



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2014-15





**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.

« The Kupli reservoir in Umrangso, Dima Hasao district, Assam is an important roosting site for migratory Amur falcons. WTI has involved local communities in the protection of these birds

# WTI'S SEVEN BIG IDEAS // CONTENTS

## WA WILD AID

To provide at least 500 short term, focused and innovative aid at times of emergencies and conservation issues so as to nip problems in the bud and provide game changing solutions to age old problems.

*pg 06*

## SR 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.

## E&L ENFORCEMENT & 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.

*pg 10*

## CC 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.

*pg 13*

*pg 16*

## WR WILD RESCUE

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.

*pg 19*

## WL WILD LANDS

To secure critical habitats outside the traditional Protected Area system, especially habitat linkages, wetlands, grasslands, community reserves, Important Bird Areas and sacred groves, thereby increasing the effective protected area of India by 1%.

*pg 25*

## AC 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.

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Events *pg 28*  
Balance Sheet *pg 30*  
Board of Trustees *pg 31*

### Rapid Action Projects (RAPs)

Covering abandoned wells in Ranchi Forest Division, Jharkhand to prevent elephants from falling into them; undertaking a community based approach to conserving sea horses in the Palk Bay region; providing support to a local Community Based Organisation (CBO) to help promote sustainable agriculture practices in Labdanguri near Manas National Park – several Rapid Action Projects were sanctioned in 2014-15 in response to wildlife emergencies across the country and indeed, beyond.

In Bhutan for instance, where IFAW-WTI signed an MoU with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests in 2012, an RAP in July 2014 helped the Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit (FPSU) of the Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) to procure equipment to enhance field based surveillance techniques for effective enforcement. Hidden cameras were used to collect information to reinforce cases and mobile phones distributed to informants were used to collect evidence and monitor field activities.

A much needed anti-poaching tower was inaugurated on the occasion of

World Environment Day, June 5, in the Kuklung Range of the Manas Reserve Forest. Patrolling teams from the Raigajili Ecotourism and Social Welfare Society (RESWS) and the Assam Forest Department were based at the watchtower and helped prevent one incident of timber smuggling.

In Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka, the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) was equipped with 113 rain suits and 10 Hejje units – smart habitat tracking devices – to assist patrolling activities in and around the reserve. The PCCF, CF and Additional PCCF of Bandipur TR, as well as WTI Chairman Tara Gandhi and Brinda Malhotra, Head – CSR, Aircel, were present at the distribution.

Anti-poaching camps in the Adicombai and Asuramattam ranges of Nilgiri North Division, Tamil Nadu were equipped with water purifiers; 10 camps in Bor Tiger Reserve Sanctuary, Maharashtra, received 30 cots and bed sets (under the Central India Tiger Conservation Fund); remote forest outposts in eight forest ranges of Neora Valley National Park, West Bengal were provided with 50 solar lanterns; and



### 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

23 Rapid Action Projects addressing tigers, elephants, Amur falcons, butterflies, gaur, capped langurs, sea horses etc » Equipped Bandipur TR frontline staff with field kits and Hejje (mobile based patrolling system) » First documentation of 42 species of butterflies in Doyang, Wokha, Nagaland

the temporary anti-poaching watchers in Chimmony WLS, Kerala received 39 sets of field kits. Better equipment has the dual effect of boosting frontline staff morale and allowing them to be present in remote outposts for longer periods.

As part of an RAP supported by European Tierschutzstiftung (ETS), power fences were repaired, reinstalled and brought back into working condition in August-September in the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary as well as Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala, in order to address the issue of human-elephant conflict (HEC). Solar powered fences are an extremely effective, non-violent method of mitigating conflict. Minimal damage has been reported to crops in settlements in both sanctuaries since the fences were erected.

Also in November, an RAP was initiated with the support of the Assam Forest Department in the area around the Kupli reservoir in Umrangso, Dima Hasao district – an important roosting site for the migratory Amur falcons – to conduct awareness workshops and involve the local communities to protect the falcons. An Amur Falcon Protection Committee was formed with the village heads of New Tumbung, Dima Hading and Sibaraipur, and officials of the Forest Department.

A two-day training for staff of Bhutan's Wildlife Conservation Division, DoFPS was organised in February 2015, in

preparation for a proposed gharial relocation from the Norgay Crocodile Breeding Farm at Phuentsholing to Jigmeling in Gelephu. The hands-on training was conducted at Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Bihar.

### Emergency Relief Network (ERN)

In one of several ERN activities during the year, 445 star tortoises rescued from the illegal wildlife trade in Kerala in May were treated and rehabilitated in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary by ERN veterinarian Dr Piyush Shastri, with assistance from the Kerala Forest Department. The rehabilitation exercise continued through 2014-15 and though the mortality rate of the rescued tortoises was initially high, it was soon brought under control. In February, the first batch of radio-tagged star tortoises was released into an in-situ acclimatisation enclosure in Chinnar WLS.

