

# TIGER COUNTRY



Helping Save Bhutan's Natural Heritage



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Jose Louies, Sonam Wangchuk, Vivek Menon, Kelvin Alie and Azzedine Downes





Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is a leading Indian nature conservation organisation committed to the service of nature. Its mission is to conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments. WTI's team of 150 dedicated professionals work towards achieving its vision of a secure natural heritage of India, in six priority landscapes, knit holistically together by seven key strategies or Big Ideas.



The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) works to improve the welfare of wild and domestic animals throughout the world by reducing commercial exploitation of animals, protecting wildlife habitats, and assisting animals in distress. IFAW seeks to motivate the public to prevent cruelty to animals and to promote animal welfare and conservation policies that advance the well-being of both animals and people.

The designations of geographical entities in this publication and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the authors or WTI concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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## MESSAGE



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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
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### Message from Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji

I am most pleased to see the publication of the first ever report showcasing the collective effort among Bhutan Government, International Fund for Animal Welfare and Wildlife Trust of India. As pointed out, the report spells out the key results of collaboration in domains ranging from grassroots initiatives to international advocacy working with iconic species Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) and many other endangered species. For over four years now, Bhutan Government had the privilege to be assisted by, among others, the two key enforcement organizations in building capacity of frontline staffs for more effective anti-poaching operations and training for enforcement agencies like Police, Army, Customs and other enforcement agencies under Ministry of Agriculture and Forest in wildlife trade control.

Firstly, the International Fund for Animal Welfare commands huge global respect for its humane care of animals, both wild and tame, and it is our good fortune to benefit from their vast experience and expertise. Secondly, the Wildlife Trust of India which is a pioneering private entity from India and staffed by some of India's most prominent conservationists is our most effective partner. The current CEO - Mr Vivek Menon and his colleagues has pioneered any of the techniques and approaches to fighting wildlife crime in the region.

While, Bhutan is blessed with a rich and pristine natural heritage, naturally endowed and consciously maintained under the far-sighted leadership of our Kings and nurtured with a deep rooted cultural and religious reverence for all life and nature, the emerging threats of illegal wildlife trade in the neighbouring countries will present big challenge to a small country like Bhutan with porous border on all sides.

Thus, I feel that the partnership between the Royal Government of Bhutan and IFAW-WTI is a critical one. I can only express my deep appreciation for the valuable contributions these organizations have rendered. It is truly commendable, and fittingly reflects their commitment and support for wildlife conservation in our part of the world. I look forward to a continued support in the future.

Tashi Dalek!

  
(Yeshey Dorji)

## FOREWORD



## International Fund for Animal Welfare

Bhutan is a remarkable country and unique in a number of ways: for its warm and caring people, the rich natural heritage preserved here, and its measurement of growth in terms of Gross National Happiness. Of special note is the unique importance than Bhutan gives to nature, mandating 51% of the country as legally protected through an ecologically representative network of parks and biological corridors. To my knowledge, no country in the world has equaled this commitment, but I do hope that many aspire to, because Bhutan represents the future.

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The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and our partner the Wildlife Trust of India's (WTI) collaboration with the Bhutanese government to help secure the country's natural heritage began in 2011 with the first Prevention of Wildlife Trade Training for the country's enforcement agencies to help reduce wildlife crime. We have since then equipped and jointly carried out training of the country's entire frontline forest force. In addition, our Rapid Action Project is helping the authorities deal with wildlife conflicts and address other wildlife issues, while our campaigns aim to raise awareness and educate diverse target audiences.

It gives us immense pleasure to issue this report, a compilation of our conservation actions in Bhutan. We are proud to join the government , civil society groups and community members in working to better secure Bhutan's wildlife, and we commit ourselves to continued service as part of our global efforts to achieve a better world for animals and people.

On behalf of IFAW-WTI and the entire conservation fraternity, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the frontline staff, the enforcement authorities, and the government and people of Bhutan for welcoming us to join their efforts to protect their natural heritage.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a series of loops and a final horizontal stroke.

Azzedine Downes  
President and CEO



## PREFACE

Bhutan is a conservation giant among nations. It has constitutionally enshrined forest protection and its Protected Areas are all linked. The people on the whole have a conservation friendly ethic. And the tiger, the elephant, the snow leopard and the takin are all equally protected and venerated. It is in such a land that IFAW-WTI arrived five years ago with some thoughts and wishes to collaborate, cooperate and partner with the Bhutanese government in its conservation programs.

'Tiger Country' is a rendering of four years of work in Bhutan. And what an apt title it is. Not because Bhutan has the largest number of tigers, but because it has tigers almost through the length and breadth of the country. From snow-capped Himalayan peaks to the lush terai bordering India, the tiger is omnipresent and Bhutan can thus proudly call itself a tiger land.

The first phase of IFAW-WTI's work has been at the frontlines, training forest guards, training customs and enforcement personnel, and training veterinarians. It is only technical knowledge that can combine with the unique ethos of Bhutan and take the nation forward in its conservation dream. This round of trainings has covered hundreds of Bhutanese nature conservation professionals and is planned to continue over the next few years. In tandem, several short Rapid Action Projects have assisted the forest department in taking urgent action when wildlife was in distress.

This report documents but a beginning, and I hope that as the first five-year phase of the tripartite MoU between the Government of Bhutan and IFAW-WTI draws to a close in 2017, much more would have been accomplished.



Vivek Menon  
ED & CEO  
Wildlife Trust of India  
Senior Advisor to President and CEO  
International Fund for Animal Welfare



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The conservation initiatives detailed in this report would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of the following individuals, organisations and government departments, listed here in no particular order:

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Ms. Dechen Lham (Senior Biodiversity Officer, Wildlife Conservation Division), Mr. Sonam Wangdi (Forestry Officer, Wildlife Conservation Division), Mr. Lendhup Tharchen (Forestry Officer, Wildlife Conservation Division), Mr. Chhogley Namgyal (Forestry Officer, Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit), and all other present and former forest officials and staff of DoFPS. Without their constant support, this project would not have been possible.

The representatives from the Royal Bhutan Army, Royal Bhutan Police, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), Department of Revenue and Customs, Judiciary and Office of the Attorney General, for their enthusiastic participation in the trainings.

We would also like to thank Mr. Kinley Rabgay, Mr. Udgyen Tenzin, Mr. Ratu Wangchuk, Ms. Tshering Zam, Mr. Tandin, Ms. Namgay Bidha, Mr. Namgay Wangchuk, Mr. Sangay Dorji for sharing their valuable experience for the trainings.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Ian Robinson (Vice President, IFAW), Dr. Elsayed Mohamed (Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa, IFAW), James Kinney (Program Officer and Campaigner, IFAW) and Andreou Andreas (Criminal Intelligence Officer, Environment Security Unit, INTERPOL) for sharing their time and knowledge, and for their support for the project.

We are also grateful to Dr. Jagdish Kishwan (Chief Advisor, Policy and Project Implementation, WTI), Dr. NVK Ashraf (Senior Director and Chief Veterinarian, WTI) and Mr. Aniruddha Mookerjee (Senior Advisor, WTI) for sharing their knowledge and time. We would also like to thank WTI's Mr. Jeetendra Kumar, Mr. Amrit Menon, Mr. Mukesh Pathania, Mr. Amitabha Choudhury and Mr. Sheren Shrestha for their valuable suggestions and constant support.

We also express our gratitude to Gregory Mountain Products for their generous contribution in equipping 50 frontline staff in Bhutan with backpacks.

And finally, our heartfelt thanks to Dasho Benji for his encouraging words, help and good advice at all times.

The authors seek sincere apologies if any individual or organisation has been inadvertently omitted from this list.





IFAW's mission is to rescue and protect animals around the world.

We rescue individuals, safeguard populations, and preserve habitat.

Founded in 1969, the International Fund for Animal Welfare saves individual animals, animal populations and habitats all over the world. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW provides hands-on assistance to animals in need, whether it's dogs and cats, wildlife and livestock, or rescuing animals in the wake of disasters. We also advocate saving populations from cruelty and depletion, such as our campaign to end commercial whaling and seal hunts.

## **GUIDING IDEAS**

**Our Vision:** Our vision is a world where animals are respected and protected.

**Our Promise:** We promise supporters and policy makers effective animal protection solutions delivered with intelligence, compassion and integrity.

**Our Principles:** In order to achieve IFAW's vision of a world where animals are respected and protected, we follow key principles in our hands-on projects with animals and in our advocacy work to secure better animal welfare protection in policy, legislation and society:

- It should be recognised that animals have intrinsic value and are sentient beings.
- Policy should be based on sound science and the ethical treatment of animals.
- Conservation decisions should be guided by ecological sustainability and biological sustainability, the precautionary principle and ethical treatment of animals.



Department of Forests and Park Services

### **Vision**

Sustaining Bhutan's forest resources & biodiversity for the happiness of present and future generations.

### **Mission**

To conserve and manage Bhutan's forest resources & biodiversity to ensure social, economic and environmental well-being, and to maintain a minimum of 60% of the land under forest cover for all times to come.

### **Core Mandates**

1. Maintenance of a minimum of 60% of the country's geographical area under forest cover for all times to come as mandated by the Constitution of Bhutan through development and implementation of forestry programs.
2. Conservation, protection, sustainable management and utilisation of state forests, forest soil, water resources and biodiversity through insightful application of good science and science based management prescriptions.
3. Ensuring Bhutan's commitments to international and regional conventions, treaties and non-legally binding instruments through participation, facilitation and enactment of enabling policies, legislations, strategies, plans and programs.

### **Core Functions**

1. Manage Bhutan's forests for sustainable production of economic and environmental goods and services, including sustainable supply of timber and other forest products, and to meet the long-term needs of society.
2. Maintain species persistence and ensure long-term sustainability of Bhutan's biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural habitats and cultural heritage.
3. Provide for effective and integrated watershed management, maintain and improve water and watershed conditions and contribute to sustainable livelihoods through provision of watershed services.
4. Provide for enabling environment for promotion of ecotourism and creation of nature recreational areas to bring benefits to local communities and enhance conservation.
5. Empower rural communities in managing forests sustainably for socio-economic benefits, poverty reduction and to contribute to overall sustainable forest management at the national level.
6. Facilitate raising forestry crop on registered land of individuals or institutions and accrue ecological, social and economic benefits.
7. Enable an economically viable and efficient forest-based industry aimed at adding value to forest products, and build capacity of private sector and rural communities to utilise, process and market forest products.
8. Carry out research to generate knowledge, information and technology to support policy implementation and development.





Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is a leading Indian nature conservation organisation committed to the service of nature. Its mission is to conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments. WTI's team of 150 dedicated professionals work towards achieving its vision of a secure natural heritage of India, in six priority landscapes, knit holistically together by seven key strategies or Big Ideas.

### **Our Vision**

A secure natural heritage of India.

### **Our Mission**

To conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments.

### **Our Priorities: The Big Ideas**

- 1. Wild Lands:** To secure critical habitats outside the traditional PA system, especially habitat linkages, wetlands, grasslands, community reserves, Important Bird Areas and sacred groves, thereby increasing the effective protected area of India by 1%.
- 2. Wild Aid:** To provide at least 500 short term, focused and innovative aid interventions at times of emergencies and conservation issues, so as to nip problems in the bud and provide game changing solutions to age old problems.
- 3. Enforcement and Law:** To combat key wildlife crime using trade control, litigation and capacity building techniques that demonstrably reduce poaching or trade in at least a dozen species or habitats.
- 4. Communities for Conservation:** Reduce the dependence of at least a dozen local communities on wildlife or their habitats through ecologically appropriate livelihoods and people's participation in conservation.
- 5. Awareness for Conservation:** Create a positive and measurable change in people's perceptions to improve the conservation and welfare of wildlife in India with at least a dozen planned campaigns.
- 6. Wild Rescue and Conflict Mitigation:** To increase the welfare of individual displaced animals while enhancing conservation and pioneering science based rehabilitation, conflict mitigation and wildlife health across India and in doing so to save at least 5000 lives in the decade.
- 7. Species Recovery:** To recover populations of at least six threatened species or sub-species by lowering their national or global status of threat through direct conservation action.





Fig. 1: Bhutan has maintained an admirable balance between its natural heritage and the developmental demands of its growing population, but the anthropogenic pressures on its wild lands will only increase.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bhutan's environmental policy is one of the strongest in the world, with 51% of the country legally protected through an ecologically representative network of parks and biological corridors. Together, these represent one of the last strongholds for several globally significant species of fauna and flora, such as the tiger, elephant, rhinoceros, black-necked crane and over 40 species of rhododendrons, among others.

At the same time, the demands of a growing population are beginning to increase the pressure on Bhutan's natural resources. The country's contiguity with India and China also makes it an important conduit in the illegal trade in wildlife products; the illicit international demand for tiger skins and bones in particular continues to be the main reason for the unrelenting poaching pressure on tigers in India, Bhutan and Nepal among other tiger range countries. Training and capacity building of enforcement agencies in Bhutan is essential, therefore, to improve their efficiency in wildlife crime detection and prevention.

All tiger range countries need to increase the probability of detection, arrest, prosecution and conviction, enhance the level of penalties, and make enforcement efforts smarter and more focused. Enforcement agencies need to conduct intelligence-led multi-disciplinary criminal investigations.

IFAW-WTI has been assisting governments and international agencies tackle these complex problems by, among other things, facilitating and enhancing cooperation among key agencies (at global, regional and national levels); providing capacity building and training opportunities; helping to improve baseline data collection and dissemination, exchange and analysis; helping

to create adequate legislation; and raising awareness among key stakeholders.

Transboundary conservation is one of the most important components of emerging large scale conservation approaches. With IFAW-WTI having worked in Protected Areas bordering Bhutan over the past several years, it has been a logical step forward to explore the issues, options and initiatives relating to conservation in Bhutan and identify possible mechanisms to address them.

There is also a need for timely and effective responses to conservation emergencies across Bhutan. There could be a need for rapid, short-term interventions in non emergency situations as well, but those that boost morale, change attitudes or present novel solutions to conservation crises are very important.

Be they human-induced or natural, these conservation threats, if not addressed in time, can have serious effects on the country's natural heritage. It has been our collective effort to address these issues in an effective and planned manner and we hope to continue to do so in the years to come.

Key activities under the project till date:

1. IFAW-WTI in collaboration with the Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS), Bhutan, has trained and equipped over 800 frontline staff from 13 Protected Areas and territorial divisions.
2. Over 220 enforcement officials from across Bhutan have been trained by IFAW-WTI to date. In July 2011 the first Prevention of Wildlife Trade (PWT) training was held



in Paro, Bhutan; 35 enforcement officials from the Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS), Army, Police, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), and Customs attended. At the second PWT training organised from February 10-14, 2014 in Paro, over 40 enforcement officials from different agencies were trained. Following this training, a refresher PWT training was also organised later in 2014. Two more trainings were then organised for enforcement agencies in 2015. These trainings focused not only on border checkpost staff but specifically on the Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit (FPSU).

3. Twenty-one key forest staff from DoFPS were trained in rescue and rehabilitation as well as conflict animal management in July 2011. Five forest staff and a veterinarian were also trained as part of an exposure trip to the IFAW-WTI run Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) near Kaziranga, Assam in order to develop

their knowledge on rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals. This training was conducted over a 12-day period.

4. To help raise awareness on the plight of wild tigers and their conservation among the general public, IFAW-WTI helped conduct the first International Tiger Day in Bhutan in July 2011. This support has since been sustained on a yearly basis.
5. The IFAW Think Twice campaign was also launched as a signature campaign by IFAW-WTI and DoFPS during the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation held at Thimpu in October 2012. About 200 dignitaries signed this campaign. An LED display on the campaign was placed at Paro International Airport.
6. Several Rapid Action Projects (RAPs) have been implemented in collaboration with DoFPS to further conservation efforts in Bhutan and address wildlife emergencies in a timely manner.



Fig. 2: Frontline field staff in Bhutan: protecting wildlife against all odds

**IFAW-WTI has made an enduring commitment to Bhutan's government to preserve the nation's natural heritage. The endeavour to create skilled and well equipped manpower for wildlife protection, and to develop a long-term project for identified needs in Bhutan, will continue. So too will the effort to facilitate a more integrated and coherent approach to managing the transboundary landscape across borders.**



## *Introduction*

### **Ecological Significance**

**T**he kingdom of Bhutan is a landlocked nation nestled in the southern slopes of the Eastern Himalayas. To its north lies the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and to its west, south and east respectively lie the Indian states of Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Encompassing an area of 38,394 sq km, Bhutan's terrain is one of the most rugged in the world, characterised by huge variations in altitude.

Bhutan's geographical and climatic diversity, due to its location at the juncture of the Palearctic realm of temperate Euro-Asia and the Indo-Malayan realm of the Indian subcontinent, contributes to outstanding biological diversity. The country is divided into three distinct altitudinal regions: Himalayan, temperate and subtropical, ranging from 100m to 7,000m.

Within these ecosystems can be found some of the most important representative species of wild flora and fauna. Inventories have so far recorded 200 mammal species, 800 birds and 5,500 vascular plants, many of them threatened elsewhere in the world. Bhutan ranks in the top 10% of countries with the highest species density on earth (*Biodiversity Action Plan, 2009; Tiger Action Plan 2006-2015*).

The ecological significance of Bhutan can be partly attributed to its low population base and comparatively harmonious relationship with its natural environment. The national population of a little over 750,000 people, most of whom are dependent on rural subsistence agriculture, combined with deep spiritual and cultural roots in Buddhism, help to promote and maintain overwhelming popular support for conservation. Moreover, the tiger is the flagship species in Bhutan in terms of conservation significance and national pride.

***In spite of its strong conservation record, Bhutan has rightly recognised that it cannot afford to be complacent. There is an increasing threat to its wildlife and habitats from a growing population and rural development.***

## Environmental Policy

Bhutan is widely regarded a model for proactive conservation. Environmental conservation has always been at the core of national policy, carefully nurtured under Bhutan's visionary monarchs and now safeguarded by modern legal instruments. Today, environmental conservation constitutes one of the four pillars of Gross National Happiness, the country's socio-economic development strategy.

This unique approach to sustainable development is manifested through extraordinary political commitments: not only have the people of Bhutan always treasured forests as an integral part of their lives, they have enshrined in the Constitution of 2006 the protection of at least 60% the country under forest cover in perpetuity. Today, more than 72% of the country is covered in natural forests, most of which have been lost in other parts of the Himalayas (*Biodiversity Action Plan, 2009; Tiger Action Plan 2006-2015*).

## Threats to Conservation

In spite of its strong conservation record, Bhutan has rightly recognised that it cannot afford to be complacent. There is an increasing threat to its wildlife and habitats from a growing population and rural development. Bhutan's recent transition to a modern democratic form of governance has seen the transfer of power and decision-making from the centre to the districts and rural corners.

More than ever before, the country is seeing a growing pressure on its natural heritage, stemming from expansion in rural development activities, upcoming mega hydropower projects bordering its parks, and a growing international demand for animal products.

Significant issues in the parks include: (i) development activities like building of farm roads and electricity transmission lines for villages within the parks, (ii) well organised poaching, (iii) human-wildlife conflict such as livestock depredation by tigers, leopards, bears and wild dogs, and crop damage by deer, wild pigs, monkeys and elephants, (iv) increased collection of fuel wood and timber, (v) unsustainable collection of cane and bamboo, (vi) grazing by free ranging cattle in the forests, (vii) high risk of fire to critical habitats, and (viii) inadequate capacity of park staff to deal with emerging threats (*Biodiversity Action Plan, 2009; Tiger Action Plan 2006-2015*).

**Bhutan's preservation of its natural habitats is one of the strongest in the world, with 51% of the country legally protected through an ecologically representative network of parks and biological corridors, representing one of the last strongholds for several globally significant species such as the tiger, snow leopard, elephant, rhinoceros, black-necked cranes and over 40 species of rhododendrons, amongst others.**



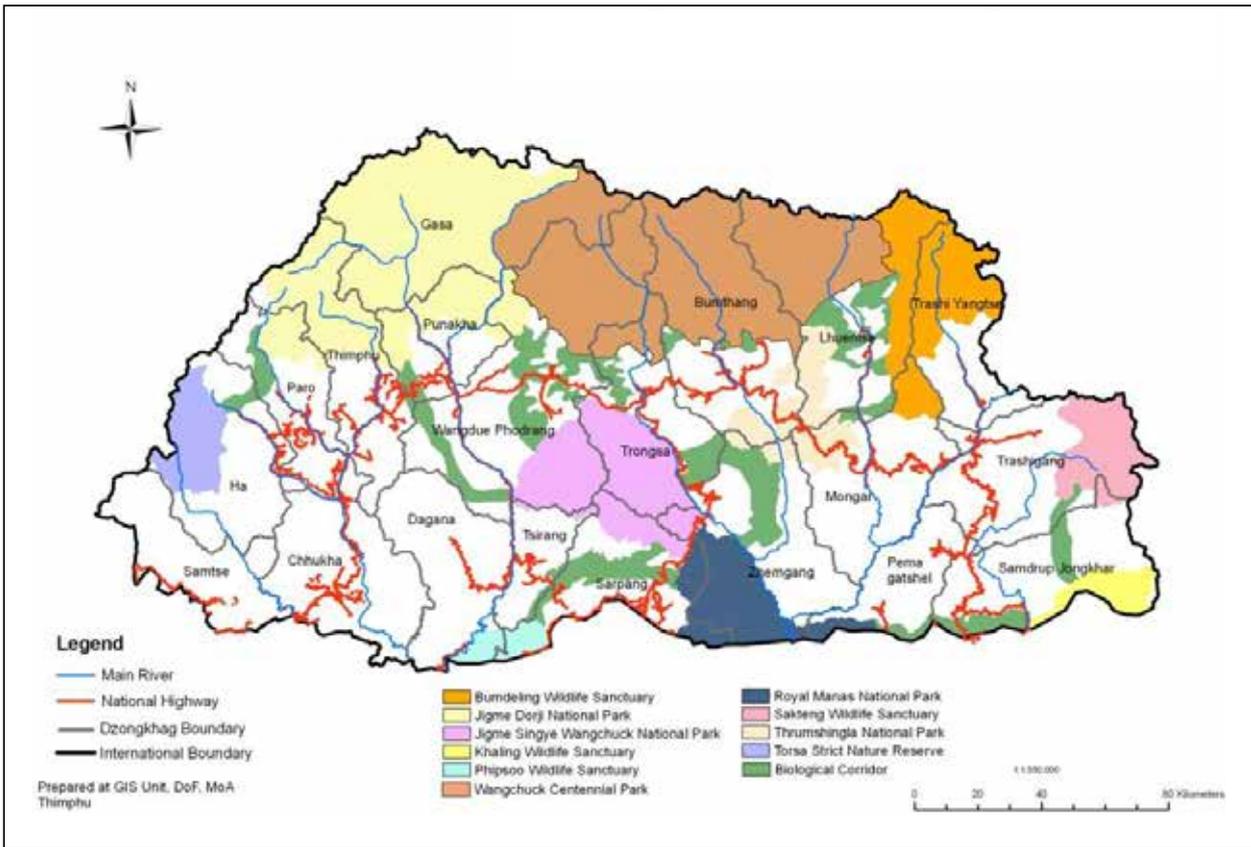


Fig. 3: Protected Areas and Biological Corridors in Bhutan

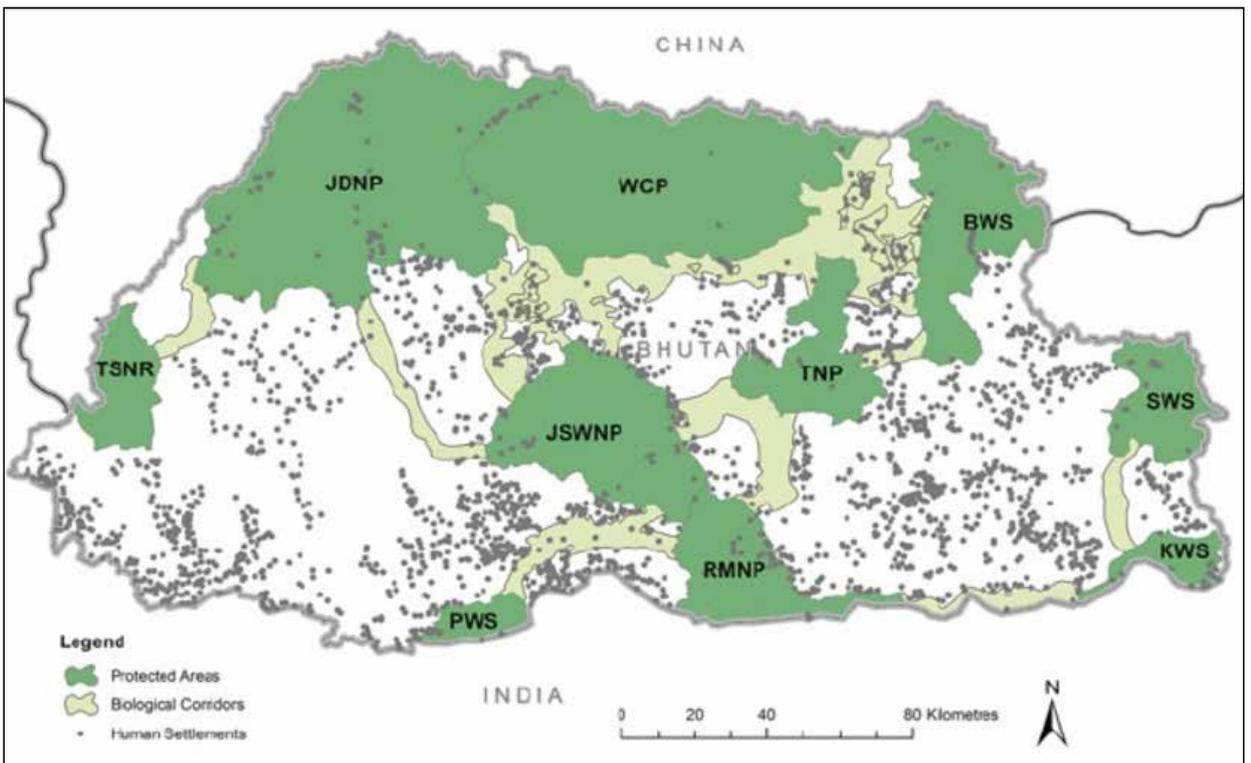


Fig. 4: Human settlements inside the Protected Areas in Bhutan

## Wildlife Crime and Trade

Traditional cultural sentiment, geographic and economic isolation, and a small population base did not give rise to the conditions in Bhutan that bred wildlife crime in other countries. However, with the onslaught of modernisation since the 1960s and the transformed political economy therein, both wildlife crimes and related illegal trade have emerged on the regulatory scene and more visibly in the public media.

