



**Wildlife
Trust
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 Need

A land of striking contrasts, India is home to rich biodiversity and wildlife. Although the country's three flagship species – the Royal Bengal tiger, the greater one-horned rhinoceros and the Asian elephant – dominate the spotlight, India is home to 423 mammal species, 1233 bird species, 526 reptile species, 342 amphibian species, 3022 fish species, over 80,000 invertebrate species, and more than 50,000 plant species. The Indian wilderness also contains four of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots, 26 of the world's most important wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention, and seven natural World Heritage Sites as defined by UNESCO. Home to 10 biogeographic regions, the country is the last refuge for a number of highly endangered and threatened species.

However, all is not well. Indian wildlife today is threatened by problems of immense proportions and unless urgent steps are taken to address these issues, the world is likely to lose several rare species of flora and fauna forever. Fast-shrinking natural habitats, extensive poaching and the severe anthropogenic pressures exerted by a billion-plus people are the major issues that are taking their toll on India's biodiversity. The plight of the country's three flagship species brings this worrying situation sharply into focus.

The unceasing demand for tiger parts and derivatives in Southeast Asia and the Far East is adversely affecting this endangered species. India is home to 60 percent of the world's wild tigers and while its tiger population has seen a recent upturn, there are still less than 2500 individual tigers remaining in the wild.

The use of the greater one-horned rhino's horn in traditional medicine has placed this species in extreme danger. As a result, the approximately 3,000-strong rhino population based in select pockets of northeast India faces grave dangers from poachers. (A hundred one-horned rhinos, for instance, were wiped out from Manas National Park, a World Heritage Site, during the course of a decade-long armed insurgency in the region.) Despite this, India houses 80 percent of the world's surviving greater one-horned rhinos.

There are less than 28,000 Asian elephants left in the wild in India (over 50 percent of the global population) and the demand for ivory is selectively targeting the approximately 1500 adult tuskers among them.

Indiscriminate slaughter of bull elephants has created absurdly skewed sex ratios that can have serious demographic and genetic implications for the species. Even more worrying is the rampant destruction and fragmentation of elephant habitats, especially the impairment of traditional migratory corridors which is bringing elephants into increasing conflict with humans. Equally endangered are the musk deer and the snow leopard that face poaching and habitat loss in the alpine Himalayas. Several magnificent birds such as the western tragopan, the greater adjutant stork, the sarus crane, the great Indian bustard and the Bengal florican require immediate attention. The pygmy hog, hispid hare, hoolock gibbon, Malabar civet, Ganges river dolphin, gharial, olive Ridley turtle and whale shark are but a few examples of native and migrant species that are caught in a crisis situation.

Shrinking habitats – due to illegal logging for timber and firewood both in the hills and plains, reclamation of wetlands, and changing land use patterns to accommodate the growing resource demands of India's burgeoning human population – have led to the disappearance of many ecosystems crucial to the survival of such species. At times, inappropriate policy and management initiatives have also led to adverse impacts on our natural heritage and wildlife.

However, on the positive side, India has a declared policy that is against the utilisation of wild fauna as a resource. It has perhaps the strongest set of legislations in the region in place for protection and enforcement. Indians, despite the rising tide of conflict, have a deep tolerance and respect for wildlife as a part of their tradition. The country also has a growing band of activists and conservationists who are dedicated to preserving its natural heritage. This is what makes support for conservation action in India meaningful, and more importantly, productive.

20 Years in Service of Nature

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) was formed in 1998 in response to these crises. Beginning as a three-member team, WTI today addresses a diverse range of wildlife conservation issues across India with over 150 full-time professionals and consultants, in addition to volunteers from all walks of life. The core team includes field biologists, social scientists, conservation managers, veterinarians, lawyers, and specialists in finance, business management and communications, who collectively bring into play a huge bank of professional experience.

WTI is a registered charity in India and is mandated by its Board of Trustees to ensure that 80 percent of all specified donor grants go directly to the field.

Our Milestones



Devna Arora

1 Mapped all the 101 corridors used by Asian elephants in India, drew out a green-print to secure them and worked out four securement models

2 Canopies, corridors and catchments of the Garo Green Spine protected using three flagship species in 16 Village Reserve Forests in the Garo Hills, Meghalaya

3 Pioneered systematic wildlife rehabilitation as a tool for conservation in India in partnership with IFAW

4 Raised consciousness of judiciary, enforcement agencies and public to the word 'wildlife crime' and started a whole new arena of the fight against crime

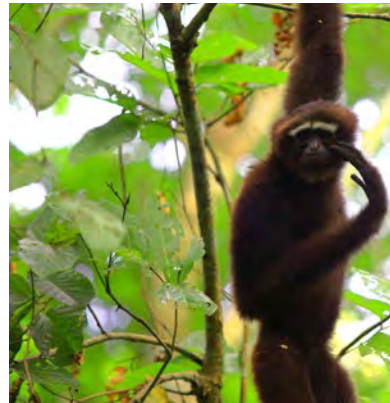
5 More than 16,000 wildlife staff of over 150 Protected Areas imparted Level 1 anti-poaching training. Also, more than 20,000 frontline staff provided ex-gratia assurance against death or injury on duty

6 Lobbied to make the whale shark the first fish to be protected under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, in India and ensured its protection by a massive on-ground campaign in Gujarat

7 Showed how to bring back a once neglected Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar and increased tiger and prey numbers in the park



Ramith Meledath



Vivek Menon



Sashanka Barbaruah



Sashanka Barbaruah

From top to bottom

A hornbill in Arunachal Pradesh

Elephant and calf at Thirunelli Kudrakote elephant corridor in Wayanad WLS

L: A hoolock gibbon at Panbari RF in Kaziranga NP

R: A bear being radio collared in Manas NP

A rhino calf at CWRC, Kaziranga NP



Alan James

8 Manas National Park removed from the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites in danger and tripled in size politically with several endangered species being restocked

9 Species recovery project saves the endangered Central India wild buffalo – progenitor of the world's buffalo stock – and increases its numbers in Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh

10 Not a single elephant killed by trains in Rajaji National Park for over a decade (2001-11) after a project was undertaken to stop elephants deaths in Uttarakhand

11 Shahtoosh formally banned in Jammu and Kashmir and a rainbow-product called Pashm-e-Shahi created, creating an alternative model