A team of ERN members, veterinary volunteers from the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, and members of the Anchalika Kunjeswari Sansrutika Sansad (AKSS) carried out flood relief activities in the Kanas block of Puri district, Odisha. Health camps for domestic animals were set up in 10 villages from August 21 to 25 and over a thousand animals were provided veterinary attention.

In January, ERN team members carried

out relief work for injured birds during and after Makar Sankranti, the kite flying festival in western India. Relief activities were carried out in three cities and over 500 birds were saved by direct intervention of ERN responders. Most of the birds – including wetland species like the painted stork, comb duck, great white pelican, black ibis and white ibis, apart from pigeons, kites, lapwings, owls, parakeets and doves – had suffered severe soft tissue injuries on their wings.

### Executive Director's Discretionary Grant (EDDG)

An EDDG was sanctioned to support the 5th edition of the Students Conference on Conservation Science, held at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru in September. The event brought together students, researchers and conservationists from Asia and Africa to share information on wildlife

conservation in these two continents. Another EDDG provided support to build a Nature Interpretation Centre in Tippi, Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh. The centre aims to educate the youth about the local wildlife and its conservation through interactive games and posters. Workshops on snakes and snake handling, endangered species, biodiversity etc, were held for children as well as forest watchers during the inauguration of the centre in July-August. Teacher training and student training programs were also organised for schools from Bhalukpong and Tippi.

Support was provided to the Pakke Paga Festival held from January 15-18, 2015 at Seijosa, Arunachal Pradesh. WTI showcased its work in the North-east, laying special emphasis on the artificial hornbill beak project with the Nyishi community.

▼ An RAP by WTI in association with the Charities Aid Foundation helped in the first-ever documentation of butterfly species in fringe villages of the Doyang Reservoir, Nagaland



# E&L

## ENFORCEMENT & LAW

WTI's longstanding commitment to combating wildlife crime and the illegal trade in wildlife and its parts was furthered through its several Trade Control, Training and Litigation Support initiatives in 2014-15.

### Trade Control

In April 2014, the Maharashtra Forest Department assisted by IFAW-WTI seized a leopard skin and claws, and arrested five suspects from Patanbori near Pandharkawada (150km from Nagpur). This operation led the investigators to Andhra Pradesh, where the State Forest Department arrested a local resident who was found with antlers and wild boar meat in his house. Cases were registered against all six individuals under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Another leopard skin was also seized in Maharashtra in September, this time in the Umred district; in all, 26 people were apprehended with IFAW-WTI's help in cases involving leopard skin seizures in Maharashtra during the year.

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of the Himachal Pradesh Police, assisted again by a team from

IFAW-WTI, seized nine otter skins from a trader on May 31.

In September, WTI and Voice for Wildlife helped the Karnataka Forest Department and the Karnataka Police Department in an operation that resulted in the seizure of 2.5kg of Asian elephant ivory and 50kg of antlers and horns from various sambar, chital, gaur etc. Six suspects were arrested near N Begur village near Bandipur Tiger Reserve during the course of this two-day operation.

In February 2015, in one of the biggest operations conducted in the country in the last five years, an IFAW-WTI team assisted the Maharashtra Forest Department in seizing 19kg of tiger bones. Operation Mukerian was also carried out in February, wherein an IFAW-WTI team assisted the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Punjab police seize 11 leopard skins, nine otter skins, and around 95 kgs of leopard bones.

### Litigation

The Litigation Division began providing legal assistance to Kanha and Pench National Parks in cases related to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.



## 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 leopard skins, nine otter skins and 95 kg leopard bones seized from Mukerian in Punjab
- >> 1798 frontline forest staff trained across UP, MP, Assam and Maharashtra, as well as in Bhutan
- >> Legal Assistance provided in over 100 cases in Kanha and Pench Tiger Reserve

Advocate Yash Kumar Soni, WTI's associate lawyer, visited both parks to kick-start the process of consultations.

### Trainings

WTI and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department conducted a Wildlife Crime Prevention Training for over 300 frontline staff deputed to protect wildlife in Pench National Park in June. The training included a 'refresher' component for core staff and fresh training modules for staff in buffer areas. Trainees were also provided with field kits.

### Similar Wildlife Crime Prevention

**Trainings were held throughout the year under the Van Rakshak (Guardians of the Wild) project:** for 130 frontline forest staff in Kanha NP in June; a Training of Trainers for 14 professionals (5 lawyers, 3 officers from WCCB and experts from WII and Amity University) in Periyar TR also in June; for 55 participants in Achanakmar Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh in July; for 150 trainees from the Nagzira-Nawegaon Tiger Reserve in August; for 150 trainees across Madhav National Park, Panna Tiger Reserve and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in December; for 46 frontline forest staff in Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary and Satpuda Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh in January 2015; and for 50 frontline forest staff from Ujjain and Indore Forest Circles and 56 staff from different Forest Divisions in Greater Manas in February.

