

CONFLICT TO CO-EXISTENCE

A dozen cost effective human interventions for
co-existence with wildlife

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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 nine key strategies or Big Ideas.

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FOREWORD

CARE FOR NATURE and reverence for wildlife have been part of the culture of our country since ancient times. However, in recent times, conflicts have been increasing, largely in human dominated areas in the vicinity of forests, and are often considered as consequences of the high rate of fragmentation of habitats and growing populations of humans as well as wildlife.

The increase in conflict at times results into death and destruction from numerous encounters with large mammals and hundreds of humans and wild animals are killed annually. Damage also occurs to crops, property and livestock worth millions of rupees, mostly in rural areas where an already poverty-stricken populace can ill afford such losses. This high cost of living with wildlife beyond tolerance capacity of the population causes enmity towards the forest managers and wildlife, thus resulting often into loss of trust and lack of participation in conservation efforts. This in turn can create further problems for forest management as the antisocial forest and wildlife offenders take advantage of the situation for their criminal motives. Looking for solutions to this situation is not only the need of the people inhabiting vicinity of forests, but is also an imperative for the foresters in search of sustainable management of forests.

The securing of wildlife corridors to provide unhindered linkage between forest fragments including the Protected Areas within the landscapes is one such solution. But it is, by

virtue of the complex logistics involved, a long-haul kind of solution. It is crucial that we simultaneously address human-wildlife conflict through mitigation measures that can have an immediate and visible impact - especially on the lives of the people that suffer most, since it is only in partnership with them that effective, viable conservation can ultimately take root.

It is for this reason that the publication 'Conservation Action Solutions' becomes important for managers and others. The experiments on mitigation measures ranging from management interventions in the habitats to interface with people to address their miseries provide an indication of possibilities for diverse situations. The initiatives, ranging from the EleTrack system to prevent train hits, canopy bridges for arboreal wildlife, active bio-fences, a 'Grain for Grain' scheme for compensating crop losses, and anti-snare walks, have shown tangible impacts. These field-proven demonstrations through pilot projects have also proven to be cost-effective and implementable as well as effective for establishing trust and empathetic relationships with the local communities.

I wish to congratulate WTI, its partner agencies and the state forest departments involved in the implementation of these projects, and I am happy to recommend that all individuals and organisations involved with conservation read this publication. It is an important conflict mitigation resource and there is much we can learn from it.

Dr SK Khanduri
Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife)
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A deadly garland of wire snares strung across a jungle path on the fringes of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Problems and Solutions

A LAND OF STRIKING CONTRASTS, India is home to one of the richest reserves of biodiversity, including wildlife, in the world.

India's wild habitats include three of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots, 26 of the world's most important wetlands as listed by the Ramsar Convention, and seven natural World Heritage Sites as recognised by UNESCO. The country's 10 distinct biogeographic zones are the last refuge for a number of highly endangered and threatened species.

However, all is clearly not well: Indian wildlife is today confronted with immense problems, of which the rising tide of Human Wildlife Conflict is one. Conflict between humans and wild animals is not a recent phenomenon; it finds mention in several ancient texts including the *Rig Veda*. However, it has escalated in recent years, as growing anthropogenic pressures and changing land-use patterns have led to the steady erosion of habitats that are crucial to the survival of several niche species.

The degradation and fragmentation of wild habitats – whether due to encroachments for agriculture, housing, mining, dams etc, or linear infrastructure such as roads and railways – is increasingly driving wildlife towards human settlements. Instances of conflict, particularly with elephants but also other herbivores, bears, and big cats like tigers and leopards, are found to be high in interface areas between humans and wildlife, especially where slash-and-burn cultivation is practiced and where the contiguous

forests have been reduced to a mosaic of fragmented patches interspersed with settlements and crop lands.

Over a thousand Indians are killed in encounters with large mammals annually, not to mention the damage to crops, livestock and property worth millions of rupees. Several hundred wild animals are also killed in retaliation, by hunting, poisoning or electrocution every year, or in rail and road accidents. Indians have a deep-rooted cultural reverence for wildlife but this traditional tolerance has clearly begun to fray.

There is an urgent need to address conflict situations through the introduction of effective and creative mitigation measures. Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has been working with communities and governments to this effect, addressing conflict through a holistic process that involves the implementation of one or more key strategies.



Through the strategy of land securement, for instance, WTI has worked to secure critical habitats outside the traditional PA system, especially wildlife corridors, community reserves and sacred groves, thereby increasing the effective Protected Area of India.