12 Exposed the illegal mongoose hair brush trade, lobbied and got all mongoose species protection under the Wild Life (Protection) Act

13 Persuaded the Nyishi tribe around Pakke Tiger Reserve to use fibreglass hornbill beaks in Arunachal Pradesh instead of killing four hornbill species and using their beaks to adorn their headgear

14 First comprehensive survey of the markhor (*Capra falconeri*), the largest goat in the world, triggers declaration of Kazinag National Park and expansion of Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary in Jammu and Kashmir



Anil Kumar Singh



RP Mishra



Subhamoy Bhattacharjee

From top to bottom

A whale shark

A signage near a railway track in Rajaji NP

A wild buffalo in Udanti WLS

A hoarding outside Manas NP

15 Played a supportive role to the Indian government in its fight against re-opening the ivory trade at CITES, ensuring several years without ivory trade

16 Played a key role in building the only global intergovernmental forum on tigers – the Global Tiger Forum

17 Assisted in expanding India's protected area network by getting new reserves demarcated in Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra

18 Highlighted snares as killers of tigers and their prey in southern India and assisted in India's first anti-snare walks in Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka

19 Conducted India's first private-public restoration of a degraded coral reef in Mithapur in Gujarat

20 Eradicated the dancing bear tradition in India and rehabilitated Kalandars in four states

21 Led a campaign in Nagaland to conserve the Amur falcons, which were being hunted in the tens of thousands. No falcons were killed in 2013 and 2014 as a result of this intervention

22 Successfully demonstrated the use of mass capture as a method of translocation and reintroduction of eastern swamp deer in Assam

23 Worked with the Uttarakhand Forest Department to free the Chilla Motichur corridor of human habitation through voluntary relocation of Khand Gaon II and enabled secure passage for elephants and other wildlife in Rajaji Tiger Reserve, thus maintaining the Rajaji – Corbett elephant population as a single entity

From top to bottom

L: Snares removed from Bandipur Tiger Reserve

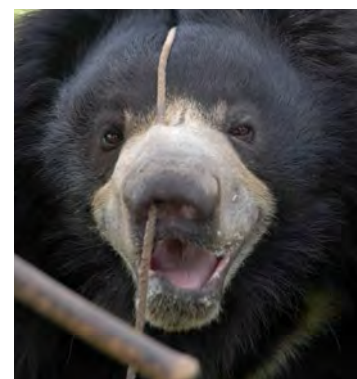
R: A bear belonging to a kalandar in Madhya Pradesh

B: Amur falcons in Nagaland

Ishaan Raghunandan



Nagaraj Bhat



WTI



1

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 per cent

Wild Lands

Land securement is a unique strategy that aims to secure critical habitats outside the traditional protected area system, especially biological linkages, wetlands, grasslands, Important Bird Areas and sacred groves. WTI's current priorities are securing elephant corridors and tiger linkages, and protecting mangrove ecosystems on the Kerala coast.

A list of 101 critical elephant corridors has been compiled and groundtruthed under the Right of Passage project, which now seeks to establish a secure legal and ownership status for corridor lands. Over the last decade-and-a-half, WTI has helped to secure six corridors across the country, including the Siju-Rewak and Rewak-Emangre corridors in Meghalaya's Garo Hills, the Edayarhalli-Doddasampige corridor at Kollegal that connects the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) sanctuary with the Kollegal Forest Division in Karnataka, and the Thirunelli-Kudrakote corridor in the Wayanad sanctuary in Kerala.

To secure the Thirunelli corridor, WTI worked tirelessly for several years which eventually led to villagers voluntarily relocating from their lands. The villagers were provided homes and agricultural lands. Follow up socio-economic surveys have confirmed that their annual incomes have increased exponentially.

WTI has also assisted the government of Uttarakhand in freeing the Chilla-Motichur corridor in Rajaji National Park of human habitation. This corridor connects two crucial ranges on either side of river Ganga, helping maintain wildlife habitat and population contiguity.

WTI has also acquired species-rich mangrove habitat at Kunhimangalam village in Kannur, Kerala, as the hub for the Kannur Kandal (Mangrove Restoration) Project. The project aims primarily at promoting mangrove restoration in Kerala through community and government participation.



Sabu Jahas

Rathin Barman



Sandeep Kumar Tiwari



Top to bottom

A family in Thirulakunnu, Wayanad WLS, after relocation

An elephant herd crossing a trail in Manas NP

Aerial view of the secured Siju-Rewak corridor habitat

Our Big Ideas

2

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

Wild Aid

Wild Aid is the outreach arm of WTI that provides short term focussed aid, both monetary and technical, to assist during emergencies and in emerging conservation issues. It provides rapid aid to animals in distress, initiates pilot projects and innovative ideas to help conservation and focuses public attention on conservation emergencies. Here are some illustrations from over 400 Wild Aid projects conducted in India:

Securing the Largest Sarus Breeding Grounds in the World

The wetlands of Etawah and Mainpuri districts in Uttar Pradesh, which constitute the floodplains of the Ganga and Chambal rivers, are the breeding grounds of approximately 50 per cent of the global population of sarus cranes, the world's tallest flying bird. Unfortunately, the wetlands were threatened with a housing and development project. WTI filed a public interest petition in the High Court. The judges halted the drainage and directed the state government to take concrete steps to protect the bird and its habitat. As a result, the government set up the Sarus Sanrakhan Samiti to conserve the cranes.

Prevention of Elephant Deaths Due to Train Hits in Rajaji National Park

Railway lines passing through forests pose a constant threat to wildlife. In 18 years, the broad gauge railway track passing through the Rajaji National Park had killed 18 elephants. Wild Aid then carried out a rapid study to assess the reason for elephants to cross the line, identify the problem areas and suggest mitigation measures. Water was found to be the major limiting factor since animals had to cross a railway line for water.

The study suggested measures such as increasing visibility on the track by clearing bushes and cutting the steep sides of the tracks and joint patrolling by forest department and railways on vulnerable stretches during summer. WTI, along with the Uttarakhand Forest Department, organised workshops for train drivers and guards, cleared vegetation along the tracks, placed signboards on vulnerable stretches and cleaned choked



Rishi Kumar

water bodies. It also conducted patrolling of railway tracks for a decade. As a result, no elephants died due to train hits in a decade after 2002 in Rajaji.