IFAW-WTI also organised a Prevention of Wildlife Trade Training workshop in March 2015, for 14 forest staff from the Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit (FPSU) and Wildlife Conservation Division (WCD), under its MoU with the Government of Bhutan. The training was held at Phuntsholing and focused on prevention of cross border wildlife trade. Earlier, in October 2014, 135 frontline forest staff from Bhutan had participated in Wildlife Crime Prevention Refresher Trainings at Sarpang Forest Division, Samdrup Jongkhar Forest Division and Royal Manas National Park.

### The Van Rakshak Project's Supplemental Accident Insurance Scheme continued to provide vital ex-gratia support to frontline forest staff and their families in the event of injury or death in the line of duty.

Payments made under this scheme in 2014-15 included Rs 1 lakh given to the family of the late Shivan Marskole who was murdered, probably by a poacher, on duty in Pench Tiger Reserve; another Rs 1 lakh given to the family of late Deewan Singh Gond; Rs 1 lakh given to the bereaved family of late Bharat Singh Chaudhary, Ex-forester, Lansdowne FD, who was killed by wild elephants; and an ex-gratia of Rs 10,000 each to Santosh Singh Patle, Ravindra Meshram and Sukkham Singh Daheria, from Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, who got severely injured while fighting poachers.



The long-term success of any conservation project depends on the support and active participation of local communities. Whether through sensitisation programs on human-wildlife conflict, or the installation of Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) to reduce fuelwood consumption in forest areas, or training workshops to encourage the adoption of green livelihoods, or the installation of solar pumps to minimise the use of forest water sources for irrigation – WTI engages with grassroots communities through a range of activities across several of its projects.

In April, two solar lamp charging units, each with a capacity of charging ten lamps at once, were installed at the village of Piprahwa Tola under the Valmiki Tiger Conservation Project. Members of the women's Self Help Group (SHG) were also taught to repair the lamps so that they could generate extra income.

In May, under the UP Carnivore Conservation Project, vaccination and health camps were organised for domestic cattle in three villages to prevent transfer of disease to wild ungulates of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

An awareness program was also organised in Kataiyya, a fringe village of Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary; more than 70 schoolchildren attended and were informed about human-wildlife conflict as well as the importance for large cat conservation.

A free Medical Health Camp was organised in June for villages dependent on the Kalapahar-Doigurung Elephant Corridor. Some 160 people were provided check-ups, treatment and medicine.

In September, a three-week training workshop in weaving techniques was conducted at the Aagor Weavers' Training Centre at Rowmari under the Greater Manas Conservation Project. Through a strategic tie-up with the Bengaluru based Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, eight women beneficiaries from Aagor, the weaving enterprise of the Action Northeast Trust (ANT), sharpened their existing weaving techniques to better suit international markets.

Also in September, 25 Tharu tribal women living in remote villages in the Done Valley in north Bihar attended



a 12-day training workshop organised by WTI and Valmiki Tiger Reserve, once again in collaboration with Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, on developing new products from locally available *moonj* grass using their traditional skills.

A two-month training programme for 20 youth from villages dependent on the Kalapahar-Doigurung Elephant Corridor began in February 2015, in collaboration with the Don Bosco Technical Institute, Golaghat, Assam. Trainees were given skill-based training on driving, electrical wiring, motor mechanics, plumbing, welding, tailoring and basic construction.

In March, an agriculture training programme was organised for farmers in the Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh under the Sarus Crane Conservation Project. Some 77 farmers participated. The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust's partner NGO Aparajita organised the training, which was conducted by scientists from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Bahraich.

The scientists placed an emphasis on organic farming techniques and stressed the need to conserve water bodies in order to meet the needs of farmers as well as aquatic creatures.

The installation of Improved Cook Stoves in forest-adjacent villages across various projects continued through the year. In The Valmiki Tiger Conservation Project, 410 fuel-efficient cook stoves were installed. The frequency of firewood collection by ICS users was estimated to have reduced by between 38% and 60% as compared to users of traditional cook stoves. In the Central India Tiger Habitat Securement Project, 252 trained villagers installed 1451 Improved Cook Stoves at homes in 23 villages; 11 community cook stoves were also installed in schools and *aanganwadis* (crèches). Some 2138 ICS units were installed across 60 villages under the Greater Manas Conservation Project, while 60 ICS units were installed by 10 trained beneficiaries in four villages under the Karbi Anglong Conservation Project.



