

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 – 07



Wildlife Trust of India

B5/22, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029, India

Tel: +120 4143900 Fax: +91 120 4143933

E-mail: info@wti.org.in, Web: wti.org.in

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Editorial team : Arjun A Rammohan/Shubhobrotho Ghosh

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The financial year 2006 - 07 has seen WTI operate for its ninth year. Since 1998, when WTI was setup in response to the deteriorating condition of Indian wildlife, it has grown into a respected conservation agency with specialized skill sets such as ecology, conservation biology, veterinary sciences, law, policy, enforcement, marketing and social sciences. WTI has managed to attract and develop competent people capable of handling such diverse issues and counts amongst its ranks field biologists, conservation biologists, lawyers, finance and business managers, veterinarians, sociologists, anthropologists and communication specialists. In 2006-07 a total of 35 people joined different programmes in different capacities; 8 in rescue, 6 in communities, 4 in lands, 3 in enforcement & admin & finance, 1 each in VRP, admin, communications, campaigns, species and in ED's office. In 2006-07 a total of 35 people joined different programmes in different capacities; 8 in Wild Rescue, 6 in Communities, 4 in Lands, 3 in Enforcement & Admin & Finance, 1 each in VRP, Communications, Campaigns, Species and in ED's office.

WTI's success stems from effectively integrating the skills of many people. A hallmark of WTI is that projects draw on more than one programme for inputs to achieve the objectives. Examples of such holistic projects include the Integrated Sloth Bear Welfare and Conservation Project and the Tibetan Antelope Conservation Project.

The role of WTI's donors also needs to be highlighted as another part of the reason for its success. Their overwhelming support has been critical at times when the organisation is focusing on so many project areas.

A list of the major achievements during the financial year 2006-07 is given below:

1. A total of 19 RAPs have been approved as part of WTI's commitment to urgent action to prevent destruction of India's wildlife.
2. The validity of rehabilitation as a conservation tool was tested and proven overwhelmingly by WTI this year when two young rhinos, six juvenile elephants and two wild buffalos, all of which had originally been rescued during the floods as calves and hand raised at CWRC, were shifted to new homes in Manas NP, Kaziranga NP and Dibru Saikhowa NP respectively. They are being soft released there as per protocol.
3. The kalandar bear welfare project, a component of the Integrated Sloth bear conservation and awareness project met with instant success in Chhattisgarh with eight bears surrendered to the forest department.

4. Six elephants in Rajaji National Park had a narrow escape when swift action by an alert train driver saved them from a collision with a train. This proves the efficacy of the sensitization workshops conducted by WTI for the benefit of the railway staff. The driver was felicitated for his prompt action.
5. The Gujjar rehabilitation project in RNP is going on in full swing, with most of the families having either already been shifted or agreed to shift to the rehabilitation site.
6. The elephant corridor acquisition project in Wynad, supported by World Land Trust, is going on in full swing. An entire village was moved out to make way for the corridor. The villagers were provided alternate housing and land to their satisfaction. The Kollegal corridor acquisition process is almost complete with only the official handover to the forest department waiting to take place.
7. Salman Khan has been sentenced by the Jodhpur court to 5 years imprisonment and fine of Rs 25,000/-.
8. Tibetan Conservation Awareness Campaign has found a champion in HH the Dalai Llama. To HH can be attributed the unprecedented success in reaching out to the Tibetan community and bringing about a change of heart.
9. The WTI website logged an average of to 1.5 lakh hits per month.



Hand-reared rhino calf in front of the crate in CWRC before her relocation to Manas National Park

WILD AID

With almost 16% of the world's population struggling for survival, packed in an area measuring only 2.4% of the world's landmass, India faces the twin challenges of development without endangering the country's wildlife. Fire-fighting is a term often used by wildlife conservationists to describe this situation.

Emergencies arise and need rapid responses. In case of sudden calamities, documentation of the ground situation, damage to wildlife habitats and species, monitoring and interim interventions to mitigate damage and suffering to wildlife are the primary focus areas.

To address this need, the Wildlife Trust of India started the Wild Aid programme. Key components to address the emergency situations are the Rapid Action Projects (RAP) and the Executive Director's Discretionary Grants, which incorporate the missing elements of flexibility and rapidity. Assistance can be in the form of equipment and capital support, training and compensation for death and injuries.

The following RAPs were sanctioned and implemented during FY 2006-2007:

- 1). Field kits for the six forest staff of the Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur. Each kit containing a rucksack, rain coat, jacket, water bottle, ground sheet, sleeping bag, and a torch was provided to them under the Rapid Action Project of WTI.
- 2). Provision of six Walkie-talkie sets for the forest staff at the D' Ering WLS in Arunachal Pradesh. The supply of these items was planned under the Rapid Action Project in the year 2002, however, only two out of the six walkie-talkie sets had been provided so far.



Forest guards of Keibul Lamjao National Park, Manipur equipped with field kits



Joydeep Bose (right) handing over the walkie-talkie sets to the DFO D'Ering Wild Life Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh

Wild Aid

- 3). An interim report of the RAP “Follow up Investigation of mass death of vultures at Yambong, Sikkim.” has been received.
- 4) Study of the endangered Nilgiri tahr. The status survey of the endangered Nilgiri tahr (*Hemitragus hylocrius*) in Kerala is in progress. The species is endemic to the region. The survey team is headed by Dr. R. J. Ranjit Daniels of Care Earth. The survey has been completed in the Perambikulam, Nemmara and Trivandrum forest divisions. The project is initiated under the Executive Director’s Discretionary Fund.
- 5) The Hangul Project proposal was submitted to the Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India for financial support.
- 6) Searchlight for the field staff of Balphakram National Park for night patrolling. Under this RAP, searchlights were provided to forest staff in Balphakram National Park for night patrolling. Seven searchlights were handed over to the DFO of the park, Mr. R. Theik on October 20. The enforcement measures in the park are expected to help check illegal logging and elephant depredation.
- 7) An assessment of Musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) trade in Kashmir.

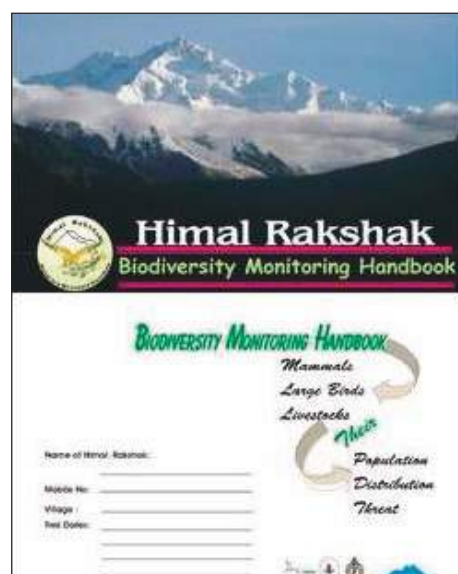
Under this RAP, a market survey for musk deer body parts was conducted in different localities of Srinagar, covering areas of Batamallo, Lal Chowk and Hazratbal. Source areas for Musk deer body parts such as Harwan, Aru and Kangan were also surveyed. Information from the survey has revealed that musk is sold between rupees 6000 to 7000 per tola at some of the places.

- 8) Protection of *Strobilanthes Kunthiana* during their blooming period in Munnar. The RAP is in progress and a report on the project is being planned for December. An amount of rupees 1,68000 has been sanctioned for the project.
- 10) Capacity Building of Himal Rakshaks (Honorary Mountain Guardians) for biodiversity conservation of Khangchendzonga National Park, West Sikkim. Training was organized for Himal Rakshaks for monitoring of threats to bio-diversity on October 2, at the office of the Yambong Eco-tourism Committee in Nambu.

The proponent of the RAP has prepared a handbook for easy reference on various facets of bio-diversity threats to be distributed among the Himal Rakshaks. Further intensive training is being planned from December 16 to 20.

- 11) Community managed anti-poaching programme in Chakrasilla Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining areas in Assam.

