

Annual Report 2012-2013



Our Vision

A secure natural heritage of India.

Our Mission

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

Our Motto

In the service of Nature

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WTI's big ideas

Species Recovery: Recover populations of selected threatened species where WTI can make the most difference, using improved techniques, intensive management, conservation breeding, reintroduction and restocking.

Rescue and Rehabilitation: Increase welfare of individual displaced animals while enhancing conservation and pioneering science based rehabilitation, conflict mitigation and wildlife health

Enforcement and Law: Reduce wildlife crime by strengthening frontline field staff, practical trade control, championing legal defense using existing laws and by providing alternatives to wildlife products and livelihoods.

Securing Habitats: Secure critical habitats outside the traditional PA system, especially linkages, wetlands, grasslands, BCPP (Biodiversity Conservation Prioritisation Project), important bird areas and sacred groves, thereby increasing the effective protected area of India by 1%.

Wild Aid: Provide short term focused aid both monetary and technical, to assist in emergencies and in emerging conservation issues, to provide rapid aid to animals in distress, to initiate pilot projects or innovative ideas to help conservation and to focus public attention on conservation emergencies.

Awareness for Conservation: Create a positive and measurable change in people's perceptions to improve the conservation and welfare of wildlife and its habitat.

Communities for Conservation: Reduce the dependence of local communities on wildlife and their habitats through alternative ecologically appropriate livelihoods or green livelihoods.

Our Projects in 2012-2013

Valmiki Tiger Conservation Project
Rajaji - Corbett Conservation Project
J & K Mountain Ungulate Conservation Project
UP Carnivore Conflict Mitigation Project
Kaziranga Conservation Project
Greater Manas Conservation Project
Karbi Anglong Conservation Project
Garo Green Spine Project
Mehao Bear and Gibbon Rescue Project
Nilgiri - Eastern Ghats Conservation Project
West Coast Marine Conservation Project
Central India Tiger Conservation Project
Sloth Bear Conservation And Welfare Project
Wild Buffalo Rehabilitation and MVS Upper Assam
Central India Wild Buffalo Conservation Project
Pakke Conservation Project

Van Rakshak Project
GTF Support
CITES
Emergency Relief Network
Train Hit Mitigation
Elephant Corridor Protection
Wildlife Trade Control
Wildlife Litigation
GIS Cell
Schaller Conservation Surveys
Rapid Action Projects
Animal Action Education
Haathi Mere Saathi
Carbon and Forests
International Bear Association Conference
International Elephant Congress
Convention on Biological Diversity

Milestones

In its 15th year now, WTI has expanded reach through long term projects that cover two third of India's Biogeographic units and subunits (14 out of 21). WTI's major projects focus on key taxa, thus channelizing conservation strategies to achieve maximum impact. This is done through a combination of two or more of seven key strategies defined by WTI as its Big Ideas.

Listed here are key milestones in 14 years of WTI's quest to its vision of a secure natural heritage of India

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1. WTI set about securing elephant corridors in India and has succeeded in securing the Kollegal corridor in Karnataka, Wayanad corridor in Kerala and Siju-Rewak in Meghalaya
2. In Assam through its rescue centre CWRC in 13 years, handled over 3500 cases and released more than 50 % – underlining the importance of welfare in conservation
3. Enforcement & Litigation: In 14 years, WTI has been training and equipping 10,000 and more frontline staff in more than 100 PAs; facilitated almost 100 seizures of illegally traded wildlife
4. Whale shark conservation: Through lobbying, got the Whale shark to become the first fish to be protected under WPA in India and Appendix II of CITES; conducted a unique campaign that stopped the killing of this fish and converted it to an icon that is now protected
5. Markhor conservation: Conducted the first comprehensive survey of Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) and used it to trigger declaration of Kazinag NP & expansion of Hirpura WLS in J&K and Tatakuti WLS in Jammu
6. Got communities to set aside land for creation of jointly managed village reserves in Meghalaya for hoolock gibbon and Asian elephant.
7. In Valmiki Tiger Reserve, worked on tiger habitat recovery, established tiger presence through camera traps

8. Bringing back Manas: Brought key species back to Manas through restocking displaced rehabilitated animals (rhino, clouded leopard, bear, elephant) and helped Indian government in getting UNESCO 'in-danger' tag removed in 2011
9. Wild buffalo genetics: Declared that only 7 left in Udanti WLS, Chhattisgarh, where it enjoys the status of the state animal. Solved long time pending mystery on their genetic integrity and first initiated the first captive breeding of a bovid in India
10. Train-hit mitigation: Only one elephant died due to train-hit in Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand for the past 11 years as opposed to 11 in previous 14 years
11. Saving the Tibetan antelope: Established alternative livelihood project for women spinners / weavers after shahtoosh was banned in J&K, helped artisans form the Kashmir Handmade Pashmina Promotion Trust
12. Rapid Action Projects: Fibreglass hornbill beaks to Nyishi tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, Safety-nets below nests of endangered adjutant storks, Stopping mass hunting of Amur falcons in Nagaland
13. IFAW and WTI have consistently supported the Indian government in its fight against re-opening ivory trade. From 1998 to 2007, no ivory was sanctioned to be traded internationally
14. WTI and IFAW have also revived the Global Tiger Forum (GTF), the only inter- governmental forum on tigers
15. Increasing PA network: Though advocacy and/or research, WTI has contributed to the creation of a number of PAs –(i) Maharashtra: Mansingh Deo, New Nagzira, Nawegaon Wildlife Sanctuaries (ii) J & K: Tatakuti WLS, Kazinag National Park and Pampore wetlands and (iii) Tiger reserves: Nagzira-Nawegaon, Udanti-Sitanadi and Sathyamangalam

Summary

The new Fiscal Year brought in new roles, teams and ideas that will work holistically to WTI's Vision 2020. Working with people and bringing about a measurable change in behavior through changing mindsets is crucial to make an impact in conservation. With this, Awareness for Conservation and Communities for Conservation were added to WTI's list of Big Ideas. The year started with a realignment of WTI's projects under Depth, Breadth and Support verticals. This eliminates the concept of divisions and introduces special cells that will provide skills and expertise to Project Leads for the duration of their projects

The year started with good news from Uttar Pradesh of the first ever case of a stray tiger to be captured and released back to the wild.

