not a single chance to go to school and to acquire such knowledge. This is how to create a greater understanding about this subject for the local people – and at the end for the needs to secure those Nature Areas; at least a gift of Lord Brahma to the people.

Slide 3 / 2005 LAST DOMINANT MALE



It was in the year 2005 – we had, by luck, two outstanding encounters:

...our first meeting with Fateh Singh Rathore;

...to see the last dominant Male Tiger of Ranthambhore on Run 3; we were alone with the beast for about 45 minutes! What a privilege.

These two experiences were the catalysts for kindling a fire in our hearts, which led us to investigate the subject of Tiger Conservation more deeply.

Slide 4 / HAMBURG



If you should ask us why such engagement from so far away as about nearly 6000 Kilometer; these are our reasons and motivations :

Slide 5 / AFRICA – WILDLIFE



- We love nature—especially Big Cats. 50 years ago, we realised their special value for Man and Nature for the first time in East Africa.
- We began to understand that men must succeed in preserving, maintaining, and, if possible, expanding the Protected Natural areas that already exist.
- In India, this concerns us with some important National Parks. The area of Ranthambhore has reached an outstanding significance thanks to Fateh Singh Rathore's lifelong engagement. Contrary to what happened at Sariska and Panna NP, the population of tigers did not collapse because of Tiger Watch's fruitful cooperation with the local authorities in the most critical phase at the beginning of the millennium, which grew over time.

Slide 6 / RANTHAMBHORE FROM TOP



- Up until 2010, we had the opportunity to explore Ranthambhore several times; we were with Fateh in his so called living room. This national Park has an extraordinarily interesting geological structure, which did not, from the bird's eye's view, let us expect the existence of a tiger paradise.

Slide 7 / MOGYAS



- We have supported Tiger Watch's activities step by step. Also, supported some Mogya families have lived on the park's edge since 2007. We have followed Tiger Watch's strategies and proceedings carefully. The solid teamwork with the local Indian authorities was a further asset in reaching the goals.
- But it is certainly very important not to focus on the Big Cat alone; it's also necessary to encompass the whole habitat with the support of the local inhabitants.

Slide 8 / BOTSWANA-Slide 1



- We could compare Tiger Watch's working methods with our experiences in Botswana since 2004, where we have been engaged in a similar research project in the Southern Kalahari Desert for over 20 years. There, we have to deal with Leopards, Lions, and the coexistence of the SAN population. We are also Partners of the Wildlife Authority Development of Botswana's Big-Cat Strategy Commission.
- Some years ago, having seen the excellent work done by Tiger Watch, with special thanks to Dharmendra, we decided to establish an independent project.
- Politics worldwide only thinks in the short term. It is absolutely necessary to manage and develop protected areas through long-term, stability-oriented measures. Of course, this also means neverending compromise between NGO's and Government Institutions.
- Last year and at this place, I have already talked and addressed „ALL of THIS“ what must be said; also when having Nature's protection worldwide in mind and to recognise in time the ever again occurring mishaps and dangers.

Instead of submitting to Nature's mechanisms, Mankind, out of sheer greed, is driving a fatal exploitation crusade on our natural resources, which will inevitably lead to disaster. Considering the ever mounting speed this process is taking, we shall have – probably already in 2023 to face the loss of many vital basics for human life. Now some comments on the present situation in general, based on our own experiences.

Slide 9 / INDIA-MAP - travel-touring



Looking at the pictures, you can see that my wife and I systematically travelled all around the Indian Subcontinent, your Homeland. We have seen the enormous change process all over! The length of time we spent in different Indian areas amounts to about two years in total. These years gave us insight into the varieties of your country's cultural traditions, for which we are very grateful.

The main interest, however, was always Nature and its preservation. All of us have to realize that our generation up to fill now and generations before us, too, have been overexploiting. These observations became facts after repeatedly visiting around 20 Tiger Reserves in Nepal and India.

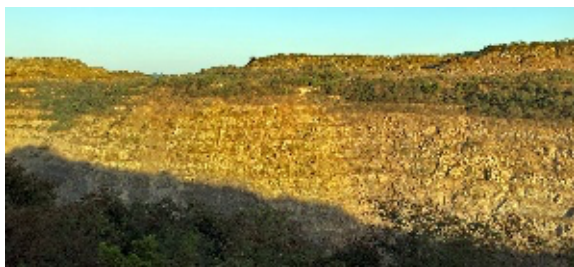
What is motivating us today thinking of the near future of Tiger-protection?

- The steady growth of infrastructural development and the economic rise – so long desired – has certainly changed your country enormously, especially in the last 20 years. More and more Indians can afford to travel. Tiger-Tourism has increased intensively – nationally as well as internationally.

As outsiders, we realized the following main disruptive factors in Tiger-National-Parks :

- Too many people are crowding the National Parks.

Slide 10 / Mining Business



- Protected areas are endangered by „Mining businesses “and infrastructural and industrial development.
- Where Tiger Populations seemed to be successfully secured, as they are now in Ranthambhore, danger has increased that Tigers leave their habitat because of overpopulation and intrude into human living zones. We in Germany are facing a similar problem with Wolves, of which, since recently, a certain quota may be shot under certain conditions.
- Stock prey, a necessity for the survival of National Parks, is also diminishing due to bushmeat effects. More than 350 million Indians are not vegetarians and consume meat enthusiastically. This figure is rising!