Under this RAP, 10 sleeping bags, 5 binoculars and 4 flashlights were provided



Handbook for easy reference on various facts of bio-diversity threats.

to the community managed anti-poaching squads in Chakrasilla WLS. The project has been initiated under the guidance of the forest department and a local NGO Discovery Club.



Prabal Sarkar, Manager WTI (left) giving out binoculars, flashlights and sleeping bags to anti—poaching squads in Chakrasilla WLS

12) Assistance to anti-poaching squads in three camps of Manas Tiger Reserve, Assam.

Under this RAP, ten bicycles were provided for easy movement of cadres involved in anti-poaching duties. A detailed report on the effectiveness of the programme is awaited from the proponent.

13) Technical and veterinary support to Maharashtra Forest Department to effectively deal with wild animals that require human intervention.

Under this RAP, large number of leopards and hyenas were rescued and treated in different parts of Maharashtra. Rupees 80000 has been disbursed for the purpose. Since November last year, nearly 22 leopards were treated and 10 were micro-chipped. Meetings were also organized with the villagers to educate them on the preventive measures to be followed for dealing with leopards. The proponent has sent a report.

14) Transport assistance to Gujjar families in relocation from Rajaji National Park to Gandikhata rehabilitation site. 50 families in the Dholkhand range have received transport assistance and support to the remaining 50 families are being provided.

- 15) Conservation of breeding population of Greater Adjutant Stork in Bihar: Proposal received includes exploration of new breeding sites, protection of the recently identified breeding sites, employing a watcher to prevent stealing of eggs, erection of safety nets to prevent the storks from falling from the nests, for putting up signages and to conduct awareness programmes.



One of the Greater Adjutant Storks breeding sites in Bihar

- 16) Release and subsequent monitoring of three rescued juvenile elephants in Dambuk forest in lower Dibang valley district, Arunachal Pradesh.

Nani Sha, the Divisional Forest Officer of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary (Division) in Arunachal Pradesh is the proponent of the RAP. An amount of Rupees 40,000 was sanctioned for the project. Forest officials had rescued three young elephants from a gang of poachers in Dambuk in Arunachal Pradesh. They had been trying to tame the elephants using cruel methods for captive elephant trade and had badly injured one in the process.

The DFO had asked for help to rehabilitate these elephants back to the wild. A team of veterinarians from



Rescued juvenile elephant in Dabuk forest, Ar. Pradesh

WTI had treated the injured elephant and stabilized them for release. A temporary shelter was made at Bomjir - isolated from human contact - for their rehabilitation. The elephants were released near a herd of hundred elephants in the Dambuk forest reserve on February 16, 2007. The RAP enabled the department to micro-chip one of the elephants and another radio-collared for post release monitoring and identification. The elephants were being monitored.

17) Construction of Protection Hut for Anti-poaching Camp at Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra.

Prafulla Bhamburkar, Senior Field Officer, WTI and W.I Yatbon, Deputy Conservator of Forest, (Gondia Wildlife Division) Maharashtra are proponents of the RAP. An amount Rupees 1, 10, 000 has been sanctioned. The RAP is being provided to construct a permanent protection camp in the Nagzira Wildlife sanctuary. The camp will help forest officials to undertake patrolling during inclement weather conditions. 39 villages with a population of fifty thousand are in the vicinity of the sanctuary. Poaching, grazing, collection of fuel-wood and grass are major problems. 40 cases of poaching were registered between the years 1997 and 2000. Five of the cases were related to Schedule I species. Increased human activities have called for constant vigil and patrolling of the areas.

18) Extension of 'Conservation of the breeding population of Greater Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos dubius*) in Bihar'. The proponent of this RAP is Arvind Mishra. An amount of Rs.50, 000 has been sanctioned. This is the extension of an earlier RAP due to identification of more nesting sites beyond the original limit of survey. Mr. Mishra and his team have started the extended survey and found new nests. Details are awaited.

Projects sanctioned by the EDDG

19) Hindi version of film: Tiger - The Death Chronicles.

The proponent of this project was Mr. Krishnendu Bose. An amount of rupees one lakh has been sanctioned for this project. The film 'Tiger - The Death Chronicles' highlights the present issues in wildlife conservation. Translating the film into Hindi would increase the reach of the film to greater number of audiences. It is hoped that the Hindi version of the film would help to increase support for wildlife conservation in India.

20) Support for National Level workshop on Animal Welfare on March 23-24, 2007. The proponent of this project was J. B. Das, People for Animal (PFA), Orissa. Exclusive session on the issues of wild elephants in the state was organized on the second day of the workshop. Presentations dealing with the emerging threats to the wild elephant populations in the state and the challenges were shown. The workshop also discussed health care management of wild elephants. PCCF (WL) outlined government policies and initiatives for conservation of elephants in Orissa. The habitat fragmentation in the state has resulted in increasing human elephant conflict in Orissa. Securing of wildlife corridors offers a feasible solution to reduce the conflict in the state. A study by WTI had previously identified elephant

corridors in Orissa, as part of a nation-wide project. This feasible solution was given considerable attention and discussed in detail after a presentation by Dr. Sandeep Kr Tiwari (Asst. Manager, WTI) on the present status of the corridors in the state and conservation action needed for their protection. Legislative protection and preservation of these elephant corridors in Orissa have been incorporated in the present Elephant Management Plan in Orissa (2006-7 to 2011-12).



Orissa Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, Animal Conservator Maneka Gandhi and other dignitaries at the Workshop

Some results of the RAPs.

1) Mongoose hair brush and hair seizures in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

In one of the biggest seizures of mongoose hair brushes this year, the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department on June 24 seized more than 18000 paint brushes from several premises allegedly used by the dealers in the Hyderabad city.

Acting on the information provided by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and People for Animals (PFA) about the illegal mongoose hair brush trade in the city, forest officials arrested six traders from different localities of the city. The other two accused have absconded.

A covert operation was initiated by WTI and PFA in the last couple of weeks prior to these seizures after this illegal trade was noticed.

2) Post flood relief operation in Surat.

The rescue team of WTI provided emergency relief to livestock affected by floods in Surat. The team rescued over 200 snakes, 21 buffaloes including calves, over 30 dogs, donkey, cats, mongooses, palm civets, Hanuman langurs, soft shell turtles and many birds. The team has also fed over 300 dogs and 400 cattle affected during the flood.



Flood relief operations in Surat

RAPs completed

- “Protection of Dezling Elephant Corridor in Arunachal Pradesh”
- “Providing Maharashtra Forest Department technical and veterinary support to deal with wild animals that require human intervention.”
- “Post flood relief operation in East Godavari”

Rappers Network

RAPNET-RAP Implementers’ Network has been formed on google e-groups to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and news of wildlife emergencies across the country and to monitor the implementation of RAPs. Invitation and registration forms were sent to all the previous proponents for joining the network.



WILD RESCUE

The goal of the Wild Rescue programme is to address the health and welfare needs of wild animals. The goals of Wild Rescue are met through the following three thematic divisions:

- Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation
- Captive Wildlife Welfare
- Wildlife Veterinary Services

A brief description of the rescues with selected photographs are given below in no particular order of importance.

On April 15, three orphaned jungle cats, each of them 15 days old were rescued by the villagers at Doimara in Karbi Anglong district and handed over to the forest department. The cats are being rehabilitated in the centre.

On April 24, an injured juvenile Crested Serpent Eagle was rescued by a villager in Golaghat district and was handed over to the forest department. The bird was released after rehabilitation at the centre.

On February 11, a female Himalayan black bear cub was rescued by villagers in the Karbi Anglong district. Her mother was killed by poachers. The animal is presently at CWRC and would be shifted to CBRC for Walk the Bear Programme.



Rescued jungle cat, Crested serpent eagle and bear cub

Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS)

MVS is essentially a mobile veterinary clinic equipped with medicines and equipment, manned by a wildlife veterinarian, driver/ animal handler and caters to a specific region. WTI operates six MVS across North East India and Uttarakhand.

Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) - Central Assam

The MVS Central Assam is stationed at CWRC, Kaziranga National Park. It supports the

rescue and rehabilitation work of CWRC and is, in terms of cases handled, the busiest MVS of the lot. Dr Anjan Talukdar is the CWRC and MVS veterinarian.

Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) - Lower Assam

Manned by Veterinarian Dr Basumathary, this MVS provides health support to the Rhino Rehabilitation Project in Manas National Park.



One of the MVS Unit stationed for rescue operations

Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS)- Upper Assam

The Upper Assam MVS is stationed at Dibru Saikhowa National park and manned by Dr Prashanto Boro. He gives health support to the Wild Buffalo Rehabilitation Project in Dibru Saikhowa.



MVS Rescue team treating an injured adult wild elephant at Shilonijaan, Karbi Anglong, Assam

Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) - Uttaranchal

MVS Uttarakhand is stationed at Kalagarh, Corbett National Park and provides veterinary support to the state of Uttarakhand. The vet is Dr Bhaskar Chaudhury. Captive elephant care to the Forest Department elephants forms a large chunk of his work.

Central Assam MVS team treating a wild adult male elephant near Shilonijaan in Karbi Anglong district. The animal was found submerged in water with a bullet injury and posterior paralysis. The elephant was treated with analgesics. Two days later, the animal died and a postmortem was conducted by the veterinarian to remove the bullet from the thigh region.

Wild Rescue

Mobile Veterinary Service - Pakke

MVS Arunachal Pradesh is situated in Itanagar and gives support to CBRC in Pakke Tiger Reserve where currently the bear rehabilitation project is ongoing. Recently, the MVS vet has helped in the rehabilitation of three wild elephants illegally captured for training and domestication. The three animals were sub adult females - between 5 to 6-years-old.

The Forest Department rescued these animals from three different persons who were immediately taken into custody. One of the animals suffered severe rope burn injuries on the forelegs and was given treatment.

In consultation with the department, Dr Prasanta Kumar Boro prepared the release of the three elephants back to the wild. All the elephants were micro-chipped and one of them was radio-collared for post-release monitoring and identification.

The elephants were successfully released near a herd of 100 elephants in Dambuk forest reserve.



Mobile Veterinary Unit at Pakke stationed for a rescue operation

Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC)

Two bear cubs which were rescued from Bana in the East Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh were brought to the centre. Each of the two cubs was about a month old. The bears are bottle fed with reconstituted infant milk formula. These two have now joined five other older bears at the centre.

As part of the “walk the bear” programme of WTI, two bear cubs presently at the centre, will be shifted to Khari Pong (the release site) on August 15. Burrows are being prepared for them to rest at night. A machan (observation shelter) for two keepers at the site is also being constructed.

Bear cubs, Sepa and Sepi at the centre were relocated to Khari Pong on August 15 for 'walk the bear' programme. The programme will acclimatize the bears with the site before they were finally released. During this period, the bears were taken to the forest once in the morning and in the evening, before they are brought to the enclosure at night. The cubs were being fed with wheat porridge, gram, milk and raw egg besides supplemented minerals and vitamins.



Hand-reared bear cubs in Pakke Rehabilitation Centre

One of the bears at the centre suffered mild infection and mucous discharge in the stool. The bear was treated by the centre veterinarian and has recovered. The two bears at Khari Pong were taken for walks for five-hours daily. The bears were demonstrating defensive behaviors, such as climbing trees, running behind the keeper - upon hearing sounds or sighting wild animals. Both the bears, Seppa and Seppi, now more than a year old have been observed to feed on a variety of dietary items in the wild. They were slowly beginning to show signs of independence and were now allowed to rest on nearby trees at night. Keepers no longer sleep on the machan at night – as has been in the past. The bears select different trees for resting in the night.

Networking and Capacity Building

Wildlife Rehabilitators Exchange Network Programme (WREN) is a WTI-IFAW initiative to bring together on a common platform all individuals working to rehabilitate wild animals in India. A workshop on wildlife rehabilitation was organised and conducted in Vishakapatnam in March 2006 and a report was brought out and sent to all participants.

Forty one (41) new members have joined the WREN network in the month of May, making the total to 170. A total of 118 e-mails were circulated in the WREN forum. Of the nine new topics discussed, wildlife impact assessment of stray dogs & cats was probed more often. Other topics included the sparrow death, sickness of pea fowls in Ranikhet, effect of oil spills on wild birds, injury of a spotted eagle in

Wild Rescue

Jammu, rescue of a red eared slider, identification of a bamboo pit viper and feeding of barn owlets.



Bamboo pit wiper



Rescued Owlet

The name of the project, “Wildlife Rehabilitators Exchange Network (WREN)” was changed to “IFAW-WTI Emergency Relief Network” during this year. During floods in Rajasthan, ERN members provided relief to livestock.

Two workshops on wildlife rehabilitation were conducted in Manas National Park (Assam, on October 8 and 9) and in Imphal (Manipur, on October 12 and 13) respectively to train veterinarians, biologists, and wildlife enthusiasts. The workshops were organized by WTI in collaboration with the forest department under the IFAW-WTI Emergency Relief Network programme. The IFAW-WTI Emergency Relief Network Digest is in the final stage of preparation. The ERN now boasts of 241 members.

Captive Wildlife Welfare (CWW)

Captive Elephant Care (CEC)

The survey of captive elephants in West Bengal was completed. A total of 40 captive elephants are recorded in the state. A captive elephant in Delhi was treated for colic and impaction. Unfortunately, the animal died few days later. Survey on captive elephants was completed in Assam and Bihar. 19 districts were covered in Bihar and a total of 22 elephants were identified. In Assam, 18 districts were covered and information on 340 elephants was collected. Collection of elephant mortality data has been completed in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand. Presently, mortality data is being collected from Orissa. The survey on the status of captive elephants in India was completed in 15 states and 2 union territories and 2072 elephants have been covered.

Sonepur health camp

The sixth Sonepur health camp for captive elephants was organized between 2nd and 6th November. The camp was organized during the *Karthik poornima* in November. Preparation for the camp has been initiated. 54 elephants were registered, out of

which 47 were from Bihar, four from Uttar Pradesh and three from Assam. The data was analysed and a comprehensive report prepared.



WTI Veterinarians, Dr. Bhaskar Chaudhary and Anjan Talukdar conducting elephant health camp during Sonepur Mela

Integrated Sloth Bear Conservation and Welfare Project

Kalandhar Bear Welfare

Welfare measures of surrendered sloth bears in Chhattisgarh started in June 2006 with two adult bears, both male. They were housed in a room provided by the zoo officials. During the following months, another six bears were surrendered to the forest department. The whole process was facilitated by WTI via its field officers Arjun Nayar and Bhagat Singh. All aspects of husbandry and veterinary care was in the hands of WTI.

WTI's request to be allowed to build a permanent life time care facility for the kalandar bears in Jaipur was eventually turned down and the search continued.

During the year, WTI attempted the rehabilitation of a sloth bear cub in the jungles of Achanakmar WLS. While the bear cub was being walked in the jungle as part of the walk the bear plan, the cub escaped and despite consistent efforts over a period of two weeks, was never seen or heard of again.



Sloth bear cub rehabilitated from the jungles of Achanakmar WLS

Wildlife Veterinary Service (WVS)

Rhino Rehabilitation Project

Two rhinos which had originally been rescued during the floods as calves and hand raised at CWRC were shifted to Manas NP to join the first one shifted in 2005-06.



Rehabilitated rhino calves in CWRC

Wild Buffalo Rehabilitation project

Two wild buffalos hand raised at CWRC were shifted to Dibru Saikhowa WLS. They have been placed in a *boma* and will eventually be released into the wild.



Hand-raised wild buffalo in CWRC before relocating to a *boma* in Dibru Saikowa Wildlife Sanctuary

Elephant Rehabilitation Project

Six elephant calves hand-raised at CWRC were shifted to Manas NP. The area selected for their soft release is in the Doimari range. All the animals were radio collared prior to shifting to the rehabilitation site.