The endangered Pir Panjal markhor became a driving force for declaration of new protected areas in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Following the creation of Kajinag National Park and extension of Hirpura WLS in 2007, the state government notified Tatakuti Wildlife Sanctuary, bringing additional 66 sq km under state protection.

The Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) turned ten this year and recorded handling more than 3000 cases of displaced wildlife in its decade of operation.

WTI co hosted the International Bear Association conference with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Wildlife Institute of India and published the National bear Action Plan that was released by the Honb'le Minister Smt Jayanthi Natarajan.

WTI was conferred with the RBS Earth Guardian Award at a ceremony on the sidelines of CBD COP11 at Hyderabad while Chairman Dr M K Ranjitsinh was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his yeoman service to wildlife conservation.

This fiscal year, 545 frontline forest staff were trained and equipped, 17 families were provided ex gratia relief, 957 animal rescues covering 74 species were carried out, and train accidents involving almost 200 elephants were averted due to measures taken by patrolling teams across the country, especially in Uttarakhand and Assam.

The end of the fiscal year was marked by a rare and curious natural phenomenon of coral spawning that has been recorded for the first time along India's west coast and a workshop in Assam by Andrew McLean on using positive reinforcement to train elephants that was attended by 12 mahouts from across the state.

Saving species from local extinction

WTI is working with the J&K Forest Department to save the Pir Panjal markhor (*Capra falconeri cashmiriensis*) from local extinction. An estimated population of less than 350 individuals remaining in the country, the majestic flare-horned animal now survives only in pockets of Kaji Nag and Pir Panjal ranges in J&K. The markhor survey resulted in sightings in Kazinag, Hirpora and Limber Wildlife Sanctuary.

Nineteen groups of markhor were sighted in Kaji Nag and Hirpora, during the survey that has been initiated to identify the rutting areas of the species. A four-month plan for hangul and markhor conservation has been discussed. 16 markhors were spotted in Limber Wildlife Sanctuary. The state government notified Tatakuti Wildlife Sanctuary, bringing additional 66 sq km under state protection.



WTI is working in the eastern state of Chhattisgarh to save its state animal, the wild buffalo through a holistic conservation strategy that involves securing a space for the lone female buffalo to enable breeding, cryogenic preservation and collaborating with NDRI for cloning. The lone female wild buffalo gave birth to another male calf in Udanti. Progress has been reported from the state of Chhattisgarh as the residents of the Jungad village in the Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary have agreed to relocate.





Eastern swamp deer in Kaziranga/ photo- Rishi Kumar-WTI

WTI is supported by ONGC in Kaziranga National Park in a pioneering project to save the Eastern swamp deer for local extinction, since Kaziranga houses the only population of this species. Efforts are ongoing to translocate a group to Manas National Park through a long term project involving ecological studies, capture and release to the new site. The month of February saw the Kaziranga Conservation Project team recording the largest herd of swamp deer till date, with a staggering number of 107 individuals. The Bansbari and Bhuyanpara ranges of Manas National Park were surveyed to assess habitat suitability for swamp deer.

A unique marine project undertaken by WTI with its project partner Tata Chemicals at Mithapur in Gujarat involves Coral recovery through transplantation of locally extinct *Acropora* sourced from Lakshadweep. Permissions for the second phase of transplantation were received from Lakshadweep and all preparations for the move were made. Surgeon fish were observed for the first time at the Mithapur Reef. Our divers have recorded xxx species of marine life that was documented in colourful posters distributed to local schools and all stake holders. The Mithapur Coral Reef Recovery Project team was invited to interact with about 100 students on the importance of corals at a marine camp organised at Mithapur. The students were also taken on a reef walk, in a bid to educate them about the biodiversity of the reef.



Sea turtle/ photo Subburaman-WTI

Rescue, Rehabilitation and Conflict Mitigation

Rescues of animals ranging from tigers, leopards, elephants to storks were conducted under various projects. Some rescues were conducted to address human-wildlife conflict, especially those of big cats straying out of protected areas. Under the UP Tiger Conservation Project, the elusive tiger at Rehmankhhera was finally captured in a joint effort by WTI and the UP Forest department. With the tiger's successful release in Dudhwa, this makes it the first case in Uttar Pradesh of a captured tiger being released back to the wild. The radio-collared tiger was reportedly sighted in Dankhera area of Dudhwa Range by the local staff. Another sub-adult male tiger was captured from Puranpur and released in Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh after a chase of more than 20 days. On October 6, Honorable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav, presented an award on behalf of the U.P. Forest Department to the team members for their contribution in conflict management in the state.



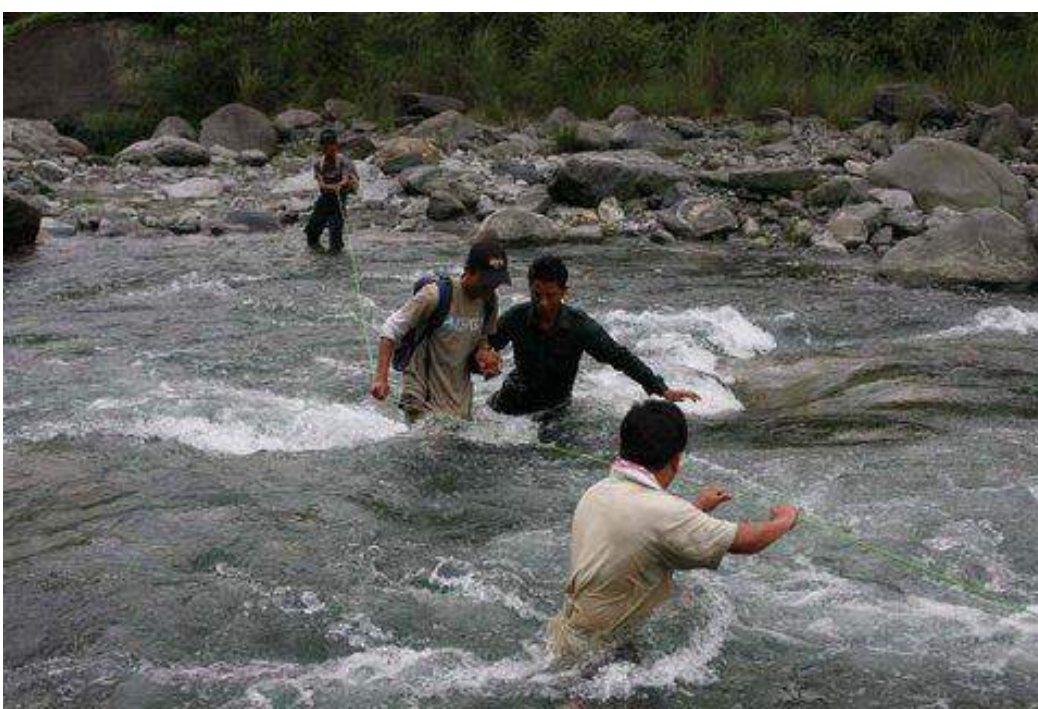
The Rehmankhhera tiger after release/ photo Shahnaz Amin-WTI