The protection of wild habitats is a permanent solution that addresses the problem of Human Wildlife Conflict at its root. However, land securement is intrinsically a time and resource intensive strategy that demands policy interventions and the involvement of stakeholders and affected people. It is, moreover, not an easily replicable process since the cultural, economic and geographical diversity of the country does not allow for a universal model of securement.

In conjunction with long-term measures, therefore, it is essential that rapidly deployable and field-tested solutions to alleviate Human Wildlife Conflict be brought to the forefront. This inaugural volume of the Conservation Action Solutions series does just that, summarising ten successful conflict mitigation measures already employed by WTI, and two new ideas that are worth implementing as pilot projects. While some of these can be universally applied across the country, most will be found to be replicable in other locations with similar problems, in a short duration and at a low cost.



An elephant poisoned in retaliation for crop damage (previous page); agricultural fields damaged by elephants (top); and a conflict leopard being treated after tranquilisation (right)

01 // GRAIN FOR GRAIN

Relief scheme for farmers losing crops to depredation by elephants and other herbivores

>> THE NEED

Elephants have migrated along the same paths for millennia. Forested areas in India have now become fragmented due to various man-made structures and practices, thus blocking these routes. Agricultural activity is one such example. As most farming in India is for subsistence, crop damage by elephants affects farmers severely, so much so that some irate farmers retaliate by poisoning the pachyderms. Other herbivores like pig, deer and antelope also cause severe crop loss.

>> THE SOLUTION

For wild herbivores, crops growing on agricultural lands adjoining their forests represent a low-risk, high-gain food sourcing strategy. While long-term solutions include the protection of wildlife corridors and creation of effective barriers between the animals and crops, there is a need for instant relief in cases of crop depredation.

This is particularly relevant in Below Poverty Line communities where traditional methods have involved cash compensations rather than food relief, whereas the latter is of primacy to such communities. One solution is to avoid the word 'compensation', instead giving relief in the form of grain equivalent to the amount that has been lost. A committee comprising a Divisional Forest Officer, a Block Development Officer and an NGO representative can disburse this relief speedily after every season of crop loss.



Following its success in Arunachal, the 'Grain-for-Grain' scheme has been replicated in Assam and Nagaland

>> PILOT PROJECT

A unique relief measure called the 'Grain-for-Grain' scheme was initiated by WTI and the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department in villages around Pakke Tiger Reserve in 2005. Since then, WTI has distributed some 62 tonnes of grain, providing direct relief to over 500 families. Significantly, no elephants have been killed in retaliation for crop damage in this region since the project's inception. This scheme also helped promote food security among the tribes around Pakke and has subsequently been replicated in Karbi Anglong in Assam and Wokha in Nagaland.



Train collisions are the fourth-largest cause of unnatural elephant mortality in India, with over 220 elephants killed across different states since 1987. Such collisions can also cause trains to derail, potentially endangering human lives.

O2 // ELETRACK

Animal Detection System to prevent train hits

>> THE NEED

Linear infrastructure, especially in the form of railway lines that run through forests and important wildlife habitats, has become a potential threat to the survival of several endangered species, particularly elephants. Official records show that since 1987, over 220 wild elephants have died in 'train hits' – collisions with trains while crossing railway tracks.

Given the gravity of the issue, WTI has initiated conservation and mitigation actions in partnership with the state forest departments of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu to reduce wildlife mortalities due to train hits. One such measure involves night patrolling by frontline forest personnel who alert the relevant station master as elephants approach a particular section of track. The station master in turn issues caution orders to locomotive drivers plying trains on that track.

While this approach has been successful in several states, the limitations of manual patrolling have also been very apparent. An urgent need was felt to develop an electronic Animal Detection System that could effectively monitor animal movement and send automated alerts in time to prevent animal-train collisions.

>> THE SOLUTION

EleTrack is just such an automated system. Its solar powered wireless (infrared) sensors can detect large

mammals like elephants when they are in proximity to railway tracks. An audio-visual warning (sound, flashing lights) is then produced and simultaneous SMS alerts sent through a linked communications device to the station master to warn locomotive operators, and to forest staff to drive away the elephants or other animals.

>> PILOT PROJECT

WTI tested the components for the EleTrack system in an identified stretch between Walayar and Kanjikode in Kerala in April 2014, and has conducted another pilot in two villages in southern West Bengal. Work to directly interface the system with railway signals is also underway.