Elephant calves from CWRC being off-loaded for release in Doimari, Manas National Park



Elephant calves after their release in the wild

WILD LANDS

Elephant Conservation Project in Rajaji National Park

This is a composite project initiated by Wild Lands for elephant conservation in and around Rajaji National Park, which forms the Western limit of the existing range of Asian elephants. The project includes conflict mitigation, mitigation of elephant mortality through train hits, corridor acquisition and habitat improvement measures through resettlement of Gujjars. Briefly the activities are as follows:

Mitigating of elephant mortality

Members of the 21st Asia - Pacific Forestry Committee visited the Rajaji National Park. Anil Kr. Singh, Sr. Field Officer briefed the visitors about the activities undertaken by WTI to minimize elephant mortality due to train hits in the areas. The electric fence at Bullawala has been repaired. Volt meters have also been installed.



Signage put up near railway track, passing through the Rajaji National Park

The maintenance work of the three 'water-holes' in the Motichur and Kansrao Ranges has been completed. The joint railway patrolling along the railway track has been continued. An artificial water tank in the park has been recently de-silted.



Night patrolling team on the track in Rajaji National Park

Posters and Hoarding designs were prepared by the communication division to educate passengers on elephant mortality due to throwing of eatables from train windows in and around the Rajaji National Park. The hoardings are already fixed at the two railway stations of the park and the posters will be placed in each passenger bogie.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Northern Railways was contacted for permission to install posters in railway bogies, and hoardings in Raiwala and Doiwala railway stations. Senior Divisional Engineer of Moradabad gave permission to install the hoardings (emphasizing the conservation imperative to the public) at Doiwala and Raiwala railway stations. This is part of the public awareness campaign initiated by WTI for conservation of elephants and other wildlife in Rajaji. In the recent past, similar hoardings were also put up at different railway stations in the region.

WTI is in touch with IIT Roorkee for developing an electronic signal device to detect animal movements on railway tracks. WTI has formally requested Dr. Dharmendra Singh of IIT Roorkee to develop a project in this regard. To study the problem (elephant mortality due to train hits) in Rajaji National Park, Dr. Dharmendra Singh of IIT Roorkee visited the accident-prone areas. WTI had requested Professor Singh to develop a signal device to detect the elephant movements on the railway track in the park. The night patrolling along the railway tracks is ongoing.

An alert train driver saved six elephants from being hit in the Rajaji National Park. The elephants were crossing the railway track near Kansrao section of the park, when the watchful driver noticed them. Following this incident, the Park authorities have beefed up their patrolling activities.

Wild Lands

A report on the progress of the project (Conservation of North Western Indian Elephant Population in Rajaji National Park - 2005-06) is being prepared.

Chilla Motichur Corridor

The National Highway Authority has proposed to widen the overpass passing through the Chilla Motichur Corridor. The Wildlife Department of the MoEF had organized a meeting in this regard.

The army has an ammunition dump right in the middle of the Chilla Motichur corridor. The forest department has suggested for an alternative land at the Bibiwala Block in the Rishikesh range for the use of the army. The army has accepted the proposal and is waiting for the FC clearance by the MoEF.

Gujjar Rehabilitation

Transport vehicles were provided to the Gujjar families to help them in the process of relocation to the new site. The joint night patrolling along the railway track has been continued. Villagers of Khand Gaon III were contacted and their cooperation was sought in the rehabilitation process. The Tehsil office at Rishikesh and Patwari office at Raiwala were contacted for obtaining information on land records of the villagers. Gujjar families of Chillawali range in Rajaji National Park were contacted for discussions on their rehabilitation. 80 Gujjar families participated in the discussions. The leader representing the affected families has promised to start the rehabilitation process after the Id festival on October 25.



WTI monetarily helped Gujjar families to move out from Rajaji National Park

Tiger recovery project Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Sameer Sinha, Sr Field Officer is in charge of this project. The analysis of the predator-prey data from 2003 to 2005 was completed. A three year draft report along with a complete map of the tiger reserve was prepared. A progress report including tiger pugmark information collected over the period in Valmiki was prepared. Sameer conducted a field trip to the rhino bearing areas of the tiger reserve with forest officials to assess the ground situation. The forest department deployed two elephants to reinforce protection of the habitat. One of the camera traps in the reserve had recently recorded a tigress.

Forest department requested WTI to participate in a workshop for training of forest staff. The workshop was organized in Patna in collaboration with the MoEF. A two-year draft progress report on the project was prepared. WTI participated in a week-long training programme for forest guards in Valmiki. The programme was organized by the Park authorities. The Field Officer of WTI explained to the participants the use of camera traps to identify individual species. Monitoring of predators in Valmiki nagar and Done areas is being carried out. Dr. P. S. Easa visited Valmiki to review the progress of the project. He also took part in a meeting between the trainee guards and the foresters to discuss various aspects of tiger conservation.

The camera traps (camera installations) in the reserve obtained three photographs of a leopard and one of a tiger. Field officer, Rajarshi Ranjan met with the Mukhia and Sarpanch of the Done village and briefed them about the programme. Village level meetings were organized in all the selected 5 villages and survey was completed in two.

Transects were laid in the habitat adjoining the villages to monitor the impact of the eco-development activities. Camera traps were installed at Gonauli and Naurangia Done. Camera traps installed in the Harnatanr and the Gonauli Ranges captured pictures of a leopard and a tiger. The tiger was photographed with his mother earlier in October 2006. The tiger now lives separately. In Gonauli Range, a tigress was re-trapped along the Valmiki - Chitwan border, while a new tiger was trapped in Madanpur Range. Unfortunately, the cameras could not photograph their heads.



Camera trap picture of a Tiger and Leopard in Valmiki

Data on wildlife was collected from the Done region - Harnatanr Range. Evidences of wild dog and tiger were found in the Naurangia Block (close to Done village) of the

Range. Tiger and leopard scats were also collected from the Gonauli and Harnatanr Ranges.

The rhino bearing areas in Madanpur were inspected and evidences of the animal were recorded. The rhinos often visit nearby agriculture fields to raid wheat crops. An adult female rhino was killed by a train hit in Madanpur range. One of the camera traps was stolen and the film was found in a nearby area. Sinha is investigating the incident.

Habitat recovery of mega herbivores in Assam

Eradication of invasive species Mimosa in Kaziranga National Park Dilip Deori, Field Officer is in charge of this project. Mr Vivek Menon, visited the Kaziranga National Park from April 18 to 20 and discussed the next course of mimosa uprooting in the Park with N. K. Vasu, Park Director and the DFO. It was decided that areas covered last year would be repeated. Five camps were identified namely Naromara, Bokpara, Bhulukajan and Harmati and the uprooting began on April 28.

The GPS locations of mimosa infested areas in all five camps were identified and the particulars will be incorporated in the GIS map of Kaziranga. Data of animals, composition of species etc., in Kaziranga is also being collected. A draft report of mimosa infestations in the park between July 2005 and June 2006 was prepared.

Nearly, 100 labourers were engaged in mimosa uprooting in the Bagori and Kohora ranges of the Kaziranga National Park. Several hectares of mimosa in Harmati, Donga, Bhulukajan, Noltoni, Mihimukh and Bokpara have been uprooted. By November an area of 49 hectares had been cleared of mimosa in the Baguri and Kohora ranges of the Kaziranga National Park and the work continues.



Labourers engaged in uprooting mimosa in Harmati camp, Kaziranga National Park

Thirty (30) hectares of mimosa infested areas in Bagori and Kohora ranges were further cleared in December.

Results indicated an increase in the utilization of the uprooted areas by wild animals. A draft annual report (2006-2007) on the Mimosa Eradication Programme in Kaziranga was prepared. In total, almost 80 acres were cleared of Mimosa this year.

Human-elephant conflict mitigation

A report is being prepared by the Sr. Field Officer for resolving human-elephant conflict and to strengthen the protection facilities in these sanctuaries. Data on the subject has been analyzed.