Published records from 1992 to 2014 highlight the frequency of wildlife crime sorted by species (*Table 1*). While this is an official record, anecdotal knowledge and the significance of individual seizures (either in Bhutan or elsewhere) may be indicative of a much wider web of crimes perpetuated and illegal trade conducted.

Species	No. of cases recorded		
	1992-2007	2008-2014	TOTAL
Tiger	5	10	15
Leopard	15	0	15
Bear	20	8	28
Musk Deer	61	4	65
Barking Deer	24	0	24
Serow	4	0	4
Goral	2	1	3
Wild Pig	16	1	17
Porcupine	1	1	2
Sambar	21	5	26
Python	1	0	1
Pheasant	19	2	21
Goral	4	0	4
Otter	0	1	1
Snow Leopard	0	1	1
Cordyceps	0	31	31

Source: DoFPS

Table 1: Wildlife crime cases in Bhutan (by species)

The illicit demand for musk, bear bile, rhino horn and tiger derivatives for use in traditional

Chinese medicine, and the international trade in tiger skin and ivory, continue to be the primary reasons for the unrelenting pressure on tigers in India, Bhutan and Nepal, amongst other range countries.

Authorities highlight two primary causes underlying wildlife related crimes today:

- (i) Dire economic conditions, with the lure of fast cash and an easily accessible market across the borders
- (ii) Retaliatory killing by livestock owners, especially of tigers, snow leopards, leopards and wild dogs

In addition, two types of uses are known to promote wildlife crime:

- (i) For food and medicinal use
- (ii) For recreation

The most frequently and commonly cited constraint to tackling wildlife crimes is not the lack of law and policy nor political will, of which Bhutan has instituted the best models, but the lack of human capacity on the ground to recognise, address and mitigate all forms of such crimes.

As per a government notification dated 31st October 2013, the government revised national laws to incorporate drastic penalties for wildlife crimes. Specifically, the fines for any type of illegal killing or trade, whether in-country or imported, of the top two predators – the tiger and snow leopard – were increased to Nu. 1 million (USD 16,000) from the Nu. 50,000 (USD 800) adopted in 1995. Even attempting to kill or trade in the above species would now attract a fine of Nu. 500,000 (USD 8000), and penalties would be doubled and tripled for second and third term offenders.

It is hoped that such harsh measures will not only punish offenders, but more importantly deter future wildlife crime in Bhutan.



Fig. 5: Taktsang Monastery, Paro (Tiger's Nest)

## The Tiger in Bhutan

### *Cultural significance*

As the largest predator and the single species most indicative of the stability and health of the natural ecosystem, the tiger is the flagship species in Bhutan in terms of cultural significance and national pride.

In folklore, when Guru Padmasambhava (widely venerated as 'the second Buddha') brought Buddhism to the country in the 8th Century, he arrived in present-day Taktsang (or Tiger's

Nest) in Paro on the back of a flying tigress. This intrinsically established the tiger in Bhutan's religious and cultural ethos. The tiger is also one of the four protectors in the 'Tag Seng Chung Druk' quartet (with the mythical snow lion, garuda and dragon being the other three), and therefore a symbol of great social reverence.

### *Global importance*

Saving the tiger in Bhutan is a matter of global significance and has the potential to be an exemplary conservation success story for the world. Ensuring the survival of the tiger in the wild means healthy ecosystems maintained, balanced predator-prey dynamics, and a harmonious relationship between the natural and human worlds. In Bhutan almost all the enabling conditions are present, through intact habitats and ecosystems, a healthy breeding population, strong policy and legal protection, and basic material support in the form of human and budgetary resources from the state.

However, Bhutan's conservation infrastructure severely lacks both adequate and trained human resources to ensure the sound functioning of its national parks and wild habitats. Such human resources are critically required in large numbers to manage more than half of Bhutan's physical



The unique biological diversity of Bhutan is not only of tremendous ecological importance to the rest of the world; it also has high conservation value due to the charismatic mega-fauna present and the strong national policies that protect them. Bhutan is also unique due to the recent scientifically recorded presence of breeding tigers above 4,000 meters. Biological surveys indicate that at least over 100 individuals inhabit the country, from the grassland plains of southern Bhutan to the alpine tree line in the north (McDougal, C. *et al* 1998). Furthermore, unlike anywhere else in the world, the range and habitat of the two top South Asian predators – the tiger and snow leopard – frequently overlap throughout Bhutan.

landscape and its natural inhabitants: they are required to build and manage park infrastructure, provide nature education, and most important, to constantly monitor and ensure the protection and survival of Bhutan's rich natural heritage. Such a commitment to developing quality human resources can provide employment opportunities for the youth, enhance scientific knowledge and meaningfully ensure the role of conservation as a central pillar of Gross National Happiness.

Training and equipping frontline conservation staff and enforcement agencies may be one of the most effective, if not the most critical, components to fulfilling the goal of doubling the population of wild tigers by 2022, as adopted in October 2012 by the 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam, at the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in Bhutan.

### **The Nine-point Agenda of the Thimphu Declaration of 2012**

1. Actively strengthen front lines: Urgently enhance rewards, recognition and resources for frontline staff (in the form of numbers, institutional capacity, skills, tools, technology, infrastructure, operating costs and insurance against loss of life and injury) in all TRCs over the next three years.
2. Diligently conserve tiger habitats, both inside and outside Protected Areas, against current and future threats: Strengthen and continue programs to extend Protected Areas, remove current encroachments in core breeding areas and ensure full public disclosure through land-use plans, mapping current and future threats, application of the principles of Smart Green Infrastructure, better science to maintain quality habitats, smart patrolling to increase management effectiveness, and improved monitoring, with necessary programs and disclosure completed over the next two years.

3. Significantly enhance engagement with communities, making them partners in tiger and habitat conservation, sharing of benefits from conservation, expanding alternative livelihood programs, and promptly and adequately compensating villagers for losses due to/caused by tigers in all TRCs in two years.
4. Enhance and mainstream collaboration among TRCs in management of transboundary landscapes and corridors, combatting illegal trade, and eliminating illicit demand through bilateral/multilateral mechanisms and with the support of organisations such as ASEAN-WEN, SA WEN, INTERPOL and others.
5. Support TRCs with low tiger densities to launch tiger restoration programs: Build on lessons of success, create the conditions essential for successful restoration, and find suitable sources of tigers in at least two different national programs over three years.
6. Significantly accelerate the flow of national and external funds to support actions on the ground: Focus new support on gaps and accelerate projects to implement National Tiger Recovery Priorities (NTRPs) and fully fund the Global Tiger Recovery Program by 2014.
7. Develop a new partnership with business and industry: Engage business and industry in habitat conservation, valuation of ecosystems, sustainable finance, and outreach to consumers and other stakeholders, with five pilots that minimise and compensate for impacts to be launched across the TRCs in the next two years.
8. Develop and implement comprehensive national awareness strategies and initiatives to instill pride and bring people closer to nature to counteract the negative impacts on tigers from urbanisation, disengagement of youth, development and loss of cultural heritage, and to widely disseminate the value of tiger conservation landscapes.



9. Develop international action plans for a period of two years for each TRC with criteria and indicators to monitor NTRP/GTRP implementation.

### **Importance of Transboundary Cooperation**

Unlike anywhere else in the world, the south-north ecological gradient of Bhutan presents a continuous habitat ideally suited to the natural range of the tiger. Apart from the ecologically representative network of Protected Areas existing today, the forested areas linking these parks and other regions themselves are in pristine state, and the most intact areas are protected as biological corridors to facilitate the movement of species between the formal park areas.

What Bhutan is missing in this almost ideal ecosystem model are the plains and grassland habitats of adjacent Protected Areas in India. These habitats in the south constitute timeless and safe refuges for wildlife species during the colder winters in the north. Anecdotal evidence indicates that tigers and other species (including a healthy prey base) use this ecological gradient with seasonal variations.

In this regard, two sites warrant serious consideration for bilateral cooperation between Bhutan and India: the Royal Manas National Park and Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary complex in Bhutan, and the adjoining Manas National Park in Assam and the Buxa Tiger Reserve and Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary complex in West Bengal, India.

India and Bhutan have certain common socio-cultural and economic attributes, and face similar challenges regarding the management of wild landscapes. As such, the success of certain conservation initiatives demands a unified approach that transcends geopolitical boundaries. Linking these natural habitats in Bhutan and India through close transboundary cooperation can present the best model of ecosystem integrity, scientific management and international friendship.

A Greater Manas Transboundary Friendship Park between India and Bhutan warrants consideration, to enable an even larger ecological landscape, as opposed to individual site management isolated from the larger ecosystem context. A large, contiguous protected ecosystem can immensely benefit tigers and all associated wildlife species that range across the border.

This initiative is fully in line with and adequately supports the sixth major strategy of Bhutan's Tiger Action Plan (TAP) for 2006-2015 focusing on regional cooperation, which had the objective of reducing transboundary poaching through bilateral dialogue, legislation and enforcement, and exploring transboundary cooperation to maintain and improve habitat linkages.

*This strategy of the TAP is highlighted below:*

Tiger habitat in Bhutan spreads across at least six Protected Areas. It is further connected to India at Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam, and at Buxa Tiger Reserve and Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary in West Bengal. This forms a contiguous tiger habitat all the way to Namdapha in Arunachal Pradesh on the Myanmar border, resulting in one of the largest contiguous Tiger Conservation Units in the region. Bhutan is a landlocked nation that shares open borders with India in the east, west and south, and China in the north. These extensive borders are very porous and are often actively used for poaching and illegal wildlife trade activities. It is of utmost importance to collate information on transboundary issues of wildlife trade and poaching in order to understand their nature and extent.

There is a need to organise frequent transboundary meetings to discuss cross-border poaching and wildlife trade. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will include detailed legal provisions for prosecuting and extraditing foreign offenders has to be signed between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India. In addition, joint anti-poaching patrols need to be stepped up to monitor Protected Areas on international borders, such as Royal Manas National Park, and Phibsoo and Khaling Wildlife Sanctuaries. Exchange visits between Bhutanese and Indian Forest officials will allow them to share experiences on Protected

Area management, and discuss issues of common concern especially regarding poaching, habitat destruction and other wildlife crimes.

#### *Output*

- Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding drawn up and signed between the Royal Government of Bhutan and Government of India
- Joint anti-poaching patrolling of border Protected Areas increased
- Joint exchanges of field visits to share experiences and discuss issues of common concern increased

#### *Activities*

- Identify and establish a baseline of hotspots in poaching and wildlife trade activities
- Study the current legislation gaps and protocol developed for the prosecution of international poachers that will be the main content of the MoU with the Indian authorities
- Initiate dialogue on transboundary conservation issues between India and Bhutan
- Conduct joint inspection and patrols of border PAs with Indian authorities
- Arrange exchange visits between Bhutanese and Indian forest officials

*(Tiger Action Plan for the Kingdom of Bhutan 2006-2015, Nature Conservation Division, Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan)*

#### **An Opportunity for Partnership**

In 2011, when IFAW-WTI first called on the Royal Government of Bhutan – specifically the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) and its Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) – it was requested to support

conservation in Bhutan. Although Bhutan had been receiving international assistance for its environmental programs both from multilateral and bilateral agencies, the opportunity to partner with IFAW-WTI was unique as it involved direct, on-the-ground initiatives against the illegal trade in wildlife, and addressed the growing need for scientific and humane treatment of vulnerable species.

Building on further dialogue and an on-the-ground needs assessment, a tripartite collaboration was formalised in February 2012 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DoFPS, IFAW, and WTI. The MoU was part of IFAW-WTI's global agenda to conserve iconic species like tigers and safeguard their dwindling habitats, and spelled out collaboration in domains ranging from grassroots initiatives to international advocacy working with tigers as a flagship species.

Furthermore, IFAW-WTI's strong record in India's north-eastern states encouraged the feasibility of creating transboundary Protected Areas to enhance cross-border cooperation.

Under the MoU, the main components identified for IFAW-WTI's partnership with Bhutan are (i) capacity building of frontline field staff, (ii) capacity building of enforcement agencies, (iii) Rapid Action Projects to address urgent wildlife issues of concern, (iv) establishing a Greater Manas Transboundary Friendship Park, and (v) developing joint long-term funding proposals.

This report reviews the progress made since the signing of the tripartite agreement. It also includes a few activities from 2011, conducted before the official MoU signing. It is hoped the report will serve to highlight the needs assessed and contributions made to date, and guide planning for future activities between the partners in this important venture.





Fig. 6: Karma Dukpa, Former Director General, DoFPS, and WTI CEO Vivek Menon sign the MoU



Fig. 7: Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Former Minister for Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan, with Azzedine Downes, President & CEO, IFAW



Fig. 8: An IFAW-WTI Wildlife Crime Prevention Training event in progress



Fig. 9: Frontline staff of Royal Manas National Park during the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

### *Capacity Building of Enforcement Agencies in Bhutan*

#### **Prevention of Wildlife Trade (PWT) Training, July 2011**

**A** wildlife law enforcement workshop, jointly organised by IFAW-WTI and the MoAF, was conducted from July 11 to 14, 2011 in Paro. The workshop was inaugurated by the Director General, Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) with brief remarks by the Chief of the Wildlife Conservation Division (WCD) and the Executive Director of WTI.

Thirty-five officers attended the training workshop, representing various law enforcement agencies from the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) to the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP), Royal Bhutan Army (RBA), Royal Bhutan Customs, the judiciary, National Biodiversity Centre (NBC) and DoFPS.

#### *Workshop agenda and facilitators*



Fig. 10: A session on welfare and management of seized animals, conducted by IFAW's Dr Ian Robinson, in progress

***A clear lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies was found, as they did not know whom to inform in case they developed a lead on a wildlife crime, or detected suspicious goods.***

The workshop agenda was developed upon completion of a training needs assessment carried out by IFAW-WTI. Extensive consultation was done with the WCD to assess the extent of the illegal trade in wildlife, and identify specific needs and weaknesses with respect to curbing the trade in Bhutan.

A training manual was developed with identification sheets for wildlife articles. The topics covered included Wildlife Crime; Welfare and Management of Seized Wild Animals; Transport and Reintroduction of Seized Wild Animals; CITES; Species Identification; National Legislations and Enforcement; Wildlife Smuggling; Ecomessage: INTERPOL's System for Reporting Environmental Crime; Crime Scene Investigation; and International and Regional Networks, Treaties and Agencies for Cooperation. Resource persons from the Wildlife Conservation Division gave presentations and talks on national legislations as well as wildlife crime and enforcement in the country. USB drives with all training presentations and workshop photographs were distributed amongst participants at the end of the workshop. A copy of IFAW's film on illegal wildlife trade, and *Wildlife Crime: An Enforcement Guide* by Vivek Menon and Ashok Kumar were also given to trainees.

In addition to the presentations, participants were involved in a number of group exercises and a simulated operation to observe and participate in operations directed at combating illegal wildlife trade at Paro International Airport.

#### *Workshop expectations and pre- and post-assessments*

The expectations declared by participants at the beginning of the workshop focused on:

Knowledge of CITES; handling and welfare needs of rescued animals; sharing of experiences with different agencies; gaining skills and knowledge to address illegal wildlife trade; and increasing cooperation among relevant agencies.

A pre-training assessment administered through a questionnaire at the beginning of the training session revealed that seven training participants (21%) had more than 20 years of work experience and nine (36%) had more than 10 years enforcement experience, leading to the conclusion that this was an experienced enforcement group.

However, 27 participants (81%) had no experience of CITES at all and only three (less than 10%) had any experience of CITES. Therefore the group, by and large, was not experienced with CITES, and the training had the potential of being very useful.

The results of the pre-assessment test were as follows:

*36% participants scored 50% or above  
51% participants scored between 26% and 49%  
12% participants scored less than 25%*

The test revealed an average level of knowledge on certain subjects (i.e. Wildlife Crime; Welfare and Management of Seized Wild Animals; Transport and Reintroduction of Seized Wild Animals; National Legislations and Enforcement; Wildlife Smuggling; Ecomessage: INTERPOL's System for Reporting Environmental Crime; Crime Scene Investigation etc), while high scores were observed in Handling Animals and CITES. There was a need for improvement in animal/animal article identification as well as understanding of wildlife smuggling.

At the close of the workshop, a post-assessment evaluation (utilising the same questionnaire administered at the beginning of the workshop) revealed a tremendous improvement in knowledge compared with the pre-assessment results, with close to 20% of the participants scoring above 98%.



Fig. 11: IFAW trainer Dr. Elsayed Mohamed interacting with the PWT participants



Following the introductory remarks and a discussion on the goals and objectives of the workshop, the first day was dedicated to an overview of wildlife crime followed by sessions on confinement, care, transport and reintroduction of seized wildlife.

The second day was largely dedicated to understanding CITES and its role, and the CITES permit process. Dr. Elsayed Ahmed Mohamed (Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa, IFAW) conducted a practical CITES permit exercise that proved extremely beneficial to the officers and helped increase their ability to detect fraudulent import and export permits. The day concluded with the identification of, and information on, species in trade with relevance to Bhutan. The participants received valuable identification tips and tools for species identification.

On the third day, national legislation and wildlife crime and enforcement were explored in detail. Discussions were held on smuggling techniques, profiling of wildlife smugglers and INTERPOL's Ecomessage. There was a presentation by the WCD on the statistics of common wildlife

exports over the past three years and the smuggling cases of wildlife species in Bhutan. A discussion to examine how specific national laws and regulations, including those of general applicability such as conspiracy, smuggling, false statement and fraud, could be applied to wildlife crime cases was also taken up in the second half of the day.

The participants were presented with a fact pattern on the fourth day, depicting a scenario of illegal wildlife trade involving Bhutan. They were divided into four teams and were able to gain an appreciation and understanding of some of the real-world challenges and tools available when investigating and prosecuting wildlife crimes.

This was followed by a brief introduction to the principles of inter-agency cooperation, and deliberations on the ways in which agencies with different remits and areas of concern could cooperate more effectively in the fight against wildlife crime. Mechanisms for joint operations and cooperation between various law enforcement agencies (e.g. police, customs, army etc) to address wildlife crime in the country were also discussed.



Fig. 12: Bhutan's first CITES permit being handed over to IFAW-WTI representatives

### *Observations and recommendations emerging from operational exercises at Paro International Airport*

On the final day the participants visited Paro International Airport to participate in operational exercises for passenger arrivals. They were divided into two groups: passengers and customs officials. The objective of the exercise was to show how the airport's Customs and Quarantine officers need to work together along with other staff at the inspection area, to ensure that no wildlife contraband enters the country.

The first team, playing the role of passengers, was provided with various wildlife articles and derivatives and was asked to think of innovative means of smuggling them into the country. The second team was tasked with conducting operations to identify and seize wildlife products from the passengers.

At the end of the exercise it was revealed that while several illegal products were seized, a lot of passengers (representing smugglers) managed to clear security despite carrying banned wildlife items. This revealed that regular and higher levels of scrutiny need to be exercised by both Customs and Quarantine border officers. Profiling should take place at the arrivals stage to identify potential wildlife smugglers and other persons of interest via the contents of their baggage.

### **Workshop outcomes and achievements**

#### *Area 1: CITES implementation outcomes*

- Bhutan's CITES authority designed the CITES certificate with inputs from IFAW trainers as a result of the training
- Bhutan's CITES authority issued the first ever CITES certificate
- PWT training module to be incorporated as part of college syllabus

#### *Area 2: Inter-agency cooperation outcomes*

- All relevant border agencies were present in one room to discuss wildlife trade and crime for the first time
- Need for inter-agency cooperation assessed during mock operation
- A dedicated fully functional inter-agency group on the lines of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), India, to be set up for Bhutan; Chief of WCCB to meet with chiefs of other enforcement agencies for the same
- Minister to speak with counterpart Ministers in order to have a meeting of the Chiefs of various agencies to set policy



Fig. 13: PWT trainees during the anti-smuggling exercise



## Prevention of Wildlife Trade (PWT) Refresher Training, February 2014

The second PWT training to help tackle illegal wildlife trade was held by DoFPS in partnership with IFAW-WTI and INTERPOL in February 2014. The four-day workshop was inaugurated by His Excellency Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji (Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Forests). Forty-seven officials from DoFPS, the Department of Revenue and Customs, Royal Bhutan Police, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority, the judiciary and the Office of the Attorney General attended the workshop.

The workshop addressed issues ranging from identification of commonly traded species of flora and fauna, international regulations for preventing the illegal wildlife trade, theory of wildlife crime and the driving forces behind it, as well as national laws and regulations of Bhutan and their implementation.

Resource persons included wildlife trade control experts from DoFPS, INTERPOL, IFAW and WTI.

Kelvin Alie (Program Director, Wildlife Trade Programme, IFAW) instructed the trainees on wildlife crime and wildlife enforcement networks. IFAW trainer Dr Elsayed Mohamed explained particulars of CITES and conducted a practical workshop on the identification of various animal products, as well as concealment methods adopted by smugglers across the world. Vivek Menon (Executive Director, WTI) conducted sessions on the identification of wildlife found in the region and the global scenario with regards to crimes associated with wildlife trafficking.