Changing Tribal Traditions to Conserve Hornbills

For centuries, tradition forced Nyishi tribesmen in India's remote northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh to hunt the hornbill and wear its beak on their heads to get married. Increasing Nyishi population resulted in the decimation of three species of hornbills.

WTI joined a local NGO, Arunachal Wildlife and Nature Foundation (AWNF) to encourage the tribesmen to adopt artificial hornbill beaks to give a modern conservation twist to the tradition.

The fibreglass beaks produced by WTI and distributed with the help of AWNF and the Forest Department became so popular that WTI decided to turn this into a sustainable activity. Tying up with the National Museum of Natural History and the Nyishi Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society, it trained select local artisans to produce this beak with the result that a centuries old tradition has turned into a commercially viable activity.

Saving Amur Falcons

Since 2013, Wildlife Trust of India, in collaboration with the Nagaland Forest Dept, Natural Nagas, Pangti Village Council and Amur Falcons Roosting Areas Union (AFRAU) have been working in Wokha District to conserve the migratory visitors, who were being hunted in large numbers. Thanks to the holistic efforts, which included an anti-hunting resolution passed by the villages of Asha, Pangti and Sungro, no falcons were killed in 2013. In subsequent years, the work has been expanded to help save the Amur falcons visiting the Umrangso area of Assam as well.

Far left: A pair of sarus cranes in Bharatpur WLS
 Top bottom: A tribal man wearing a fibreglass hornbill beak
 Bottom: Amur falcon protection squad in Nagaland

Subhamoy Bhattacharjee



Subhamoy Bhattacharjee



Our Big Ideas

3

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

Enforcement and Law

This division aims to reduce wildlife crime by assisting enforcement agencies in trade control, championing litigation against wildlife crime and strengthening frontline field staff through training, capacity building and morale boosting.

Trade control works through a network of undercover operatives who assist the enforcement agencies to combat wildlife crime. The division has assisted in several raids and over 150 seizures of wildlife articles ranging from tiger bones and skins, ivory, shahtoosh shawls and wool, bear bile, tiger and mongoose hair and brushes.

WTI's litigation cell actively files public interest cases for protecting wildlife and its habitat against threats like encroachments, mining, trade of banned wildlife articles among others. Notable among these were the cases against notorious poacher Sansar Chand and his family, the Kalagarh encroachment case and the shahtoosh ban case in Jammu and Kashmir. The cell actively assists the prosecution of wildlife offenders by providing legal intervention and assistance at District and High Court levels, such as cases filed by others on Salman Khan and MAK Pataudi.

WTI's Guardians of the Wild project, known in Hindi as the Van Rakshak Project, protects the protectors of wildlife through training and capacity building, while providing an ex-gratia umbrella for frontline forest staff and their families.

Amitabha Choudhary



Courtesy Karnataka FD



Nagaraj Bhat

Top to Bottom

A leopard in a leg hold trap

Snares collected through the pioneering anti-snare walk project

Leopard skin seizure at Majnu Ka Tila in New Delhi



Sashanka Barbaruah

A file photo of forest guards patrolling in Assam

Guardians of the Wild

Recognising that the safety of Indian wildlife is in the hands of the forest staff, WTI started the Guardians of the Wild cell to look after those who look after wildlife. Known in Hindi as the Van Rakshak Programme, it comprises a group of skilled trainers who work closely with the forest department's frontline field staff, honing their skills, boosting their morale, and equipping them to perform their duties better.

Covering a wide range of subjects that include wildlife and criminal law, enforcement methods, unarmed combat, firearms handling, the trainers supplement the skills already imparted to them by the government to create a strong, well-equipped and motivated force of frontline field staff. The cell has trained and equipped over 16,000 field staff in over 150 protected areas of India and transboundary areas of Bhutan.

As protecting India's natural heritage is fast taking the shape of an armed conflict with well-equipped poachers and timber smugglers, WTI runs the only pan-India NGO Supplementary Accident Assurance scheme, which brings all

the frontline field wildlife staff in the country under an ex-gratia umbrella that covers them for Rs 100,000 on death or permanent disability. Today, 23 states have joined this scheme and more than 150 families have availed of the ex-gratia support.

In order to keep track of the field staff, the programme has developed a database, which tracks the careers of staff from Range Forest officers and below, including temporary staff, in the sanctuaries and national parks. Called PASS (Protected Area Staff Status), it covers 14 information parameters, including family and dependents. With over 20,000 staff on its database, it is the only one of its kind in India and serves as a useful tool for the government and policy makers.

To recognise and reward good effort, the cell also gives awards and financially supports those in need. It aims to create a network of field staff around the country to facilitate exchange of experience and information.

Our Big Ideas



4

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

Green Livelihoods

This division that focuses on communities works in Manas and Karbi Anglong in Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Vidarbha in Central India, Wayanad in Kerala and on the western coast of Gujarat. Two of its more acclaimed projects were on Shahtoosh weavers in Jammu and Kashmir and Kalandars in Central India.

Working with the Shahtoosh Workers in Kashmir

During the mid 1990s, it was conclusively established that the raw material for highly prized Shahtoosh shawls, produced exclusively in Kashmir, came from the Chiru (Tibetan antelope) that was killed in the process. To save the Chiru from extinction, it was deemed necessary to stop the production and trade in Shahtoosh. Through this project, Shahtoosh workers were persuaded to give up Shahtoosh production without compromising their skills and traditions. An exclusive pashmina product was developed as an alternative to provide a viable livelihood. WTI helped register the Kashmir Handmade Pashmina Promotion Trust (KHPPT) an organization of artisans, which brings together the traditional artistry of Shahtoosh and Pashmina workers to promote Kashmir

Handmade Pashmina and to establish it as an exclusive brand.

Working with the Kalandar Communities

Kalandar communities used to keep wild sloth bears and train them to perform, providing a traditional form of entertainment. This practice, in addition to being cruel, had a negative impact on the bear populations in the wild. WTI and WSPA worked with the Kalandar community and state governments in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh to eradicate this practice. To meet this objective, WTI developed and implemented sustainable livelihood packages to enable Kalandars to stop relying on the bears as a means of livelihood. Alternative livelihood opportunities were given to the Kalandars on the basis of felt need after consultation, skill-assessment and the viability of the new vocation. These Kalandars are presently engaged in agriculture, plying passenger vehicles, running grocery shops and other small businesses and the Indian government has declared bear dancing obsolete in the country.