Maharashtra

The report on the human-elephant conflict in Maharashtra and the adjoining areas has been completed. The report discusses elephant movement in the affected areas of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa. The study was conducted in the Chandgad and Dodamarg forest ranges in Maharashtra, and Kankumbi forest range in Karnataka. Now, steps were initiated by the forest department in Maharashtra for resolving this issue after feedback received from the affected villagers. Fifty booklets containing information on elephants were sent to the forest department in Kolhapur - one of the regions affected by elephant depredation. The booklets were distributed to forest staff at a workshop conducted by WTI in September, 2006 to reduce human-elephant conflict in Maharashtra.



Dr Easa conducting a workshop in Dodamarg, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra to reduce human-elephant conflict

Chhattisgarh

Dr. Khalid Mehboob Khan, Project Officer, visited Raipur, Raigarh, Jaspur, Surguja, Korba, Dharmjaygarh regions of Chhattisgarh to collect information on human

Wild Lands

elephant conflicts. Various data has been collected from the affected villages. He also met the forest officials of the affected regions to discuss these issues.

Chhattisgarh Forest Department requested WTI to initiate man-elephant conflict mitigations in the state. A follow up to this effect will be taken after the report on the recent field visits to the conflict areas in the state is ready.

Since 1990, about 35 elephants have reportedly died due to train hits in different parts of Assam. A draft report on the consequences (Conflict status) from such accidents in Assam is being prepared. A fresh draft proposal to mitigate this crisis in Assam is also being prepared to generate funds.



A house damaged by wild elephants in Chhattisgarh

West Bengal

Information on human-elephant conflicts is also being collected from various parts of West Bengal. Information on human-elephant conflict is being collected from the Forest Divisions in south Bengal. The data collected is being entered in the database.

Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation Cell

Information on human-elephant conflicts in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Orissa has been collected. Forest divisions of Khuti, Gumla, Ranchi East and Simdega of Jharkhand were covered.

Tea estates adjoining the Kaziranga National Park were visited to assess the threats to elephants, arising from deep trenches built by estate owners for drainage. In the past, a number of wild elephants were trapped in some of these trenches, which led to their deaths.

In consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden of Maharashtra, WTI planned for a

workshop to tackle human–elephant conflicts in collaboration with the forest department and villagers in the conflict prone southern areas of Chandgad and Dodamarg. A review report of the various mitigation techniques used in Asian countries has been completed.

To discuss the issue of human-elephant conflicts in Maharashtra, a two-day workshop was conducted in the Dodamarg taluk of Sindhudurg district with forest officials. The workshop was organized on September 20 and 21, by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in collaboration with the Forest Department.

Forest officials from Kolhapur and the Sindhudurg districts and the adjacent state of Goa participated in the seminar. Issues related to bio-diversity, biology and social behaviour of elephants, human-elephant conflicts and mitigation measures were discussed.

Early this year, WTI had conducted a study in the affected regions to understand the problems faced by people due to human-elephant conflicts and to initiate conservation actions.

A report from this study has been distributed to all the participants at the workshop. A Marathi translation of the report is also being planned for distribution. Four search-lights to be used in patrolling duties by the forest guards were also distributed.

Acquisition of Wayanad Corridor

Sabu Jahas, Sr. Field Officer visited the Thirulakunnu village adjoining the Brahmagiri - Thirunelli corridor in Wayanad. After a discussion several villagers expressed their willingness to hand over their land to WTI, if adequately compensated. Dr P.S. Easa, Sr. Director with the help of Shri Madhusudanan of AERCC had shown the villagers the location where they could resettle. Sabu had also shown the villagers another alternate location for re-settlement. WTI had promised each affected household an identical land, a house and a common drinking water-well in the rehabilitated site.



Elephant corridor land acquired in Wayanad, Kerala for handing over to the state Forest Department

Wild Lands

8.5 acres of land in an alternate site were registered for the four villagers who had earlier surrendered their land in the corridor. The related documents were handed over to the four beneficiaries. Presently, villagers are being consulted for construction of houses at the alternate site. An engineer was consulted to prepare an estimate for the houses. These villagers that were earlier located at the Thirulakunnu village of Tholpetty range - fall under the corridor. So far, about 9 acres in the corridor has been acquired by WTI and out of which 5 acres under the lease has been handed over to the forest department.

Dr. Easa met with the Chief Wildlife Warden to discuss the acquisition of the remaining land in Thirulakunnu settlement in the corridor. The warden requested WTI to give an undertaking for the payment of the identified land so that the acquisition process could be initiated. He also met the State Forest Minister to seek his support in the Wayanad Corridor Project. The minister suggested that WTI should also brief the Chief Minister.

Dr Easa briefed the Chief Minister on the threats to the eco-system, after private owners bought land in the corridor for tourism ventures. In response to which the forest Minister issued an instruction letter to the Forest Department for extending help to WTI in land acquisition.

A seminar was organized by the Conflict Mitigation Committee (Comprising members of the community) in collaboration with the Farmers Sangh in Wayanad. The participants at the seminar collectively agreed not to allow purchase of land close to the sanctuary for tourism purposes - especially areas close to elephant corridor.

Another agreement was signed between WTI and the affected households declaring that they would move out of the present locations once the construction of the houses were completed. The agreement was certified by the notary. Legal opinions were also sought on the deal.



One of the villagers rehabilitated from Wayanad elephant corridor

Presence of elephants, wild boar, sambar and spotted deer was recorded and the data analyzed. Villagers have moved out of the acquired land. The crops cultivated by the villagers were consumed by wild animals. Photographs of animals which come to the village were taken. The Chief Conservator of Forest (WL) has prepared a new proposal for acquiring the land purchased by people for tourism activity. The document has been sent to the Secretariat.

Kollegal Corridor Project

Dr. Easa and Dr. R. Sukumar met with the Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka to discuss the transfer of the acquired corridor land. The Warden has asked WTI to forward a proposal in this regard. The Deputy Commissioner of Kollegal requested the Asst. Commissioner for more detail on the ownership status of the land. A draft MoU has been prepared to be sent to the Chief Wildlife Warden for handing over the proposed land to the Forest department.

Documents related to the corridor have been sent to the Chief Wildlife Warden. A draft MoU containing the modalities for handing over the acquired land to the forest department was sent to him. Copy of the documents was also forwarded to Dr. Raman Sukumar.

The report on the corridor prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer of Chamraj Nagar was forwarded to the Chief Wildlife Warden. Currently, the matter is being discussed with the legal cell, before a final reply to WTI for signing the MoU.

Mangroves

WTI supported by the World Land Trust and in consultation with the communities concerned was acquiring mangrove forests in Kerala and handing it over to the Forest Department. Subsequently 5.29 acres of Mangroves in Payyannur in Kerala were acquired.



Mangroove forests in Kerala

Wild Lands

West Coast Mangrove and Coral reef Securement Project

As part of its mangrove acquisition plan in Kannur in Kerala for conservation, WTI participated in the land auction of five acres of mangroves.

The official documents of the previously acquired mangroves have been collected from the office of the registrar. Meanwhile, another person came forward to sell his four acres of mangroves to WTI. Another 3.5 acres in the adjacent area has been finalized (agreement reached). WTI requested the concerned bank to transfer the auctioned land under its name.

WTI received the documents from the Co-operative bank for handing over the six acres land. Sabu visited the site and the process was complete by the end of April. The amount due as tax for the 1.17 acres of mangroves purchased by WTI has been paid.

Siju-Rewak Elephant Corridor Project

WTI team had a discussion with the members of the South Garo Autonomous District Council on the protection of the corridor. They promised to extend support to the project. The council members and the village heads (*Nokmas*) have agreed to declare the Rongjak region as a village reserve. The region is thickly forested and an important wildlife habitat. It also connects neighbouring Balphakaram and Rewak forest reserves.