Increasing instances of conflict with big cats prompted an awareness meeting that was organised for the Tharu community of three villages, near Dudhwa National Park. Conflict mitigation meetings were also held in the fringe village of North-Kheri Reserve Forest, where a tiger had attacked a boy and in Katerniyaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, where a leopard had killed a girl. A leopard was also rescued from a house in Batawali village of Meerut on January 22.

In December, a rescue operation of two tiger cubs was carried out in Angrim Valley near Anini, Dibang Valley. The tiger cubs were housed in Roing Mini Zoo under WTI's supervision, while rehabilitation plans were being decided upon.

A female tiger cub rescued in Kaziranga last year, was sent to the Raipur Zoo, after approval from the CWLW and CZA.

Two Asiatic black bear cubs were collared after successful acclimatisation for five months in a forested area of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary. The team braved the elements, including a torrential river to make this happen. An Asiatic black bear cub was admitted to the CBRC after it was rescued by the Indian Army in Tenga, Arunachal Pradesh.



Above: WTI team braving a raging river to reach the project site
Below: Radio collaring the bears at Mehao; photos Sashanka Barbaruah/WTI



The fifth family of eastern hoolock gibbon in Dello village was successfully and swiftly (in a span of few hours) captured on December 6, and released the next morning in a previously selected release site of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, near Tiwari Gaon ; The third rescued gibbon family, popularly called Sally Lake 2 group, was recorded with a new born baby, who appeared to be around two months old. A rope and harness training was organised by partner organisation IFAW at Mehao. Two experts – professional firefighters from the US trained the climbers on using ropes and harness to climb trees during the gibbon capture.





Above: Wild elephants crossing the national highway near Kaziranga/ photo- Rathin Burman-WTI
 Below: Flooded Kaziranga NP and elephant rescue/ photo Amitabha Chowdhary-WTI



This year saw the worst of the floods to hit Kaziranga that came in three waves. A record of 64 animals were admitted to the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) in four days after the first wave of floods hit Kaziranga. At end of the month after floods receded, CWRC had 24 animals under treatment and different stages of rehabilitation. On August 19, a month old elephant calf was rescued at the Naharjan Tea eastate when it was trapped in a tea garden ditch. The calf was treated and successfully reunited with the mother and natal heard. This is the 11th time in last 10 years WTI has assisted the Assam forest department to reunite an elephant calf. Kaziranga National Park also saw its third wave of floods on September 22. To face the flood emergency additional staff from Karbi Anglong and Bodoland Territorial Council area had to be called in, to assist the CWRC rescue staff.



In a first, a juvenile common crane was rescued in Manas Reserve Forest.



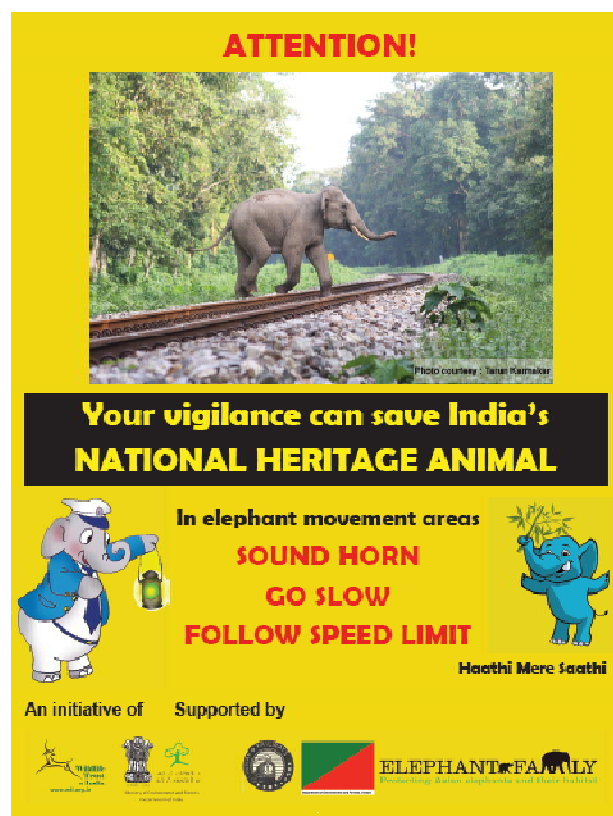
Above: Photo from WTI archives

Below: Poster for loco pilots

WTI is working in Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu to address mortality of elephants hit by railway trains. No elephant deaths were recorded in train hits in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in 2012 thanks to night patrolling carried out.

In the Deepor Beel area of Assam, several caution orders were issued from the Rangia Railway division due to high elephant movement on the tracks. At least 200 elephants were saved this year from train hits by alert railway staff issuing caution orders or patrolling forest department staff driving away elephants from railway tracks. Casualties were averted from the Diphu – Daldali stretch in Karbi Anglong, between Digaru and Panbari stations in Assam and several instances in Deepor Beel. Thick bushes along the railway track between Diphu and Daldali were cleared for better visibility.

A consultative awareness workshop was organized for the loco pilots and assistant loco pilots, at the Dehradun railway station on October 2. The event was attended by senior forest officials of Rajaji NP and other senior railway staff, along with loco pilots, assistant loco pilots and guards.



Combating wildlife crime

WTI aims to reduce wildlife crime by strengthening frontline field staff, practical trade control and championing legal defense using existing laws.

Over a 100 frontline forest staff in Royal Manas National Park and Phibsoo WLS were trained in wildlife crime prevention. Crime Prevention Training, supported by IFAW-WTI, was also conducted in Pench Tiger Reserve staff and saw great response from all the participants.