Subhamoy Bhattacharjee



WTI



Sheren Shrestha

Anil Nair

Clockwise from top:

Villagers pose with solar lamps distributed by WTI in Dibang Valley

A Kashmiri artisan weaving a pashmina shawl

A green livelihoods site around Manas NP

Improved cook stoves for the community in the Nagzira-Navegaon tiger corridor



Our Big Ideas

5

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

Natural Heritage Campaigns

Education and outreach are perhaps the most appropriate tools to sensitize people and prepare future generations to the need of conservation and habitat protection. Awareness for Conservation is, therefore, designed as the Communications and Campaigns arm of WTI to create awareness for specific issues creating spaces in public minds for favourable reactions to chosen subjects.

Some of the most successful conservation campaigns in India have been run by this division. For example, Save the Whale Shark campaign has stopped the killing of whale sharks in Gujarat and has been successful in persuading the government to mark it on the public calendar by declaring an annual Whale Shark Day, the only one of its kind for any species in India.

The Say No to Shahtoosh campaign aimed at conserving the Tibetan antelope and raising public awareness against the sale of Shahtoosh shawls made of wool extracted after killing this endangered animal. The campaign that used fashion models for messaging at Lakme India Fashion Week, led to a ban on Shahtoosh lowering demands in the national and international markets. WTI succeeded in promoting pashmina weaving as a viable alternative to shahtoosh weaving.

Clockwise from top:

A painting submitted by a school student under Animal Action Education campaign

His Holiness the Dalai Lama with Mr Ashok Kumar and Dr Barbara Maas at the launch of Tibetan Conservation Awareness Campaign

School children around Manas NP paint the town green

Shri Morari Bapu at the whale shark campaign event in Gujarat

Children participating in whale shark mela in Dwarka, Gujarat



Sheren Shrestha



Art © Ayushi Surange, Bhavan's BP Vidya Mandir, Nagpur

The Tibetan Conservation Awareness Campaign, launched by His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, evoked an emotional response from the Tibetans, who gave up using illegal animal products and publically burnt their dresses lined with tiger, leopard and other furs.

WTI has been running an annual campaign for the last 13 years called Animal Action Education which is targetted at raising species or issue based awareness amongst school children. Promoted by WTI's partner IFAW, AAE has managed to reach 3000 schools in 22 states across India.

WTI



WTI

Nizira Borgoyari



Our Big Ideas



Bhaskar Choudhury

6

To increase the welfare of individual displaced animals while enhancing conservation and pioneering science based rehabilitation and wildlife health across India, and in doing so to save at least 5000 lives in the decade.

Wild Rescue

This strategy aims to increase welfare of individual displaced animals while enhancing conservation and pioneering science based rehabilitation and wildlife health.

WTI runs the only division of its kind in India that is involved in the long-term rescue and rehabilitation of Asian elephants, Asiatic black bears, greater one-horned rhinoceroses and wild buffaloes. Apart from stabilising and releasing large numbers of temporarily disadvantaged wild animals at the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) near Kaziranga National Park in Assam, WTI has been instrumental in reuniting several elephant calves with

Clockwise from top left

Reintroduced rhino and its newly born calf in Manas NP

Orphaned elephant calves being hand-reared at CWRC, Kaziranga NP

An animal keeper feeding milk to swamp deer calf at CWRC, Kaziranga NP

Vultures being released in Tinsukia, Assam

Subhamoy Bhattacharjee



their natal herds. CWRC's hand-reared rhino calves were the first to be reintroduced at the Manas National Park in Assam after its entire population was wiped out in the backdrop of political instability in the region. Three of these rhinos have given birth in Manas, thus adding to the population.

WTI also provides rapid response to emergencies through its Mobile Veterinary Services operating four ambulances in Assam, one each in Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka. It works with a network of trained amateur rehabilitators and veterinarians.

Our teams have handled over 6000 wild animals in distress down the years. Over 3500 have been rehabilitated back into the wild.

Panjit Basumatary



Sashanka Barbaruah

WTI has also pioneered a network of wildlife rehabilitators working in India, who assist in rehabilitating distressed wildlife through the Emergency Relief Network (ERN). At present, ERN has more than 650 individual members across the country.

Approximately 95,000 animals have been handled through this network, including star tortoises rescued from the illegal wildlife trade and rehabilitated, olive ridley hatchlings assisted in reaching the sea, domestic animals provided fodder and /or vaccinated in times of natural disasters, and injured birds attended to during the annual kite flying festival of Uttarayan.

Our Big Ideas

7

Demonstrate seven innovative and replicable models of Human Wildlife Conflict reduction to catalyse appropriate changes in policy.

Conflict Mitigation

WTI works with State governments and forest departments, government-run entities like Indian Railways, and corporate partners to address human-animal conflict arising from anthropogenic pressures on wildlife habitats. From mitigating elephant deaths due to train hits to the rescue of carnivores from human habitations and ensuring their release back in the wild, the conflict mitigation cell works 24x7 to ensure that humans and animals co-exist without trouble.

Conflict between humans and large carnivores is an escalating problem across the country and the success of WTI's proactive approach towards mitigating such conflict is evidenced in its Terai Tiger Project in the Dudhwa and Pilibhit Tiger Reserves in Uttar Pradesh, and its Vidarbha Tiger Project in Maharashtra.

The conflict mitigation strategy WTI leverages in these projects was first developed in the Terai landscape, where 151 human-wildlife conflict cases that resulted in human deaths and injuries were recorded by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department between 2000 and 2013 – with 90.1% of these cases involving leopards and tigers. In response to the escalating levels of conflict, WTI began a long-term project to address the situation in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department.

Under WTI's holistic model a team comprising a biologist, sociologist and veterinarian is constituted as a Rapid Response Team (RRT) in high conflict areas. The veterinarian responds to wildlife emergencies, the biologist determines why animals may be straying into human-use areas in that particular landscape, while the sociologist works with local communities to sensitise and prepare them for possible conflict scenarios. The RRT works with the State forest department and the Primary Response Teams (PRTs) constituted in the area, which comprise local volunteers and influential people such as village elders.