INTERPOL's Andreou Andreas discussed the profiling of smugglers and the common techniques and methodologies employed by them during transportation and trade. The basics of rescue and rehabilitation of confiscated animals were addressed by Jose Louies (Head, Trade Control, WTI).

Illegal trade is one of the gravest threats to wildlife across the world. Combatting it effectively

requires cooperation and sharing of expertise at various levels, both within nations and between different nations. Workshops like these help to effectively mobilise concerned government agencies to curb wildlife trade.

Fig. 11 represents the change in level of knowledge and the impact of training in each module, where Module 1 = CITES, Module 2 = Wildlife Smuggling and Module 3 = Handling Confiscated Animals.

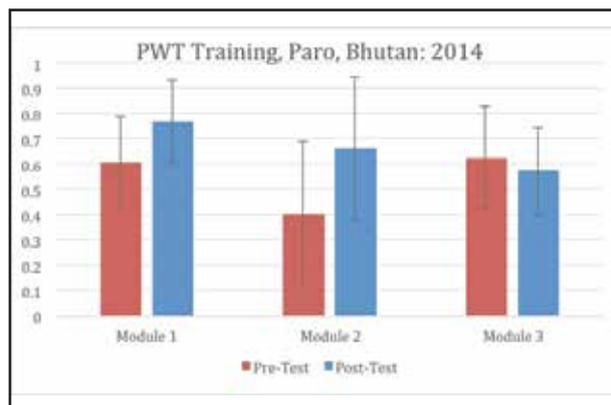


Fig. 14: PWT Training, Paro, Bhutan 2014

The increase in proportion of correct answers to questions in Module 1 was found to be statistically significant (Wilcoxon's signed rank test:  $T = 5$ ;  $P = 0.009$ ). Thus the candidates scored 15% more correct answers in the post-training test for Module 1. A similar increase was also observed for Module 2 as the candidates scored 28% more in post-test. Interestingly, in Module 3, candidates expressed a lower proportion of correct answers, although this difference was not found to be statistically significant. In order to determine the increase in knowledge levels and increase the difficulty level, the trainees were given additional questions in the post-test assessment.

## Prevention of Wildlife Trade (PWT) Training, March 2015, Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit

IFAW-WTI organised a specialised Prevention of Wildlife Trade training workshop for the Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit (FPSU) staff, DoFPS from March 2 to 15, 2015. The workshop intensively focused on training the forest staff on prevention of cross-border wildlife trade.





Fig. 15: Participants giving the pre training test

Thirteen forest staff, with seven members from FPSU and six from the Wildlife Crime Division (WCD) participated in the training. WTI's Jose Louies developed a specialised crime control training module for this workshop after discussions with the FPSU and India's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).

This module contained two days of field exercises and two days of theory. During the course of the training, participants underwent a mock cross-border wildlife trade field exercise. They were also taught intelligence gathering, use of surveillance techniques, crime scene investigation and offence report writing. They also delved into regional species identification so as to properly to identify species common in the illegal international wildlife trade in the region.

Fig. 13 represents the change in level of knowledge and the impact of training in each module, where Module 1 = CITES, Module 2 = Wildlife Smuggling and Module 3 = Handling

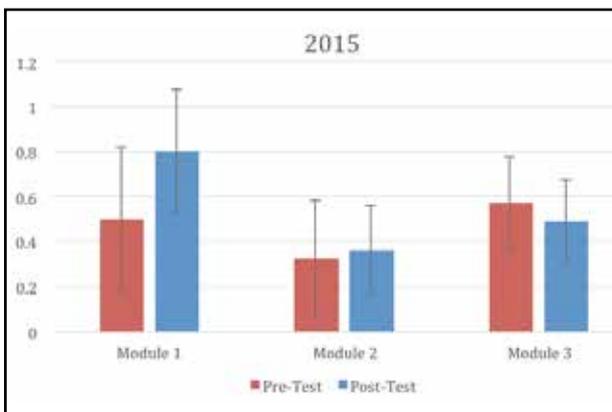


Fig. 16: PWT Training for FPSU Staff, March 2015

Confiscated Animals. In order to assess the increase in knowledge levels and to increase the difficulty level, the trainees were given additional questions in the post test assessment.



Fig. 17: Participants examine wildlife articles during practical sessions

### Prevention of Wildlife Trade (PWT) Training, June 2015, Border Security Forces training workshop

To improve coordination between various enforcement agencies and increase awareness levels among frontline field personnel from agencies like the Royal Bhutan Police, Department of Revenue & Customs, Royal Bhutan Army, Department of Immigration and Census, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority, District Courts, as well as forest staff on check-gate duties posted at the international border between India and Bhutan, a series of four, one-day workshops were conducted from June 12 to 19, 2015. Resource persons from IFAW-WTI and FPSU conducted these trainings in the border towns of Phuntsholing, Samtse, Gelephu and Samdrup Jongkhar.

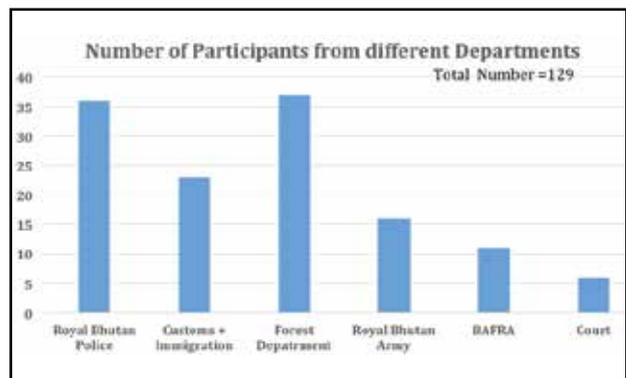


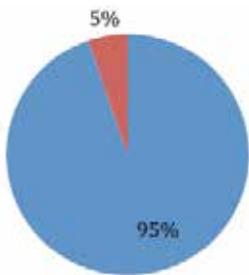
Fig. 18: Participants from different departments, PWT Training, June 2015



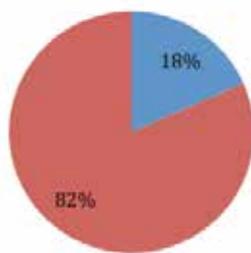


Fig. 19: Map showing training locations on the Indo-Bhutan Border

**Knowledge sampling:** At the beginning of the workshop, the participants were individually given a pangolin scale, one of the most commonly traded wildlife items in the border towns, and asked to identify it. A log of red sanders was also shown to them for identification. This was done to gauge how many of them knew about the wildlife goods being smuggled through the international border.



5% of the participants could identify the pangolin scale correctly



82% of the participants could correctly identify red sanders wood

An initial discussion was conducted at the beginning of the training to understand the participants' points of view about the issues they

were facing when dealing with wildlife crime control. The following points were identified:

1. The trainees' capacity to identify various wildlife goods being smuggled across the border was noted.
2. There was a clear lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies as they did not know whom to inform in case they developed a lead on a wildlife crime, or detected suspicious goods.
3. There was a need for awareness material such as posters with contact details of concerned officers to be placed at the border checkpoints to help with information exchange.
4. The involvement of militant groups in wildlife trafficking was noted. Such groups are more organised and better equipped than the regular poacher-smuggler networks.
5. There was a need for intelligence gathering from both sides of the border. Support from Indian agencies was found to be essential.

The training on each day was divided into two sections. During the first half of the day a presentation was made on wildlife crime across the globe, species that are traded and why, and how wildlife crime can be part of other organised crime. A few cases were discussed to give attendees an idea of how wildlife products are smuggled across international borders.

The afternoon session was a hands-on training on the identification of commonly traded wildlife goods. The FPSU team brought a wide selection of seized goods for the participants to identify, including tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, golden cat and otter skins, tiger bones, and fake animal products. The trainers demonstrated how to identify the goods and how to differentiate between fake and genuine goods.



Fig. 20: Border checkpost training: participants and trainers



Fig. 21: Participants during the session on SpeciesID

*Results of the training:* As inter-agency cooperation was one of the most discussed points, the forestry chiefs of the involved areas formed a group with a point person from each of the enforcement agencies. It was felt that joint efforts by these enforcement agencies could accrue greater benefits.

*Posters on wildlife crime:* It was decided that A3 or larger size posters should be produced with photos of trafficked wildlife goods and punishments for wildlife trafficking, and placed at all border checkposts with the contact details of the FPSU team. This would help the respective teams identify illicit goods and build awareness among enforcement agencies and people who visit these offices.

*Need for app:* It was noticed during the identification exercise that participants were searching for pangolin or red sanders on their mobile phones and comparing pictures; an app, it was felt, would not only work as an identification tool but would also help in inter-agency communication. IFAW-WTI developed SpeciesID, an app to meet these requirements.

*Further trainings:* The need for a refresher training was expressed by the staff as many of them were attending a training on wildlife crime for the first time in their service.



Fig. 22: Participants during a mock smuggling operation



### ***Capacity Building of Frontline Field Staff***

#### **Wildlife Crime Prevention Training**

In spite of the strong legal basis for conservation in Bhutan, the country has limited government resources that are equally required for other social services. Conservation activities in the field, therefore, do not have the maximum possible support. Most of the parks are inadequately staffed and frontline staff are poorly equipped to cover the extensive and often difficult terrain. Building the human capacity of enforcement agencies through the adoption of effective methods such as intelligence-driven wildlife crime detection is critical, as is strengthening the capabilities of frontline field staff by imparting the requisite training and improving the standards of equipment.

Successful components of ongoing ground-level trainings by IFAW-WTI in India have been replicated in Bhutan. For instance, the Guardians of the Wild project assists the Indian government in creating a strong, well-equipped and motivated force of frontline field staff to effectively curb poaching and habitat degradation. The programme follows a multi-pronged TEAM strategy: Training, Equipping, Awareness and Morale-boosting.

***IFAW and WTI are committed to ensuring that the knowledge and skills level of frontline staff in Bhutan are at par with international standards. The objective is to impart sustained capacity building over the next few years to create an effective and motivated team of frontline field staff.***

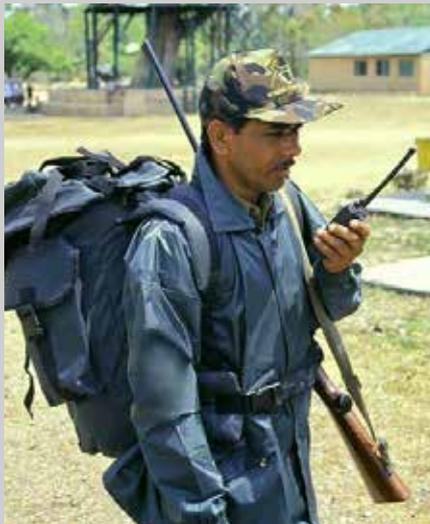
#### *Objectives*

The goal of the trainings was to increase the capacity and operational efficiency of the frontline forest staff of different Protected Areas in Bhutan for the prevention of wildlife crime. The primary objectives were to:

- Create a strong, motivated and well-equipped field force of forest staff in Bhutan
- Boost the morale of the field staff for effective anti-poaching operations



Fig. 23: Frontline staff in Royal Manas National Park



### **About the Guardians of the Wild Project**

The Van Rakshak (Guardians of the Wild) project was launched in 2001 to train, equip and boost morale of frontline forest staff in India, and thereby help them better protect wildlife.

The project has till date trained and equipped over 16,000 frontline staff in more than 150 Protected Areas across India. It also has insured over 20,500 of the country's frontline staff, providing them a cover of up to 1,00,000 INR (approx 1600 USD) to benefit them and their families in case of accidents or death on duty.



### *Training module*

The frontline forest staff of Bhutan were imparted the Bhutan Module B (Module A is meant for officials of higher rank) training. The course consisted of an overview of wildlife crime trends in Bhutan and India, and covered various sections of the Forest and Nature Conservation Act (FNCA), 1995. Anti-poaching techniques, crime scene investigation, intelligence gathering and interrogation techniques were also part of the training agenda.

The training emphasised both a practical and theoretical understanding of the various concepts: the common mistakes committed by frontline staff while investigating a crime scene were discussed, various procedures for collection and preservation of evidence were taught, and trainees were briefed about the importance of independent witnesses during raids.

During the training, audio and visual aids were used along with field demonstrations. Several classroom exercise sessions were organised and various issues of conservation and wildlife crime were discussed with the trainers and other professionals.



Fig. 24: Frontline staff of Royal Manas National Park undergoing Wild Crime Prevention Training

### *Number of staff trained*

In June 2012, the then Minister of Agriculture and Forests, Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, inaugurated the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training for Royal Manas National Park and Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), at Phibsoo WLS. Staff from the two Protected Areas participated in the training. Basic field kits were provided to all 139 participants.

Nearly 1000 frontline field staff in 17 Protected Areas and territorial divisions have been trained and equipped in Bhutan. As it is expected that at least 10% of staff will be transferred and replaced, refresher trainings and fresh kits are being provided each year in each park. The objective is to impart sustained capacity building over the next few years to create an effective and motivated team of frontline field staff in Bhutan.



Fig. 25: Frontline staff of Phibsoo WLS being trained in the use of GPS devices

### Course material

A resource book, 'Bhutan Wildlife Crime Prevention: Training Manual', designed by IFAW-WTI and the Wildlife Conservation Division (WCD), was provided to each trainee. Chapters in the book dealt sequentially with forests and wildlife of Bhutan; forest and wildlife laws; international laws on wildlife; patrolling and record maintenance; crime scene investigation; guidelines for rescue and placement of temporarily displaced wildlife; tracks and signs of wild animals; GPS, map reading and navigation; camera trapping and its uses; and first aid for snake bites.

Copies of this book were also given to each forest division for distribution to frontline staff members who could not participate in the training.

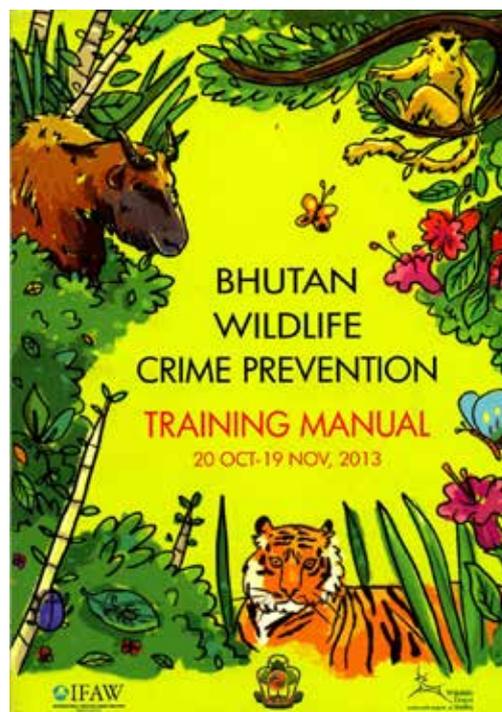


Fig. 26: IFAW-WTI and WCD's training manual

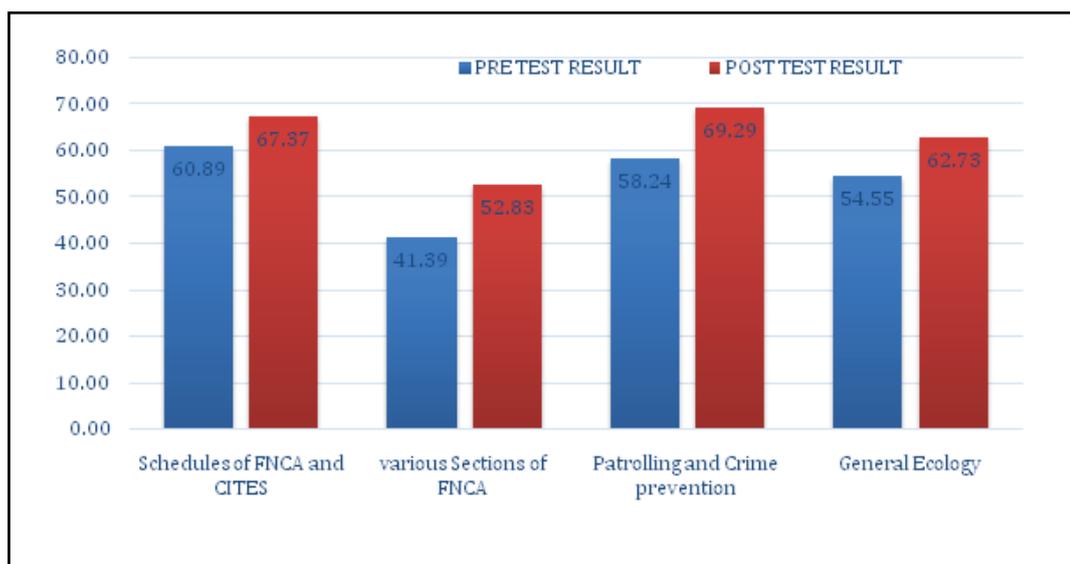


Fig. 27: Overall analysis of percentage increase in awareness levels for frontline staff of Bhutan

### Pre and post test evaluation

Before the start of the IFAW-WTI Wildlife Crime Prevention Training, a questionnaire was given to participants to evaluate their knowledge about the ecology of the area, wildlife laws and the management problems that confront frontline staff. The participants were asked to answer the questionnaire within 10 minutes. A post training evaluation was also conducted to evaluate the desired increase in their knowledge in these subjects. The questionnaire was divided

into four sections: a) schedules of FNCA, 1995, b) different sections of FNCA, 1995, c) patrolling and crime prevention and d) general ecology.

It was found in the overall analysis that the frontline forest staff of Bhutan had gained significant knowledge in different aspects of the training. *Figure 23* above shows an increase in the learning of different themes since 2012. For instance, frontline staff had immensely increased their knowledge of various sections of FNCA, 1995, from 41.4% to 52.8%.



Their knowledge of patrolling and crime prevention increased from 58.2% to 69.3%, and of different schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES from 60.9% to 67.4%. They also gained knowledge in general ecology from 54.5% to 62.7%.

### Wildlife Crime Prevention Training, June 2012

#### Royal Manas National Park

Royal Manas National Park is Bhutan’s oldest national park, and the government considers it the “conservation showpiece of the Kingdom” and a “genetic depository” for valuable plants. It has an area of 1057 sq km and it is connected via “biological corridors” to Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park, Thrumshingla National Park, and Khaling Wildlife Sanctuary. Royal Manas also directly abuts the World Heritage Site Manas National Park in Assam, India, to the south.

IFAW-WTI conducted the first round of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training in Royal Manas National Park in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Division, DoFPS from June 6-11, 2012. Fifty-four frontline forest staff from the national park were trained during the workshop and 77 frontline forest staff were provided kits, each of which had a rucksack, torch, winter jacket, rain suit, sleeping bag, cap and water bottle.

**IFAW-WTI has trained and equipped over 800 frontline staff across 13 Protected Areas and territorial divisions thus far in Bhutan, through a series of trainings and refresher trainings conducted from 2012 to 2016.**

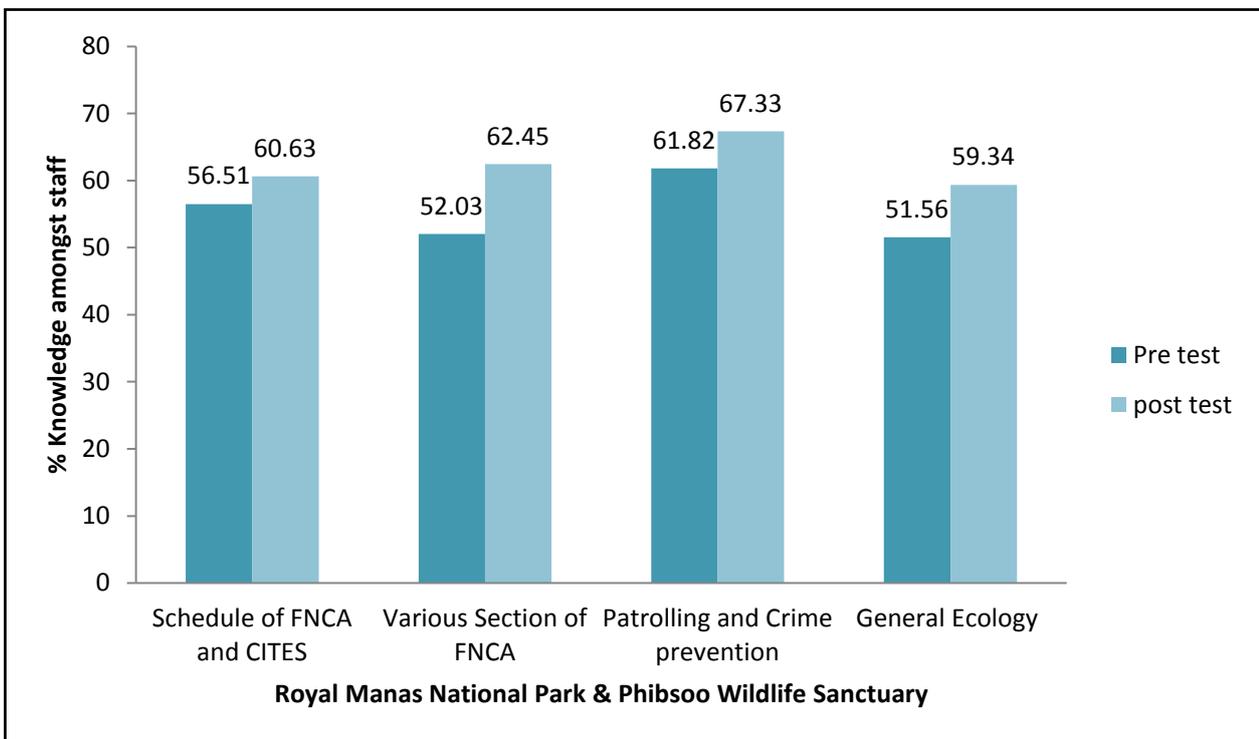


Fig.28: The pre and post training percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Royal Manas National Park and Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

### Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary

Phibsoo WLS is the second-smallest national park in Bhutan, covering an area of 268.93 sq km. It is situated in the western Sarpang District and southeastern Dagana District along the Bhutanese border with West Bengal. It is connected to Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park and Royal Manas National Park via a biological corridor that is intersected by a national highway. The sanctuary has fauna such as elephants, gaur and golden langurs, and is the only Protected Area in Bhutan with spotted deer and natural sal forests.

IFAW-WTI conducted the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training in Phibsoo WLS in partnership with the WCD, from June 12 to 14, 2012. In all, 59 frontline forest staff were trained and 62 frontline forest staff were provided kits which included a rucksack, torch, winter jacket, rain suit, sleeping bag, cap and water bottle.

### Wildlife Crime Prevention Training, October 20 to November 17, 2013

#### Jigme Dorji National Park

Jigme Dorji National Park covers 4316 sq km across four dzongkhags (Thimphu, Paro, Gasa, and Punakha). This is the second-largest national park in Bhutan and is a natural conservatory of glaciers, alpine meadows and scrub lands, sub-alpine and temperate conifer forests, warm and cool temperate broad-leaved forests, major rivers and streams, and the flora and fauna that inhabit these ecosystems. The park harbours many endangered species including the takin, snow leopard, blue sheep, musk deer, Himalayan black bear, marmot, red panda, tiger and several species of pheasants. Several plants found in the park are valuable cultivars, useful for horticulture, and have commercial, medicinal, traditional and religious value. Over 300 plants are currently used to make Bhutanese indigenous medicines, most of which are found in the park.