Above: Trainers and trainees at Pench Tiger Reserve

Below: Trainees at Royal Manas National Park

About 200 CFT of illegal timber was seized by a joint initiative of the Forest Department and Raigajli tourism society on December 13 2013, from a BTC area.

The Court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate – II, Alwar, on Saturday, convicted poacher Kalia Bawaria for hunting a tiger in Sariska Tiger Reserve on May 7, 2003. Notorious poacher Juhru, along with his six accomplices, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of one lakh rupees in yet another case of tiger poaching at Sariska Tiger Reserve.



Securing spaces for wildlife

In the state of Uttarakhand, a long term project to secure the Rajaji – Corbett corridor involves voluntary relocation of villages located on this crucial corridor. Consent letters from the 34 families in Khandgaon III have been attained for the handover of their land in the corridor to the authorities. This resulted in 80% of the land in Khandgaon III to be handed over to the Forest Department.

Negotiations were started with the head of the Devichaura region, who, so far, was reluctant to talk to any agency working towards the relocation of Sundarkhal village on the Corbett side.

In the state of Kerala, the Thirunelli - Kudrekote corridor that was secured by WTI showed evidences of thirteen species of mammals using the corridor, including elephant, gaur, wild dog and tiger. Elephants in Wyanad are using the freshly secured corridor effectively as shown by the encounter rate of elephant dung in Puliyankolli and Kottapady. Camera traps revealed the presence of a tiger, a bear and a leopard cat in the secured areas of the Wayanad corridor.





Film makers from IUCN NL at work in Daribokgre

Below: The nokma of Daribokgre, Spinder Areng (3rd from left) who was slain by militants



In the Garo Hills in northeast India, where WTI is securing corridors and forest canopies, documentary film maker John D Liu was introduced to the Daribokgre village, where screening of “What if we change, IUCN NL” -a series on environmental issues and solutions- was done, with translations in Garo language. Advice and insights on terrace farming in other countries by John D Liu was put forward to the Daribokgre village and a plan is being made for implementation of these suggestions. Villagers are increasingly giving up jhum cultivation in favour of more environmentally friendly methods. They have set aside land as community owned Village Reserve Forests. A workshop on ‘Participatory Video Training’ was organised by an agency hired by IUCN NL with their reporters, select WTI staff and villagers at the Sakal Aduma village from January 14 to 26.

Tragedy struck the Garo Hills this year, as the nokma of Daribokgre, Spinder Areng, was shot dead by militants. He had been instrumental in helping WTI in its endeavours in the area and his loss is irreparable.

Responding instantly to wildlife emergencies

Rapid Action Projects (RAPs) provide rapid aid to animals in distress, to initiate pilot projects or innovative ideas to help conservation and to focus public attention on conservation emergencies.

Two RAP victories gave us reason to smile this year. The MoEF rejected the Coast Guard's proposal to construct the RADAR and power station on the island of Narcondam. In another RAP WTI lobbied with the state government and the MoEF to stop the capture of wild elephants in West Bengal.



Top left and Above: Grain for Grain in Arunachal Pradesh
Left: Grain for Grain at Karbi Anglong

Through the innovative grain-for-grain relief scheme, a hundred local households were given a quintal of grain each in Arunachal Pradesh during an event in the presence of dignitaries including Tana Tapi, DFO, Pakke Wildlife Division, Dr PC Bhattacharjee, Executive Trustee, WTI, Atum Welly, Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, JL Singh, PCCF, Wildlife & Biodiversity and CJ Mein, Parliamentary Secretary Environment & Forests. Another 290 families affected by elephant depredation received 25 kg of rice each, as part of the Karbi Anglong Conservation Project. The programme was attended by Honorable EM, Environment and Forests, DFO of the East Division, Chairman of the Forest Board KAAC and the President of the Mondol Congress Committee (MCC).

The Rapid Action Projects have been quite successful with one sanctioned to provide support to local communities to conserve Chinghaon Lake in Karbi Anglong and another sanctioned to rescue snakes and reptiles in Raipur.

Due to continued lobbying with the state government the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon ordered the transfer of three wetlands from revenue to direct administrative control of Wildlife Protection Department. With this the Pampore wetlands have been recognised as a birding site and are now under the purview of the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act. (1978).

An RAP has been sanctioned in Kamrup district of Assam on conservation of Greater Adjutant Storks (GAS). The main aim of this RAP is to prevent GAS mortality due to nest falls. The stork nesting site in Dadara-Pacharia hosts around 100 nests for GAS and is one of the largest nesting colonies in Assam.

Another RAP was sanctioned on Sarus cranes in Bhoj wetlands in Bhopal to help address the threats from agricultural activities especially pesticide run-offs and poaching on the resident populations of these birds through a series of awareness activities and a workshop for farmers.



Above: Awareness on Sarus Crane conservation
Below: School children rooting for wetlands in J&K



In yet another innovative solution, three canopy bridges were constructed in Kokrajhar last year, connecting trees on either sides of a highway to help prevent road hits of golden langurs. The endangered primates were photographed using the bridge last month. Owing to the success of this project, another RAP has been sanctioned to strengthen the existing canopy bridges as well as install three more bridges in March in preselected sites, where the langurs cross the road.



Golden langur using the canopy bridge/ photo Panjit Basumatary-WTI

Through RAP, as part of the first phase of the new self documentation scheme, over 1100 point and shoot (water proof) cameras were distributed in Sutrapada and Dhamlej (covering all the fishing vessels) in September 2012. Training and awareness workshops, as well as, street plays were held at various locations to train the fisher men on the use of the cameras and the kind of pictures needed for settling claims for damaged nets. Photo documentation protocols were also handed over in print to each of the boats. Since the beginning of the fishing season in October this year, 14 whale shark rescues were successfully conducted where the fisher men have correctly self documented the release process and recorded their claims with the forest department. The entire rescue operations were generally completed within minutes.

Patrolling staff of Manas Maozigendri Eco-tourism Society received field gear and equipment through RAP to support their camp which was ransacked by the villagers in October last year. The equipment and field gear was handed over in an event held in December and was distributed by D D Boro, ACF, Manas.

WTI is also supporting the building of an anti-poaching Camp in Manas Reserve Forest.