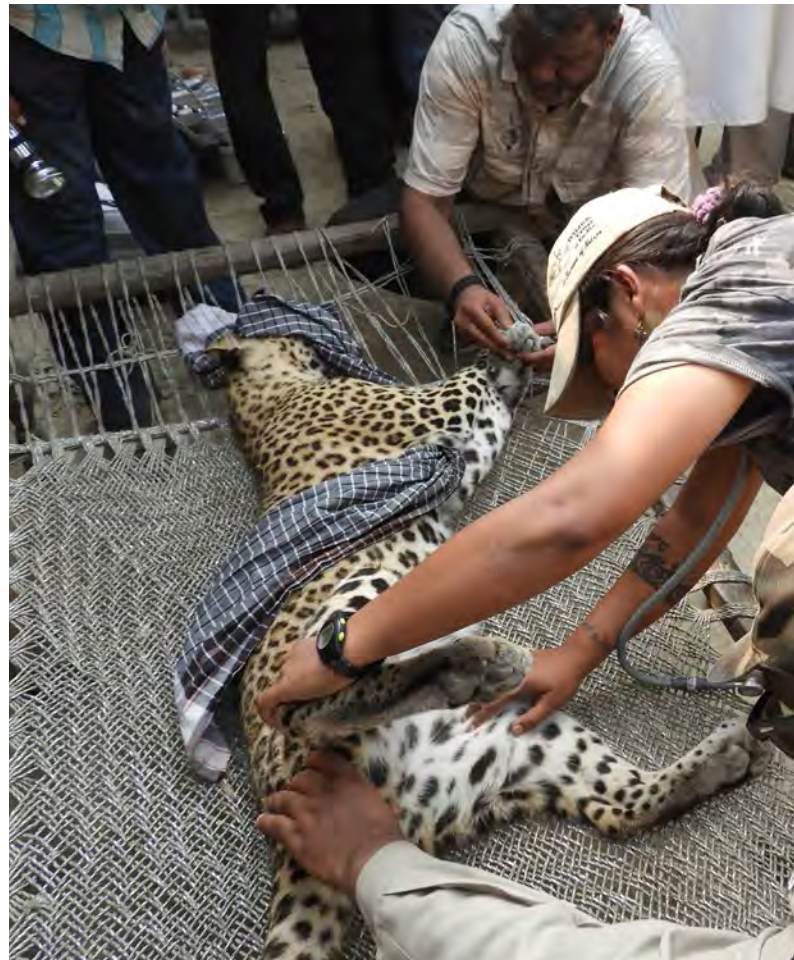


Abhijeet Sanjay Bayant

For left: A human-tiger conflict situation on the fringes of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve
 Top bottom: A leopard rescued from a village near Katarniaghat WLS being examined prior to its release into the wild
 Bottom: Consultative meetings with villagers, police and local administrators are crucial to WTI's holistic model of conflict mitigation

The constitution of these PRTs makes local communities stakeholders in the conflict mitigation process and is vital to addressing such issues in the long-term. Each 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 the RRT, which is equipped to chemically capture and provide *in situ* relief to displaced carnivores as the situation demands, or provide treatment to injured humans if required.

Since 2009, WTI's Terai Tiger Project team has rescued nine tigers from 37 human-tiger conflict situations, with four tigers successfully released back into the wild. Several tigers and leopards have been provided safe passage from conflict during this period, without human or animal casualties. Similar noteworthy interventions have also been made under the Vidarbha Tiger Project.



Our Big Ideas

8

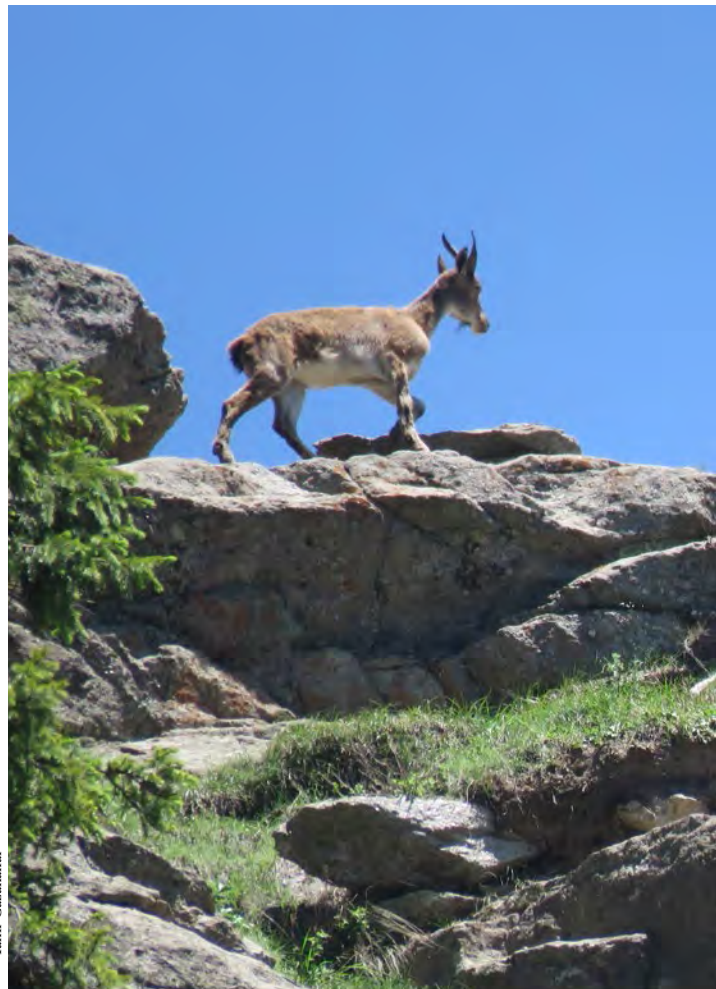
To improve the existing functionality of six selected Protected Areas (PAs) and restore their ecological integrity.

Protected Area Recovery

Focused on India's Protected Area network, the strategic approach of this division includes habitat improvement activities, restocking and/or monitoring of populations of endangered species, providing specialised training to frontline forest staff, sensitising fringe communities (especially schoolchildren) about the importance of conservation, and legal and political interventions required to preserve or expand the territory of protected wildlife habitats.

Since 2003, WTI, in partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) and the Assam Forest Department, has led conservation efforts to 'Bring Back Manas', a UNESCO World Heritage Site whose flora and fauna were ravaged by militancy through the late 1980s and 1990s.