▲ A three-week training workshop in weaving techniques conducted at the Agor Weavers' Training Centre at Rowmari, under the Greater Manas Conservation Project

◀ A basket-weaving workshop organised by WTI in Done Valley in association with the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology

## 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

Nearly 3000 fuelwood-saving Improved Cook Stoves installed across four projects >> Cumulative savings of 53 women SHGs in Done Valley, north Bihar reach Rs. 9.17 lakh under the Valmiki Tiger Conservation Project >> Training workshops in weaving conducted for over 30 tribal women

WTI's several initiatives to bring threatened wild species back from the brink were headlined by groundbreaking events in three projects this year.

In April 2014 six captive-bred gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*; critically endangered and one of the largest living crocodylians) were satellite-tagged and released into the River Gandak, bordering Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar, as part of the Gharial Restocking Project being run in these waters by the Bihar State Forest Department and WTI. The sub-adults selected for wild release (five females and a male) were sourced from the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park in Patna and acclimated at an off-display enclosure. This was the first time that gharials had ever been satellite-tagged.

Another 12 gharials (eleven females, one male) were tagged and released into the Gandak in January 2015. By February, the released reptiles had been sighted with the already resident wild individuals of the species in the river.

As 2014 drew to a close, Kaziranga and Manas National Parks in Assam were witness to some holiday season

excitement of a different kind: a translocation project, unprecedented in India, involving the capture, transport and release of 19 Eastern swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii ranjitsinhi*) from Kaziranga to Manas. With less than a thousand individuals present in an isolated population in Kaziranga, the sub-species faced an urgent extinction threat due to anthropogenic and biological factors.

The operation involved the construction of a capture boma at Solmara Beel in the central range of Kaziranga; the careful herding of selected animals into trucks that had been modified into customised animal transportation vehicles; and finally, their release into a specially prepared secure boma in Manas. The deer will be allowed to acclimatise then released into the park in batches. Some will remain in the enclosure longer to facilitate breeding.

A team of experts from the Assam Forest Department and IFAW-WTI planned the capture project and renowned conservation and animal welfare biologist Markus Hofmyr was flown in from South Africa to support the exercise. The Eastern Swamp Deer



## 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

**18 captive-bred gharials released** into the Gandak River in Bihar >> Unprecedented in India: the **capture, transport and release of 19 Eastern swamp deer** from Kaziranga to Manas >> Birth of the **first female calf** under the Central India Wild Buffalo Conservation Project

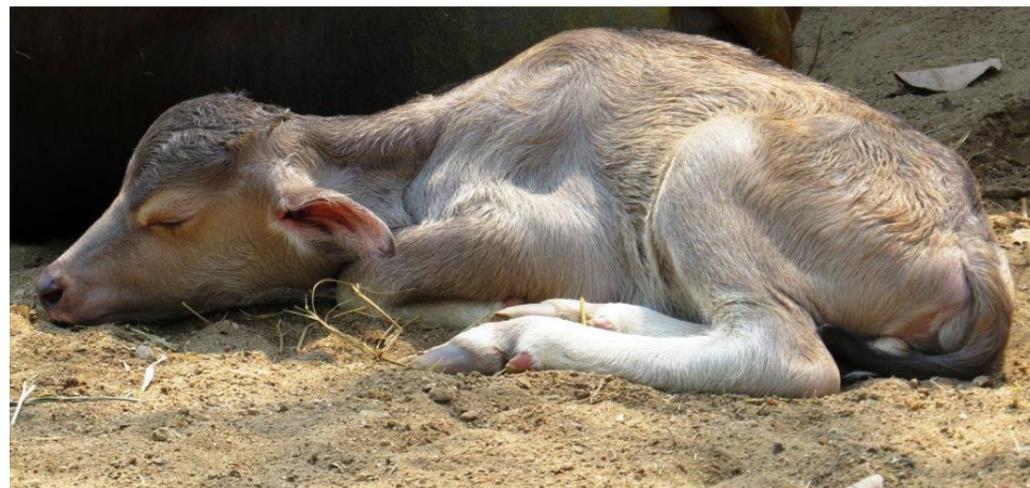
Conservation Project is supported by ONGC.

Then, at 4:40am on March 12, 2015, Asha, the only surviving female wild buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*) in Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, gave birth to a female calf having previously produced a string of male calves. This momentous event gives hope to conservationists who have dedicated their lives in protecting and conserving Chhattisgarh's highly endangered state animal. Asha and her calf, named Kiran, are being monitored by a team of experts from WTI and the Chhattisgarh Forest Department.