The EleTrack Animal Detection System being tested using a captive elephant



03 // ACTIVE BIO-FENCES

Win-win ways of keeping wild animals off crop lands

>> THE NEED

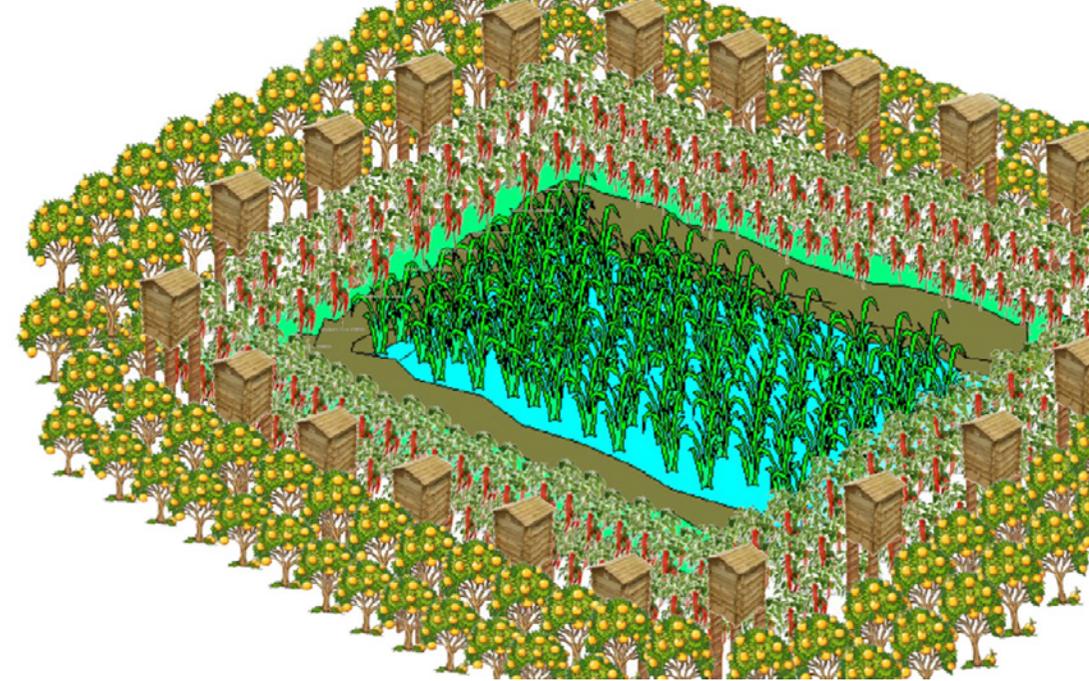
Herds of elephants tend to use the same migratory paths over generations. This brings them into conflict with humans when their traditional corridors of movement are encroached upon by settlements and farmlands. Nearly 500 human lives are lost annually due to human-elephant conflict (HEC) and damage worth millions of rupees is caused to crop lands. There is thus an urgent need for deterrents that can keep elephants off crop lands and out of human settlements across the country.

One easy way of conceptually addressing HEC is to change cropping patterns – to replace food crops like rice or banana with cash crops such as chilli or ginger, as elephants are repelled by the latter. However, this can have a negative effect on the food security of local communities, since the sale of cash crops is not always a reliable way of earning money.

>> THE SOLUTION

The use of active bio-fences – wherein food crops and/or habitations are fenced off using a ‘living perimeter’ that keeps wild animals at bay while creating additional sources of income – is an effective way of addressing this issue. Such bio-fences can consist of beehives in conjunction with cash crops like chilli and citrus, thus repelling elephants through thorns, stings and capsaicin smell.

The use of beehives in bio-fences has been found to be particularly effective, since not only do elephants run



The anatomy of a bio-fence: Citrus trees on the outside, man-made beehives in the next layer, followed by chilli plants and finally, the food crops at the centre

away when confronted with the sound of angry bees, they emit a unique, low-frequency or infrasonic alarm call warning other elephants in the area to keep their distance. Moreover, farmers using such fences can derive additional income through the sale of honey and beeswax, and get a better yield from their crops due to improved pollination.

>> PILOT PROJECT

WTI plans to initiate a pilot project using active bio-fences in select areas in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape in Assam, which is considered to be a hotspot for human-elephant conflict. North Bengal and Odisha will also be considered for future pilots. These biological fences are expected to score over conventional solutions such as trenches in terms of their cost-effectiveness in mitigating conflict with elephants.

O4 // MOBILE VETERINARY SERVICE

Veterinarians on wheels help wildlife in distress
in key Protected Areas

>> THE NEED

Wild animals in India are often displaced from their habitat or injured by natural or human-induced factors, giving rise to conflict situations. While the technology and veterinary know-how to treat wild animals exists, the challenge lies in making this care available to displaced or distressed individual animals in the remote wilds of the country without delay, overcoming logistical challenges such as distance and inaccessible terrain.