A meeting was organized between the clan members, *Nokmas* (husband and wife), and *gaon burahs* to discuss the issues pertaining to the corridor. Sunil Subba, Sr. Field



A view of Rongjak region of Siju-Rewak

Officer of WTI and Mr. Alphonse, Member of the District Council participated in the meeting. Subba and Alphonse later conducted an inspection tour to the corridor. The Sr. Field Officer, Sunil Subba Kyarong had preliminary rounds of discussions with the *Nokma*, Member of the District Council and others regarding the corridor land securing. *Nokma* has not agreed to any of the proposal. However, he has indicated that he would agree once the Member District Council agrees. A field office (single room) was set up at the Forest Beat office in Aretika village of Meghalaya.

National Elephant Corridor Project

The CCF of Jharkhand has requested WTI's assistance to tackle the elephant issues in the state - particularly in the areas of distribution and conservation. He promised for financial support from the forest department in the project. On the request of WTI for broad-survey of the elephant corridors in West Bengal for information and to erect sinages to alert public, the forest officials have agreed to look into the short listed corridors and will give its consent on a later date. WTI requested the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Karnataka, Meghalaya, and Assam to notify the identified elephant corridors in the state. The request is currently being considered by the states, while more information was requested by Karnataka and Meghalaya.

The Assam government has approved the notification of the elephant corridors identified by WTI. Earlier, the Forest Department had forwarded the proposal to the government for ratification. Presently, sinages are being designed to be placed in the corridors. The Assam Forest Department had requested for a legal support for declaration of elephant corridors in the state. Dr.P.S Easa in consultation with Ritwick Dutta prepared a draft notification for the purpose and sent to CWLW. The Uttaranchal government directed the Deputy Director of Corbett Tiger Reserve to collect more information on the area under the corridors, which will help expedite the notification of the corridors in the state.



A herd of elephant crossing the road in Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary

Wild Lands

Project Elephant Director has requested the Chief Wildlife Wardens of elephant range states to take necessary steps for the notification of the elephant corridors as suggested by WTI. In a communiqué to the Chief Wildlife Warden of Assam, the Government has already approved the notification of the elephant corridors. In another development, at a meeting of the Uttaranchal Wildlife Board on August 28, it has agreed to notify the elephant corridors in the state.

The government of Assam permitted the forest department to initiate action for notification of the elephant corridors identified by WTI. Mr Vivek Menon, Executive Director visited the Anamalai-Valpara corridor in Tamil Nadu along with representatives of local NGOs to undertake future study.

Following a request from a NGO in Coimbatore, Sr. Director also visited two corridors in Tamil Nadu which were of imminent threat. The NGO, OSAI has agreed to take up the issue of the threatened Kallar corridor in Tamil Nadu with the concerned agencies. Information (ground-truthing) on the identified elephant corridors in Tamil Nadu is being collected. The survey was completed in February.

Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation Cell Dr. Khalid, Project Officer collected human elephant conflict related details from the Forest Divisions in West Bengal. The Buxa Tiger Reserve and Jaldapara areas were visited to have first hand information on the severity of the issue. The data collected from Jharkhand, Orissa and North Bengal were entered in a data base.

The forest department of Orissa has included the nine elephant corridors identified by WTI in their Elephant Management Plan (2006-07 to 2011-12).

Tiger Corridor Project

Nagzira Project

The permission for setting up a field office at Nagzira was under consideration by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF). The Chief Wildlife Warden of Maharashtra has sent a consent letter to undertake the project in the proposed areas. Currently, the Sr. Field Officer is carrying out the VRP evaluations in the Protected Areas of the state. Permissions were obtained from the Maharashtra Forest Development Corporation to collect information on the wildlife corridor at Nagzira. Signs of forest fire were detected especially in the areas close to human habitations. The eastern part of the corridor was found to be highly degraded due to frequent grazing by cattle. A number of path ways in the corridor indicated its frequent use by the villagers.

Permission was obtained to undertake work in the areas under the territorial and Maharashtra Forest Development Corporation. Topo sheets of the corridors to be covered were procured. The formats for collection of the required information were finalized. In Nagzira-Navegaon wildlife corridor in Maharashtra information on wildlife, vegetation and the number of households in the corridor was collected. The survey of the corridor has indicated the presence of a large population of livestock. Though some villagers have reported about the presence of tiger in the area, no evidence was found. A report was submitted at the HQ.



A herd of gaur drinking water in Nagzira Tiger Reserve

Senior Field Officer has prepared the profiles of 15 villages - Jamdi, Shenda, Koilari, Putali, Kohalipar, Pradhantola, Khursipar, Mundipar, Maramjob, Telankhedi, Sahakepar, Rajguda, Patekhurra, Dodake, and Zurzantola. Data on cattle population, human-animal conflict, forest dependency and animal sightings was collected through interviews in seventeen villages. Habitat conditions in key areas were also recorded (with GPS locations). The corridor between Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary and Navegaon National Park has been identified. Forest cover and impact areas in the corridor were mapped. The collection of data from the 87 villages on the Nagzira-Navegaon corridor is ongoing. Till date, collection of data from 15 villages has been completed.

Northeast district council project-mapping of forests

The IRS data of the Karbi Anglong district in Assam has been classified by Dr. Kiranmay Sharma. The classification of the IRS 1D data of Karbi Anglong has been completed.

Kiranmay Sharma, the consultant of the project was requested to create a base map of the Bodo Territorial Council (BTC). He has agreed to procure the satellite imageries for this purpose. The resource extraction data and altitudinal survey in Garo Hills in Meghalaya has been completed. A report on the same is being prepared. For similar exercise in Bodo Territorial Council in Assam, a group was formed to undertake the work. A report on the progress of project has been sent to the donor - British High Commission.

Others

Dr Easa obtained the permission letters for the Malabar civet survey and the Tahr survey, which was entrusted to Care Earth in Chennai.

The 4th World Congress on mountain ungulates

WTI participated in the 4th World Congress on mountain ungulates at Munnar in Kerala. A paper on the status of Nilgiri Thar, co-authored by Dr. Ranjith Daniels was presented at the seminar. Early this year, WTI had supported a conservation survey of Nilgiri Thar for information on the species as part of the Rapid Action Project.

Presentations were also made on “*Pir Panjal Markhor survey in Jammu and Kashmir*” and “*The summer habitat use and sexual segregation of the endangered Kashmir Markhor*” at the conference.

IUCN workshop in Netherlands

Dr. P. S. Easa attended a workshop at Holten in Netherlands from September 24 to 28 to discuss the issue of “Land purchase” as a strategy for bio-diversity conservation. The workshop was organized by the IUCN and the World Land Trust. WTI’s Wayanad and Siju-Rewak corridor projects and Mangroves securement project are supported by them. Most of the participants were from the Latin American countries who have successfully implemented this strategy (Land purchase) for bio-diversity conservation. Case studies of this approach applied in various countries and the methods for sustainable management were also discussed.

Besides these, discussions for obtaining adequate funds for afforestation, carbon sequestration and land purchase towards bio-diversity conservation were also discussed. The Burgers Zoo Director who was also present at these discussions has promised to provide WTI 3000 UK pounds, towards lion conservation in India.

Meeting donors in UK and Netherlands

Dr. Sandeep Kr. Tiwari, Asst. Manager WTI while on tour to UK and Netherlands to meet donors of the National Elephant Corridor Project and the conservation surveys of the Tibetan Antelope and Wild Yak in Ladakh. Presentation was made to the donors - World Land Trust (WLT), in Suffolk and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), in London on the progress of the work.

Forest weeds assessment at Udanti

A survey has been initiated to study the types of weeds found in the sanctuary. *Chhind* (*Phonix occaulis*) and *Lantana* weeds are reported in the sanctuary. Phonix is mainly infested in the plains - with density variation of around 20 to 5000 plants per hectare. The removal of Chhind has been initiated in several compartments of the sanctuary.

Assessment on the impact of forest fire

Nearly, 10 percent of the area under the sanctuary is affected by forest fire. Fresh vegetation laid earlier in the affected areas is being monitored. Fresh tree seedlings and regeneration of grass in the affected areas have been observed. Presence of Cheetal, barking deer, nilgai and wild boar has been reported from these areas.