The natural mating had been recorded on April 28, 2014 at WTI's Wild Buffalo Rescue Centre in Udanti WLS and the gestation period of the newborn was recorded as 10 months and 10 days. The Asiatic wild buffalo is listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. It is also classified as endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, with just 4000 individuals left in the wild. A WTI survey in 2010 estimated that not more than 50 individuals

survived in three sub-populations across Indravati National Park, Pamed and Udanti Wildlife Sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh. These are thought to represent India's only remaining 'genetically pure' population of the wild buffalo.

Meanwhile, on the Gujarat coast, in the backdrop of continuing whale shark rescues by local fishermen under the self documentation scheme, the Whale Shark Conservation Project was declared runner-up in the Co-management category of the Indian Biodiversity Awards 2014. The award, which recognises outstanding efforts made by the local communities and governments in safeguarding India's rich biodiversity heritage, is supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The runner-up award was received by Aradhana Shahu, the Junagadh DCF, along with Jentibhai Baraiya, a Sutrapada fisherman who had rescued the highest number of whale sharks.



➤➤ Kiran, the newborn Asiatic wild buffalo calf, a true 'ray of hope' for her species in Central India

➤➤ Captive-bred gharials lined up prior to wild release on the banks of the Gandak River in Bihar



An Assamese macaque rescued from Bhalukpong, treated for injuries and released back into the wild; a dolphin rescued and released in the sea off Sutrapada village, Gujarat; two water tortoises rescued from a local market in Hidipi, Karbi Anglong; a slow loris rescued in Diphu; a female hog deer rescued from a fringe village and released into Dudhwa National Park – WTI's Mobile Veterinary Service units and teams of animal rescuers worked in cooperation with State Forest Departments across the country to rescue displaced, orphaned and/or injured animals and, wherever possible, rehabilitate them into the wild.

On May 15 a new Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) unit was launched at the Pithabada Range Office campus by the Field Director of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR). The aim of the MVS is to rescue wild animals in the face of conflict, disease or disaster and provide the best possible treatment to enable their rehabilitation into the wild. MVS-STR will also assist the Forest Department in wildlife health management activities like disease investigation and control, and captive elephant management. Awareness programmes will also be

conducted among the locals on dealing with conflict situations.

Train Hit Mitigation in Rajaji National Park continued through the year as WTI field staff carried out joint night patrolling with the Uttarakhand Forest Department in the Haridwar and Motichur ranges (the Forest Department also conducted night patrols in the Kansrau range). Field staff drove away 133 elephants from the tracks in May, 65 elephants in June, 115 elephants in November, and so on, preventing several potential train hits.

Five hand-raised rescued elephant calves – females Jakhala, Tora and Rani, and males Diphloo and Philip – were translocated from IFAW-WTI's Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) in Kaziranga National Park to Manas National Park in April as the final stage in their rehabilitation. They are being monitored through radio telemetry.

Three adult male rhinos were also released into Manas NP in November 2014 and are under constant observation. They have mostly been seen in an area of about five sq km



under the Bansbari range and are reportedly in good health. Three proud female rhinos Mainao, Ganga and Jamuna, who were rehabilitated earlier and are now proud mothers, have occasionally been spotted near Rhino camp and Mahal camp in the Bansbari and Bhuyanpara ranges of Manas NP. And rescued rhino calves Dwimalo and Purabi, currently being hand-raised, are now allowed to graze outside their enclosure during the day.

WTI field personnel assisted the Karnataka Forest Department rescue a leopard from Muntipura near Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka. The FD-WTI team tranquilised the cat, but since it was found to have been radio-collared and released at Mulehole in Bandipur earlier, it had to be sent to the Bannerghatta Biological Park near Bengaluru.

A tigress that had been rescued from a fringe village of Kaziranga National Park was released into the wilderness in the central range of the park. She had spent

a few days under observation at CWRC where she was also treated for minor injuries sustained during capture.

Six Asiatic black bear cubs were rehabilitated in the forests of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh. By July, most of the cubs had been radio-collared and were moving independently inside the forest. They had begun to put on weight and were no longer dependent on food provided by the rehabilitation team.

Also in the lower Dibang Valley in Arunachal, a family of Eastern hoolock gibbons was rescued from Dello Village – the ninth such rescue under the IFAW-WTI Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Project. The family consisted of an adult male, an adult female, a sub-adult male and a dependent infant female. The group was located on a single tree in a highly degraded habitat. The adults and the sub-adult were micro-chipped, and the family successfully released into the Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary.



▲ An elephant calf stranded on an island in the Brahmaputra River in Kaziranga National Park was rescued by IFAW-WTI's Mobile Veterinary Service team on September 14, 2014.