As a result of these ongoing efforts, Manas NP has been removed from the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites in



Tahir Gazanaffar



Art © Avishi Surange, Bhavan's BP Vidya Mandir, Nagpur

Samir Sinha

danger. Its area has also been tripled in size politically and 350 sq km from the eastern part of the Manas Reserve Forest has been officially declared as the First Addition to the national park. The populations of several endangered species, including Asian elephants, greater one-horned rhinoceroses and eastern swamp deer are also being restocked.

Another crucial intervention has been conducted in the Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar. In 2001-02, WTI filed a Public Interest Litigation forcing the state government to be more attentive to the needs of the then beleaguered tiger reserve. From 2003 onwards WTI started a long-term conservation project in Valmiki in partnership with the Bihar Forest Department. Derided as a 'tiger reserve without tigers' at the time, Valmiki TR is today a Protected Area that wildlife lovers and conservationists see as an exemplar of success. October 2017 brought another laurel to its credit, as it was selected for the prestigious 'RBS Earth Guardian Award' for 2017.

WTI has also assisted in expanding India's Protected Area network by getting new reserves demarcated in Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

Clockwise from top:

Once in disarray, Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar is now seen as an exemplar of conservation success
School children participate in a street play to develop conservation awareness among communities on the fringes of Manas National Park

A markhor in Kazinag National Park; WTI conducted the first-ever comprehensive markhor survey in the region, triggering the declaration of Kazinag National Park and the expansion of Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary in Jammu and Kashmir

Shubhamoy Bhattacharjee



Our Big Ideas



Subrat Kumar Behera



Adrish Poddar



Vivek Menon

9 To recover populations of at least six threatened species or sub-species by lowering their IUCN national or global status of threat through direct conservation action

Species Recovery

This division uses improved techniques, intensive management, conservation breeding, reintroduction and restocking to recover populations of threatened species.

WTI has helped the recovery of the last remaining wild buffalo sub-species in central India through cloning and conservation breeding. We have restocked Manas NP with Eastern swamp deer captured from Kaziranga NP to save this sub-species in Assam. We have restocked the former habitats of cheer pheasants in Himachal Pradesh and proved the existence of markhor in new areas of Jammu and Kashmir through surveys.

The generous donation made by Dr George Schaller, kickstarted WTI's Schaller Conservation Surveys. The first of these looked at the markhor, a spectacular goat found on the border of India and Pakistan in Kashmir, and the findings have led to the government declaring a new National Park. A survey of the range of the Tibetan antelope on the China border, has for the first time, established numbers and demographics in India.

Our species recovery projects reflect long-term organisational commitment and are selected after careful thought is given to the conservation status of the species, conservation relevance of a project, resource availability, local support and government priorities.

Clockwise from top

A satellite tagged gharial being released in Gandak River

A male wild buffalo in Udanti

A cheer pheasant pair in Himachal Pradesh

Eastern swamp deer in Kaziranga NP

Policy Advocacy

This cell focuses on policy makers and implementers as a target audience, who have a critical role in wildlife conservation, apart from interacting with primary levels of judiciary, and the autonomous district and tribal councils in the north eastern states, who work with their own customary laws. Internationally, it participates in fora like the UN's Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora & Fauna (CITES), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and co-hosts key meetings that have positive outcomes in policy changes.

WTI also maintains a national level database on elephant mortality and ivory seizures which forms the baseline for policy documents against conditional sale of ivory in some African nations. As a result of attending all the Standing Committee meetings and Conference of Parties of CITES, from 1998 to 2007, no ivory was sanctioned to be traded internationally and in 2007, a nine year moratorium was won. Working with the government of India and state forest departments, WTI published and released a National Bear Conservation Action Plan and state action plans at the International Bear Association Conference co-hosted with the government of India.

Clockwise from bottom left

Union Ministers Maneka Gandhi and Prakash Javadekar at the inaugural ceremony of the Minding Animals Conference in New Delhi
The organising team of the International Bear Conference Association
A GTF Consultative meeting

Achintya Tripathi



WTI

WTI



Our Supporters

Global Partnership



Founded in 1969, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is a global non-profit organization that protects animals and the places they call home. With offices in 15 countries and projects in over 40, we rescue, rehabilitate and release animals into secure landscapes around the world. In collaboration with both governments and local communities, our experienced campaigners, legal and political experts, and internationally acclaimed scientists pioneer lasting solutions to some of the most pressing animal welfare and wildlife conservation issues of our time. IFAW is represented in India in a unique partnership with WTI. Both organisations have been working towards a common goal through joint strategies on multiple fronts for the last 18 years.

Sashanka Barbaruah



Veterinarians and a biologist attending to a female hoolock gibbon at Dello village in Arunachal Pradesh

WTI is a professional body that undertakes conservation action in response to the needs of the country. However, such actions can only be done with the support of a charitable public, and donor agencies that have conservation and animal welfare as their mandate.

WTI believes in working hand in hand with partner organisations and conservation agencies worldwide, after having aligned the conservation priorities of both agencies so that a win-win situation is created. Similarly, with individuals, it does not believe in putting money into a common basket, wherein the donor is unsure of its usage. Donors are instead assigned specific projects and kept informed on how the money is spent. These are the sort of approaches that has created this strong partnership between the giving public, agencies and WTI.

All individual supporters are thanked for their generosity but their numbers preclude their being named individually.

Financial Supporters



We are grateful to



and all State Forest Departments



Our Founders



The founders of WTI: Left to Right: Thomas Mathews, Vivek Menon, Tara Gandhi, Ashok Kumar

Board-Emeritus



The late Ashok Kumar - Founder and Chairman Emeritus

Talk about combating illegal trade of wildlife in India and Mr Ashok Kumar's name would feature at the top of the list. Leaving the cushy confines of the corporate world, Mr Kumar dedicated his life to break the back bone of the illegal wildlife trade in India. Mr Kumar was responsible for coining the word wildlife crime in India, assisting enforcement agencies in hundreds of seizures including the ones relating to the infamous Sansar Chand and dozens of litigations that led the fight against crime in the country. He was the first Director of Traffic India, former Vice-President of WPSI and served as a consultant to the MoEF for many years.