Dr. Easa has requested the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) to extend the project period.

WILD SPECIES

Wild Species is WTI's programme to ensure the survival of endangered species in the country.

Wild Buffalo Project in Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh

Dr Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Sr Field Officer is heading the project in Chhattisgarh. Five wild buffalos were sighted in compartment nos. 79, 80, 85, & 89 of the Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary. Due to human activities close to these areas, they apparently moved to other areas.

WTI has offered veterinary support for the treatment of an injured solitary bull in the compartment no 89. The Chief Wildlife warden had requested WTI for the assistance.

Dr. Mishra has identified main areas of intervention and these were communicated to the Chhattisgarh government during the Wildlife Advisory meeting to be held in June 2006.

The movement pattern and habitat utilization of wild buffalos in Udanti WLS, Chhattisgarh are being monitored. A census for wild buffalos in the sanctuary was conducted from May 28 to 30 by the forest department. Dr. Mishra participated in the process. About seven wild buffalos were sighted by his team. Dr. Mishra also conducted surveys in Indravati Tiger Reserve, Pamed and Bhairamgarh Wildlife Sanctuaries to determine their population.

Wild Buffalo Rehabilitation Project

A meeting was organized by WTI with forest officials in Raipur on July 14 to discuss the progress of Wild Buffalo Recovery Project in Chhattisgarh.

The report constituted the present status of wild buffalos in the state. Urgent measures recommended by WTI at this meeting were accepted by the PCCF and the Chief Wildlife Warden.

Seasonal boon of water and fodder availability inside the park has kept the Udanti herds inside. Fresh tree and grass canopies were observed in areas previously damaged by forest fires.

Dr Mishra had discussions with the DFO and the Superintendent of Udanti to undertake steps for improvement and protection (increase patrolling) of the habitat.



One of the wild buffalo being monitored in Udanti Wild Life Sanctuary

As a way forward, the Superintendent submitted a proposal to the PCCF. Information on wild buffalo movements is also being collected between Sunabeda and Udanti corridor. A local NGO - “Wild Orissa” has informed WTI that they had evidences of wild buffalo in Sunabeda WLS during the year 2003.

Several wild buffaloes were sighted during the period. Crop raiding by wild buffaloes during night has been reported from Amad and Raxapathera villages. Nearly 2.5 hectares of maize and paddy cultivation have been destroyed at Raxapathera. To tackle this problem, villagers resort to attacks, to prevent further damage by wild buffaloes. Forest officials have been informed by WTI about these incidences.

Two orphaned sub-adult wild buffalos (male and a female), who lost their mother in October last year were being monitored regularly. The construction of the 23 hectare enclosure and an electric fence around the enclosure has been completed. Dung samples of the two wild buffaloes have been sent for DNA testing to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad. It will establish the genetic purity of the buffaloes. The buffaloes - female and her calf housed in the enclosure were doing fine.

Wild Buffalo Rehabilitation Project, (Dibru-Saikhowa)

Dr. Prabal Sarkar, Senior Field Officer collected specimens of various plant species in Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary (Herbarium). A database of the plant species is being prepared.

Markhor Survey

The Jammu and Kashmir government permitted WTI to conduct Markhor studies in the Kazinag National Park. Riyaz Ahmed, Field Officer visited the area for an assessment.

A survey was conducted to spot Markhors' (Mountain goat) in the Limber Wildlife Sanctuary. A total of 63 markhor, eight gorals, two musk deer and two black bear were sighted. Of all the markhor sighted, 42 were females, 10 kids, 2 yearlings and 16 males. Markhors were mostly sighted in the Methwani and Dragen regions - which provide good forage and refuge during the snow season.

Riyaz Ahmed, Senior Field Officer prepared an annual report for the financial year 2006-07. He visited the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), Mysore to analyze the data collected from the survey. Riyaz Ahmed has completed the enquiry on population structure, group size and gender make up of the Markhor.



WTI survey team in Markhor habitat at Ladakh

Chiru Survey

The draft report of the survey conducted last year was circulated for comments before being submitted to the Department of Wildlife Protection J & K. An interim report has been sent to the Regional Wildlife Warden, Leh. Suggestions made by Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh and the Army were incorporated in the report. The Wildlife Department of Jammu & Kashmir and the Army have given permission to conduct the Chiru survey. The survey has been scheduled for next month. All necessary permissions from the Army and the state government have been obtained.



A pair of Tibetan Antelope sighted at Chang Chenmo, Ladakh

Wild Species

The distribution survey of the Tibetan Antelope in Ladakh for the second consecutive year was concluded. The two teams at Daulat Beg Oldi and Chang Chenmo have sighted several antelope herds. Wild yaks were also sighted in the Chang Chenmo region. Sightings of Argali, Tibetan wolf, Kiang, woolly hares and Tibetan gazelle were also reported from the Chang Chenmo, Chusul and Hanle regions. The field data entry of the survey was done by two field biologist. The second interim report has also been compiled.

Trade Study

Sloth Bear

Dr. Dipanjan Naha collected information on the use of bear parts by the traditional healers in the Chakrata forest division, Corbett Tiger Reserve, Binsar WLS and the Almora and the Nainital districts of Uttaranchal.

Puran Kumar Viswakarma collected information on the bear part trade in Chhattisgarh. Local informers and traditional healers were contacted to gather information on the trade in the Sarguja forest division and in the Ambikapur locality. Data on bear mortality was collected from the forest department. Bear trade studies are in progress in the state of Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Orissa.



Bear bile

Uttaranchal:

During 2003-05 censuses about 162 Himalayan black bears were recorded in the adjoining areas of the Kedarnath shrine in Uttaranchal. Poaching is said to be common during the months of July and September. Guns and traps are used to capture bears. Mana, a small town located close to the International border is commonly used by poachers to capture bears. Buyers from Delhi, Saharanpur and Dehradun are known

to have frequently visited this town. Bear bile is considered to be their preferred product. It was found that during the hunting season about four to six bears are killed every year in this area. Furthermore, each bear yields 7 - 10 biles and the price of bile could be between rupees 1000 to 2000 depending on the distance from the source.

Kedarnath and Badrinath villages close to the border are other prominent trade centres in the state. Poaching is also regular in these areas particularly during the winter months when roads are cut off due to heavy snowfall. Narendranagar, Rishikesh and Haridwar forest divisions are also trade centres where bear parts were reportedly being sold in the past. Here, dry bile fetches rupees 1500 to 2000.

Orissa:

The survey was initiated in the Dhenkanal Forest Division. About five districts, comprising Keonjhar, Jajpur, Cuttack, Athagarh and Angul are located in the periphery of this forest division. During the survey villagers revealed that about 20 years ago black bears were common throughout these districts. However, due to high incidence of poaching and habitat destruction, today, bears are confined only in the Anantapur and the Kapilas reserve forests and Kanaka hills.

Bears are killed for body parts and as a result of human-bear conflicts. Initial results of the survey indicated that bears parts are easily available in these areas. Poachers earn anywhere between rupees 2000 to 5000 by selling bear parts. Bears are usually killed by shooting, poisoning, trapping and electrocution. They are mostly hunted during winter and summer months. Bear parts are also sold in the neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

Madhya Pradesh

The consultant visited Jabalpur, Katni, Jalwar, Umaria, Sidhi, Badwas, Majoli and Riwa areas in Madhya Pradesh to collect information on the use of bear parts, involvement of



A sabara tribe selling bear meat in Orrissa

people and to identify the trade areas. Bears are killed here both for consumption and for trade. Trade in body parts includes bile, bone, gall bladder, genital and nail.

Wild Species

WSPA representatives who visited Delhi recently were briefed on the progress of the bear trade study in the country.

Red Jungle Fowl Recovery Project

Dr. Sathyakumar and Dr. Kalsi finalized the staff requirement for molecular study. They discussed with the Central Zoo Authority for molecular study of the red jungle fowl. Financial apportionment for the project was also discussed.