◀◀ A jungle cat has its fractured hindlimb repaired (intramedullary pinning) in an emergency surgery conducted at CWRC

## 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

**New MVS unit launched** in Similipal Tiger Reserve ►► Five hand-raised rescued elephant calves and three adult rhinos **translocated to Manas** as the final stage of their wild rehabilitation ►► **Family of Eastern Hoolock Gibbons rescued** from Dello village in Arunachal, the ninth such rescue by IFAW-WTI

Through publications, multimedia, events, and programmes such as IFAW's Animal Action Education (AAE), WTI and its partners continued to engage with students, teachers and the public at large in a bid to enhance knowledge and improve perceptions about conservation, the environment, and the need to ensure the welfare of wild animals.

WTI Executive Director Vivek Menon's Indian Mammals: A Field Guide – published by Hachette and supported by IFAW – was released in seven Indian cities between May and August 2014.

Launch venues included the prestigious Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun, and the Bombay Natural History Society's iconic Hornbill House. Former cricket captain Anil Kumble launched the book to a full house in Bengaluru. The Mumbai launch, which had actor/model/producer/activist Dia Mirza as the chief guest, was preceded by a live chat on Twitter by Vivek Menon, which generated an audience impression of over a million people.

Other publications launched during the year included *Hashtisiksha: A Manual on Humane Training of Elephant Calves Destined for Permanent Captivity* by Dr

Andrew McLean; *Gujarat's Gentle Giant* and *Daring To Restore*, both under the West Coast Marine Conservation Project; and *Action Tiger 3rd Edition*. Eight short films were also released during the year, including *A Second Home*, on finding a site for the Eastern swamp deer translocation, and a film on the *Mithapur Coral Recovery Project*.

On July 29, Global Tiger Day, the AAE team held an informal interaction with about a hundred students, teachers and parents at a school in Gurgaon. The AAE documentary on tigers was also screened during the two-hour session. Pre- and post-activity questionnaires, being tested in the field for the first time, were distributed; a sample of 50 participants revealed an increase in correct answers by 23.25%.

In November, the ninth AAE Teachers' Training workshop was held in the Union Territory of Puducherry on invitation of the Puducherry Municipal Corporation. Sixty teachers from 60 government and private schools attended the workshop, which had the stated aim of "Making educators aware of their crucial role in wildlife conservation and animal welfare, and



## 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

142,000 students and 530 teachers reached through Animal Action for Education (AAE) in India  
 » WTI generates media coverage worth Rs 33.4 million  
 » Content partnership with Sanctuary Asia magazine  
 » Vivek Menon's book launched across seven cities



facilitation of Animal Action Education activities for students of their schools.”

On January 28, Sanctuary Asia, in collaboration with Aircel and NDTV, organised the ‘Kids for Tigers’ programme at Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. Over 1500 students from 19 schools participated in various cultural activities and competitions. Students and teachers were briefed about the AAE programme and a number of students recorded video messages that were sent to IFAW for a global video released on World Wildlife Day on March 3.

In general, the AAE programme greatly increased its footprint in India. In the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) areas in Assam, working with the BTC Education Department, 30 schools were reached through workshops for teachers and 230 schools through outreach. In South India AAE reached 125 schools across Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh. In Central India 12 schools were reached in the Gondia district of Maharashtra

and 400 schools through workshops with the Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research (BVIEER). And in Gujarat, the whale shark campaign helped AAE reach 73 schools. In all, an estimated 142,000 students and 530 teachers were reached by AAE activities across the country.

Starting January 2015, WTI entered into a content partnership with the prestigious Sanctuary Asia and Sanctuary Cub magazines. Articles on the pioneering Eastern swamp deer translocation from Kaziranga to Manas, the IFAW-WTI Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Project, and material extracted from AAE workbooks ‘Elephants Never Forget’ and ‘Under One Sky’ had appeared in the magazines by the close of 2014-15.

In all WTI generated an estimated global readership of 127 million across all media, worth approximately Rs 33.4 million – an increase in readership by over 40 million and of estimated worth by almost Rs 11 million from the equivalent 2013-14 figures.



The progress made towards the securement and restoration of the Kalapahar-Doigurung Elephant Corridor was undoubtedly the highlight of the year. Construction activities picked up pace at New Ram Terang, the site where the village of Ram Terang was to be relocated so that elephants could have unencumbered movement through the corridor.