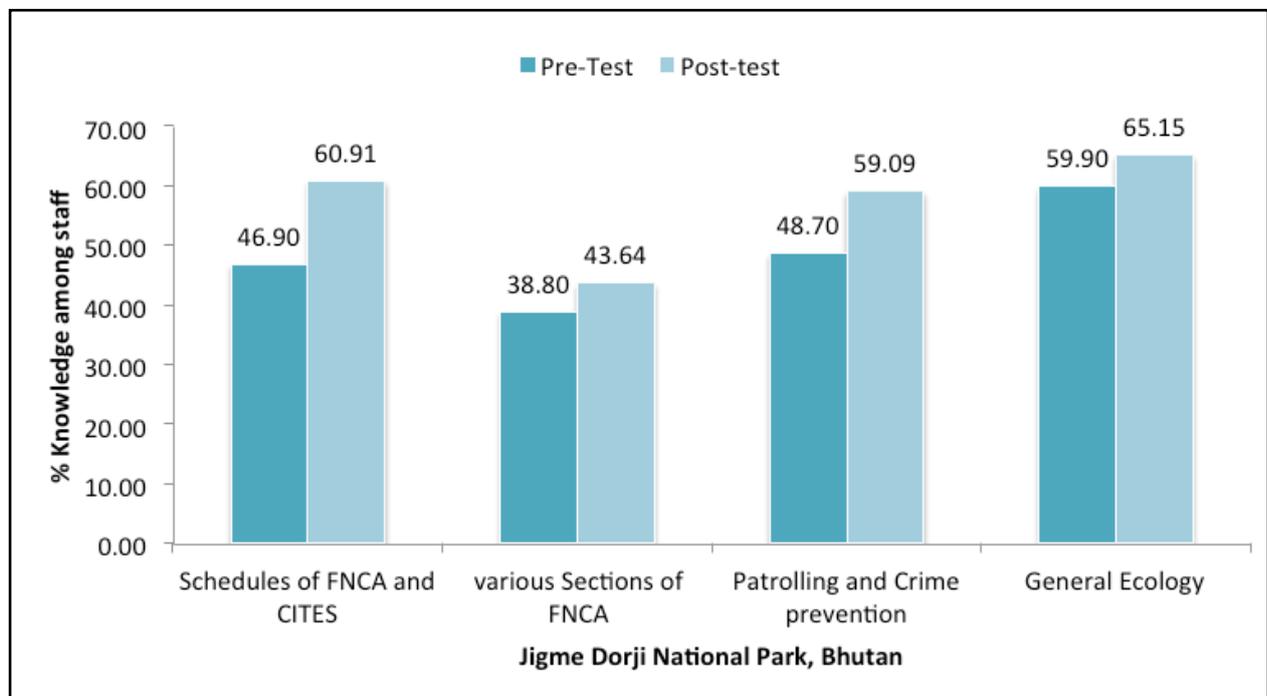


Fig.29: The pre and post training percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Jigme Dorji National Park in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training



Fifty-four frontline forest staff participated and were equipped through the IFAW-WTI and WCD's Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. It was found that they had gained knowledge in every subject covered in the training. Their knowledge increment in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES was from 46.9% to 60.9%; in different sections of FNCA, 1995 from 38.8% to 43.6%; in patrolling and crime prevention from 48.7% to 59.1%; and in general ecology from 59.9% to 65.15% (Fig. 25).



Fig. 30: A training session in progress



Fig. 31: Participants of Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

**It was found that the frontline forest staff of Bhutan gained immense knowledge in various sections of FNCA, 1995 from 41.4% to 52.8%. Their knowledge increased in patrolling and crime prevention from 58.2% to 69.3% and in different schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES from 60.9% to 67.4%. They also gained knowledge in general ecology from 54.5% to 62.7%**

### *Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park*

Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park (JSWNP), located in the central part of Bhutan, forms an integral part of the Bhutan Biodiversity Conservation Complex (B2C2) – a network of Protected Areas (10 Protected Areas and 12 biological corridors) in Bhutan that preserves habitat integrity and supports viable populations of floral and faunal diversity that are globally threatened or endangered.

Previously called Black Mountain National Park, JSWNP was gazetted as a national park in 1995. It is the third largest national park in the country with an area of 1723 sq km, covering five districts of central Bhutan. It borders Royal Manas National Park in the south, and Jigme Dorji National Park, Wangchuck Centennial Park and Thrumshingla National Park through biological corridors in the north. It forms a contiguous belt

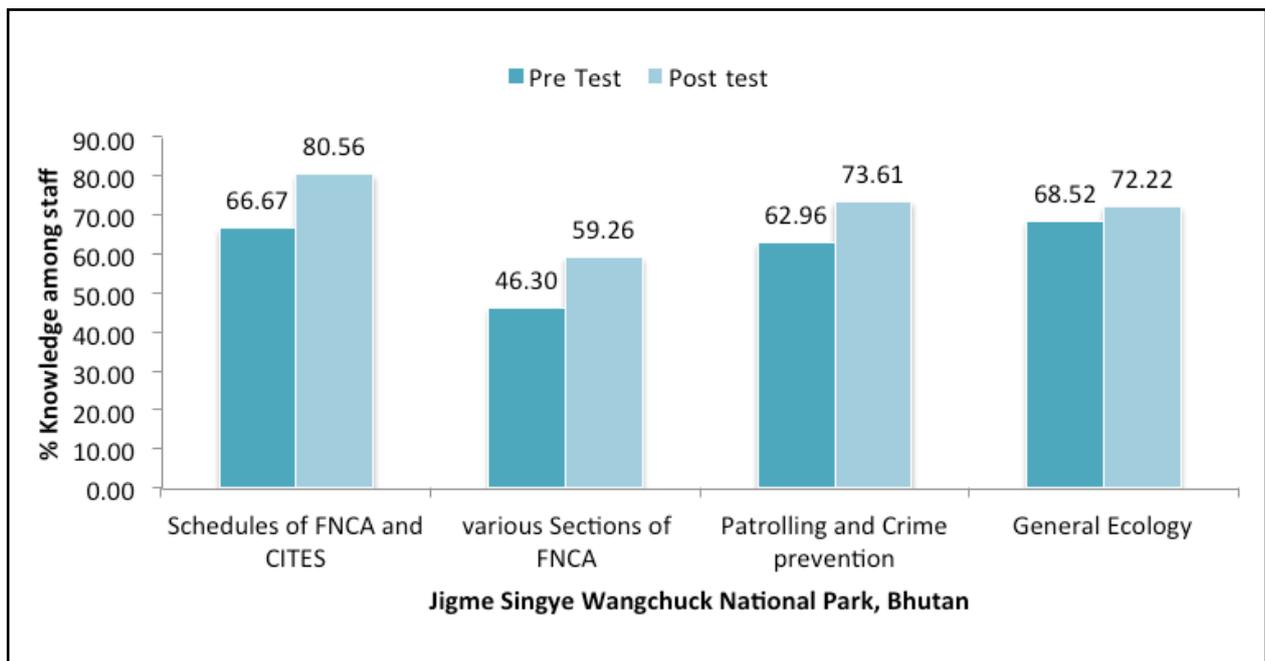


Fig. 32: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

linking the vegetation of the southern Bhutan region to the temperate and alpine vegetation in the north, allowing altitudinal migration of wild animals and birds in the country. A recent camera trapping study reveals that tigers have been using these landscapes, providing greater motivation to sustainably manage them.

JSWNP staff gained knowledge in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES from 66.7% to 80.6%; in different sections of FNCA, 1995 from 46.3% to 59.3%; in patrolling and crime prevention from 62.9% to 73.6%; and in general ecology from 68.5% to 72.2% (Fig. 28).

### *Thrumshingla National Park*

Thrumshingla National Park was notified as a full-fledged national park during the revision of the Protected Area system in Bhutan in 1993. Later, in 1998, it was gazetted with an area size of 768 sq km, covering the three districts of Bumthang, Mongar and Lhuentse, and became functional with its head office established at Ura in the Bumthang District.

Thrumshingla National Park includes 88,930 ha of forest area in the Bumthang and Mongar dzongkhags. It is the second-largest major



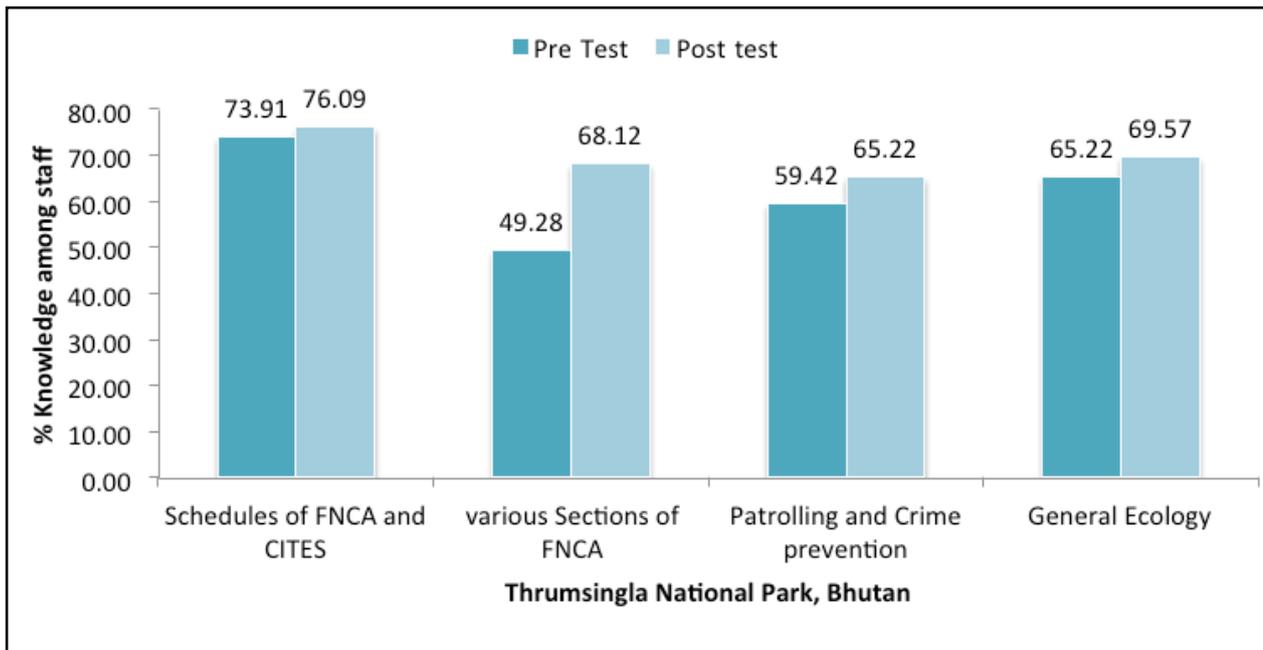


Fig. 33: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Thrumssingla National Park in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

temperate park in Bhutan and contains some spectacular scenic views. The ecosystems and landscapes range from alpine to sub-tropical broadleaved, and include some unique protected chir pine forests. The soil of the park is particularly fragile, which renders it quite unsuitable for logging or other development. The park has excellent tourism potential with a good wildlife trail from the Ura Valley right down to the Bumthang Valley.

Twenty-three forest staffers from Thrumssingla National Park participated in the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. Their knowledge increased in different sections of FNCA, 1995 from 49.3% to 68.1%; in patrolling and crime prevention from 59.4% to 65.2%; and in general ecology from 65.2% to 69.5%. Their knowledge in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES increased only from 73.9% to 76.1% (Fig. 29).

#### *Wangchuck Centennial Park*

Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCP), Bhutan's most recent park, was formally gazetted on

June 10, 2008. It is the largest national park in Bhutan with an area of 4914 sq km. WCP has been declared as a tribute by the government and people of Bhutan to the Wangchuck Dynasty for selflessly leading Bhutan for a hundred years, ensuring the nation's sovereignty, stability and tranquility. The park is the most important high water tower in Bhutan and feeds four major rivers, namely the Punatsangchhu, Mangdechhu, Chamkharchhu and Kurichhu (tributaries of the Manas River), covering a large extent of the critical watershed of the country. Permanent snow covered mountains such as the Gangkhar Puensum are located within the park; in the winter almost 85% of the park remains under snow cover for about four months.

Twenty-two staff members from Wangchuck Centennial Park participated and were equipped in the training. They gained immense knowledge in patrolling and crime prevention in particular, with a percentage increase from 41.7% to 71.3%. In different sections of FNCA, 1995, their knowledge gain was 34.1% to 50.1%; and in general ecology from 60.4% to 63.6% (Fig. 30).

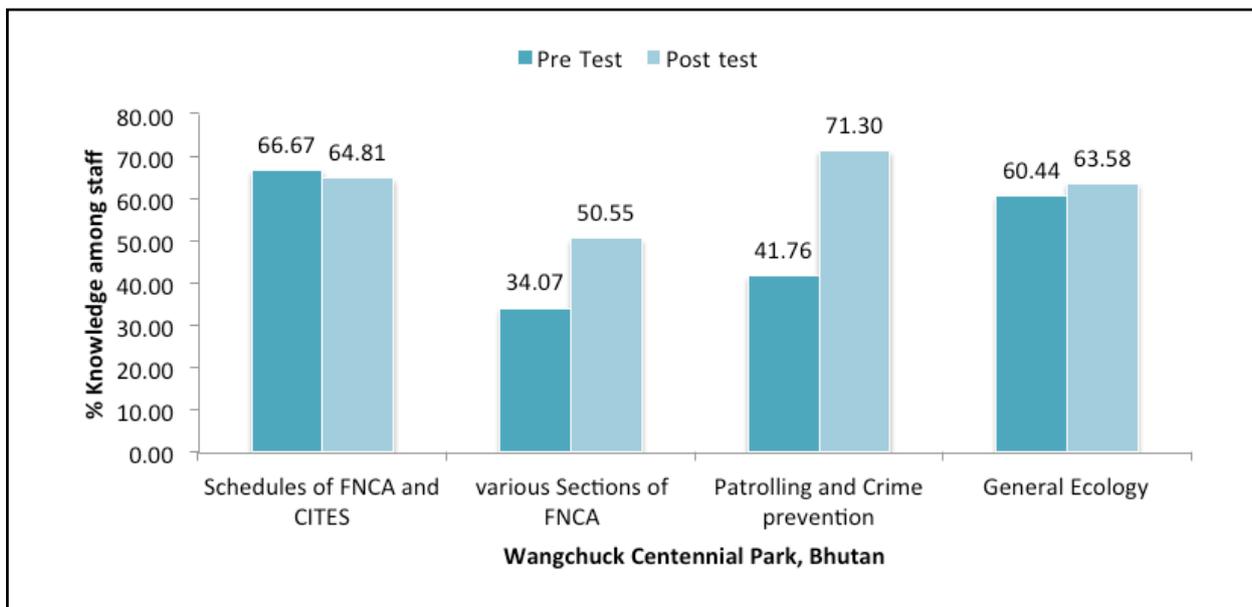


Fig. 34: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Wangchuck Centennial Park in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

### *Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary*

Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the north-east of Bhutan and covers 1520.61 sq km. It was established in 1995 in order to protect large areas of virtually untouched Eastern Himalayan ecosystems ranging from warm broadleaved forests to alpine meadows and scree slopes, covering highly sensitive ecological zones in the three dzongkhags of Trashiyangtse, Mongar and Lhuentse, bordering China and India.

Fifteen frontline forest staff from Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary participated and were equipped in the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. The knowledge increment among the staff in different sections of FNCA, 1995, was from 38.9% to 51.8%; in general ecology from 55.6% to 70.3%; and in patrolling and crime prevention from 68.5% to 75%. There was a negative trend in the staff's knowledge of schedules of FNCA and CITES (*Fig. 31*).

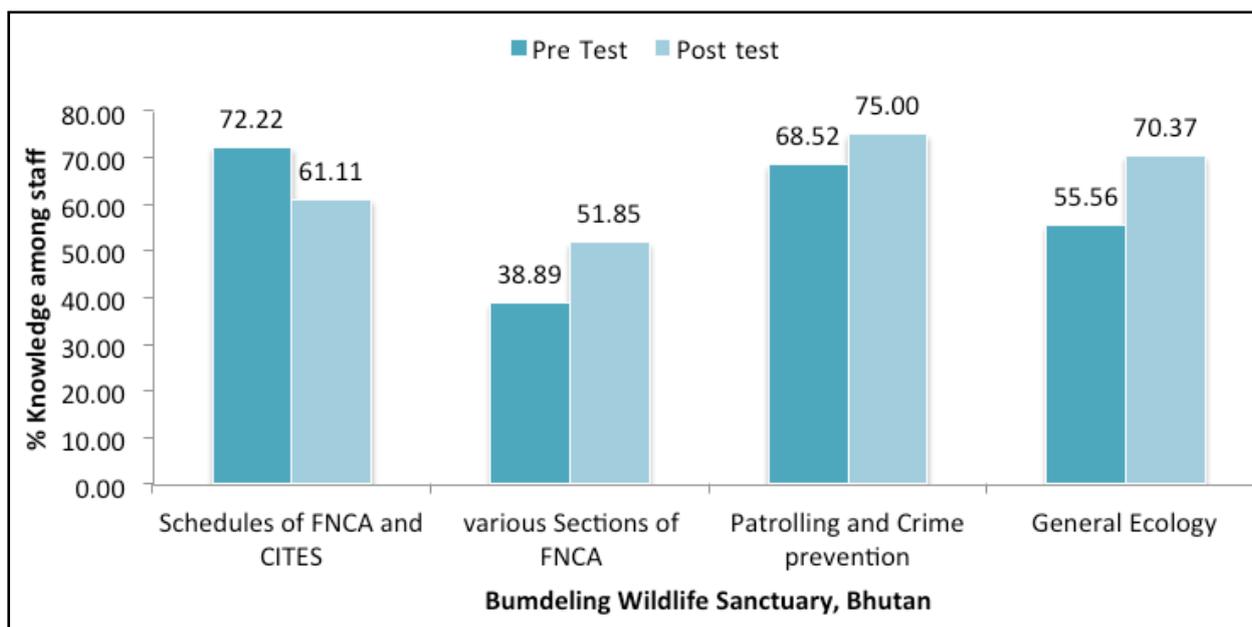


Fig. 35: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training



### Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary

Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary represents the easternmost temperate ecosystems and landscapes of Bhutan over an area of 74,950 ha in the Trashigang dzongkhag. The sanctuary protects some unique endemic bird species such as the eastern blue pine and black-rumped magpie, and several other species found only in the eastern part of the country.

Thirty-one frontline forest staff from Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary participated in and were equipped through the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. They gained immense knowledge in different sections of FNCA, 1995, from 33.3% to 55.6%. In patrolling and crime prevention, they showed a knowledge gain from 62.9% to 66.7%, and in general ecology from 59.3% to 66.2% (Fig. 32).

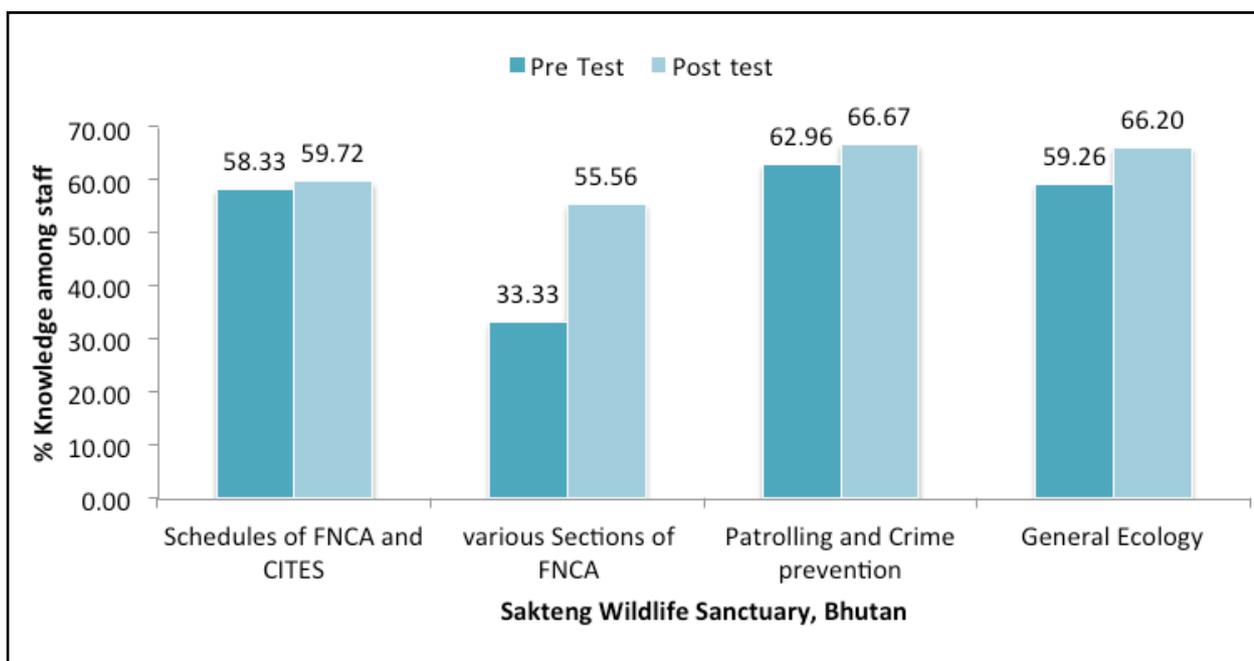


Fig. 36: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

### Torsa Strict Nature Reserve

Torsa Strict Nature Reserve extends over 64,960 ha across the Haa and Paro districts. The main activity here is research on the biodiversity of this Protected Area. The reserve has a variety of landscapes and ecosystems of westernmost temperate forests, from broadleaved forests to alpine parks, including the small lakes of Sinchulungpa.

Eight field personnel from Torsa Strict Nature Reserve participated in and were equipped through the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. Their knowledge increment in patrolling and wildlife crime was from 58.3% to 84.4%; in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES from 62.5% to 75%; and in general ecology from 58.3% to 62.5%. The pre- and post-test questionnaire on different sections of FNCA, 1995 however, showed a negative trend.

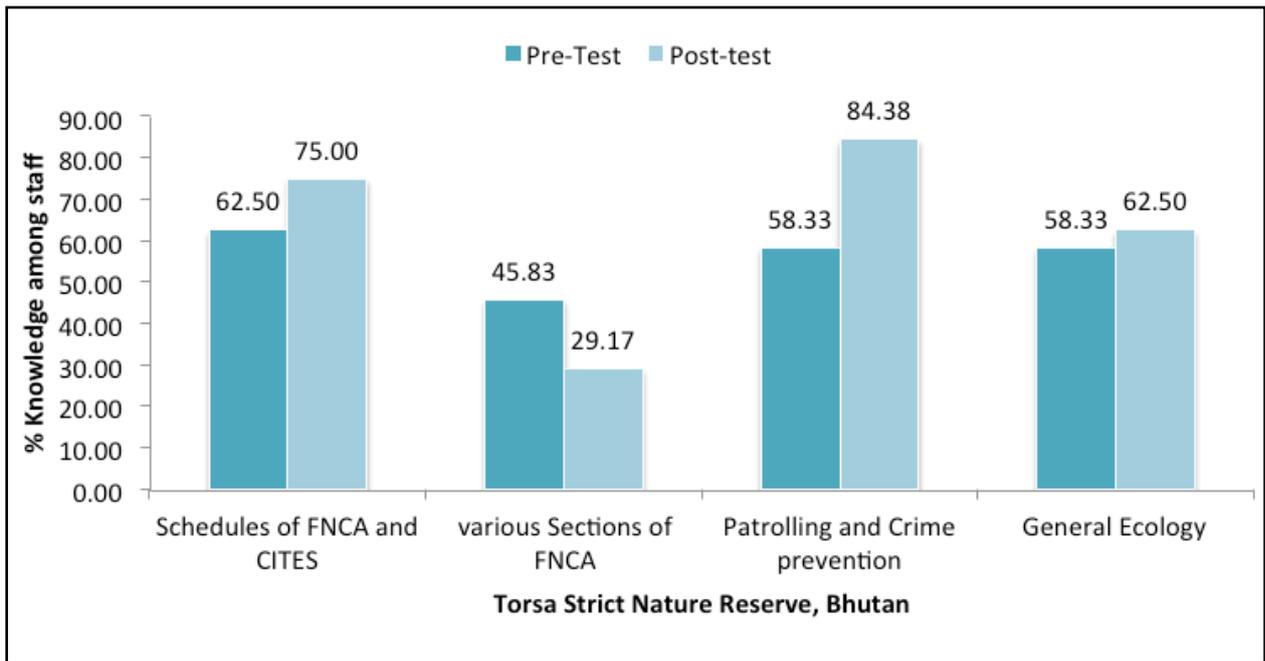


Fig. 37: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Torsa Strict Nature Reserve in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

#### *Samdrup Jongkhar Forest Division*

Sixty-nine frontline forest staff from Samdrup Jongkhar Forest Division were trained and equipped in the IFAW-WTI Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. They gained immense

knowledge in different sections of FNCA, 1995: 34.1% to 50.4%; in patrolling and crime prevention: 47.1% to 58.9%; as well as in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES: 57.5 to 71.2%. There was a marginal knowledge gain in general ecology from 62.2% to 66.2% (Fig. 33).