Slide 11 / ALIEN FLORA – Wild Mint & Lantana

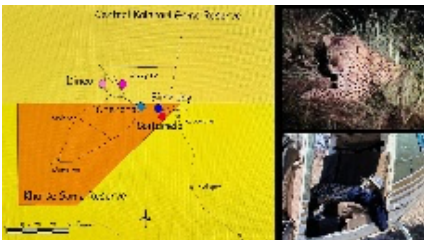


- In some regions, we also observed a dramatically negative development of invasive flora. Invasive plants, such as „WILD MINT“ and „LANTANA, “ are conquering big areas and building up to an extremely thickening overgrowth. The animals don't eat these plants and emigrate to other biotopes. Tree growth has been reduced from 10 to 1 mm per year. This is a real threat to the very existence of some National Parks, as, for instance, I especially think about Kanha and Bandipur.

What have our many intensive operations in the protected areas—especially in and around Chitwan in Nepal, Tadoba in Maharashtra, and Ranthambhore—told us? What have we learned?

- Politics must guarantee the lasting preservation of the National Parks.
- Politics must realise that the mining business is a hazardous disruptive factor which must be held under survey!

Slide 12 / Kalahari – MAP –



- Global warming effects concerning Fauna and Flora. The change process in National Parks should be monitored and registered. In our Botswana project, a team was taking for 20 years one photo each month in an area of 3.000 km² from 25 different geographical points in all 4 directions: North, South, East and West. These photos are evaluated in a cycle of several years to recognize strong changes. At the same time, the stock of wild animals is counted monthly. Moreover, on game accounts, they use mathematic-driven software modules for scientific work in cooperation with Universities.

Slide 13 / Tiger Tourism



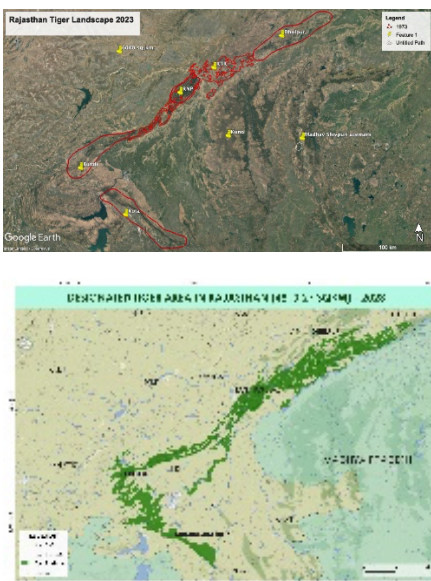
- Tiger Tourism needs to be continuously and reliably controlled.

- On the one hand, we appreciate that the living areas of Tigers for Tourism were reduced some years ago from 40% to 20 %. This was a very sensible and necessary decision.
 - on the other hand the way Tiger-Tourism is managed nowadays must be changed, internally as well as externally.
- a) What we saw last year in the Tadoba National Park and in the local surroundings – Bufferzones – thereof is a pioneering concept, even now legally valid and practised in all Maharashtra's National Parks. Also you cannot enter the park having a Smartphone; you have to give away the Smartphone before entering the park. The new concept based on the work of the couple Poonam and Harsh Dhanwatey in cooperation with the Government Wildlife-Institutions. The nucleus of their work consisted of transferring Tiger Tourism's management onto the local population, which led to important favourable changes for the Locals, the tourists and the animals, which all of them were less stressed. At the end, it means that Driver and Guide are from the local tribe ! They are responsible that Tourists following the strong rules. No people from Wildlife-Department is in any Tourist car at all !

I recommend an exchange of thoughts between Tiger Watch, the couple Dhanwatey, who runs the TRACT NGO, and the Maharashtra wildlife authorities!

- b) For the future you should think also about limiting visits. For example one and the same person should be allowed to visit one Tiger-Nationalpark only twice or three times. This proposal is based on foresight. Tiger tourism will increase considerably. Think about it: when the actual number of travellers in India is 200 million people, their number will rise to 500 million in just a few years due to further economic growth. It will have an enormous impact on all National Parks. We have seen this rather negative development in other countries too, for instance in the USA. (e.g. Yellowstone etc.)

Slide 14 / Map Ranthambhore future conceptional framework



Now, I have come to the end of my speech. My wife and I have not come to this Fateh Memorial alone because we want to engage more deeply in further Tiger Watch projects until the year 2030 and beyond. We wish and desire that tiger protection in Ranthambhore and its surroundings through the support of the authorities involved and that Tiger Watch's work will flourish with the hither to gain success. We

hope it will be possible – as planned – to enlarge the tiger's living areas. A real challenge for such a conceptual framework.

Slide 15 / Dr. Dharmendra Khandal and wife Divya



At this point, my wife and I have to emphasize that our decision to spend such an amount of money is based on the fact that we fully trust Dr Dharmendra Khandal and the board members behind the curtain of grass-roots work! Dharmendra is the key to our success guarantee up to now; also, his wife Divya's Dhonk-Organisation is an outstanding activity that supports the local community in the best way!

Slide 16 / Fateh Singh & Dieter



Fateh Singh would be so happy if he could compare the status of 2005 with the actual situation all around !

I should mention at this point, that Goverdhan, in the shadow of his father Fateh Singh Rathore, has done also a great job over the time for the protection of Ranthambhore.

Finally, we shall stay at your side ! also in memory of Fateh Singh Rathore !

Thank you for your attention.

Dieter Gutmann