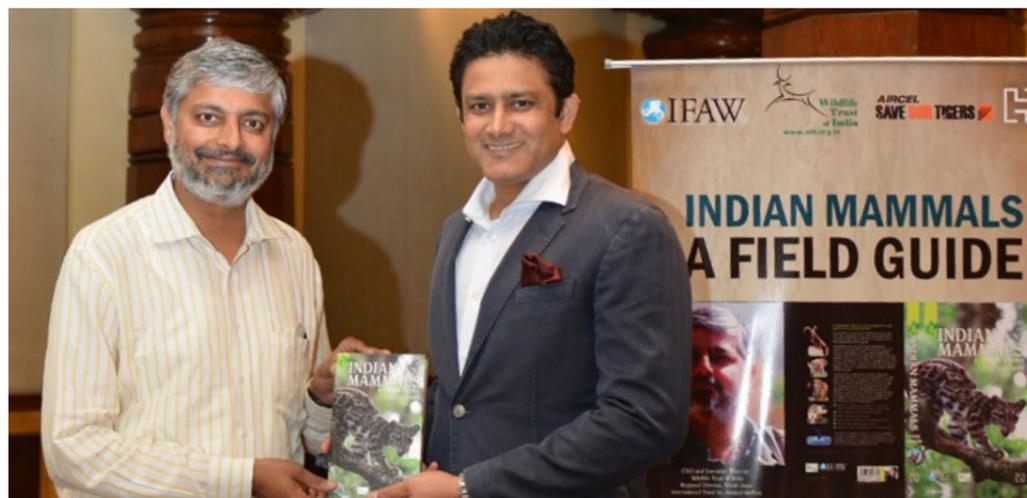
By August, a complete Karbi model house, consisting of three rooms, a kitchen and a veranda had been designed by the Associate Builders of Guwahati. In December, WTI team members along with project partners from Elephant Family (UK) and the Japan Tiger & Elephant Fund, and the former Chief Executive Member of Karbi Anglong, unveiled the Mark Shand Memorial Gate and a community hall at the relocation site. By March 2015, construction of dwelling units up to the plinth level had been completed for all 19 houses.

Of equal significance was the work done to eliminate the dependence of the villagers of Ram Terang on *jhum* (slash and burn) cultivation, which has a deleterious effect on the environment. Agricultural land was provided to the

villagers as part of their relocation package; the community was trained in settled farming and provided with 450 kg of a hybrid paddy seed locally known as ‘Ranjit’ for cultivation. In 2014-15, they harvested 6,480 kg of rice, with each family receiving 341 kg of rice.

Also in the Karbi Anglong region, WTI provided a total of 82 families, part of the North Eastern Forest Range, Silonijan, 50 kg of rice under its Grain for Grain programme. (This non-monetary ex-gratia support is given to villagers as compensation for the paddy crop they lose due to elephant depredation. This prevents food scarcity at a later stage, since cash given for compensation is often used for other purposes.)

In the village of Jadegindam in Meghalaya (a key village on the Rewak-Emangre Elephant Corridor), a hanging bridge built by WTI and the World Land Trust under the Garo Green Spine Conservation Project was inaugurated in February 2015. Jadegindam used to get cut off from adjoining areas during the monsoons; WTI and WLT agreed to construct a hanging bridge on the river to provide support to the community



» Vivek Menon and Anil Kumble at the Bengaluru launch of Indian Mammals: A Field Guide

« A young Animal Action for Education participant puts the finishing touches to her painting



and encourage them to set aside land to secure the Rewak-Emangre corridor.

There was great news from Navegaon National Park in central India with **the first officially recorded tiger pair sighting in 13 years**. The sighting underscored the importance of the Nagzira-Navegaon Wildlife Corridor, a critical habitat linkage in central India that WTI has worked to secure.

Work also continued on the securement of the Chilla-Motichur corridor in Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand. Twelve houses within the corridor had been vacated by July and the villagers had been shifted to the Lalpani rehabilitation site. In December, the forest department dug trenches on the corridor margins to restrict wildlife movement from and cattle movement into the corridor. The project team also identified a new corridor between Rajaji National Park and the Dehradun Division at Tinpani. The corridor lies in three different ranges of two divisions, namely the Motichur range of Rajaji NP, and the

Barkot and Hrishikesh Ranges of Dehradun Division. This corridor is mostly used by male elephants and movement intensifies during crop season. Major threats are the road traffic on the Haridwar-Dehradun highway, extension work on the highway, and a high-tension line passing through the corridor.

In a major achievement, **the National Elephant Corridor project team was able to update the status of about 100 corridors after two years of intensive groundtruthing and surveys**. WTI had identified 88 elephant corridors in 2005; the latest survey showed that almost seven of these had become impaired, there had been overall degradation of forest cover and many corridors had become narrower and longer. About 35% of corridors were also affected due to encroachment.



▲ Construction work began in New Ram Terang; villagers have voluntarily decided to relocate from Old Ram Terang, which is located in the Kalapahar-Daigurung Elephant Corridor

◀◀ 'Grain for Grain' is a conflict mitigation initiative by WTI, providing relief to farmers who have incurred crop losses to wild elephants

## 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

**Securing Kalapahar-Daigurung corridor:** *Jhum* cultivation reduced to zero in the village of Ram Terang ► Construction of houses initiated in **New Ram Terang** ► **Grain for Grain support** provided to 82 families from 15 villages in Karbi Anglong ► Status of **100 elephant corridors** updated

## Events and Collaborations

Nonhuman morality. Interspecies art. PETA and feminism. The politics of primates in Africa. The global 'cowspiracy' of cattle farming. Unusual ideas were brought to a boil in the biting New Delhi air in January 2015, at the **3rd Minding Animals Conference**: a grand intersection of animal academia and activism hosted by the Wildlife Trust of India.