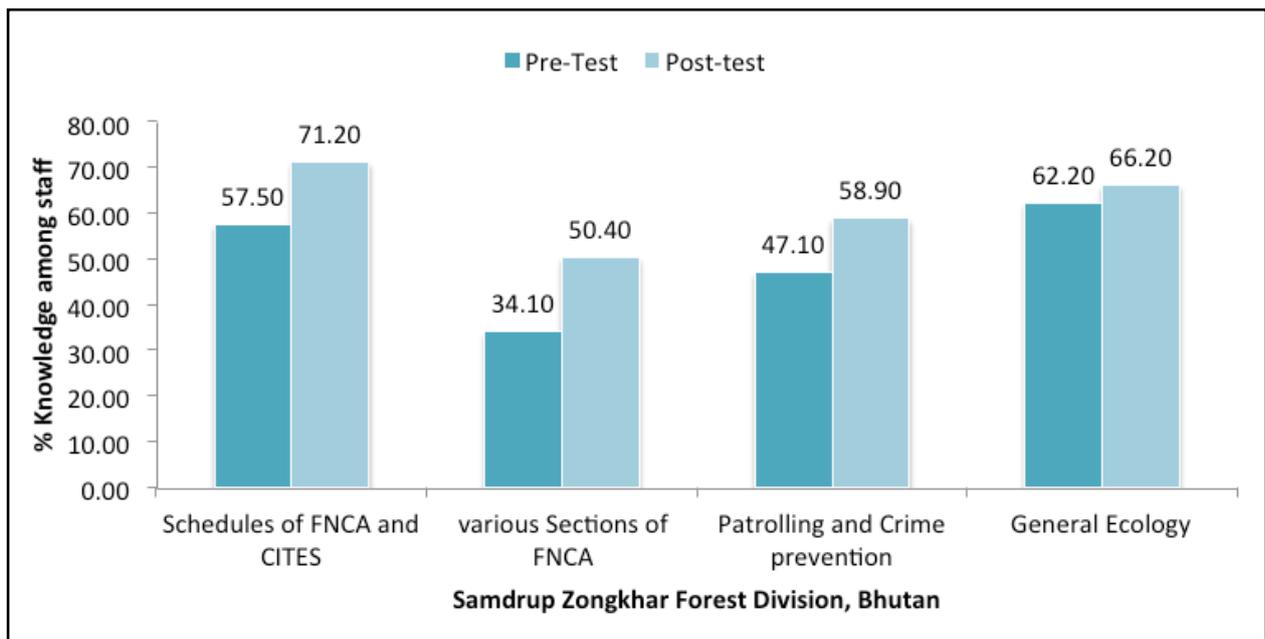


Fig. 38: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Samdrup Jongkhar Forest Division in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

### Wangdue Forest Division

Sixty frontline forest staff from Wangdue Forest Division participated in and were equipped via the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. Their knowledge gain in schedules of FNCA, 1995

and CITES was from 53.3% to 72.5%; in different sections of FNCA, 1995 from 38.9% to 57.8%; in general ecology from 56.7% to 67.8%; and in patrolling and crime prevention from 64.4% to 72.5% (Fig. 34).

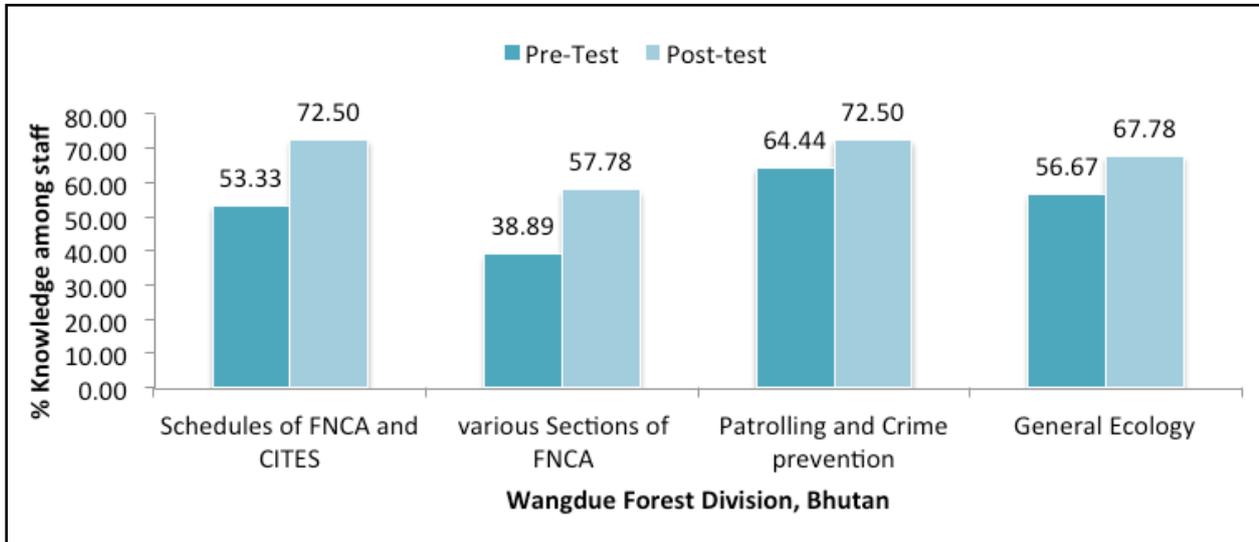


Fig. 39: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Wangdue Forest Division in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

### Samtse Forest Division

Forty-eight frontline forest staff from Samtse Forest Division participated in and were equipped via the Wildlife Crime Prevention training. Their knowledge increment in various

sections of FNCA, 1995 was from 28.5% to 52.1% and in general ecology from 38.9% to 53.5%. Their knowledge gain in patrolling and crime prevention was marginal, from 65.3% to 67.7% (Fig. 35).

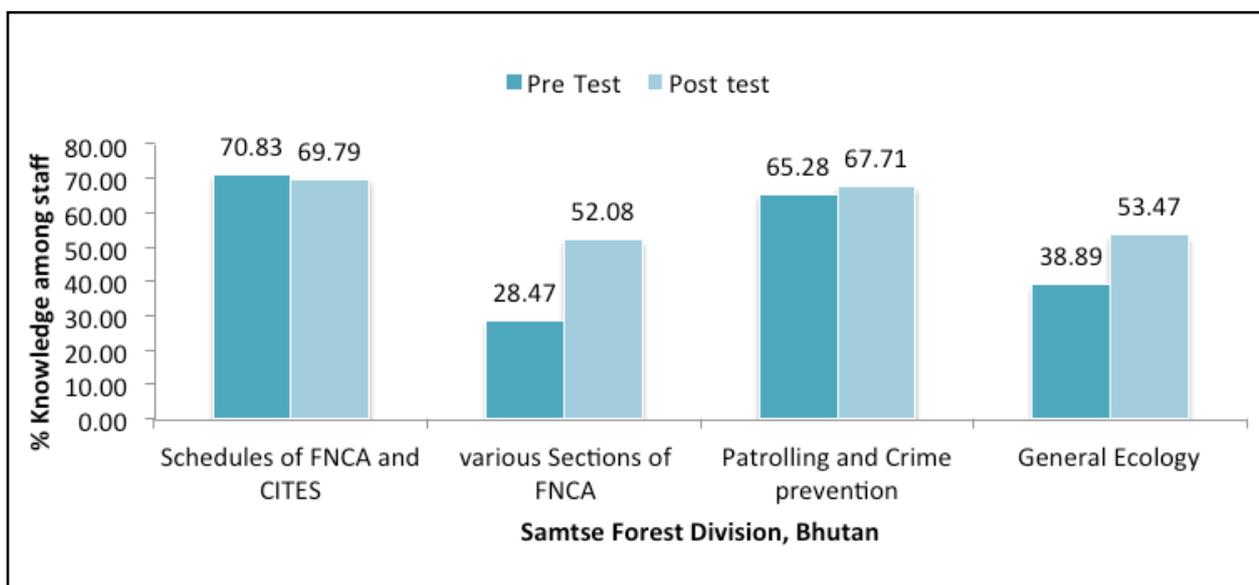


Fig. 40: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Samtse Forest Division in different subjects of Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

## Post-training feedback

The Wildlife Crime Prevention Training programme was evaluated based on the feedback form filled by all the staff trained across the various parks and forest divisions.

**Course content:** 73% of frontline forest staff rated different aspects of the training as 'very good' and 12% rated it 'good'.

**Relevance of the course material:** 66% of the total staff found the course material relevant for their daily protection duty and patrolling.

**Duration of the training:** 77% of respondents felt that the duration of the training was adequate. However, 3% felt that the training was very short and advocated that the duration (three days) be increased in the next iteration.

**New information received during the training:** Almost 71% of staff indicated that they had received new information and 9% indicated the course content was entirely new to them.

**Frequency at which training is needed:** 68% of staff felt that they needed the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training every year; regular refresher trainings, they felt, would help them to stay abreast of wildlife laws.

**Trainers' expertise:** 68% of staff indicated that the trainers were experts in their respective subjects. Many of them declared that the classroom sessions were very useful and enlightened them in different aspects of wildlife law and wildlife crime prevention.



Fig. 41: Altitude-specific kit distributed to frontline staff as part of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

### Kit Distribution

Based on a needs assessment conducted by the IFAW-WTI team with inputs from WCD and the park managers, specific items were included in the kits for frontline staff. Some 570 altitude-specific field kits (including a rucksack, LED torch, winter jacket, rain suit, sleeping bag, cap and water bottle, all with IFAW-WTI and DoFPS logos prominently displayed) were distributed to the frontline staff in different parks.

### Certificate for the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training

Certificates were provided to each trainee after successful completion of the training. All the certificates were signed by the Director General, DoFPS, and the Executive Director, WTI. In addition to the certificates, a copy each of 'Indian Mammals: A Field Guide' authored by Vivek Menon, and 'Wildlife Crime: An Enforcement Guide' by Vivek Menon and Ashok Kumar was also given to outstanding trainees.



**Wildlife Crime Prevention Refresher Training: October 08-16, 2014**

IFAW-WTI are committed to ensuring that the knowledge and skills level of frontline staff in Bhutan are at par with international standards. As it is expected that at least 10% of staff will be transferred and replaced, refresher trainings and fresh kits are being provided each year in each park. The objective is to impart sustained capacity building over the next few years to create an effective and motivated team of frontline field staff in Bhutan. The response from the trainings has been very positive thus far.

*Number of staff trained*

A hundred and thirty-five frontline forest staff of Bhutan were given refresher trainings in 2014. Based on WCD’s input, trainings were conducted in three venues covering the frontline forest guards of three Forest Divisions.

*Sarpang Forest Division*

Sixty-eight frontline forest staff participated in the IFAW-WTI Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. It was found that they gained knowledge in every aspect of the training. Their knowledge increment in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES was from 41.17% to 55.29%; in patrolling and crime prevention from 69.11% to 79.63%; and in general wildlife from 33.08% to 45% (Fig. 38).

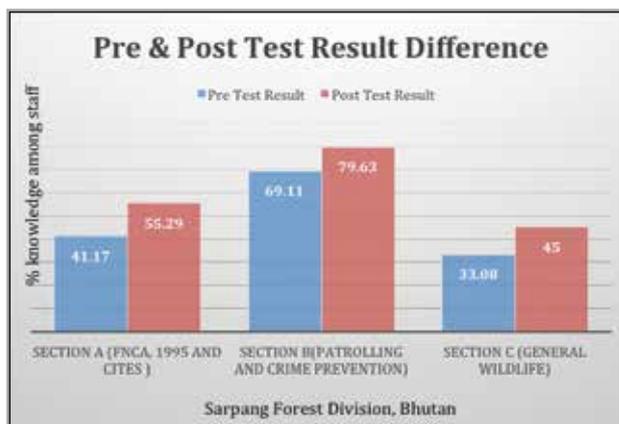


Fig. 42: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Sarpang Forest Division in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training.

**Royal Manas National Park (RMNP)**

Thirty-four staff from Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) participated in the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. RMNP staff gained in knowledge of the schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES from 44.11% to 49.41%; in patrolling and crime prevention from 46.78% to 54.85%; and in general wildlife from 42.64% to 47.64% (Fig. 39).

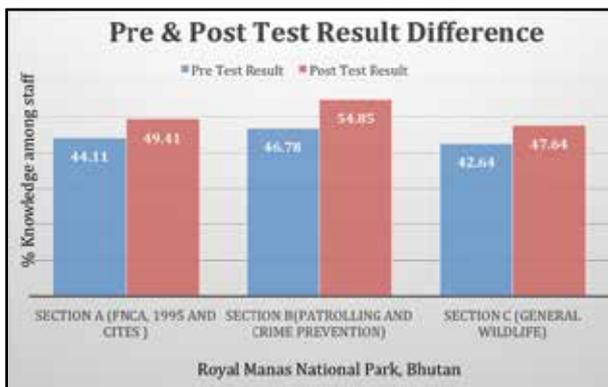


Fig. 43: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Royal Manas National Park in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training.

*Samdrup Jongkhar Forest Division*

Thirty-three staff members from Samdrup Jongkhar forest division participated in the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. The knowledge of staff on different sections of FNCA, 1995 and CITES increased from 63.75% to 71.51%; in patrolling and crime prevention from 50.6% to 61.51%; and in general wildlife from 56.06% to 69.39% (Fig 40).

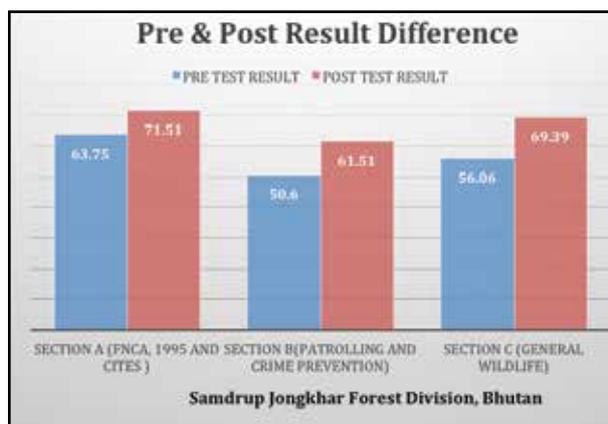


Fig. 44: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Sandrup Zongkar in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training.

### **Post-training feedback (2014 refresher trainings)**

The Wildlife Crime Prevention Training programme was evaluated based on the feedback form filled by all the staff trained across the various parks and forest divisions.

**Course content:** 68% of frontline forest staff rated different aspects of the training as very good and 16% rated it good.

**Relevance of the course material:** 68% of the total staff found the course material relevant for their daily protection duty and patrolling.

**Duration of the training:** 67% of respondents felt that the duration of the training was adequate. However, 7% felt that the training was very short and advocated that the duration (three days) be increased in the next iteration.

**New information received during the training:** Almost 64% of staff indicated that they received new information from the training.

**Frequency at which training is needed:** 66% of staff felt that they needed Wildlife Crime Prevention Training every year; 21% felt that the refresher training was very useful and would help them to stay abreast of wildlife laws.

**Trainers' expertise:** 78% of staff indicated that the trainers were experts in their respective subjects. Many of them declared that the classroom sessions were very useful and enlightened them in different aspects of wildlife law and wildlife crime prevention.

### **Wildlife Crime Prevention Refresher Training: April 2016**

More than 160 staff from four Protected Areas underwent refresher trainings in April 2016, taking the total number of staff trained and equipped to over 800 from across 13 Protected Areas.

#### *Jigme Kheshar Strict Nature Reserve*

Thirty-nine frontline forest staff participated in the IFAW-WTI Wildlife Crime Prevention Training. It was found that they gained knowledge in every section of the training. Their knowledge increment in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES was from 50.47% to 63.52%; in

patrolling and crime prevention from 47.14% to 58.23%; and in general wildlife from 69.52% to 83.52% (*Fig. 41*).

#### *Wangdue Forest Division*

Sixty-three frontline forest staff participated in the refresher training. It was found that they gained knowledge in most aspects of the training. Their knowledge increment in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES was from 42.30% to 59.62%; and in general wildlife from 52.56% to 66.30%. Patrolling and crime prevention saw virtually no change, from 56.73% to 56.29% (*Fig. 42*).



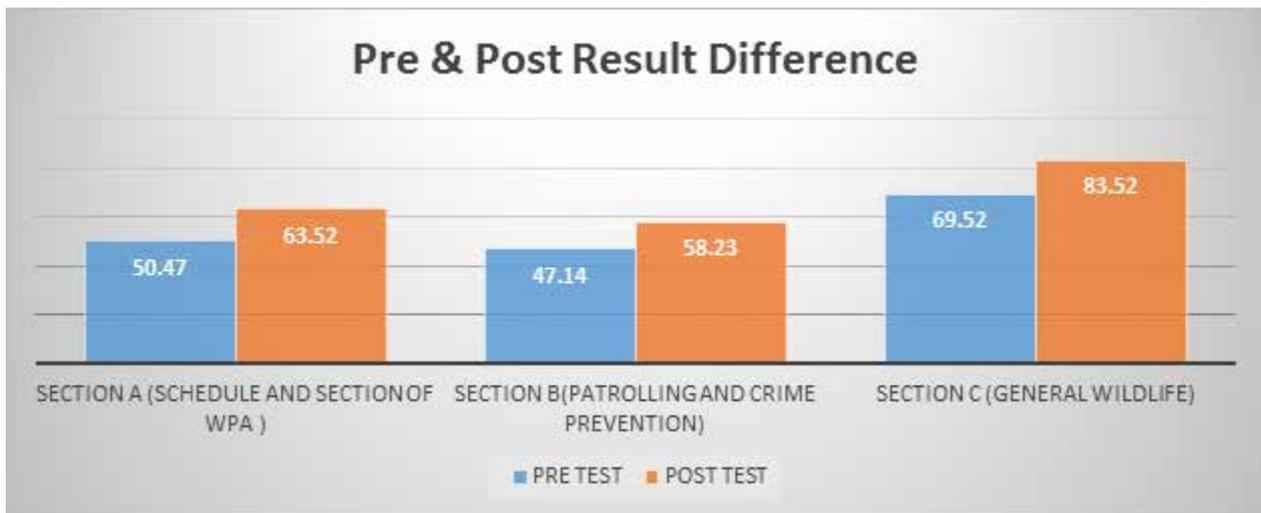


Fig. 45: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Jigme Kheshar Strict Nature Reserve in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training.

### *Jigme Dorji National Park*

Forty frontline forest staff participated in the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training conducted by IFAW-WTI and WCD. It was found that the participants gained knowledge in most aspects

of the training. Their knowledge increment in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES was from 50.87% to 59.42%, and in general wildlife from 76.31% to 81.71%. Patrolling and crime prevention saw a marginal fall from from 42.76% to 40.57% (Fig. 43).

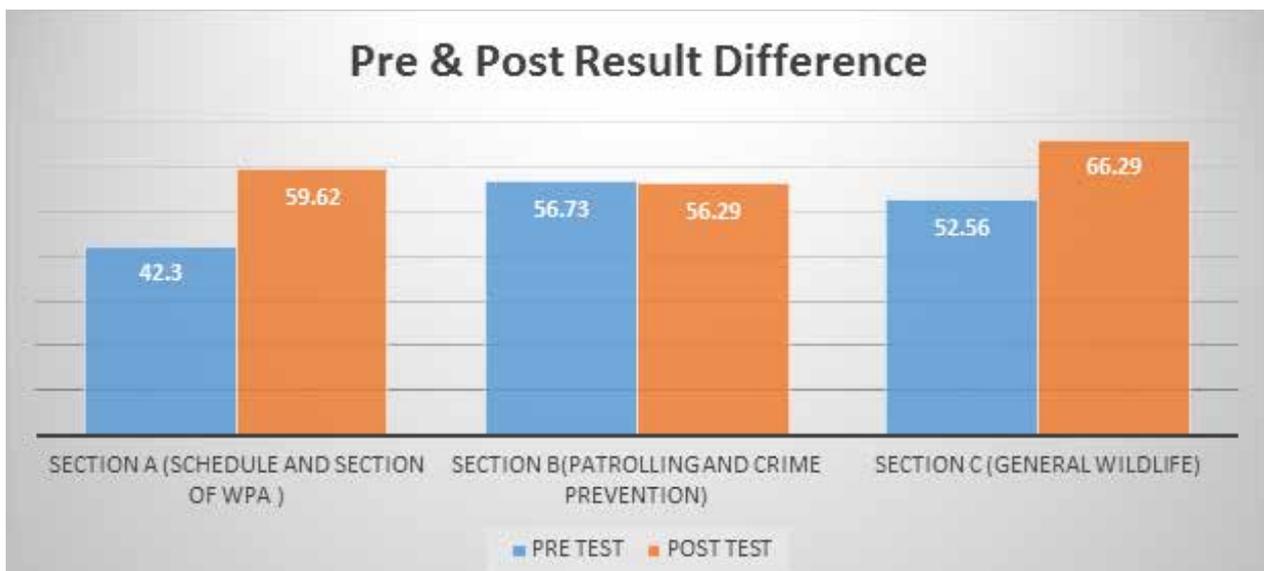


Fig. 46: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Wangdue Forest Division in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training.

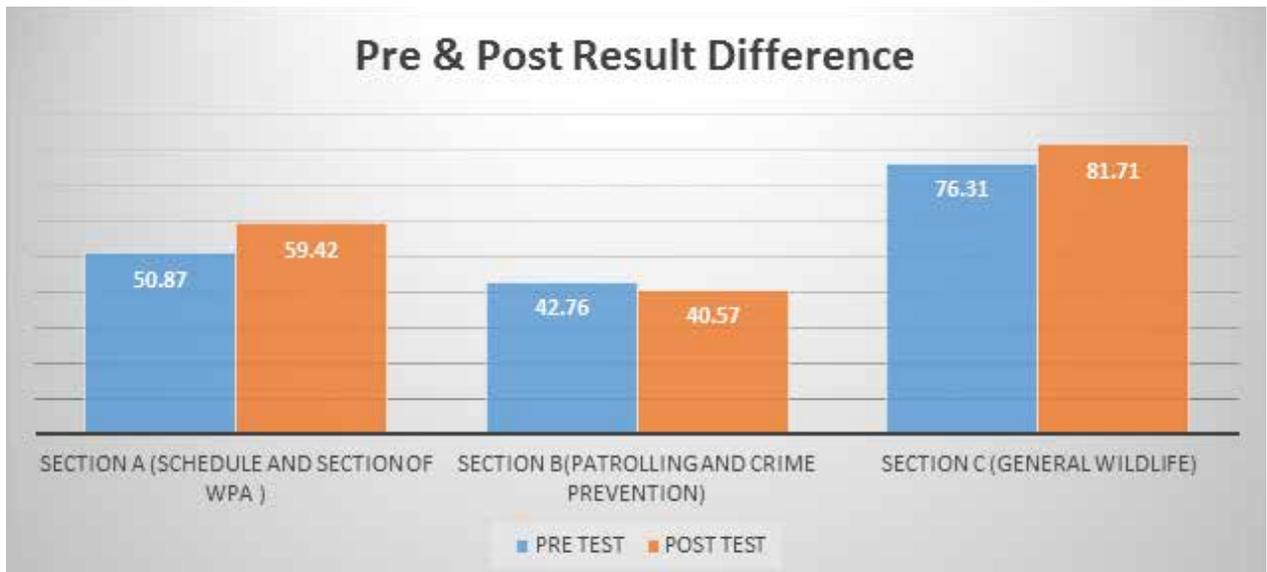


Fig. 47: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Jigme Dorji National Park in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training.