>> THE SOLUTION

WTI's Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) units provide *in situ* emergency relief to displaced or distressed wild animals. Each MVS unit comprises a transport vehicle, a trained wildlife veterinarian, an animal attendant, equipment, and supplies; the project envisages the placement of such units in major Protected Areas across the country, ensuring the availability of round-the-clock medical attention to wild animals in need. The MVS team assumes the responsibility of relocating affected animals to the nearest rescue centres or field stations if the need arises, apart from providing help in conflict animal management and spreading conservation awareness in villages or settlements located on the fringes of protected forests.

>> PILOT PROJECTS

WTI has so far deployed eight MVS units in four states, including four in Assam alone. Besides providing emergency

assistance to wild animals in need, these units are also called in to assist in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict situations through veterinary interventions.

An MVS vehicle transports a rescued rhino calf during the Kaziranga National Park floods of 2016





WTI has deployed eight MVS units in four states, providing emergency assistance to wild animals in distress and assisting in mitigating human-wildlife conflict situations

05 // CANOPY BRIDGES

A simple solution for endangered canopy dwellers

>> THE NEED

Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary is known to harbour a significant population of golden langurs (*Trachypithecus geei*). While several golden langur deaths have been reported due to poaching and man-animal conflict, the destruction and fragmentation of forest habitat has had an especially deleterious effect on these canopy dwellers. In one such instance, a 500 metre road was separating the sanctuary from plantation forests that acted as an extended

habitat for the primates. The langurs were compelled to descend to the ground and cross the road due to a break in the canopy above it, risking accidents and attacks by feral dogs. Since 2005, one stretch of road had claimed 10 golden langurs due to road accidents.

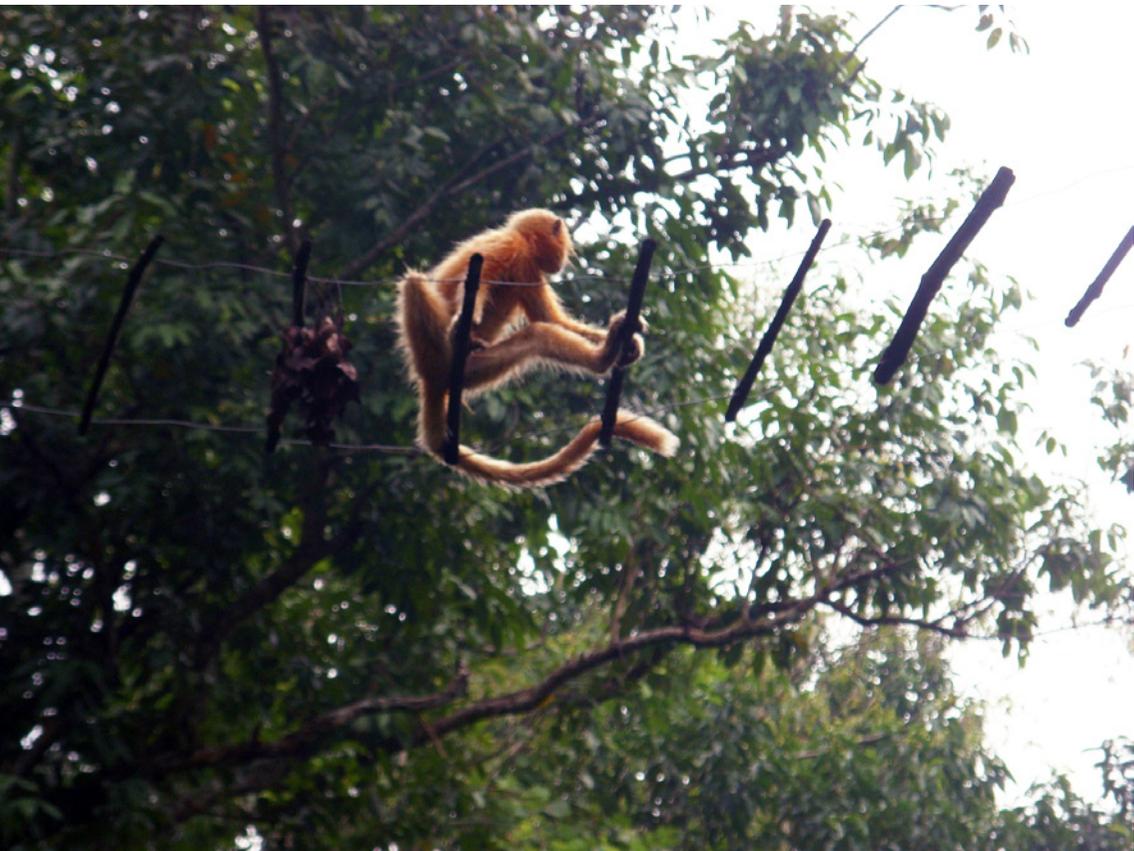
Similar instances of primates being killed or being stranded due to linear infrastructure elements such as roads and railway lines have been recorded with hoolock gibbons in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, and lion-tailed macaques in the Western Ghats.