Spreading awareness to induce change

The campaign to save our national heritage animal, the Asian elephant was integrated with the IFAW-WTI school campaign Animal Action Education (AAE) on the theme Elephants Never Forget. The concept Art for Elephants was launched by artist Bulbul Sharma with 2000 children on World Environment Day at National Bal Bhavan in New Delhi under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.



Some scenes from Art for Elephants at National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi



MoEF officials and State Ministers from Andhra Pradesh at the Biodiversity Express launch

Haathi Mere Saathi campaign mascot Gaju made a special appearance at CBD CoP11, in Hyderabad during platform events at the railway station where the Biodiversity express was berthed, which attracted 5000 visitors through the event.

The Science Express – Biodiversity Special (SEBS), a unique collaborative initiative of department of science & Technology and Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India was berthed at Secunderabad station from 9th to 19th October. WTI was part of the platform activities at the Secunderabad railway station from October 9 to 14 where the mascot for the Hathi Mere Saathi ‘Gaju’ was a big draw at the event for children.



The platform was visited by top officials of the MoEF, two ministers from the state cabinet of Andhra Pradesh, 120 schools with busloads of school children and general public as well as delegates from CoP 11 CBD. The campaign mascot Gaju attracted all visitors to the awareness drive where stickers were distributed, visitors painted their love for elephants on cloth panels and VIPs signed special panels showing their support for elephants. The international participants at CBD formed a human chain on October 18, where the inflatable mascot Gaju also took part. He was an attraction on the road and had a lot of fans who wanted to click pictures with him.



The animal action activity packs were handed over to the teachers of 147 schools which had registered for participation in AAE from Hyderabad.

School groups in support of elephants

AAE was carried out at Indoor Stadium, Chokihola in collaboration with the Nilip Sports Association on November 9. 250 students from 11 local schools, participated in the program, which included of an art contest and an extempore speech competition, on the theme of 'Haathi mere Saathi'. A similar event with 23 schools was held at Wayanad, conducted with a local partner and the film in the activity pack sub titled in Malayalam.

The inflatable mascot Gaju was also taken to Sonpur, where WTI conducted a health camp for captive elephants during the annual Sonpur Fair. Owners of all 35 elephants, who were brought here for health check-ups, were sensitized to the welfare aspects of captive elephants through the friendly mascot Gaju.

Wildlife Week celebrations took place in Dudhwa National Park, Ramnagar, in Rajaji National Park and Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary with the state forest departments.

In other campaign components of various WTI projects, a two-day cricket tournament was jointly organised with local cricket club of Rairakhol, at the Rairakhol college ground between December 30 and 31, attended by 3000 people. Eight local teams participated in the tournament aimed at spreading awareness on sloth bear conservation. A display of project photographs was arranged at the venue to make people aware about the conservation issue. T-Shirts and Mementoes were distributed.

A Lok Mahotsav "Sur Ghungur" was celebrated December 15 and 16 at Rairakhol Parade ground to promote the culture of western Odisha. During the event about 5000 people were made aware about the sloth bear cub trade around the region through photo displays. Discussions with villagers also helped in gathering ground data about human-bear conflict in different places.



Sloth bear conservation awareness programme "Bhalu Mahotsav"/ photo Rudra Mahapatra-WTI



Above: Students of Choksi College performing the street play on rescue protocol
Below right: Crowds at Asom Sahitya Sabha

An event celebrating whale shark conservation was held at Chokshi College, Veraval on December 17, organised by the Gujarat Forest Department, Veraval. The event saw participation from local schools, colleges, local NGOs and volunteers. The whale shark film was screened during the session and the self-documentation scheme based street play was performed by volunteers. A workshop to train teachers on the use of AAE activity packs was held at Mithapur. 23 Eco club teachers around Mithapur attended the workshop that was supported by Tata Chemicals Ltd.

WTI took part in the 72nd Annual Conference of Asom Sahitya Sabha, held from January 31 to February 5, 2013 at Barpeta Road. The mascot Gaju was sent to Barpeta Road, where the campaign was showcased at the event that had a footfall of at least a lakh people.



People's welfare in wildlife conservation

Working with communities and governments is ingrained in WTI's mission. All of WTI's long term projects involve a strong sociology component ranging from providing green livelihoods to alternate means of cooking to ensure a better life to the communities dependant on forests.

In Kashmir, as part of the Alternate Livelihoods for ex Shahtoosh Workers, the Kashmir Handmade Pashmina Promotion Trust (KHPPT) was formed to establish hand spun and hand woven pashmina as a viable alternative to the banned shahtoosh. KHPPT trustees discussed strengthening the legal compliances of the Trust, promoting Kashmir Pashmina through influential individuals and setting up a raw Pashmina bank with the Executive Director and a Trustee during their visit to Srinagar.



Solar lamp distribution at Naurangia, Doan/Photo Samir K Sinha-WTI

In Valmiki in north Bihar, 90 solar lamps were provided to households in Matiarwa and Naurangia, Doan. A training program on capacity building of the members and office bearers of 33 SHGs was organized, at the Field Camp, at Naurangia Done village.

Forest protection groups were formed in Karbi Anglong and two students who cleared their high school exams were designated as brand ambassadors for wildlife conservation. The relocation site for the villagers of Ram Terang was identified and villagers of Ram Kiling have agreed to provide their land for the villagers of Ram Terang.

A tractor was handed to the Jwngkhong Self Help Group to support their livelihood and prevent encroachment in Bhuyapara range in Manas, Assam.



Above: ARTI team at the project site in Central India

Right: Training to villagers on frying tirota seeds for making coffee under sustainable practices of using natural resources



Under the Central India Tiger Conservation Project, the training and installation of cook stoves and biogas by ARTI Pune was held in October, in the village of Jhamblapani. 100 cook stoves and two biogas units were built during the training and installed. One large cook stove was provided in the community hall of the village, to be used for cooking the mid day meal for the students of the school. A three-day training programme on Sustainable Harvesting of Forest Produce was held from February 7 to 9 at the Sondlagondi village. The training was given by the Director of the Centre of Science for Villages (CSV), Wardha. The villagers of Sondlagondi and Jhamblapani were trained on harvesting methods of Mahua (*Madhuca indica*), Tendu (*Diospyrus melanoxylon*), Chironji (*Buchanania lanzen*) and Shatawar (*Asparagus racemosus*).

A demonstration was given on to the trainees on preparing a drink from Ambadi flowers (*Hibiscus sabdarffa*), vermi-compost and coffee from the seeds of Tarota, a local plant.