M K Ranjitsinh - Emeritus Member of the Board and former Chairman

For the last half a century, Dr MK Ranjitsinh has been at the forefront of shaping conservation strategies for not only the flagship species but also for key habitats in India. One of his greatest contributions to wildlife conservation was the framing of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, that laid the foundation for India's wildlife movement. Apart from being the Member Secretary of the task force that put together Project Tiger his other significant achievements have been the key role he played in the first ever successful relocation of a village from inside a Protected Area, notification of over eight national parks and 11 wildlife sanctuaries and also the successful captive breeding and release programmes for all three species of Indian crocodilians.



Ajay Balram - Emeritus Member of the Board and Honorary Treasurer

Mr Ajay Balram is a business manager, who was formerly Director of Tate & Lyle Investments (India) Pvt Ltd. Having spent long years in the industry, he brings a vast expertise in management and finance to WTI. Mr Balram is also an Olympic judge in yachting and a well known theatre personality of Delhi. He has had a long term interest in wildlife conservation.

Board of Trustees



Prasad Menon - Chairman

Mr Prasad Menon has over 40+ years of diverse experience in some of the premier multinational and Indian companies. He served as the Managing Director at Tata Chemicals, and subsequently with Tata Power. Presently, he is Director on a number of Tata Boards and is also Chairman of the Board of Tata Singapore Airlines Joint Venture Vistara. Apart from his Board responsibilities, Mr. Menon is actively involved in various advisory committees in the areas of Academics, Sustainability & Corporate Governance.



Parimal C Bhattacharjee - Vice Chairman

Dr P. C. Bhattacharjee is a respected academic and a retired Professor of Gauhati University. He pioneered wetland studies, primatology and biodiversity studies in north-east India. He is a member of several governmental and state committees on wildlife conservation. He is also an erstwhile state level cricket player and was a member of the state Ranji Trophy selection committee.



Tara Gandhi - Executive Trustee

Mrs Tara Gandhi is a conservationist and ornithologist, who headed the Community Biodiversity Conservation Movement (CBCM) programme of WWF-India and later worked with the biodiversity programme of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. She has also worked on status surveys of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks at the Indian Institute of Public Administration.



Elias George - Trustee

Mr Elias George, IAS, was the Managing Director and Additional Chief Secretary of Transport of Kochi Metro Rail Limited and also served as its Director. As a senior IAS officer he held positions in several departments in the State as well as in Central Ministries. He retired from the Indian Administrative Service on October 31, 2016. Mr George is Official Part Time Director at Cochin Shipyard Limited representing the government of Kerala, and has served on the boards of Central Government PSUs like SAIL, RINL and MSTC.



Raman Sukumar - Trustee

Dr Raman Sukumar is well known as the elephant expert of Asia. He is a professor at the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and has authored popular and acclaimed books on the Asian elephant. He is also an Honorary Director of the AERCC. Dr Sukumar was Chairman of the IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group, and is currently Steering Committee member of Project Elephant, GOI. He is also a member of the National Board for Wildlife.

Board of Trustees



GV Prasad- Trustee

Mr G V Prasad is the Co-Chairman and Managing Director of Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. He is a Chemical Engineer from Illinois and did his Masters in Industrial Administration from Purdue University. Mr. Prasad is engaged in strengthening Dr Reddy's research and development capabilities, supporting progressive people practices and building a holistic culture of operational excellence. He has a passion for wildlife and nature conservation on joining the WTI Board.



Professor BC Choudhury – Trustee

Professor Choudhury is an Executive Trustee and the Principal Investigator of Aquatic Projects at WTI. A retired scientist from the Wildlife Institute of India, he is a professional trainer and teacher in the field of wildlife conservation and resource management, and has trained wildlife managers, biologists and sociologists for over 30 years. Professor Choudhury is also the Regional (Asia) Co-chair of the IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) and Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG). He is a member of the IUCN-SSC Cetacean Specialist Group, the Freshwater Turtle and Tortoise Group, and the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group.



Mrinal Pande - Trustee

Eminent media personality, Mrinal Pande has vast experience spearheading several prominent governmental and non governmental bodies. She is India's first woman Chief Editor of a multi edition Hindi daily (Hindustan , Hindustan Times Group) and is former Chairman of India's national broadcaster - Prasar Bharati. She was awarded the Padmashree in 2006 for her services in the field of journalism and the Red Ink Lifetime Achievement Award by the Mumbai Press Club in 2014.



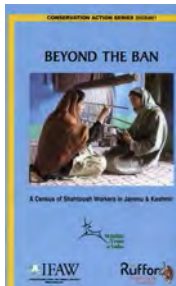
Punit Lalbhai - Trustee

Mr Punit Lalbhai from Ahmedabad is the Executive Director of Arvind Ltd. An MBA from INSEAD, a Bachelor's Degree in Conservation Biology from the University of California and a Masters in Environmental Sciences from Yale University is invaluable as he spearheads their initiatives in CSR, Sustainability and Innovation at Arvind. His passion for ornithology and conservation has contributed to building sustainable businesses that have the ability to impact ecology and conservation in a positive way.



Vivek Menon - Founder Trustee, Executive Director & CEO

Mr Vivek Menon is a conservation biologist, environmental commentator, author and photographer with a passion for elephants. He is currently member of Project Elephant Steering Committee, the Committee to revamp the National Wildlife Action Plan, CITES Advisory Committee as well as the Central Zoo Authority. Mr Menon is Senior Advisor to the International Fund for Animal Welfare. He is also a member of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN and on the International Jury of the Future for Nature Awards. He has scores of technical reports and more than 150 articles in various scientific and popular publications and has nine wildlife books to his name, including the recently published bestselling Indian Mammals.