>> THE SOLUTION

A simple idea was developed to provide safe passage for primates and other arboreal fauna across linear infrastructure. This involved the development of man-made structures that would span roads or railway lines at tree height, linking trees on either side and providing an alternate route to tree dwelling fauna.

>> PILOT PROJECT

Bridges of bamboo and rope were created and installed 60 metres above the ground, linking tree canopies on either side of the road in Chakrashila WLS. These canopy bridges were strategically placed in areas most regularly used by golden langurs to cross the road. It was found that while the langurs were hesitant to use these bridges at first, they got habituated to them soon enough. Since the installation of these bridges, no golden langur deaths have been reported due to road accidents in Chakrashila.



A golden langur in Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary uses a canopy bridge to move between forest areas intersected by a road

O6 // PRTs, RRTs & TRAINED TRIOS

Primary Response Teams, Rapid Response Teams and Sociologist-Biologist-Veterinarian expert teams in areas of high human-carnivore conflict

>> THE NEED

Human-carnivore conflict is increasingly in the news of late, with reports of leopards killed by angry mobs, or tigers straying out of their territories into human inhabited areas.

Conflict generally arises when local people, dependent on forests for their various daily needs, inadvertently come into contact with carnivores, possibly resulting in an attack. The shrinking of wild habitats and depletion of prey animal populations also lead big cats in particular to venture into human-use areas to prey on domestic cattle. Retaliations by people only aggravate conflict situations, increasing the risk of animal and human casualties. The need of the hour is to prevent these conflicts and resolve them safely when they do occur, without endangering humans or animals. Conflict mitigation demands an understanding of an animal's ecology and movements, and the root reasons for conflict. It also requires local communities to be sensitised.

>> THE SOLUTION

Taking a holistic approach, a team comprising a biologist, sociologist and veterinarian is constituted in high conflict areas. The biologist determines why animals may be straying into human-use areas and the sociologist works with local communities to sensitise and prepare them for possible conflict scenarios. This trio works with the state forest department and forms the Primary Response Team

(PRT) along with local volunteers. The PRT is trained to handle crowds, identify the presence of carnivores and negotiate safe passage for them in conflict situations. Only if a situation escalates does a PRT inform and call in a Rapid Response Team (RRT).

The RRT is a team of specialists equipped to deal with displaced carnivores and injured humans. RRTs provide assistance in human-carnivore conflict mitigation and management of conflict animals, apart from *in situ* emergency relief to displaced or distressed wildlife. Each RRT comprises a transport vehicle, trained wildlife veterinarian, animal attendant, forest department staff, and necessary equipment and supplies.

>> PILOT PROJECT

WTI has constituted one RRT in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and nine PRTs in certain fringe villages. Conflict between humans and big cats is an escalating issue in this landscape and has caused the death of over 150 people in the last 10 years. Since these teams have been set up they have saved the lives of 14 big cats and innumerable people by averting and mitigating conflict in nearly 200 conflict cases.





(This page) WTI's Rapid Response Team and members of the forest department engage villagers in discussion prior to a conflict mitigation operation in Pilibhit Tiger Reserve. (Previous page) A man-eater safely captured with the RRT's assistance in February 2017. Carnivores declared man-eaters will live out their lives in a zoo, but other conflict animals are typically given safe passage back to the wild.

07 // ANTI-SNARE WALKS

The systematised removal of wire snares from protected forests and fringe areas to save wild fauna

>> THE NEED

A simple wire contraption used for subsistence hunting or poaching, barely visible in the forest, is increasingly being found responsible for causing injuries to and deaths of a large number of wild animals. A snare consists of a loop of metal wire that pulls tight to trap any animal walking

through it. Snares are generally placed on the fringes of Protected Areas; while their intended targets may be smaller fauna such as deer or wild boars, they are equally effective at trapping large carnivores. Big cats that are wounded while escaping snares can die from their injuries or, if they survive, cause conflict, endangering human lives as a consequence.