A bore-well was dug in the Terebeda village, at a location chosen by the street play team of the Sloth Bear Conservation and Welfare Project, as a one-time support for the sustainability of the campaign. A pump was fitted so that the water can be used for agriculture, since most of the team members have land near this spot. A fixed rent for the use of water would be deposited in the team's SHG account.

Events, Conferences and Policy Advocacy:

The 21st International Conference on Bear Research and Management (IBA 2012) was conducted from November 26 to 30, at India Habitat Centre. The conference had an overall participation from over 300 delegates of 32 countries and 259 registered for the conference. A preconference workshop on bear human conflict was organised in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir on November 22, 2012. A street play on bear was enacted by a group from Terabada village of Odisha, to spread awareness on bear conservation. The National Action Plan for Bear Conservation was published and launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests, Smt Jayanti Natarajan. A special postal cover with cancellation stamp was also released to mark the occasion.



Left: Organisers at the IBA conference

Below: The street play performance at the amphitheatre of India Habitat Centre



WTI with partner IFAW participated at the 11th Conference of Parties (CoP11) at Conference on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Hyderabad, in October, for the first time and successfully conducted two side events, exhibited our work through panels, films and handouts through the nine days of the conference and had key people from the organizations invited as speakers to other side events. Above all, WTI's shahtoosh workers' rehabilitation project was showcased at the grand finale when the Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Smt Jayanti Natarajan gifted our handcrafted pashmina to the Prime Minister of India on the dais. WTI's rainbow product, the pashmina shawls were also gifted to each of the dignitaries on the dais while the Master of Ceremonies narrated highlights of our project to an international audience.



The IFAW-WTI stall at CBD and the panel at the side event on securing corridors

IFAW- WTI hosted two side events. The first was on Wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and welfare as an essential wildlife conservation tool on October 12, 2012. Chairing the session, Dr MK Ranjitsinh, Chairman of WTI stressed, “Welfare is the bedrock of conservation.” Films of rescue and rehabilitation of clouded leopard and gibbons were shown during the event. The event was attended by over 70 CBD participants and was appreciated by the larger audience.

The second side event was on Securing Wildlife Corridors as an Avenue to Halt the Loss of Biodiversity held on 17th October, 2012. The event was chaired by Dr. P. J. Dilip Kumar, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. The event was attended by over 90 participants with good discussion on the present threat to the elephant landscape and how could government and NGOs work together to address the issue and secure corridors.

Since the Executive Director is on the working group under the Ministry of Culture, at the CBD in Hyderabad, a side meeting was organised with the Ministry of Culture and Archeological Society of India, to draft a tentative list of World Heritage Sites in India



At an event hosted on the sidelines of CBD, WTI was conferred with the RBS Earth Guardian Award at a ceremony at Hyderabad while Chairman Dr M K Ranjitsinh was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his yeoman service to wildlife conservation.



The Executive Director went to Nagaland, in the first week of December, to meet the Chief Wildlife Warden and discuss conservation initiatives for the Amur falcon, after the slaughter of thousands was reported in October and under an RAP a preliminary assessment of the ground situation was conducted in Wokha district.

Global Tiger Forum Post-training evaluation of five officers, sponsored by GTF and supported by a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, was conducted in the GTF Secretariat after they completed a 3-month certificate course of training in Wildlife Management at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Two Russian rangers visited India, under GTF's Tiger Watch Programme supported by IFAW-WTI, to study the country's tiger conservation efforts. They visited Kanha Tiger Reserve, Pench Tiger Reserve in the central Indian landscape and the forensic cell division of Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

The 5th CITES Cell meeting was held on January 23 2013 at the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to discuss the position of India at CoP 16

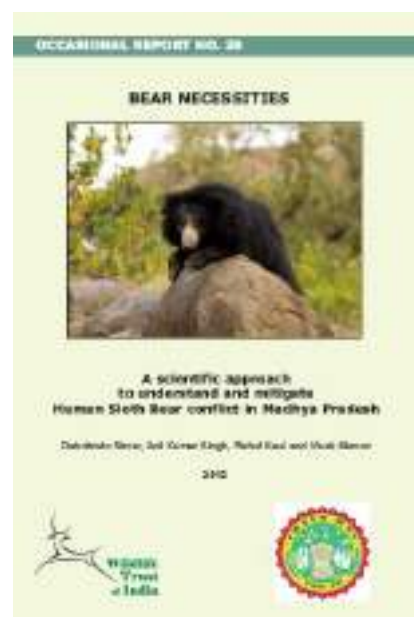
At a meeting in Dubai, in the first week of February, an MoU was signed with IFAW (South Asia) for the next six years, the longest till date. The IFAW-WTI partnership has now emerged more strengthened than ever and WTI has now formally been established as the regional office for IFAW (South Asia). Staff exchanges have been included as a part of the new MoU.

Publications and some collaterals

- National Bear Conservation and Welfare Action Plan
- State Action Plans
- Book of Abstracts- IBA
- Bear Necessities (Occasional Report)
- Born to be Wild-Celebrating 10 years of CWRC



ENVELOPE COVER
Design (final)
SIZE:
width: 21 cm
height: 13 cm






 नरेंद्र मोदी (Modi)
 नरेंद्र मोदी (Modi)
 The Ministry of Environment and Forests
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR BEARS

A CONSULTATIVE MEETING

New Delhi, 30 October 2012

Supported By

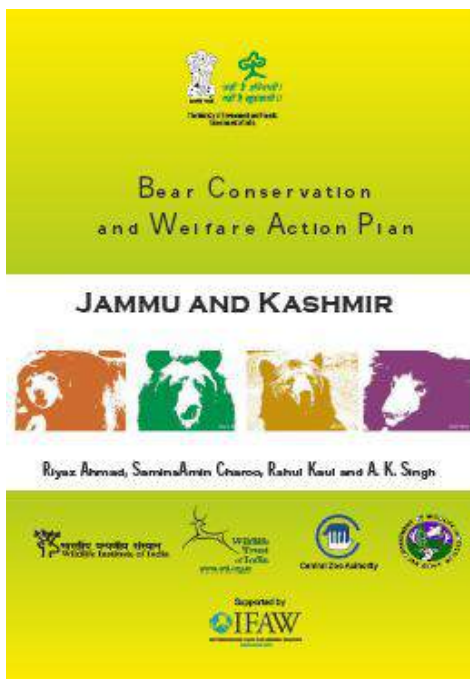

 भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
 Wildlife Institute of India