CONSERVATION ACTION REPORTS

Beyond the Ban: A census of Shahtoosh 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

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Predator Alert: Attacks on humans by leopard and Asiatic black bear in the Kashmir valley – Analysis of case studies and spatial patterns of elevated conflict

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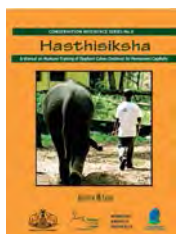
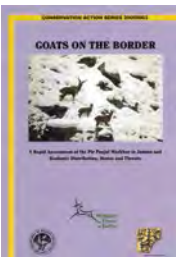
Gujarat's Gentle Giant: Conservation of Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) in Gujarat

Daring to Restore: Coral Reef Recovery in Mithapur

A Dance to Forget: The story of the eradication of Sloth Bear dancing from India

Tiger Country: Helping Save Bhutan's Natural Heritage

Living with the Wild: Mitigating Conflict between Humans and Big Cat Species in Uttar Pradesh



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Hasthisiksha: A Manual on Humane Training of Elephant Calves Destined for Permanent Captivity

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Fair Concern: Health and management of captive elephants in Sonpur

Our Publications

Elephants in Exile: A rapid assessment of the human-elephant conflict in Chhattisgarh

Ganesha to Bin Laden: Human-elephant conflict in Sonitpur district of Assam

Healing Touch: Health and management of captive elephants at Kaziranga elephant festivals

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No Mast Kalandar: The beginning to the end of dancing with bears

Civet Chronicles: Search for the Malabar Civet (*Viverra Civettina*) in Kerala and Karnataka

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 Relief Network Digest 2005 – 2006

Emergency Relief Network Digest 2006 – 2007

Action Tiger: Tiger action plans of 12 tiger range countries

Tigers of North Kheri: A collection of articles and short stories

National Bear Conservation and Action Plan 2012

Born to be Wild: Commemorating a decade of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation

Assessing the Potential of Reintroducing the Cheetah in India

Conflict to Co-existence: A dozen cost effective human interventions for co-existence with wildlife

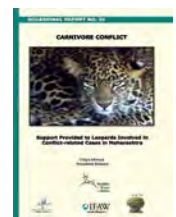
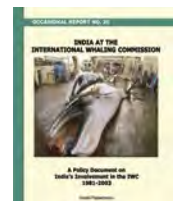
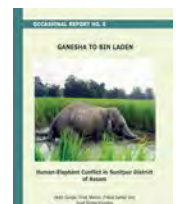


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Our Strengths

Quick action

WTI is geared to act quickly with minimum bureaucracy, ensuring that assistance in the form of finance, equipment, infrastructure and expertise reaches the field without delay.

Private sector work ethics and an NGO heart

WTI's core team works with private sector deadlines, management principles and performance reviews and are led by a passion that stems from the heart.

Building alliances

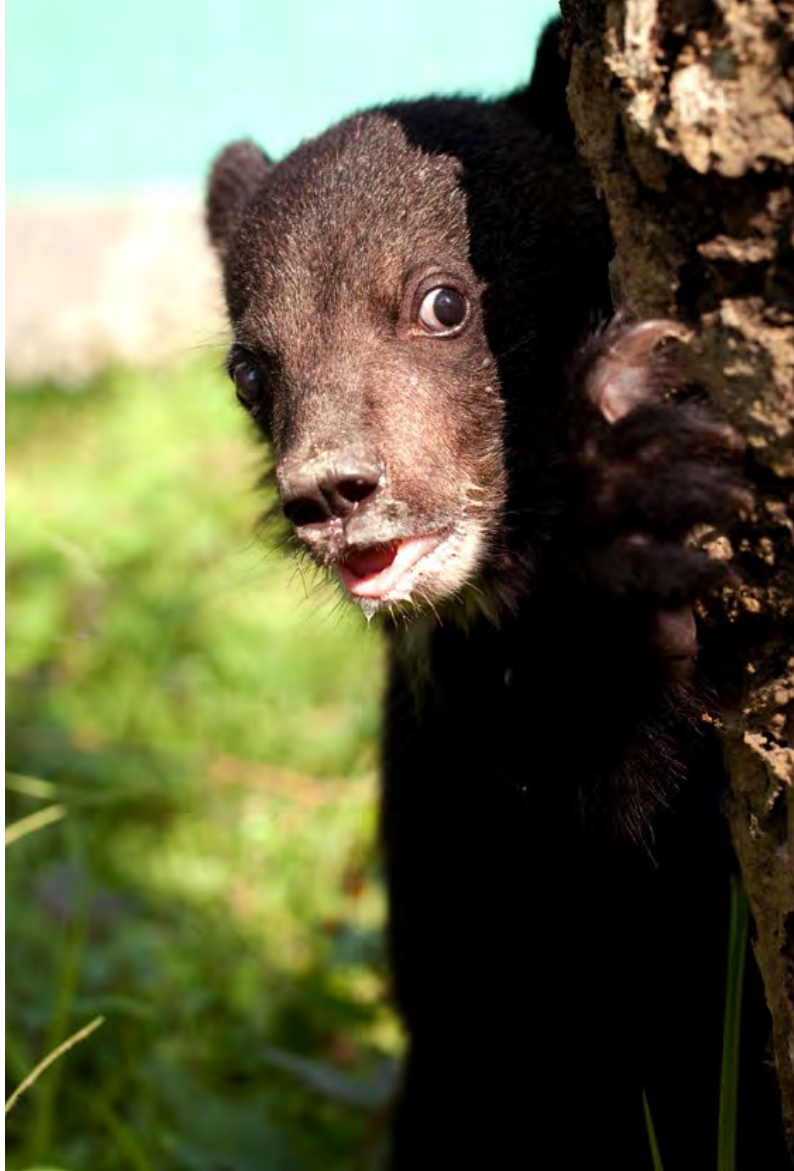
WTI functions through partnerships and coalitions. Regional partners provide geographical oversight, technical partners provide the expertise and skill that may be required in specific projects, and international partners help in global resource securement and cutting-edge technology.

Utilising funds efficiently

WTI strongly believes in field conservation actions and as a result, 80% of our budgets are spent for conservation action and less than 20% is spent on all marketing and management efforts.

Using manpower and skills optimally

To ensure a holistic approach to conservation and better utilisation of resources, WTI employs the following skillsets in addition to a lean team of support staff: ecological and biological; veterinary and rehabilitation; enforcement and litigation; land acquisition and securement; public education and campaigning; policy advocacy; outreach and grant-in-aid; training and equipping and socio-economic skills.



A rescued bear cub at CWRC, Kaziranga NP

What You Can Do

Life in the wild is not always safe for India's animals and WTI works tirelessly to protect wildlife and its habitat. This would not be possible without support from individuals and organisations who believe in our work. You can help us conserve species, secure habitats, rehabilitate orphaned young animals, provide alternative livelihoods to communities, train, equip and insure frontline forest guards and curb wildlife crime.

Click the **DONATE** button
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Our Vision

A secure natural heritage of India



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