>> THE SOLUTION

Trained personnel from WTI accompany frontline forest staff in snare combing operations in targeted areas of protected forests. Snares and snare pegs are removed and their locations geo-tagged before they are handed over to the appropriate forest department officials. In addition, it may be fruitful to explore whether local people can be recruited and trained to detect and remove snares.

>> PILOT PROJECT

WTI's Anti-Snare Project in Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka, has yielded significant results, with nearly 1000 snares located, geo-tagged and removed in the last five years. Select personnel from the Karnataka Forest Department and Special Tiger Protection Force have also been given specialised training in snare removal, and anti-snare walks have become an integral and official part of the forest department's regular patrolling duties.



A dead tiger and the snare with which it was killed in Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka

O8 // SOLAR-POWERED FENCES

Harnessing the sun's energy to prevent damage to crops and property

>> THE NEED

In addition to the nearly 500 human and 100 elephant lives lost to Human–Elephant Conflict (HEC) in India each year, conflict with elephants results in damage to crops and property worth millions of rupees and is estimated to have affected more than 500,000 families across the country.

>> THE SOLUTION

Solar powered fences are an effective solution to mitigate HEC. Fences made of five to seven strands of power lines (9 to 12V) are strategically installed on the margins of crop fields and villages to prevent elephants from entering these areas. The voltage is strong enough to deter the elephants without causing them any harm if they come into contact with the wires. The fences are installed in consultation with WTI experts and local forest department authorities to ensure that they don't hinder elephants moving through existing migratory corridors.

Solar fences are preferable as they utilise a natural and plentiful source of energy, which is an added advantage in remote areas where there is little or no access to a constant source of electric power from the grid.

>> PILOT PROJECT

Working in collaboration with state forest departments and grassroot organisations, WTI has thus far assisted in the installation of three solar power fences in high-

conflict areas: a 2.5km fence in the Kurichiyat Range of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and a 1.5 km fence in Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala; and an 8 km fence in Kuthori village bordering Kaziranga National Park in Assam. Post-installation monitoring has indicated a significant reduction in conflict in the villages, and an overall increase in crop yield.

A solar fence in Kerala, installed by WTI with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



O9 // PAINT THE TOWN GREEN // PLAY FOR WILDLIFE

Generating conservation awareness
through public participation

>> THE NEED

Awareness is the first step towards eliciting the participation of target audiences in conservation activities. There is an urgent need to foster the inherent love and respect that most Indians have towards nature, and make people understand the root causes of serious issues like human-wildlife conflict in an enjoyable and interactive manner.

>> THE SOLUTION

Mobilising schools and institutions to paint public spaces with natural heritage messages is one solution that can be used not only to spread conservation awareness messages, but also to beautify and maintain targeted public spaces, which is also the aim of the Prime Minister's Clean India campaign.

Art in the form of *rangoli* on floors or hand-drawn paintings on walls is an integral part of Indian tradition. Such cultural practices can be leveraged to create public Green Fences that depict the people's pride in the nation's biodiversity. Eminent artists and public personalities can flag off a series of artistic events in the lead up to Wildlife Week or similar events. Birdwatching or photography clubs, camps for students, or senior citizen clubs can play an important role.



The first-ever Nagzira Kho-Kho Sports Event for village schools located in the Nagzira-Navegaon wildlife corridor was held in September 2016

Sport, with its intrinsic participatory nature and concepts like fair play, can be a great catalyst for change. Football or cricket tournaments named after wild animals, or a rural sport such as *kabaddi* where parallels may be drawn between players and wildlife in need of safe passage can provide the necessary hook and generate the groundswell of support required to protect India's biodiversity.

>> PILOT PROJECT

WTI has employed such awareness strategies in several landscapes, whether by organising the Elephant Cup football tournament and the Paint Manas Green campaign in Assam; sand sculpture and painting competitions around International Whale Shark Day and Gujarat Whale Shark Day on the west coast; or annual *rangoli* competitions and a *kho-kho* (a traditional rural Indian sport) tournament in the Gondia district of Maharashtra.

Greater Manas Conservation Project

Paint Manas Green



Department of Environment
and Forests Government of
Assam

Bodo Land
Territorial
Council



IFAW

Wildlife Trust
of India



Students of Himgiri High & ME School, Manas, paint a wall with conservation messages. Events such as this can be leveraged to create public Green Fences that depict the people's pride in the nation's biodiversity.

10 // GUARDIANS OF THE WILD

Providing frontline forest staff specialised training in conflict mitigation techniques

>> THE NEED

As the most visible face of wildlife protection to communities living on the forest fringes, frontline forest personnel often have to bear the brunt of human-wildlife conflict. In recent years, mobs of people angry at the depredations caused by wild animals have threatened and even inflicted harm on frontline staff. Skill enhancement in conflict mitigation techniques is an urgent need for India's forest staff today.