### *Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park*

Twenty-two frontline forest staff participated in the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training conducted by IFAW-WTI and WCD. It was found that they gained knowledge in every section

of the training. Their knowledge increment in schedules of FNCA, 1995 and CITES was from 68.51% to 82.22%; in patrolling and crime prevention from 59.72% to 65.55%; and in general wildlife from 85.18% to 93.33% (Fig. 44).

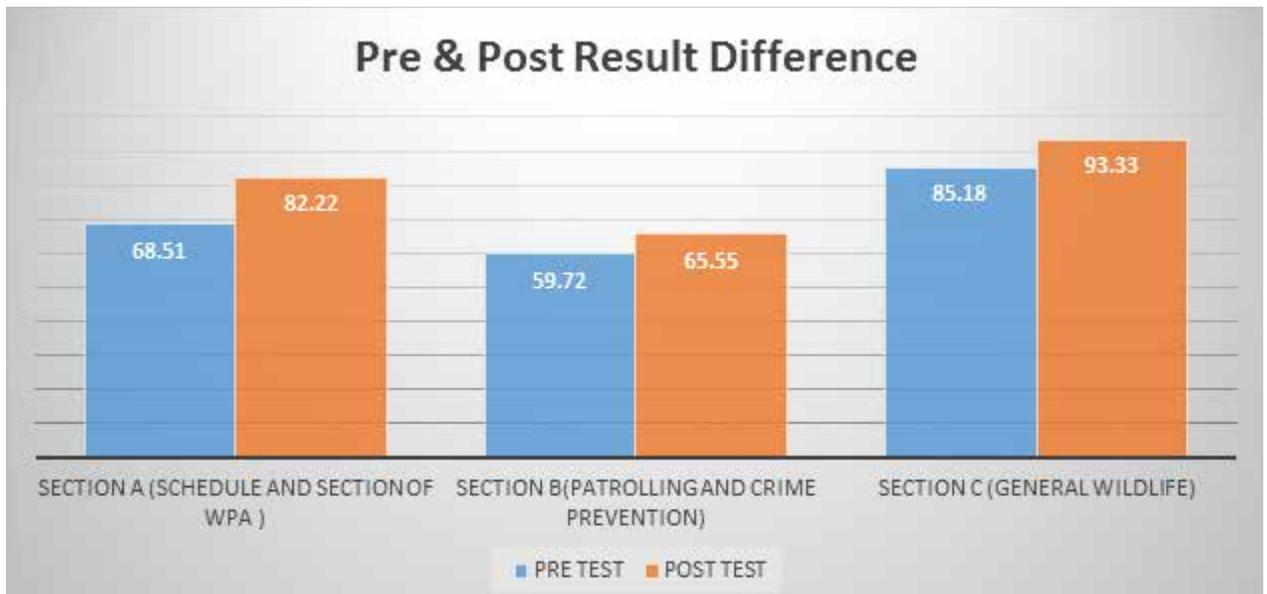


Fig. 48: The percentage knowledge increment among the staff of Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park in different subjects of the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training.

### *Enforcement Support*

**W**ildlife in Bhutan is under considerable threat from illegal global wildlife trade networks. The main consumer markets are in China and the Southeast Asian region, but some wildlife and derivatives are smuggled to the Gulf, Europe and North America.

IFAW-WTI realised the need to strengthen and support enforcement activities in Bhutan, which are managed by the Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit (FPSU) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF).

With this understanding, specific objectives were laid out for implementation by the FPSU with IFAW-WTI's support. The progress against each of these objectives is outlined below for the period November 2014 to March 2016.

***The Bhutan Forest & Wildlife Enforcement Database (BhuFWED) serves as a standard reporting system for field offices to report forestry/wildlife offences to the DoFPS headquarters and accordingly share information with all agencies under DoFPS. Consolidated reports can be viewed through the system and used as a basis for decision-making.***

#### **To understand wildlife trade trends in Bhutan and develop strategic plans to counter the illegal trade**

The Bhutan Forest & Wildlife Enforcement Database (BhuFWED) was developed in the year 2011 as part of the Department of Forest and Park Services' (DoFPS) efforts towards creating a reliable data bank of all illegal forestry and wildlife related activities since the year 2000. IFAW-WTI supported the updation of the database to ensure that baseline data on wildlife trade could be captured and analysed accurately (*Fig. 45 facing page and Table 2 overleaf*).

BhuFWED also serves as a standard reporting system for field offices to report forestry/wildlife offences to the DoFPS headquarters and accordingly share information with all agencies under DoFPS. Consolidated reports can be viewed through the system and used as a basis for decision-making.

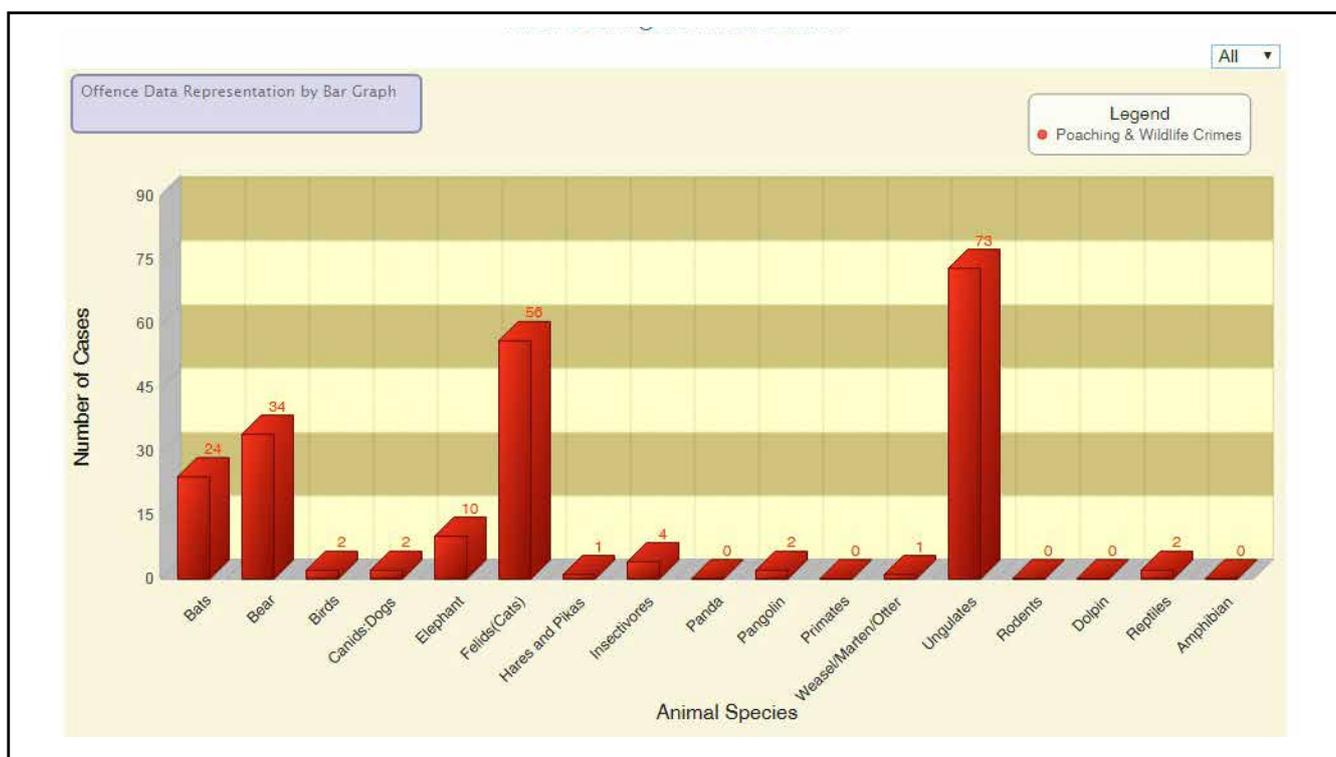
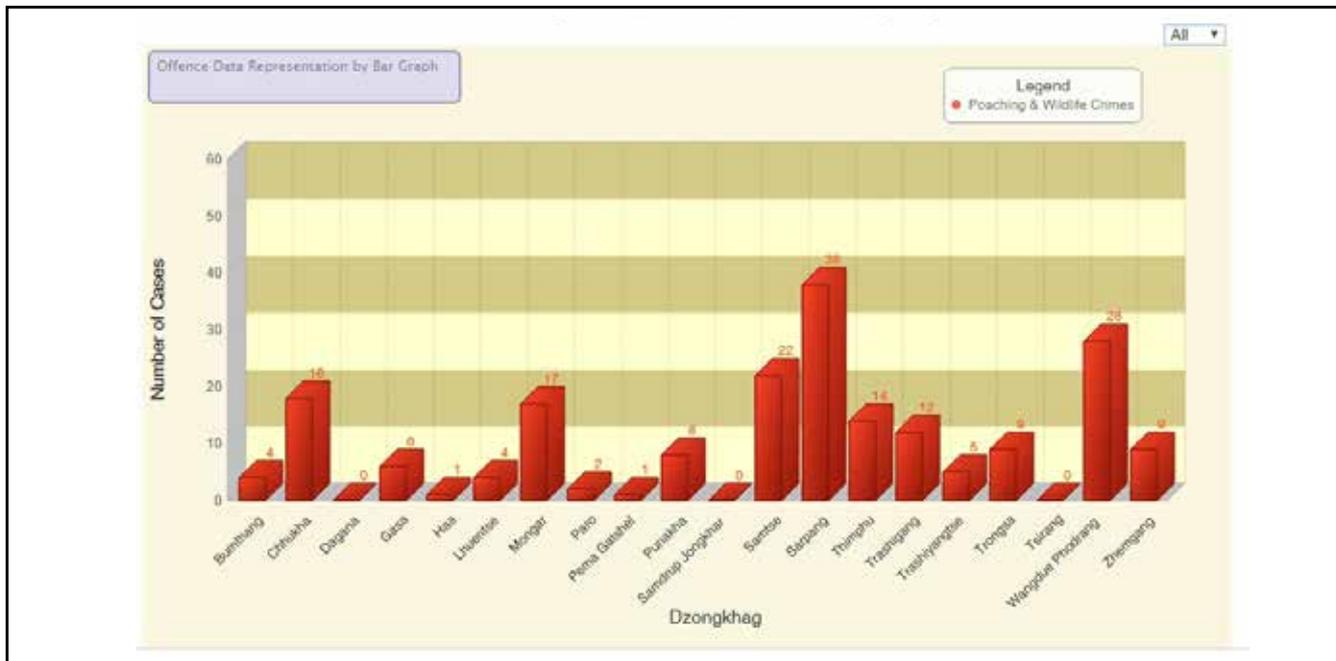


Fig. 49: Total wildlife crimes and poaching cases organised by species (above) and by Dzongkhag (top)

Source: BhuFWED

**To combat wildlife crime in Bhutan and prevent transboundary trade through Bhutan**

Table 3 (*bottom*) shows successful seizures made by the FPSU between April 2015 and March 2016. The details are mentioned species-wise for better understanding. IFAW-WTI supported the actual operations, development of informer networks and information collection.

**To create awareness about wildlife crime and**

**build capacity of various enforcement agencies to combat it**

IFAW-WTI has conducted four trainings specifically targeted at enforcement agency staff in Bhutan. These have been detailed in previous chapters of this report. Two Prevention of Wildlife Trade trainings were conducted in 2011 and 2014. An FPSU-specific training was conducted in 2015 and a border checkpoint staff training was held the same year.

Records at a Glance	
Poaching & Wildlife Crime .....	180
Fishing & Aquatic Life .....	586
Timber Misuse .....	101
Illegal Timber .....	1444
Non Wood Offence .....	467
Forest Fire .....	22
Land Related Offence .....	135
Infrastructure Damage .....	0
<b>Total Records</b>	<b>2935</b>

Source: BhuFWED

Table 2: Wildlife and forest offences as recorded in the BhuFWED database

Records at a Glance					
Species	April 2015	Aug 2015	Dec 2015	March 2016	Total
Tiger	1	1	2	0	4
Musk Deer	1	0	1	0	2
Black Bear	1	3	11	0	15
Common Leopard	2	1	6	4	13
Elephant	0	0	1	0	1
Clouded Leopard	0	1	1	0	2
Cordyceps	1	0	0	1	2
Timber	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>					<b>40</b>

Source: DoFPS

Table 3: Seizures (by species) made by the FPSU between April 2015 and March 2016



Fig. 50: Two separate cases from Phuentsholing, Chukha; the skins were smuggled from Assam, India



Fig. 51: Bear paws seized from Thimpu; contraband that finds its way into the black market is in most cases the result of human-wildlife conflict in the country

## To educate people in priority areas about poaching

With support from IFAW-WTI, the FPSU team conducted targeted awareness programs in priority areas that had been identified as poaching hot spots.

People were educated on the various components of laws that protect particular wild species from being hunted, trapped etc. Special emphasis was given to the trapping of pheasants and species like musk deer, and the consequences of these crimes ecologically and legally.

## Anti-snare walks (planned)

Poaching and the retaliatory killing of wild animals are among the biggest threats to the conservation of species such as the musk deer, Himalayan black bear, takin, tiger, leopard,

Himalayan monal, blue sheep and sambar in Jigme Dorji National Park (JDNP). Reports of the deaths of and injuries to wildlife have increased in the recent past, particularly due to the growing use of traps and snares.

The rugged mountain terrain, remote landscape and harsh climatic conditions make biodiversity conservation in JDNP difficult. Moreover, given a lack of expertise, the park management has had difficulty in carrying out systematic anti-poaching activities. Given IFAW-WTI's longstanding experience with anti-poaching initiatives in India, the project team in association with FPSU is now aiming to undertake anti-snare walks to curb such poaching activities by conducting extensive patrols, and training and sensitising frontline staff. This will also help officials map poaching hotspots and identify patrolling routes.



Fig. 52: A screenshot from the SpeciesID app

## Species ID App

Enforcement agencies need to embrace the latest technologies to combat the ever expanding trade in wildlife and its parts and derivatives.

IFAW-WTI has developed SpeciesID, a mobile app that provides easy access to the following information:

- Diverse regional species relevant to Bhutan
- General description and distribution of species commonly found in the illegal trade
- Animals and animal parts commonly traded in the international market
- Photographs of the animals and their body parts

Species ID is a ready reference tool for frontline forest staff. Swift identification of wildlife and wildlife products as well as the quick relay of information – it has options to broadcast messages for information exchange with other users – are salient features, enabling speedy action against wildlife criminals.



## *Rapid Action Projects*

**T**he right of wildlife to undisturbed habitats and resources is constantly being challenged and threats to the continuance of species, whether endangered or not, are growing at an exponential rate.

Long-term interventions by governments and NGOs go a long way in mitigating such threats, but small gaps can inadvertently remain. These gaps, while they may seem minor, can prove the difference between the success and failure of an intervention if not addressed in time. In addition to these lacunae emergencies sometimes arise, whether from natural calamities such as earthquakes or floods, global phenomena such as climate change, or anthropogenic pressures on wildlife.

Heeding the oft-quoted proverb ‘a stitch in time, saves nine’, and realising the need to respond to both long-term and short-term challenges to wildlife conservation, the Rapid Action Project (RAP) format was devised by IFAW-WTI. An RAP is a short-term intervention that provides adequate and timely aid so that a wildlife emergency can be nipped in the bud, before it flares up into a larger issue requiring huge investments of resources and time.

***Bhutan’s tigers are not immune to the rampant international demand for tiger parts and derivatives. With global populations of wild tigers dwindling, it is essential that not just conservationists but the public at large be educated about the issues that confront tigers today.***

Keeping in mind the conservation requirements in Bhutan, IFAW-WTI has initiated several RAPs in consultation with Bhutanese authorities, with a specific emphasis on the conservation of tigers.

### **(a) Capacity building for wildlife rescue and conflict animal management**

With its human settlements surrounded by rich forests, one of the major issues confronting Bhutan is human-wildlife conflict. Tigers, snow leopards, leopards, bears, Asiatic wild dogs (*Cuon alpinus*) and smaller wild cats (*Felis chaus*, *F. bengalensis*, *F. manul*, *Pardofelis marmorata*, *Catopuma temminckii*, *Prionailurus bengalensis*) kill livestock ranging in size from poultry to large bovids, and have less frequently been responsible for injury to humans. Human-elephant conflict is also on the rise.

The priority is to minimise crop, livestock and infrastructure damage in order to prevent the retaliatory killing of wildlife, and it is crucial, for long-term conservation success, that the safety of both humans and wildlife be ensured. Bhutan's frontline forest staff needs to have the capacity to effectively deal with situations of conflict; training events focused on these issues provide a way forward.

It was found in 2011 that the Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) was running a wildlife rescue centre in Thimpu with three rescue technicians. The unit did not have a wildlife veterinarian, only an officer with basic veterinary training who was looking after veterinary interventions during rescues. The team was often unable to respond to rescue calls due to the terrain and a shortage of trained manpower.

The solution, it was felt, was to build a few regional teams that were trained to attend to wildlife emergencies and provide them with basic equipment to handle wildlife in distress.

In July 2011, IFAW-WTI experts Dr Ian Robinson, Dr NVK Ashraf and Jose Louies conducted a capacity building programme on wildlife rescue and rehabilitation for 21 staff and two interns from DoFPS. The workshop consisted of detailed modules on rescue and rehabilitation, conflict animal management and – a first in Bhutan – practical sessions on the chemical immobilisation of wild animals.

Special sessions on human-carnivore conflict management and the management of rescue centres were also conducted. Workshop manuals, bags, certificates, USB drives with all presentations, and IFAW branded clothing were distributed among the participants.



Fig. 53: Participants of the 2011 workshop during a practical session



Fig. 54: Dr NVK Ashraf (Chief Veterinarian, WTI) demonstrates the preparation of darts from locally available syringes



Fig. 55: Dr Ian Robinson (*extreme right*), Vice President, IFAW, and Dr NVK Ashraf, Chief Veterinarian, WTI assist DoFPS team in treating a sambar deer fawn.



The IFAW-WTI trainers had the unexpected chance to join the local rescue team for the rescue of a sambar deer fawn that had strayed into an army campus. They found the animal non-reactive due to injuries and shock, and with visible bleeding wounds. It was moved to the rescue centre for stabilisation and treatment.

### **(b) Exposure visit to Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation, and other IFAW-WTI projects**



Fig. 56: Training participants during a field trip

Five forestry officials and a veterinary doctor from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests made a twelve-day institutional visit to India funded by IFAW-WTI. The team visited Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park, and IFAW-WTI's Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation in Assam. The team also visited bear rehabilitation and release sites at Roing in Arunachal Pradesh. The exposure visit was organised with the following objectives in mind for trainees:

- To understand basics of wildlife rehabilitation
- To learn the basics of animal handling
- To understand the basic management of a wildlife rescue centre

A set of experts provided theory and practical lessons to the participants, along with training material.

### **(c) Tiger Conservation Awareness**

Tigers have always been accorded a powerful status in Bhutanese culture. The tiger is respected for its energy and fierceness and is revered as a protective deity in some communities.

At the same time, Bhutan's tigers are not immune to the rampant international demand for tiger parts and derivatives. With global populations of wild tigers dwindling, it is essential that not just conservationists but the public at large be educated about the issues that confront tigers today.

July 29, International Tiger Day, is a global awareness event celebrated by all 13 Tiger Range Countries. Bhutan observed its first International Tiger Day in Thimpu in 2011. The event was set up by DoFPS to make the general public more aware about the plight of wild tigers. The theme of the event was "Youth for conservation: conserving our national heritage for our future generation".

#### *2012*

IFAW-WTI has lent its support to Bhutan's celebration of this event since 2012. The event this year was organised at Nubi Gewog, Trongsa, a site of occasional conflict between tigers and humans. The theme of the event was: "Tigers and communities, coexisting in harmony for mutual survival". Dasho Paljor J Dorji, one of Bhutan's pioneering tiger conservationists, stressed that no matter how invested the government was in tiger conservation, the support and initiative of local communities was paramount.

#### *2013*

In 2013 the International Tiger Day event was held at Norbuling Middle Secondary School, which is located in the buffer zone of Royal Manas National Park, at a place considered a hot spot for wild felids. The theme was "Empowering local communities for tiger conservation". As the venue lay close to the border of the Indian state of Assam, a number of senior Indian Forest Department officials were in attendance.

Cultural programs and inter-school art and skit competitions were organised by the Non-Formal Education (NFE) initiative, and there were exhibits on tiger conservation and related activities.

#### 2014

The event this year was celebrated in Thimphu with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan as the chief guest. The preliminary report and a documentary film on the nationwide tiger survey

of Bhutan were launched. (The survey showed an estimated 103 tigers in the country.)

#### 2015

In 2015, International Tiger Day was celebrated at the Royal Convention Centre. Once again the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan was in attendance. The Bhutan Forest & Wildlife Enforcement Database (BhuFWED) – an online system for recording offences related to forestry and wildlife – was launched during the event.



Fig. 57: Schoolchildren during International Tiger Day celebrations, 2011



Fig. 58: International Tiger Day celebrations, 2013



#### (d) Mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict

Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) is on the rise in Bhutan and is one of the major issues that could dampen public support for elephant conservation in the country. Even as different methodologies are employed to tackle the issue, it is imperative that the difficulties faced by both elephants and humans are addressed for long-term conservation success.

As per the Bhutan Forest Department's recommendations, Sipsoo Forest Range under the Samtse Division was chosen for a rapid survey to understand HEC issues. Sipsoo Forest Range records constant elephant infiltration as it lies in close proximity to the Chalsa, Chapramarhi, Sibchoo, Khunia and Gorumara forests in northern West Bengal in India, which have a considerable population of wild elephants.

Discussions with the concerned officials established that the majority of elephants visiting the area were solitary bulls, bachelor herds or small family herds of 10-15 elephants. However, anecdotal reports did indicate congregations of 70-80 elephants.

Entry and exit routes were mapped under the survey, which showed that the elephants entered Sipsoo range from India either by crossing the River Jaldhaka from the Ambotay area, or crossing the Jiti River near Nakey dara – both sites being situated in the southern part of Sajbotay. There was also another entry point at Jiti Bridge on the Jiti River near Hangey village. Elephants were known to take shelter in the Sajbotay forest and raid crops in the nearby villages.

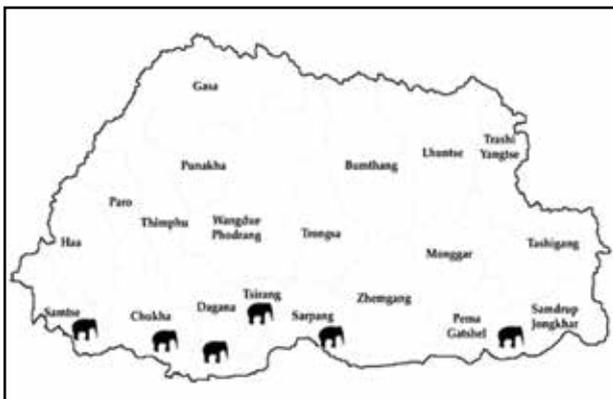


Fig. 59: Bhutan's elephant ranging districts



Fig. 60: Elephant migratory route from India to Sajbotay, Sipsoo Forest Range in Bhutan

**Asian elephants in Bhutan (a population estimated at around 200 to 300) are known to be distributed along the foothills forming the southern border of the country, over a habitat range of about 1500 sq km (Lamho, 2007). They are reported from the southern districts of Samdrup Jongkhar, Sarpang, Tsirang, Samtse and Chukha, which are prone to severe crop and property damage. Samtse was recorded to face the most severe Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) among all southern districts, due to regular seasonal movements of elephants from the Indian side.**

Though the forest department did not have extensive data on HEC, based on the evidence collected it was known that conflict in Bhutan ranged from crop damage, property damage and injury or killing of humans by elephants, with eight villages, namely Hangey, Peljorling A, Peljorling B, Girigaon, Jogimara, Belbotey, Shivalaya and Nangeycholing being the most conflict-prone. Over the last four years, 4 people had been reportedly killed by elephants in the Sipsoo Range. Subsequently, the deaths of two bull elephants due to unknown reasons were also recorded.