The eight-day conference, the highlight of WTI's events calendar in 2014-15, was held at the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University. Nearly 200 experts from around 30 countries attended. The opening ceremony was graced by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Environment, Forests & Climate Change, and Smt Maneka Gandhi, Hon'ble Minister for Women & Child Development.

Other important events during the year included the **17th Standing Committee meeting of Global Tiger Forum**, which was held on August 23, 2014 at the Civil Services Officers Institute, New Delhi. Representatives of four Tiger Range Countries (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar), as well as the fifth Standing Committee member from

IFAW (represented by WTI's Dr Jagdish Kishwan) were in attendance.

WTI and IFAW also jointly organised the annual '**Indo-Russian Tiger Watch Programme**' in March 2015, with the Global Tiger Forum (GTF). The programme focuses on giving the Russian forest officers a compact training on tiger conservation through a number of field exercises in a renowned tiger reserve of India. This, the 10th edition of the programme, was held at Panna Tiger Reserve, where the successful reintroduction and rebuilding of the tiger population in the reserve was a great learning experience for the visiting forest officers.



▲ >> Dignitaries and delegates at the 3rd Minding Animals Conference, hosted by WTI in New Delhi in January 2015

# Balance Sheet

## 2014-15

AS AT 31.3.14 AMOUNT (Rs.)		AS AT 31.3.15 AMOUNT (Rs.)		AS AT 31.3.14 AMOUNT (Rs.)		AS AT 31.3.15 AMOUNT (Rs.)	
<b>FUNDS &amp; LIABILITIES</b>		<b>FUNDS &amp; LIABILITIES</b>		<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>CORPUS FUND</b>		<b>CORPUS FUND</b>		<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	
9,09,541.80	9,09,541.80	9,09,541.80	9,09,541.80	(Schedule "C")		(Schedule "C")	
<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>		<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>		<b>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b>		<b>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b>	
6,85,92,469.88	6,85,92,469.88	6,85,92,469.88	6,85,92,469.88	<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>	
30,18,379.58	30,18,379.58	29,47,560.07	29,47,560.07	Cash in hand		Cash in hand	
6,01,661.80	6,01,661.80	1,65,74,965.50	1,65,74,965.50	Add : Addition during the year (Schedule C)		Closing Stock (Social Enterprise)	
7,22,12,511.26	7,22,12,511.26	8,87,75,573.85	8,87,75,573.85	Less : Transfer from General Reserve		Bank balance	
35,284.41	35,284.41	3,47,507.53	3,47,507.53	Less : Sale/ Loss during the year		Fixed Deposits	
29,24,178.57	29,24,178.57	30,15,672.41	30,15,672.41	Less : Depreciation		Accrued Interest	
6,92,53,048.28	6,92,53,048.28	8,54,12,393.91	8,54,12,393.91	<b>GENERAL RESERVE (Schedule "B")</b>		<b>LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b>	
5,00,02,204.08	5,00,02,204.08	5,73,52,615.61	5,73,52,615.61	Opening Balance		Security Deposits	
0.00	0.00	1,12,70,914.84	1,12,70,914.84	Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure		Advances	
1,03,76,788.00	1,03,76,788.00	(16,61,135.14)	(16,61,135.14)	Add : Net Addition (as per Schedule D)		TOTAL	
6,01,661.80	6,01,661.80	1,65,74,965.50	1,65,74,965.50	Less : Amount Transferred to Capital Fund (As per Schedule C)		20,22,41,042.46	
24,24,714.67	24,24,714.67	-	-	Less : Excess of Exp. Over Income		24,96,75,626.25	
5,73,52,615.61	5,73,52,615.61			<b>UNUTILISED FUNDS (Schedule "B")</b>		24,96,75,626.25	
7,41,35,334.88	7,41,35,334.88			Project Fund		TOTAL	
-6,56,089.11	-6,56,089.11			Social Enterprise Fund		24,96,75,626.25	
12,46,591.00	12,46,591.00			<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES &amp; PROVISIONS</b>		24,96,75,626.25	
				Sundry Amounts Payable		24,96,75,626.25	
				TOTAL		24,96,75,626.25	

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts - Schedule "E" in terms of our report of even date attached

FOR KOSHI & GEORGE  
Chartered Accountants  
(Reg. No. 003926N)



GEORGE KOSHI  
Partner  
M.No. 82961

New Delhi  
07.09.2015

FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)



(TREASURER)



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