>> THE SOLUTION

The Van Rakshak or Guardians of the Wild project was designed primarily to investigate and prevent wildlife crime by strengthening the capabilities of India's frontline wildlife protectors. Over the last 16 years, WTI has trained and equipped 16,000 forest staff in more than 150 Protected Areas of India in field craft, intelligence gathering, wildlife crime investigation, offence report writing, and wildlife law. Added to the curriculum in recent years, Module C focuses on conflict mitigation techniques including animal capture and relocation, and crowd management strategies in crisis situations. The Van Rakshak project uses a TEAM (Training, Equipping, Awareness building and Morale boosting) approach; refresher trainings and evaluations are held at regular intervals to ensure retention of knowledge and upgradation of skills.

A unique Supplementary Accident Assurance Scheme also covers over 20,000 personnel of the rank of Range Forest Officer and below (including temporary employees), from across 23 state forest departments, against injury or loss of life while on duty. This scheme has demonstrably helped to boost the morale of staff engaged in conflict mitigation or anti-poaching operations.

>> PILOT PROJECT

Van Rakshak trainings in conflict mitigation have been imparted across the country, whether for tiger and leopard conflict near Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh or bear and leopard in conflict in Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, WTI has disbursed claims worth over a crore of rupees to more than 150 families of frontline personnel who have died in the line of duty.

A veterinarian brought in as an external resource person trains frontline forest personnel in wild animal tranquilisation techniques

11 // TRAIN RAIL FENCES

Physical barriers on linear infrastructure elements to keep elephants out of danger

Linear infrastructure elements such as railway lines, highways and power lines cut through several Protected Areas, causing the deaths of endangered animals. Train collisions, for instance, are the fourth-largest cause of unnatural elephant mortality in India, with over 220 elephant deaths having occurred across different states since 1987.

>> THE IDEA

Finding linear infrastructure criss-crossing traditional elephant migratory paths has become unavoidable. One cost-effective solution presents itself through the use of steel rails, which are discarded by Indian Railways at regular intervals and auctioned as scrap. In states with high instances of elephant deaths due to train-hits, these scrap rails could be repurposed into scientifically designed physical barriers to keep elephants away from high conflict zones.

This concept is presented here as a new idea, as it has not been pilot tested by WTI.

12 // CROP INSURANCE

Compensation to farmers for crop damage due to wildlife

In the past seven years, almost Rs 24 crore has been paid as compensation to people who were victims of human animal conflict. This includes compensation for loss of property and means of livelihood. In view of extensive crop damage due to elephant depredation, and increasing reports of crop damage by other wildlife, an insurance scheme for farmers in afflicted areas would provide a measure of financial security with the additional benefit of mitigating a backlash against wildlife.

>> THE IDEA

The Government of India has several crop insurance schemes related to crop failure due to natural disasters. Such schemes stabilise the farmers' income and help them reinitiate agricultural production. A crop insurance scheme in response to the peril of wildlife depredation would cushion the shock of crop losses, thereby providing farmers with a minimum amount of protection.

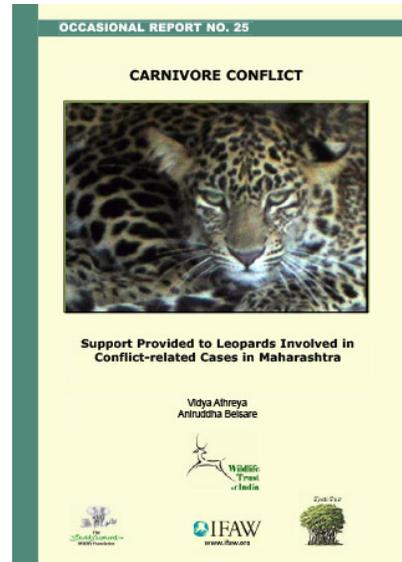
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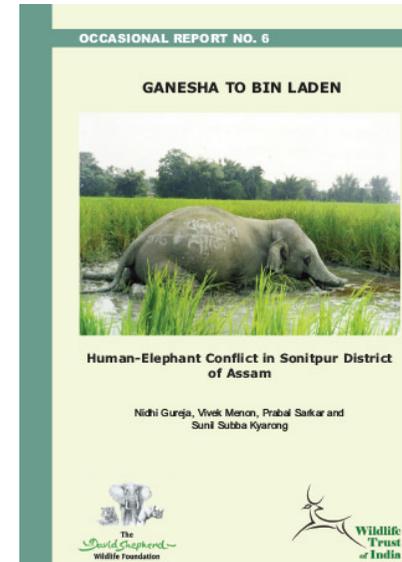
SOME OTHER WTI PUBLICATIONS ON CONFLICT MITIGATION