 Wildlife Trust of India
 www.wti.org.in


 Central Zoo Authority


 IEAW
 International Endangered Animal Welfare Association






 WSPA
 Wildlife Society of America





 नरेंद्र मोदी (Modi)
 नरेंद्र मोदी (Modi)
 The Ministry of Environment and Forests
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA


Bear Conservation and Welfare Action Plan


JAMMU AND KASHMIR







Riyaz Ahmad, Samina Amin Chatterji, Rabul Kaut and A. K. Singh




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 The Ministry of Environment and Forests
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NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR BEARS

A CONSULTATIVE MEETING

New Delhi, 30th October 2012







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 The Ministry of Environment and Forests
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

On the eve of
25th International Conference on Bear Research and Management
Central Zoo Authority cordially invites you to the
ICE BREAKER
on 25th November 2012 at 7:00 pm
at Water Garden, India International Centre
Jawahar Road, New Delhi

For more information
Dr. Raji Ashok Kumar, General Zoo Authority
E-MAIL: zoa@zoa.gov.in
Phone: 011-26109400/26109401
Program P-26109400
Tel: +91 1126109400 • Email: zoa@zoa.gov.in





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 नरेंद्र मोदी (Modi)
 The Ministry of Environment and Forests
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India
cordially invites you to a Bearfest, being held under the aegis of

25th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEAR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT
on 25th November 2012 at 7:00 pm
at The Bearpark Hall, The Indian Hotel, Diplomat Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi.

2012 Author: Dr. Raji Ashok Kumar, General Zoo Authority
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Tel: +91 1126109400 • Email: zoa@zoa.gov.in

2012 Author: P. Parth
Tel: +91 1126109400 • Email: zoa@zoa.gov.in





BEARS OF INDIA

ASIATIC BLACK BEAR
(Ursus tibetanus)



Black-colored bear with a lighter brown chest patch. White patch on the chest in the shape of a 'Y'

Extensively hunted for meat, fat, bone, genital and/or skin, used for traditional medicines, religious rituals, direct consumption or ornamental purposes.

Found in forested green and grasslands predominantly in temperate mountains, favoring older forests and areas with rocky outcrops.

IUCN Status: Vulnerable

Weight range from 100-200 kg and females from 60-125 kg.

Apart from India, they are also found in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, North-eastern China, Southeastern Russia, Taiwan, Japanese islands of Honshu and Shikoku.



JAMBAYAN

THE KING OF BEARS

Jambavan is a sloth bear in Indian epic tradition, immortal to all but his father Vishnu the Preserver of the Great Triad of Hindu religion.

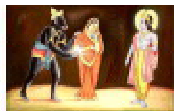
THE LEGENDS

Jambavan was present at the churning of the ocean by the gods and demons which created Amrit, the elixir of immortality.

In the epic Ramayana, he was created by Brahma, to assist Lord Rama in his struggle to find his wife Sita who was abducted by Ravana.

He was the King of the Himalayas who had incarnated as a bear in order to serve Rama. He had received a boon from Lord Rama that he would have a long life, be handsome and would have the strength of ten million men.

He motivated the monkey God Hanuman to fly across the ocean to search for Sita in Lanka.



Assisting Hanuman to rescue Sita from the clutches of Ravana

In the epic Mahabharata, Jambavan had killed a lion, who had abducted a girl called Draupadika from Prasenajit killing him.

Krishna was suspected of killing Prasena for the jewel, and in his attempt to prove himself innocent, Krishna trusted Jambavan to his cave where he hid the jewel.

After eighteen days, realizing that Krishna was none other than an incarnation of Vishnu, Jambavan submitted.

He gave Krishna the gem and also presented him his daughter Jambavati, who became one of Krishna's wives.

As a King of Lanka he is shown with a crown in some depictions (1000 AD)



Conservation: A secure Natural Heritage of India

BEARS OF INDIA

SLOTH BEAR
(Melursus ursinus)



Usually black, with a long shaggy coat, especially over the shoulders, light coloured snout and a distinctive white or yellowish chest patch the shape of a wide 'U'

Are extensively hunted for meat, fat, bone, genital, bile and/or skin, used for traditional medicines, religious rituals, direct consumption or ornamental purposes.

Found in forested green and grasslands predominantly in temperate mountains, favoring older forests and areas with rocky outcrops.

IUCN Status: Vulnerable

Weight range 80 to 140 kg and females 65 to 95 kg.

Most recognised as a performing, or dancing, bear, apart from India, they are also found in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.



TO THE WILD

Rehabilitation of Asiatic black bears

Rehabilitation of bears, centres with groups, releasing bears into the wild. In the wild, the bears are provided with a natural habitat and food. The bears are released into the wild.

Rehabilitation centres involving specialized care to ensure the bears are healthy and fit to be released into the wild. The Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC) and the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) have provided various state forest departments in different states to release the bears into the wild.



India has one of the largest populations of wild animals. The wild is home to many species of animals and plants.

The animals are released into a specially prepared cage in a natural forest habitat and gradually reintroduced to the wild.

Over the years and despite of growing awareness, they are still in danger and animals are being killed. The animals are released into the wild to keep a check on the bears and to help them live in the wild.

IN THE WILD

Preventing poaching and illegal trade

Bears are poached for their body parts for use predominantly in traditional medicines, direct consumption or even for bushmeat. Use cuts deep and up to get trade, or naturally in case of death.

Bears - add to members of the Kalander community for use as 'Dancing Bears'.



Working in partnership with government and community, the Wildlife Trust of India would address the issues related to poaching and illegal trade, through various initiatives including building of bear-friendly habitat and undertake programmes on artificial bears are also made to assist awareness among local communities and facilitate their living in the forest environment.


FOR THE WILD

Alternative livelihood for Kalanders

The Kalander community spread all over India, has for centuries trained and performed with bears as a livelihood. With the inception of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the craft practice was made illegal.




Started about seven years ago, the WSP is the first to provide the community with an alternative livelihood. The project involves the community in various activities like raising awareness and promoting alternative livelihoods. The beneficiaries were trained to become part of the community. World leaders for the protection of animals and Wildlife Trust of India have successfully helped them to improve their livelihood.