Seasonally, reports indicated that the conflict escalated during the harvest season of maize (May-June) and paddy (Oct-Nov). Though solitary elephants were seen throughout the year, both herds and bulls took active part in crop raids during harvest seasons. A few bull elephants were identified by the forest department as regularly damaging property and killing humans, while herds predominantly raided crops.

It was found that locals practiced traditional methods such as crop guarding, driving and chasing, use of fireballs, noise making (*hulla* squads) etc to deter raiding elephants. Due to restrictions on firecrackers and gunshots, these were not in use in Sipsoo. But during the preliminary survey, it was learnt that a few villagers had started using livewire fencing to protect their crops, done secretly to avoid any punishment from government agencies. Though still at a nascent stage and with very few villagers using the method, this could lead to mortality of elephants in the future.

Apart from these traditional interventions, there were long-term plans initiated by the Bhutan Forest Department to improve the habitat inside Sajbotay, providing more fodder for the elephants inside the forest with an aim to reducing conflict in the fringe villages.

During the project period, household surveys were conducted in the conflict-prone villages of Sipsoo Range. A majority of the locals indicated that HEC had increased steadily over the years since 1990, i.e. after the evacuation of Sajbotay

village. The village had been situated on the fringes of the Sajbotay forest and was on the migratory path of elephants entering from India through the Sipsoo Range, thereby acting as a barrier to elephant movement deep inside the range. When the village was evacuated, the elephants ventured further and gained access to other villages in the area. Locals also indicated that there were no residential elephants in the region, only migrating elephants from the Indian side that raided crops seasonally. While undertaking the survey, most locals responded negatively and disassociated themselves from elephant conservation. This was in all probability due to the crop loss they had incurred, combined with the constant fear of elephants and the absence of any ex-gratia scheme.

Though it was a rapid survey, the exercise highlighted certain issues and led to some recommendations for effective HEC mitigation:

- Need for a detailed survey in all elephant-bearing ranges of Samtse Division.
- Need to create an atmosphere encouraging community participation for elephant conservation
- Creation of physical barriers for elephants
- Review of habitat improvement plans for Sipsoo Range
- Initiation of ex-gratia scheme for conflict mitigation
- Training of field staff for effective HEC mitigation
- Elephant Census and maintenance of database on conflict
- Transboundary collaboration to understand elephant ecology and conflict
- Need for awareness generation

Efforts are currently being undertaken to conduct long-term studies to understand the issues of conflict in the elephant-bearing districts of Bhutan. A mechanism is being developed wherein a constant census of wild elephants is undertaken to estimate the population and distribution status of elephants in these districts. A database on conflict is also being created.



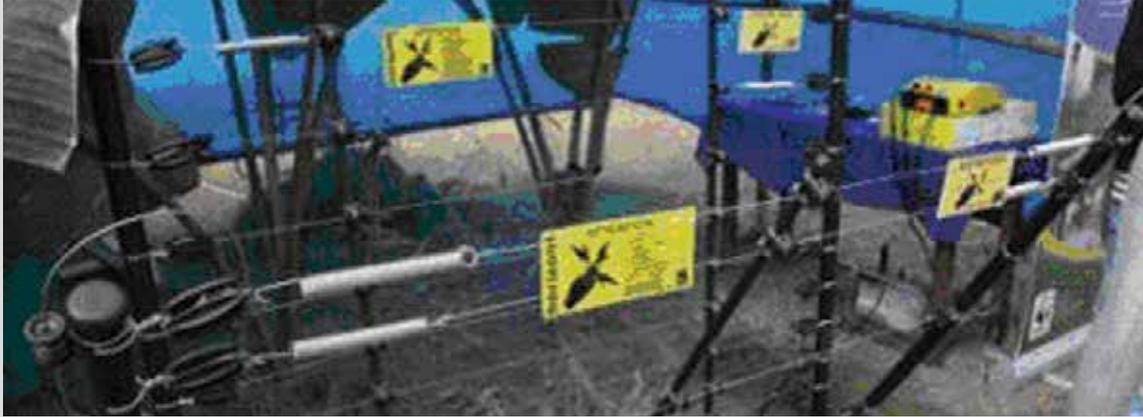


Fig. 61: Demonstration of a power fence during a workshop

An RAP was sanctioned to study Human-Elephant Conflict in South-western Bhutan. IFAW-WTI deputed a technical expert to collect baseline data from conflict-prone areas and to thereafter develop a conservation action plan to mitigate the conflict.

One of the issues that arose was that while the Bhutanese government had been purchasing power fences from India, these fences were being installed without the requisite technical expertise. As a result their efficiency was being compromised and the installation and maintenance costs were very high. Most of these fences were therefore either completely or partially non-functional. IFAW-WTI helped the Wildlife Conservation Division (WCD) identify a company that both manufactured and installed electric fences, and facilitated meetings between the two parties.

The WCD awarded the company a contract to install electric fences at various high-conflict sites in Bhutan. The company also trains Bhutanese staff in the installation and maintenance of these fences, to ensure their effectiveness over a longer duration. Currently, the fences are working satisfactorily.

#### **(e) Anti-poaching assistance to frontline forest staff**

In line with its goal to improve the equipment standards of staff patrolling Protected Areas, IFAW-WTI supplied 50 high quality Gregory backpacks to frontline staff in Sipsoo and Daifam Forest Ranges in south-western and south-eastern Bhutan respectively.

Another RAP was sanctioned to provide sleeping mats and solar powered equipment for field anti-poaching camps in Phibsoo WLS. The equipment

included solar panels, batteries and solar charge controllers. This is a border area contiguous to India and is therefore even more prone to poaching; such equipment ensures regular communication channels (walkie-talkies, mobile phones can be charged), lighting at the field camps in remote areas, and longer and consistent presence for staff at remote and sensitive anti-poaching camps. The RAP has ensured regular lighting of 30 anti-poaching camps.



Fig. 62: Frontline staff using the Gregory backpacks in the field

**(f) Providing a Mitsubishi L200 4WD pick-up truck to the Wildlife Conservation Division**

On the lines of the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) and Mobile Veterinary Service vehicles (MVS) in India, an immediate need was felt for an all-terrain vehicle at the Wildlife Conservation Division, to address emergency situations such as human-animal conflict and wildlife rescue operations, as well as for anti-poaching patrolling and monitoring of activities in the field. Most of Bhutan's topography has a high altitudinal variation, some areas being highly inaccessible due to the rugged terrain. The earlier vehicle in use for these functions needed to be replaced. With its long-term commitment to help Bhutan, IFAW-WTI purchased this vehicle for WCD.



Fig. 63: The vehicle provided to WCD for use in wildlife conservation activities

**(g) Attendance at International Bear Conference**

An RAP grant supported the participation of the Chief of the WCD at the International Bear Conference in Utah, USA, in October 2013 and Alaska, Canada in 2016.

**(h) Grant for attending AniMove course at Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute**

A grant of USD 7,700 was awarded to an officer of the WCD to attend the animal movement course at Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute at Front Royal, Virginia, USA. AniMove ([www.animove.org](http://www.animove.org)), a collective of international researchers with extensive experience in these topics, teaches a two-week intensive training course for studying animal movement. This

two-week course focuses on interdisciplinary approaches linking animal movement with environmental factors to address challenging theoretical and applied questions in conservation biology.

**(i) Hands-on training of gharial capture and release at Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Bihar, India**

The Wildlife Conservation Division, DoFPS wished to relocate some gharials from the Norgay Crocodile Breeding Farm at Phuentsholing to Jigmeling in Gelephu.

IFAW-WTI organised a two-day training in February 2015, to teach the rescue staff at Phuentsholing how to capture and handle the animals. The hands-on training was conducted at Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Bihar, India.

Trainees were introduced to the relevant equipment and techniques used to handle gharials. They were taught, through practical demonstrations, how to handle, capture and release the animals, and were involved in satellite-tagging some of them. They were also shown how to collect and preserve blood samples and determine the sex of a gharial. They also witnessed the transportation of gharials in specially designed wooden boxes.

By the end of the training the visiting rescue officials expressed their confidence about conducting the translocation from Phuentsholing to Jigmeling.

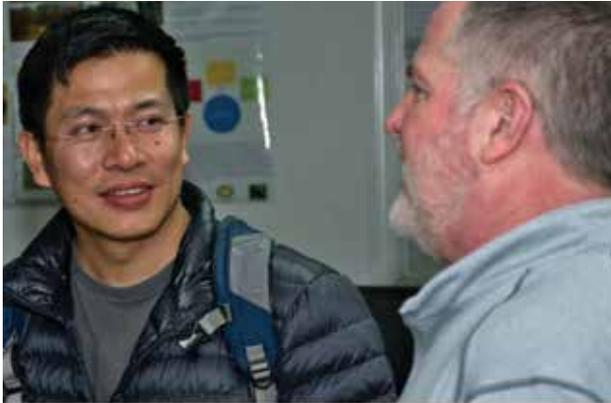


Fig. 64: Sonam Wangdi, Species Conservation and Monitoring Section, WCD, at the AniMove Conference

**It is hoped that the international trainings facilitated by IFAW-WTI will further the conservation initiatives within Bhutan by enhancing the knowledge and skill levels of key government staff involved in projects critical for the conservation of key species.**



Fig. 65: Training on the satellite-tagging of gharials at Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Bihar, India



Fig. 66: Training on capture and handling of gharials at Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Bihar, India

### **(j) Bhutan International Day**

Bhutan commemorated His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's 35th Birth Anniversary, and the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck's 60th Birth Anniversary, with an international event held in the capital city of Thimphu from February 14 to 23, 2015.

Her Majesty The Gyaltshen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck was the patron for this festival, which is now an annual event with a mission to "provide new outlets for artists from across the nation, and to invite a cultural exchange with artists from around the world". The celebration showcased the Bhutanese culture, tradition and art, and provided an excellent opportunity to spread conservation awareness amongst the Bhutanese people as well as artists and tourists from all over the world. The awareness campaign was conducted by Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve and the Wildlife Conservation Division, DoFPS, and was supported by IFAW-WTI.

The event was held simultaneously at three locations and conservation awareness posters were showcased and distributed at each. There was a special focus on species like the musk deer,

snow leopard, monal pheasant and tiger. The ten-day event saw a footfall of more than 10,000 visitors at all venues.

### **(k) Bhutan's World Wildlife Day celebration**

As per a resolution of the 16th CITES Conference of Parties (CoP) in March 2013, and later formalised by 68th United Nations General Assembly, March 3 was endorsed as World Wildlife Day.

IFAW-WTI has assisted the WCD in organising this prestigious event since 2014, Bhutan's first World Wildlife Day. The event had a theme of "Bhutanese People and Wildlife to Live in Harmony", and was held at the Clock Tower, Thimphu. Her Royal Highness Princess Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck graced the occasion along with several ministers and senior government officials.

A total of 200 invitees including dhesups, foresters and students of Loseling Middle Secondary School (LMSS) attended the celebration.



Fig. 67: Conservation Awareness posters at Bhutan International Day, 2015



The second World Wildlife Day (2015) in Bhutan was celebrated in Jangbi village under the Trongsa dzongkhag in Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park (JSWNP). The theme was “Partnering with Local Communities to Combat Wildlife Crime”.

While Dasho Drangpon of Trongsa Trimkhang graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, Dasho Paljor J. Dorji, Senior Advisor and Deputy Minister to the National Environment Commission was present as the Guest of Honour for his exemplary conservation efforts and his continued support. In his keynote address Dasho Drangpon emphasised the need for every individual to contribute to the protection of the natural environment, conservation of rich biodiversity, and prevention of all forms of ecological degradation.

A drawing competition on the theme “Forests and My Village” was conducted for students of the Jangbi Community Primary School. A short skit was also presented to educate people on the implications of wildlife crime, and posters on conservation were displayed. The day was also marked as a part of the celebrations of the 60th Birth Anniversary of the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck, and highlighted 20 years of conservation efforts by the JSWNP management.

## (I) International Snow Leopard Day

The snow leopard, *Panthera uncia*, is under tremendous threat due to poaching and fragmentation of habitats across its geographical range. In order to affirm collective action to conserve this rare species and its fragile habitats, the governments of 12 snow leopard range countries and international partner agencies gathered at Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in 2013 to develop the ‘Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Programme’, based on inputs from the respective range countries in the form of the National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Programme (NSLEPP). The forum unanimously adopted October 23 of every year as International Snow Leopard Day and requested the respective governments to observe this important day to benefit snow leopard conservation.

Bhutan observed the first International Snow Leopard Day on November 4, 2014, becoming the first range country to celebrate this important event. IFAW-WTI supported the second International Snow Leopard Day celebration at Paro on October 23, 2015. The theme for the year was “Taking Stock of the Elusive Snow Leopard for a Healthy Alpine Ecosystem”, aptly linked to the ongoing National Snow Leopard Survey, which aimed to estimate the population



Fig. 68: World Wildlife Day, Bhutan

of the species in the country and develop a long-term landscape conservation management plan for Bhutan's snow leopards and their prey base.

The event was graced by Dasho Paljor J. Dorji, Deputy Minister and Senior Advisor to the National Environment Commission. He reiterated the importance of conserving this endangered species and encouraged the Bhutan Forest Department to continue its efforts for snow leopard conservation.

Five schools of the Paro Dzongkhag participated in awareness-building events like a quiz and an art competition. Posters and banners depicted the status of snow leopards and threats to their survival. The department humbly dedicated the celebrations to the 60th Birth Anniversary of the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, for his benevolent and visionary leadership in the conservation of Bhutan's natural heritage.

On October 23, 2016, on the third International Snow Leopard Day, Bhutan proudly declared an estimated population of 96 snow leopards across the mountainous terrain of northern Bhutan. Camera traps had provided detailed information on snow leopards and captured photographic evidence of snow leopard populations in Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve (JKSNR) and Paro Territorial Forest Division for the first time. The results confirmed that Bhutan offers a safe haven for snow leopards, thanks to the tireless work of the government and its NGO partners.

#### **(m) Planning and training workshop for National Snow Leopard Survey, Jigme Dorji National Park**

IFAW-WTI supported the WCD in conducting a three-day planning and training workshop for 28 staff members of Jigme Dorji National Park, with the objective of familiarising the frontline staff and survey enumerators with the necessary skills required for the National Snow Leopard Survey, and acquainting them with the survey protocols.



Fig. 69: A snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*)

Participants were introduced to the ecology and biology of the snow leopard, its prey and related ecosystems. Trainers presented the different types of survey methodologies, including the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and the Sign Survey methodologies for the snow leopard and its prey species. Participants were also trained in the collection of samples and their storage protocols. Safety issues during the collection process were emphasised.

The survey methodology and timeline for 2014-15 was also planned during the course of the event.



Fig. 70: International Snow Leopard Day, Bhutan



## (n) Animal Action Education

IFAW's Animal Action Education (AAE) is the largest animal-focused educational activity in the world. It takes place during the first week of October to coincide with World Animal Day on October 4, and draws the participation of millions of children worldwide. It is organised in several countries and Bhutan joined in as part of an IFAW-WTI initiative. The aim of AAE is to educate, sensitise, raise awareness and generate interest in animal welfare and conservation issues, particularly among young people across the world. It packages animal welfare sensibilities in an exciting and understandable format reaching out to young minds to trigger interest, action and involvement.

In Bhutan, this unique initiative was started in 2011, where ten schools received free education activity packs, films (VCDs) and other AAW (Animal Action Week) material on the global common theme, 'Elephants Never Forget'.

Co-curricular activities like debates, quiz competitions, painting and essay competitions etc were also arranged as part of the AAW activities, and a documentary on elephants was screened for the students. The free activity packs provided an insight into the world of elephants as well as the threats faced by them, including poaching, habitat fragmentation and conflict with people.



Fig. 71: Schoolchildren in Bhutan participating in Animal Action Education activities

## THINK TWICE! campaign

Think Twice! is an IFAW public awareness campaign aimed at educating tourists and consumers on the impact of their purchases, and protecting wildlife from endangerment due to over-consumption and unsustainable trade.

As part of the campaign against trade in tiger parts, a signature campaign was organised by IFAW-WTI and DoFPS during the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation held at Thimpu in October 2012. About 200 dignitaries participated by signing this campaign. An LED display on the campaign was also displayed at Paro International Airport.

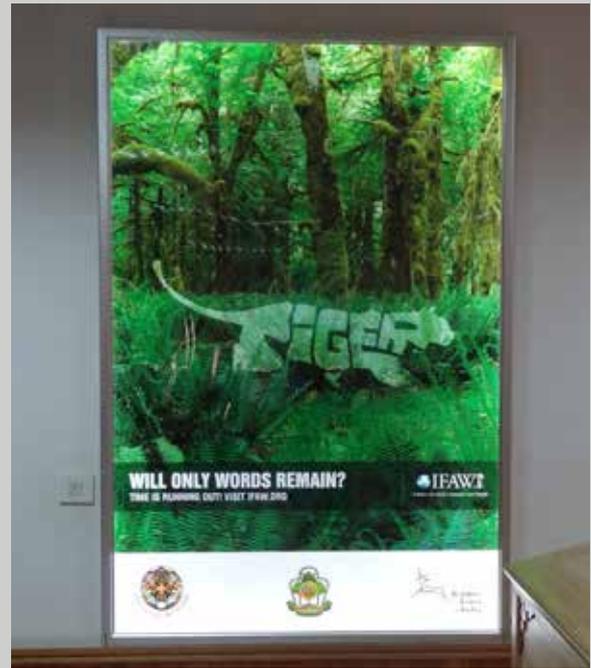


Fig. 72: The Think Twice! LED display at Paro International Airport

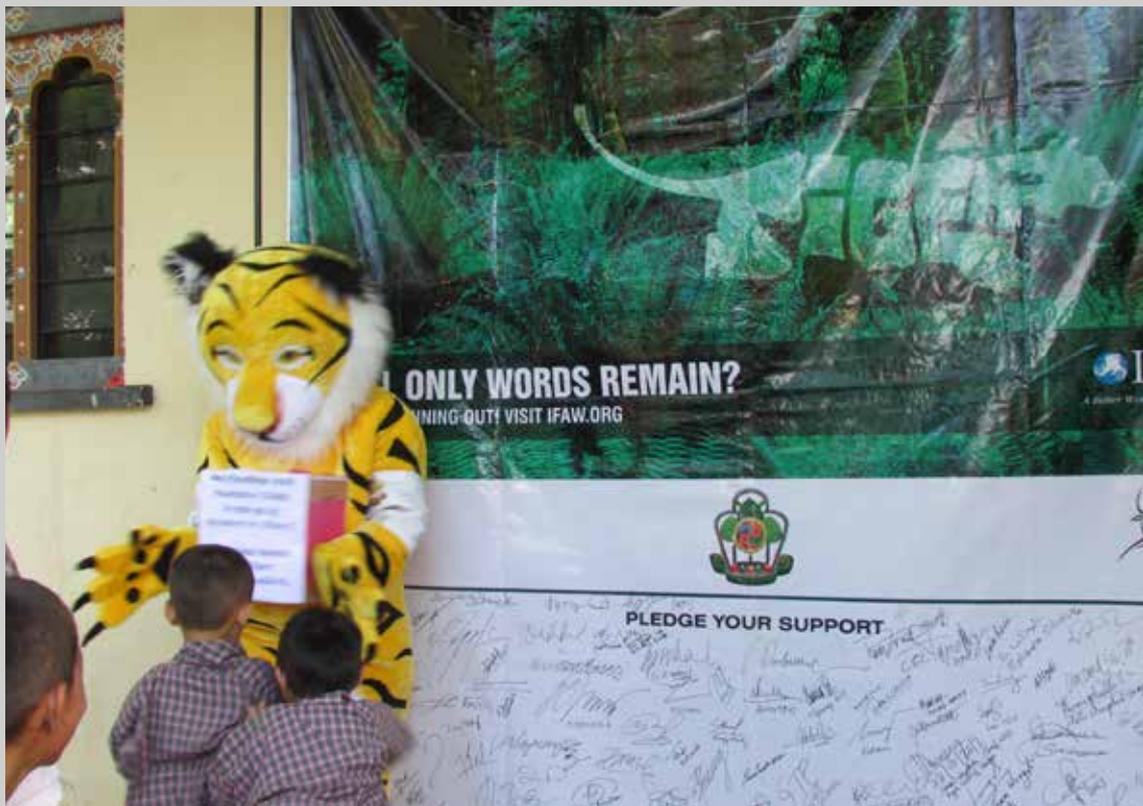


Fig. 73: The Think Twice! signature campaign



## CHAPTER 6

### *Past and Future*

**B**hutan is one of the smallest nations in the world but has punched well above its weight when it comes to the conservation of wildlife and wild habitats. We have already mentioned on these pages its Gross National Happiness index, its constitutional commitment to preserving 60% of its land under forest cover, the legal protection afforded to 51% of its land area (the highest in Asia), and the spiritual underpinnings of its preservation of tigers and other wildlife.

Yet it is also a nation at a crossroads. It is said of Bhutan that it has seen more change in the past 50 years than it had in the last 500, and it would perhaps be accurate to say that the last five years have wrought more transformation than the preceding 50.

While Bhutan has thus far maintained an admirable balance between its natural heritage and the developmental demands of its growing population, it must be said that especially with increasing anthropogenic pressures and its recent dramatic demographic shift – over 60% of the country is below the age of 34 – the stressors on its environment will only grow more acute.

Bhutan's wildlife is rendered especially vulnerable due to its status as a tiger range country (103 tigers in the last census) and the simple fact of its geography, with the Indo-Bhutan border in particular becoming a favoured route for illegal wildlife traffickers to smuggle goods to China and other countries.

The regular upgradation of knowledge and skills for frontline forest staff and enforcement personnel, and increased knowledge sharing and cooperation between enforcement agencies were identified as crucial areas of long-term engagement in the MoU signed between IFAW-WTI and the Bhutanese government in February 2012.

Between the Prevention of Wildlife Trade trainings and the Wildlife Crime Prevention trainings conducted by IFAW-WTI, the needs of

***While Bhutan has thus far maintained an admirable balance between its natural heritage and the developmental demands of its growing population, it must be said that especially with increasing anthropogenic pressures and its recent dramatic demographic shift, the stressors on its environment will only grow more acute.***

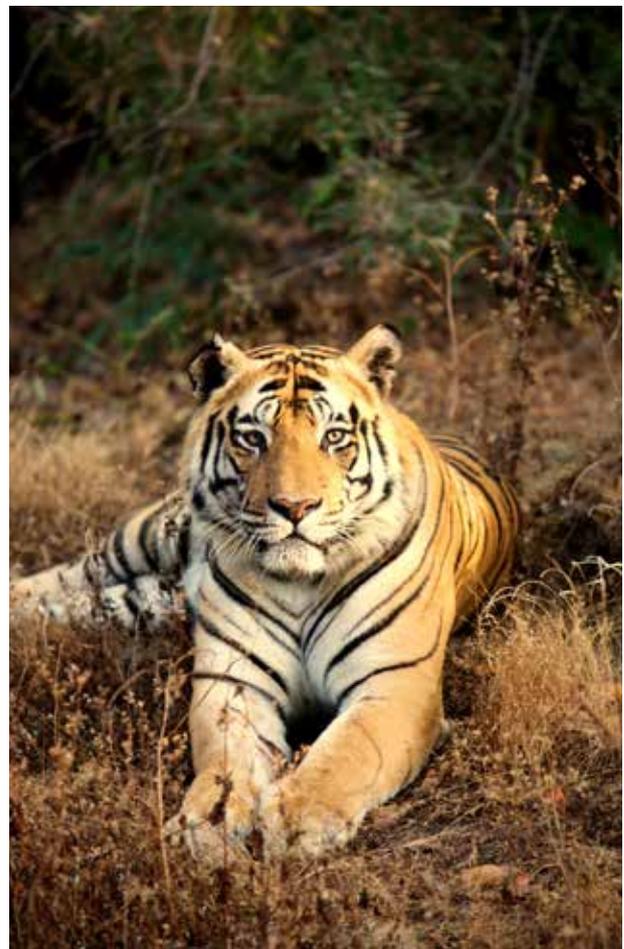
forest staff and officers from agencies as diverse as the Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit, Royal Bhutan Police, Department of Revenue & Customs, Royal Bhutan Army, Royal Bhutan Customs, the judiciary, and of course, the Department of Forests and Park Services have been addressed in these intervening years, on issues relating to wildlife trade, international and Bhutanese wildlife laws, and the investigation of wildlife crime. The training of field staff in particular has been supplemented with the provision of better equipment, to enhance capabilities and boost morale.