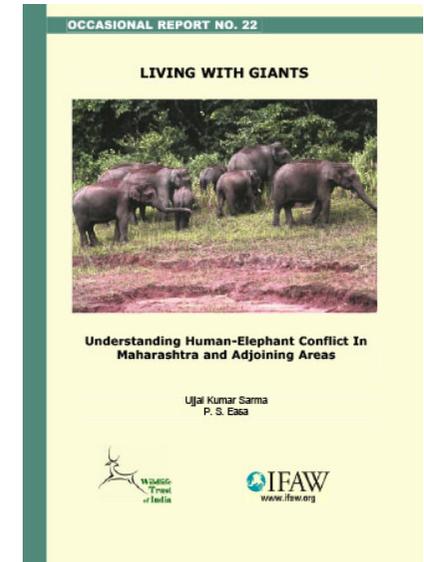
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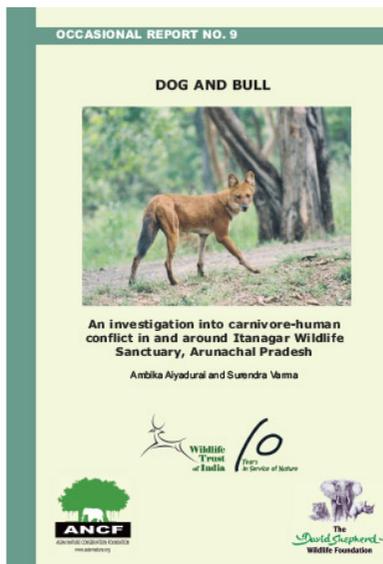
CARNIVORE CONFLICT



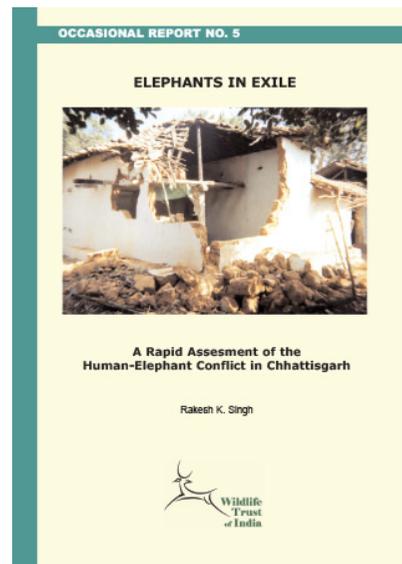
GANESHA TO BIN LADEN



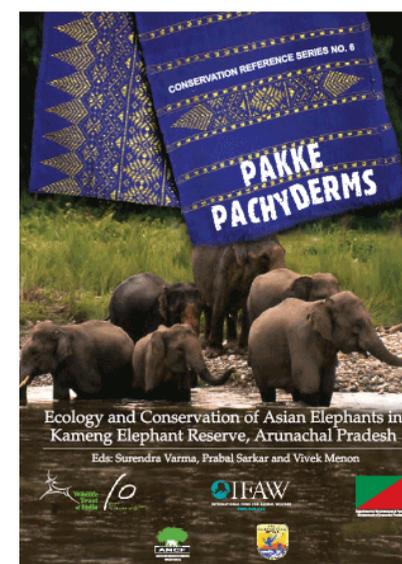
LIVING WITH GIANTS



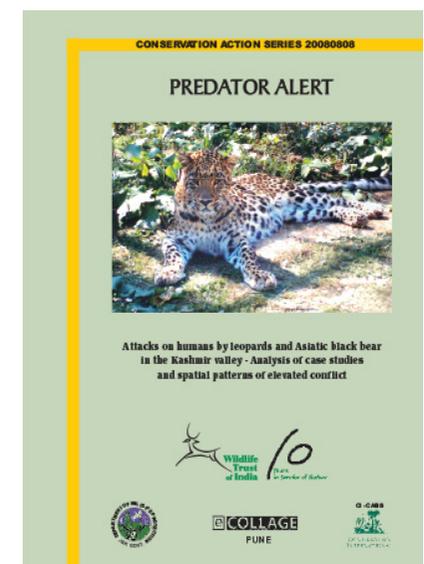
DOG AND BULL



ELEPHANTS IN EXILE



PAKKE PACHYDERMS



PREDATOR ALERT

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A secure natural heritage of India

OUR MISSION

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