A NEW LIFE TO CORAL REEFS

ACHIEVING AICHI TARGET 10

By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.



Creating India's first transplanted coral reef under private - public partnership at Mithapur, Gujarat.

Organising coral rescue operations to manually set the overturned corals to their correct positions.




GREEN LIVELIHOODS

ACHIEVING AICHI TARGET 14

By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.



Introducing and popularising alternatives to firewood and promoting green livelihoods to reduce resource extraction from forests in Central Indian tiger landscape, Vindhya Tiger Reserve, Bilas, and Greater Manas landscape.

Creating a Rainbow product through rehabilitating forest-dwelling women, by popularising Pashmina as an alternative to shawl for the conservation of the Status envelope.

Obtaining the GI Tag for handicraft products and promoting their products through the EcoLine Handmade Products Promotion Trust.




INNOVATIONS FOR CONSERVATION

ACHIEVING AICHI TARGET 18

By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.



Facilitating creation of Village Reserve Forests by local communities through using traditional laws of District Councils in Garo Hills, Khasi Anglong and Jaintia.




POLICY AND ADVOCACY

NB TARGET 6



Assisted the MoEF to get Manas out of the UNESCO Sites in Danger list and to get the Western Ghats listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Advocated for the whale shark to be the first fish to be legally protected in India.

Successfully advocated for upgradation of conservation status of the Tibetan antelope in the IAW Wildlife Protection Act.

Advocated for the ban on ivory trade worldwide for fifteen years at CITES.

Revitalised the only transnational agreement of tiger range states to start the Global Tiger Forum and published its first Tiger Action Plan.



Wildlife Trust of India IFAW

PUBLIC AWARENESS

ACHIEVING AICHI TARGET 1

By 2010, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

ACHIEVING AICHI TARGET 19

By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied



Campaigned to save the rhino stock, successfully converting the rhino from a poached quarry to an icon of conservation in Gujarat

Conducted the Tibetan Conservation Awareness Campaign, spreading awareness among the Tibetan community regarding loss and biodiversity of wildlife species

Conducted a high level campaign against 'Muhomoh' products targeting rural focus the plight of the endangered Tibetan antelope

Annually conducting the theme-based 3000 Animal Action/Action Day attracting participation of education and school children from across the country

Conducted a campaign against use of rhinoceros horn by doctors, spreading awareness on the toxicity of rhinoceros

Proposed the elephant as National Heritage Animal and conducting the nationwide rhino horn ban campaign for the Asian elephant

Wildlife Trust of India IFAW




Wildlife Trust of India IFAW

REDD+ WITH COMMUNITIES


ACHIEVING AICHI TARGET 15

By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.



Piloting India's first REDD+ project and broadening the Green Spine in Garo Hills, Meghalaya with the participation of local communities

Wildlife Trust of India IFAW




Wildlife Trust of India IFAW

SECURE SPACES FOR WILDLIFE

ACHIEVING AICHI TARGET 8

By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.




Securing the right of passage for elephants in India through identifying 88 corridors and land purchase and community based conservation models in 7 of these India's first privately owned corridors

Generated political will resulting in adoption of Greater Mammal concept and declaration by local government, listing the 895500 Bhaal Heritage Site

Created the concept of Tatalak Wildlife and Rainy National Park and advocated legislation to benefit conservation of the Pir Panjal/Markha

Advocated notification of Man Singh Deer VLS and extension of Nagina VLS in Maharashtra to enhance linkages for tigers in central India.

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Wildlife Trust of India IFAW

SPECIES CONSERVATION & RECOVERY

ACHIEVING AICHI TARGET 12

By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

ACHIEVING AICHI TARGET 13

By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.



Initiating a conservation plan for endangered Central Indian wild buffalo of which only one remains in Uttarakhand

Establishing the population and distribution status of threatened mousetail antelope - Markha, Hangul and Tibetan Antelope

Revitalizing Manas National Park after its population of greater one-horned rhinoceros was wiped out by translocating a rhino from Jazira Kaziranga National Park.

Wildlife Trust of India IFAW



WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

BALANCE SHEET as on MARCH 31, 2013

AS AT 31.3.12		AS AT 31.3.13		AS AT 31.3.13	
AMOUNT (RS.)	AMOUNT (RS.)	AMOUNT (RS.)	AMOUNT (RS.)	AMOUNT (RS.)	AMOUNT (RS.)
FUNDS & LIABILITIES					
600,000.00	600,000.00	600,000.00	600,000.00	600,000.00	600,000.00
600,000.00 Opening Balance					
CAPITAL FUND					
18,77,400.00	18,77,400.00	18,77,400.00	18,77,400.00	18,77,400.00	18,77,400.00
2,700,000.00 Add: Addition during the year					
28,472,200.00 Add: Transfer from General Reserve					
50,000,000.00 Less: Total Loans Taken during the year					
2,000,000.00 Less: Depreciation					
28,372,200.00					
GENERAL RESERVE					
64,374,681.19	64,374,681.19	64,374,681.19	64,374,681.19	64,374,681.19	64,374,681.19
148,412,800.00 Less: Excess of Income over Expenditure					
41,150,550.37 Add: Net Addition as per Schedule C					
28,472,200.00 Less: Amount Transferred to Capital Fund					
17,500,574.15					
GRANTS, LEASO, FUNDS (Schedule - 9 - I)					
4,404,208.00	4,404,208.00	4,404,208.00	4,404,208.00	4,404,208.00	4,404,208.00
4,404,208.00 Grants from Government					
CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS					
180,481,090.41	180,481,090.41	180,481,090.41	180,481,090.41	180,481,090.41	180,481,090.41
180,481,090.41 TOTAL					
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts - Formed in terms of our report of audit are attached herewith					

FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA
 Chartered Accountants
 Firm No. 020000
CHINMAY KOSHI
 Partner
 M.No. 020001
 New Delhi
 110002

FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA
 Director
CHINMAY KOSHI
 New Delhi

FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA
 Trustee
CHINMAY KOSHI
 New Delhi

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Ashok Kumar (Vice Chairman)
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Dr P C Bhattacharjee
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Dr Erach Bharucha
Tara Gandhi
Vivek Menon (Ex Officio Trustee)



WTI staff with Trustees/photo Mansoor Nabi Sofi-WTI