In addition, IFAW-WTI has initiated several Rapid Action Projects to nip short-term wildlife emergencies in the bud and address identified lacunae in long-term and ongoing projects. These have ranged from capacity building of staff for wildlife rescue and conflict animal management, mitigation methods for human-elephant conflict (both crucial interventions in a time of increased human-wildlife conflict), upgradation of field equipment where urgently required, and specific training in wildlife capture and release for translocation. There is also a continued encouragement and support of the Government of Bhutan's several conservation awareness programmes, which ensure that while the old order changes to the new, certain civilisational fundamentals do not get left behind.

There is much else to be done, of course, especially in terms of promoting transboundary cooperation in the region, as the success of certain conservation initiatives demands a unified approach that transcends geopolitical boundaries. The establishment of a Greater Manas Transboundary Friendship Park between authorities of Greater Manas, India and Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan would enable several conservation priorities to be managed more effectively.

It is absolutely essential that while Bhutan negotiates this pivotal phase in its journey it remains steadfast to its environmental priorities. Not only is it one of the world's ten most biodiverse regions, the largesse of its natural wealth spreads well beyond its borders: its freshwater sources are crucial for a fifth of the world's population, and it remains carbon neutral and a net sink for the world's greenhouse gases.

For IFAW-WTI, the privilege of its collaboration with the Government of Bhutan creates a rare opportunity for pre-emptive conservation, to actually help prevent serious damage instead of the usual post-facto cleaning up of a mess. For that in itself, it is a partnership meant for the long haul.



## APPENDIX I

### *Agenda for IFAW-WTI Prevention of Illegal Wildlife Trade Training*

TIME	ITEM	TIME	TRAINER
<b>DAY 1</b>			
<b>OPENING CEREMONIES AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>			
9:00 – 9:30 am	Registration of Participants	30 min	
9:30 – 10:00 am	Opening Ceremonies Welcome address Opening remarks Launching	30 min	Dignitaries on dais
10.00-10.15 am	Tea/Coffee break – Dignitaries Depart	15 min	
10:15-10:30 am	IFAW wildlife trade movie		
10:30-11:00 am	Introduction of participants, workshop program and objectives	30 min	Vivek Menon
11:00 – 11:30 am	Pre-training assessment (Exercise)	30 min	Vivek Menon
11:30 - 12:30 pm	Wildlife Crime Objective: To provide an overview of the magnitude of wildlife crime, the factors that drive it and its links to other serious organised crimes	60 min	Vivek Menon
12:30 -1:00 pm	IFAW Objective: To introduce IFAW and its role in curbing illegal wildlife trade	30 min	Vivek Menon
1:00-2:00 pm	Lunch	60 min	
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Confiscations: Confinement, Care, Transport & Reintroduction of Seized Wildlife		
	Welfare and management of seized wild animals Objectives: To learn how to meet the basic needs of confiscated live animals while they are in your care.		
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Transport and Reintroduction of Seized wild animals Objective: Protocols towards reintroduction of confiscated species to natural habitats.	60 min	Ian Robinson
4:00 - 4:30 pm	Close for the day		



<b>DAY 2</b>			
	<b>INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS: CITES</b>		
09:30 – 10:00 am	Presentation of pre-assessment survey and recap of Day 1		Vivek Menon
10:0 – 11:00 am	CITES Objective: To provide an overview of CITES. What is CITES, why it is needed, CITES Authorities, Appendices and Definitions (General Information).	60 min	Elsayed Mohamed
11:00 -11:30 am	Tea/Coffee break	30 min	
11:30 – 12:30	CITES Permits Objective: To discuss the general procedures of CITES permits, how these permits are issued, requirements, and information needed for issuance of permits	60 min	Elsayed Mohamed
12:30 – 01:30 pm	Permit fraud - CITES practical exercise	60 min	Elsayed Mohamed
1:30 -2:30 pm	Lunch	60 min	
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Presentation by Bhutan officials on the statistics of common wildlife exports for the past three years and the smuggling cases of wildlife species in Bhutan.	45 min	Sonam Wangchuck (to nominate resource person from Bhutan)
3:30 – 3:15 pm	Tea/Coffee Break	15 min	
3:15 –3:45 pm	Close for the day		
<b>DAY 3</b>			
9:00 – 10:00 am	Regional Species Identification Guide Objective: To be able to identify commonly traded species in illegal international trade in the region. Distribution of the regional guide.	60 min	Elsayed Mohamed
10:00 – 11:00 am	Regional Species Identification Guide Contd... Objective: To be able to identify commonly traded species in illegal international trade in the region. Distribution of regional guide	60 min	Elsayed Mohamed
11:00 – 11:30 pm	Tea/Coffee Break	15 min	
11:30 – 12:15 pm	National Legislations and Enforcement Objective: A brief description of the statutes and regulations in the country for addressing wildlife trade	45 min	Sonam Wangchuck to nominate resource person
12:15- 1:00 pm	Panel Discussion Objective: Discussion involves participants to examine how specific national laws and regulations, including those of general applicability, such as conspiracy, smuggling, false statement, and fraud, could be applied to wildlife crime cases	45 mins	Participants
1:00-2:00 pm	Lunch	60 mins	



2:00- 3:00 pm	Ecomessage: INTERPOL's System for Reporting Environmental crime Objective: To understand how to use Ecomessage to report wildlife and environmental crimes	45 min	Elsayed Mohamed
<b>WILDLIFE CRIME AND ENFORCEMENT</b>			
3:00 – 4.00 pm	Wildlife Smuggling Objective: To have the tools to be able to profile wildlife criminals ie demeanour, flight booking's routing, what they are carrying in their luggage, etc and also to be familiar with the methodology of concealment that is used by the criminals, Profiling smugglers	60 min	Vivek Menon
4:00-4:15 pm	Tea break	15 mins	
4:15-4:30 pm	Close for the day		
<b>DAY 4</b>			
9:00 - 10:30 am	Fact Pattern Group Exercise Objective: To gain an appreciation for real-world challenges and tools available to Bhutan in investigating and prosecuting wildlife crimes. (The participants will be organised into groups and provided with sets of issues/questions to which to respond)	90 min	Jose Louies
10:30 - 11:00 pm	Tea/Coffee Break	60 min	
11:00 - 11:45 pm	International and Regional Networks, Treaties and Agencies for Cooperation, SAWEN	45 min	Vivek Menon
11:45 – 12:15 pm	Inter-agency Cooperation Panel discussion facilitated by IFAW Resource Person	45 min	Vivek Menon
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Breakout Groups Objective: One representative from each participating agency to examine ways in which agencies with different remits and areas of concern can cooperate more effectively in the fight against wildlife crime	45 min	Participants
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch	60 min	
2.00 - 2:45 pm	Preparation for Live Operation	45 min	
2:45 – 4:00 pm	Workshop Evaluation/Post-assessment Survey	75 min	Vivek Menon/Elsayed Mohamed
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Certificates – Close of workshop	45 min	
5:30 pm onwards	Live Operation – IFAW team/MoAF to provide details and organise activity		



## APPENDIX II

### ***Agenda for IFAW-WTI Prevention of Illegal Wildlife Trade Training***

Paro, Bhutan - 10-14 February 2014

TIME	SUBJECT	DURATION	TRAINER
<b>10th February, 2014 (Day-1)</b>			
<b>OPENING CEREMONIES AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>			
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Registration of Participants	60 min	
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Welcome address Opening remarks Launching (To be developed in consultation with WCD, Bhutan)	60 min	Dignitaries on dais
5:30 – 5:45 pm	IFAW Wildlife trade movie	15 min	
5:45 – 6:00 pm	Tea/Coffee break	15 min	
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Introduction of participants, workshop program and objectives	30 min	Vivek Menon
6:30 – 6:45 pm	<b>IFAW - Objective:</b> To introduce IFAW and its role in curbing illegal wildlife trade	15 min	Kelvin Alie
7:00 pm onwards	Dinner hosted by IFAW-WTI		
<b>11th February, 2014 (Day-2)</b>			
9:00 – 9:15 am	Recap	15 min	Vivek Menon
9:15 – 9:45 am	Pre-training assessment (Exercise)	30 min	Facilitated by Vivek Menon
9:45 – 10:30 pm	<b>Wildlife Crime</b> <i>Objective:</i> To provide an overview of the magnitude of wildlife crime, the factors which drive it and its links to other serious organized crimes	45 min	Kelvin Alie
10:30 – 10:45 am	Tea/Coffee break	15 min	
<b>SPECIES ID</b>			
10:45 – 11:15 am	<b>Regional Species Identification Guide</b> <i>Objective:</i> To be able to identify commonly traded species in illegal international trade in the region. Cats	30 min	Vivek Menon
11:15 – 11:45 am	<b>Regional Species Identification Guide</b> <i>Objective:</i> To be able to identify commonly traded species in illegal international trade in the region. Birds	30 min	Elsayed Mohamed



11:45 – 12:15 pm	<b>Regional Species Identification Guide</b> <i>Objective:</i> To be able to identify commonly traded species in illegal international trade in the region. Elephants, Rhinos, Tibetan Antelopes and other mammals	30 min	Vivek Menon
12:15 – 12:30 pm	Regional Species Identification Guide <i>Objective:</i> To be able to identify commonly traded species in illegal international trade in the region. Primates	15 min	Elsayed Mohamed
12:30 – 1:00 pm	<b>Regional Species Identification Guide</b> <i>Objective:</i> To be able to identify commonly traded species in illegal international trade in the region. Reptiles, Amphibians and Insect	30 min	Elsayed Mohamed
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Lunch	60 min	
2:00 – 2:30 pm	<b>Regional Species Identification Guide</b> Contd... <i>Objective:</i> To be able to identify commonly traded species in illegal international trade in the region. Plants	30 min	Elsayed Mohamed
<b>NATIONAL LEGISLATION</b>			
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Presentation by Bhutan officials on the statistics of common wildlife exports for the past three years and the smuggling cases of wildlife species in Bhutan	30 min	Name of the presenter to be decided by WCD, Bhutan
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Tea/Coffee break	30 min	
3:30 – 4:00 pm	<b>National Legislations and Enforcement</b> <i>Objective:</i> A brief description of the statutes and regulations in the country for addressing wildlife trade	30 min	Name of the presenter to be decided by WCD, Bhutan
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>Objective:</i> Discussion involves participants to examine how specific national laws and regulations, including those of general applicability, such as conspiracy, smuggling, false statement, and fraud, could be applied to wildlife crime cases	30 min	Facilitated by Jose Louies
4:30 – 4:40	Close for the day		
<b>12th February, 2014 (Day 3)</b>			
09:00 – 9.15am	Presentation of pre-assessment survey and re-cap of Day 1	15 min	Vivek Menon
9.15 – 9:45 am	<b>Welfare and Management of Seized Wild Animals</b> <i>Objectives:</i> To learn how to meet the basic needs of confiscated live animals while they are in your care.	30 min	Vivek Menon/ Jose Louies
9:45 – 10:15 am	<b>Transport and Reintroduction of Seized Wild Animals</b> <i>Objective:</i> Protocols towards reintroduction of confiscated species to natural habitats	30 min	Vivek Menon/ Jose Louies



<b>INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS : CITES</b>			
10:15 – 11:00 am	<b>CITES</b> <i>Objective:</i> To provide an overview of CITES. What is CITES, why it is needed, CITES Authorities, Appendices and Definitions (General Information)	45 min	Elsayed Mohamed
11:00 – 11:15 am	Tea/Coffee Break		
11:15 – 11:45 am	<b>CITES Permits</b> <i>Objective:</i> To discuss the general procedures of CITES permits, how these permits are issued, requirements, and information needed for issuance of permits	30 min	Elsayed Mohamed
11:45 – 12:30 pm	Permit Fraud - CITES practical exercise	45 min	Facilitated by Elsayed Mohamed
<b>WILDLIFE CRIME AND ENFORCEMENT</b>			
12:30 – 1:00 pm	<b>Wildlife Smuggling: Modus operandi</b> <i>Objective:</i> To illustrate the methods and techniques used by criminal syndicates to smuggle wildlife specimens	30 min	Andreou Andreas
1.00 - 2.00 pm	Lunch	60 min	
2:00 – 2:30 pm	<b>Wildlife Smuggling: Profiling</b> <i>Objective:</i> To have the tools to be able to profile wildlife criminals ie demeanour, flight booking's routing, what they are carrying in their luggage, etc and also to be familiar with the methodology of concealment that is used by the criminals, Profiling smugglers	30 min	Kelvin Alie
2:30 - 3.00 pm	Ethics of a Law Enforcement Officer	30 min	Kelvin Alie
3.00 - 3.15 pm	Tea/Coffee Break	30 min	
3:15 - 3:45 pm	INTERPOL and ENS	30 min	Andreou Andreas
3:45 – 4:15 pm	INTERPOL ENS-IFAW Training Needs Survey Questionnaire	30 min	Andreou Andreas/ Kelvin Alie
4:15 – 4:45 pm	Preparation for simulated exercise in airport	30 mins	Elsayed Mohamed
4:45 – 5:00	Close for the day		
<b>13th February, 2014 (Day 4)</b>			
9.00 - 9.15 AM	Recap of Day 2	15 min	Jose Louies
9:15 – 10:00 am	Crime Scene Investigation	45 min	Andreou Andreas
10:00 – 10:45 am	<b>Group Exercise</b> <i>Objective:</i> To gain an appreciation for real-world challenges and tools available to Bhutan in investigating and prosecuting wildlife crimes.  (The participants will be organized into groups and provided a case study with sets of issues/questions to which to respond).	45 mins	Kelvin Alie
10:45 – 11:00 am	Tea/Coffee Break	15 min	



<b>INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION</b>			
11:00 am – 11:30 pm	International and Regional Networks, Treaties and Agencies for Cooperation , SAWEN	30 min	Kelvin Alie
11:30 – 12:00 pm	RED Notices and INFRARED	30 min	Andreou Andreas
12:00 – 12:30	Environmental Security Sub-Directorate and NEST	30 min	Andreou Andreas
12:30 – 1:00 pm	<b>Inter-Agency Cooperation</b> Panel discussion facilitated by IFAW	30 min	Kelvin Alie
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch		
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Transportation to airport	30 min	
2:30 – 4:30 pm	Simulated operation at airport	120 min	Elsayed Mohamed and other trainers
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Demonstration of Airport facilities for preventing crime	30 min	
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Drive back to training venue	30 min	
<b>14th February, 2014 (Day 5)</b>			
9:00 – 9:15 am	Recap of Day 3		Jose Louies
9:15 – 9:45 am	Post-training assessment (exercise)	30 min	Facilitated by Elsayed Mohamed
9:45 – 10:30 am	<b>Breakout Groups</b> <i>Objective:</i> Discussion involves one representative from each participating agency to examine ways in which agencies with different remits and areas of concern can cooperate more effectively in the fight against wildlife crime	45 min	Vivek Menon / Jose Louies
10:30 – 11:00 am	Presentation of results of evaluation	30 min	Vivek Menon / Jose Louies
11:00 – 11:30 am	Tea/Coffee Break	30 min	
11:30 – 12:00 am	Comments and feedback from the participants	30 min	
12:00 – 01:00 pm	Presentation of certificates and closing ceremony	60 min	
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Closing Lunch	60 min	



## APPENDIX III

### *Agenda for Workshop on Wildlife Rescue and Conflict Animal Management*

July 7-8, 2011

TIME	ITEM	DURATION	TRAINER
<b>DAY 1</b>			
<b>OPENING CEREMONIES AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>			
9:30 – 10:00 am	Registration of Participants	30 min	Dignitaries on dais
10:00 – 10:15 am	Welcome address	15 min	Ian Robinson
10:15 – 10:30 am	Introduction to the Workshop	15 min	
10:30 – 10:40 am	Participants' introduction	10 min	
10.40 – 11.00 am	Tea/Coffee break	20 min	
11:00 – 11:45 am	Human-wildlife conflict & wildlife displacements in Bhutan	45 min	Sonam Wangchuck
11:45 – 12:45 pm	Participants' experiences and their expectations	60 min	
12:45 – 1:45 pm	Lunch	60 min	
1:45 – 2:45 pm	Basic course on rescue and rehabilitation	60 min	Ian Robinson / NVK Ashraf
2:45 – 3:30 pm	Leopard and bear conflict dynamics – a case study from J&K	45 min	NVK Ashraf
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Tea/Coffee break	15 min	
3:45 – 4:30 pm	Care and management of wildlife orphans	45 min	Ian Robinson
4:30 – 5:15 pm	Human-leopard conflict management guidelines	45 min	NVK Ashraf
	Close for the day		
<b>DAY 2</b>			
10:00 – 10:45 am	Translocation of rescued ungulates	45 min	NVK Ashraf
10:45 – 11:00 am	Tea/Coffee break	15 min	
11:00 – 11:45 am	IUCN guidelines for the placement of confiscated animals	45 min	Ian Robinson
11:45 – 12:45 pm	Designing and establishing rescue centers	60 min	NVK Ashraf / Ian Robinson
12:45 – 1:45 pm	Lunch	60 min	
1:45 – 5:00 pm	Field visit to the rescue centre	195 min	
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Valedictory function	30 min	
	Close for the day		



# OTHER WTI PUBLICATIONS

## A. OCCASIONAL REPORTS

### **Tribal Territories**

Impact assessment around the Jarawa tribal reserve, middle and south Andaman Islands

### **Captive Concerns**

Health and management of captive elephants in Jaipur

### **Jumbo Express**

A scientific approach to understanding and mitigating elephant mortality due to train accidents in Rajaji National Park

### **Fair Concern**

Health and management of captive elephants in Sonapur

### **Elephants in Exile**

A rapid assessment of the human-elephant conflict in Chattisgarh

### **Ganesha to Bin Laden**

Human-elephant conflict in Sonitpur district of Assam

### **Healing Touch:**

Health and management of captive elephants at Kaziranga elephant festivals

### **Dog and Bull**

An investigation into carnivore-human conflict in and around Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh

### **Against the Current**

Otters in the river Cauvery, Karnataka

### **Making Way**

Securing the Chilla-Motichur Corridor to protect elephants of Rajaji National Park

### **Silent Stranglers**

Eradication of mimosa in Kaziranga National Park, Assam

### **Living at the Edge**

Rapid survey for the endangered Ladakh urial (*Ovis vignei vignei*) in Leh district of Ladakh Trans-Himalaya

### **Sighting Storks**

Status and distribution of Greater adjutant storks (*Leptoptilos dubius*) in the Ganga and Kosi river floodplains near Bhagalpur, Bihar



**Search for Spectacle**

A conservation survey of the Phayre's leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus phayrei*) in Assam and Mizoram

**No Mast Kalandar:**

The beginning to the end of dancing with bears

**Awaiting Arribadda:**

Protection of Olive Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and their nesting habitats at Rushikuliya rookery, Orissa

**Living with Giants:**

Understanding human-elephant conflict in Maharashtra and adjoining areas

**Crane Capital:**

Conservation strategy for sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) habitat in Etawah and Mainpuri Districts, Uttar Pradesh

**Deadly Tracks:**

A scientific approach to understanding and mitigating elephant mortality due to train hits in Assam

**Carnivore Conflict:**

Support provided to leopards involved in conflict related cases in Maharashtra

**India at the International Whaling Commission:**

A policy document on India's involvement in the IWC 1981-2003

**Hunt for Hangul:**

Establishing the presence of hangul outside Dachigam National Park, Jammu & Kashmir

**Bait and Watch:**

Popularization of alternatives to dolphin oil amongst fishermen for the conservation of the Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) in Bihar

**Civet Chronicles:**

Search for the Malabar Civet (*Viverra civettina*) in Kerala and Karnataka

**Bear Necessities**

A scientific approach to understand & mitigate Human-Sloth Bear Conflict in Madhya Pradesh

**B. CONSERVATION ACTION REPORTS****Beyond the Ban**

A census of Sahtoosh workers in Jammu & Kashmir

**Biodiversity, Livelihoods and the Law**

The case of the 'Jogi Nath' snake charmers of India



### **Goats on the Border**

A rapid assessment of the Pir Panjal markhor in Jammu & Kashmir distribution, status and threats

### **The Ground Beneath the Waves (2 Volumes)**

Post-tsunami impact assessment of wildlife and their habitats in India

### **Walking the Bears**

Rehabilitation of Asiatic black bears in Arunachal Pradesh

### **Mountain Migrants**

Survey of Tibetan Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) and Wild Yak (*Bos grunniens*) in Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, India

### **Predator Alert**

Attacks on humans by leopard and Asiatic black bear in Kashmir valley - Analysis of case studies and spatial patterns of elevated conflict

### **Turning the Tide**

The campaign to save Vhali, the Whale Shark (*Rhincondon Typus*) in Gujarat

### **Daring to Restore**

A report on WTI's collaborative efforts for the conservation of coral reef in Mithapur, Gujarat

### **Gujarat's Gentle Giants**

Coral reef recovery in Mithapur

### **Goats on the Border**

A Rapid Assessment of the Pir Panjal Markhor in Jammu and Kashmir: Distribution, Status and Threats

### **A Dance to Forget**

The story of the eradication of Sloth Bear dancing from India

## **C. CONSERVATION REFERENCE SERIES**

### **Wildlife Law**

A ready reckoner - A guide to the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972

### **Back to the Wild**

Studies in wildlife rehabilitation

### **Right of Passage**

Elephant corridors in India

### **Poisons and the Pachyderm**

Responding to poisoning in Asian elephants - A field guide



**Commentaries on Wildlife Law**

Cases, statues & notifications

**Pakke Pachyderms**

Ecology and conservation of Asian elephants in Kameng elephant reserve, Arunachal Pradesh

**Bringing Back Manas**

Conserving the forests and wildlife of the Bodoland Territorial Council

**Canopies and Corridors**

Conserving the forest of Garo Hills with elephant and gibbon as flagships

**Hasthisiksha**

A manual on humane training of elephant calves destined for permanent captivity

**Crane Constituencies**

Important Sarus Wetland Sites in the Agricultural Landscape of Eastern Uttar Pradesh

**D. OTHERS****Wrap up the Trade**

An international campaign to save the endangered Tibetan Antelope

**Tiger Bridge**

Nine days on a bend of the Nauranala

**Emergency Network Relief Digest 2005-2006****Emergency Network Relief Digest 2006-2007****Action Tiger**

Tiger action plans of 12 tiger range countries

**Born to be Wild**

Commemorating a decade of Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

**Tigers of North Kheri**

A collection of short stories and articles penned by Ashok Kumar







## CONSERVATION ACTION SERIES

In 2011, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) first called on Bhutan's Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, and its Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS), offering to support conservation in the country. The capacity building and equipping of frontline field staff, as well as rapid short-term interventions for wildlife emergencies, were identified as key areas of cooperation. This Conservation Action Series report documents the work implemented by IFAW-WTI and DoFPS under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in February 2012, and examines how to sustain and build upon these initial conservation initiatives.



Department of Forests and Park Services