Surveys were carried out in Bhairamgarh WLS and in the Indravati Tiger Reserve to collect information on the species. Dr. Mishra sighted seven red jungle fowls during a recent visit to Indravati. Interactions with forest officials of Indravati TR, Bhairamgarh & Pamed wildlife sanctuaries have revealed that the RJF is frequently hunted by the villagers. He also sighted 47 jungle fowls in one of his visits to Udanti WLS. These fowls are commonly observed during evenings when they use the pathways to feed on insects in the sanctuary.



Red Jungle fowl

North East Tribal Council

The fourth quarter report and the budget for 2006-07 were been sent to British High Commission. The report on resource extraction and the attitudinal survey of Khasi Hills and Meghalaya is under preparation. Susenjith Nag Choudhury, Consultant of the project had submitted a report on the 'resource extraction' and attitudinal surveys of the Khasi hill. A similar exercise has been initiated in Garo Hill.

Sunil Kyarong, Sr. Field Officer and Biswajeet Saikia, Policy consultant have been in touch with the Executive Members of the Khasi and the Garo Hill Councils for the upcoming workshops on forest and wildlife conservation. A policy document of the four District Councils was prepared. The mapping of areas under the Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council and the Bodo Territorial Council is complete. A draft report on the Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council was also completed. Executive members of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) have constituted a Wildlife Monitoring Committee for the protection of areas under their control. This development is a positive outcome of the consultative meetings held with the members in July 2006 and other separate discussions.

WTI provided financial assistance for demarcation of the Selbalgre village - 22 sq kms of reserved forest. The forest is an important wildlife habitat, well-known for the endangered Hoolock Gibbon.

A consultative meeting between WTI and officials of the Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) was held in Kokrajhar to discuss technical, legal and financial problems faced in wildlife management. A joint action plan was formulated for long-term conservation actions. Discussions were also held with the BTC officials for the forthcoming survey of forest areas between Sankosh and the Manas Tiger Reserve. WTI has helped the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council for demarcating the newly formed Selbalgre Village Reserve.



Declaration of Selbalgre Village Reserve Forest as habitat for endangered Hoolock Gibbon

Rhino recovery Project

The population status of rhinos and other details of Gorumara National Park in West Bengal was collected.

Man–animal conflict in Jammu & Kashmir

The proposal that was sent to the J & K government by WTI to conduct a feasibility study for a long-term project on man-animal conflict has now been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) by the Chief wildlife Warden.



A leopard, confronted with human, resting in fringe village area



One of the villager attacked by wild animal in Jammu & Kashmir

WILD ENFORCEMENT AND LAW

Wild Enforcement and Law is WTI's initiative to stem the trade in wildlife and to bring offenders to book.

In a recent move the Van Rakshak Programme (VRP) was merged with Wild Enforcement & Law. Some of VRPs activities and achievements are listed below. Morale building is a division of VRP. Under Morale Building, VRP renewed Insurance plan for 20,000 staff with The Reliance Insurance Company. Our previous insurance Tata LIG refused to renew the claims and distributed the following claims.

Insurance claim disbursement for FY 2006-2007						
Sl. No.	Name	Designation	PA Name	State	Amount	Claim Nature
1	Gouranga Debnath	Banasramik	Buxa TR	West Bengal	100000	Death
2	Sanjay Pralahad Jadhao	Forest Guard	Wan WLS	Maharashtra	100000	Death
3	R.D. Shrivastava	Forest Guard	Kuno WLS	Madhya Pradesh	100000	Death
4	D.K. Chandrashekhar	Forester	Wan WLS	Maharashtra	100000	Death
5	Kanbap Dutta	Driver	Kaziranga NP	Assam	100000	Death
6	Prabhat Saikia	Casual Worker	Kaziranga NP	Assam	10000	Death
7	Fazlul Haque	Forester	Buxa TR	West Bengal	100000	Death
WTI Support for Moral Boosting						
1	Rajbhan Singh	Casual Worker	Bandhavgarh NP	Madhya Pradesh	25000	Death
2	Gulab Singh	Forest Guard	Tarai Central	Uttarakhand	10000	Death
3	Dhiraj Lal	Casual Worker	Kanha NP	Madhya Pradesh	10000	Disability
4	Farooq Ahmad Wani	Helper	North Kashmir Div	J & K	25000	Death
5	Gh. Quadir Naik	Wildlife Guard	Panyer Wildlife Protection Conservation Reserve	J & K	25000	Death

Protected Area Staff Status (PASS)

A database management system developed in-house to help collate and analyse the data collected on the 25000 odd forest guards in India, maintaining PASS is a job in its own right. This year 615 records were added and 770 records were deleted from the PASS database.

A total of 16266 staff detail has been forwarded to the Tata AIG Insurance Co. Ltd. to renew the policy for the current financial year. As on August 31, 16404 forest staff has been registered under the PASS database.

Anti poaching training

Under the Sloth Bear Conservation Project, Rakesh Kr Singh, head of VRP met the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Chief Wildlife Warden of Bihar for conducting anti-poaching training and field kit distributions. The plan was to equip the frontline forest staff in places where sloth bears are found.

From May 19 to 22, about 82 forest guards in the Kaziranga National Park had undergone anti-poaching training.



Forest Guards in Kaziranga lined up for anti-poaching training

A VRP evaluation was carried out from June 15 to 21 in Rajaji National Park. A total of 47 forest staff including the Park Director, Deputy Director, Wildlife Warden and other forest officials were interviewed and their views were recorded in the evaluation sheet. The number of staff availing the insurance scheme of WTI in the Rajaji National Park has been cross checked with the official records.

Van Rakshak Evaluation

Data collected from various states as part of the VRP evaluations has been documented. A preliminary analysis of the data shows that all 45 Protected Area managers interviewed, are aware of WTI activities. Permissions to conduct anti-poaching training and kit distribution in Sloth bear distribution areas of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand were received from the Chief Wildlife Wardens of the respective states.

Shahtoosh Trade Control

In pursuant to the Legal opinion given by Ritwick Dutta regarding the Chiru Skin in

possession of WTI, a diagnosis by a taxidermist from the Parliament Museum was arranged. A new field operative has been briefed on the Shahtoosh Wool Trade control as the incumbent Field Operative has returned from his assignment due to high altitude sickness.

Enforcement assistance:

Salman Khan Case

On April 10, 2006, Salman Khan was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 25,000 for killing a Chinkara. A co-accused was also sentenced to one year imprisonment and a fine Rs. 5,000. A legal translation of this judgment was obtained (translation from Hindi to English) and an overview of this judgment was prepared and uploaded onto the WTI website. Further, articles in relation to this judgment have been published on SSN, CNN/IBN television network, and other local media.

State of Rajasthan vs. Salman Khan and Others

The petition filed by Salman Khan's counsel to cross-examine the witnesses was dismissed. Four revision petitions were filed in the Rajasthan High Court (Jodhpur bench) after the accused were set free from sections 147, 148 and 149 of the IPC and section 27 of the Arms Act by the Additional Session Judge. Meanwhile, the High Court has issued notices to the parties - returnable up to three weeks

Wildlife Trust of India vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and Ors.

(Matter regarding the extension of the Safai Airport which can prove to be detrimental to the Sarus Crane habitat)

From March 31 to April 02, a site study of the area around the Safai airport was conducted by Vyom Raghuvanshi, Legal Intern and Govindankutty, Programme Officer, Wild Lands. A report has been prepared for the additional submission in the CEC. In this report all the important wetlands were recorded and a map has also been prepared showing the impact zone of the Airport which will have an adverse affect on the Sarus cranes. An affidavit has been filed before the CEC on April 28 along with this report. A fresh application was filed before the CEC regarding the marked trees along the forest road from Kalagarh to Khara gate, which will be cut for widening and upgrading of the road in Corbett Tiger Reserve.

Ashok Kumar vs. State of Jammu and Kashmir (SLP No. 12434 of 2003)

On April 13, the case was heard in the Supreme Court by the bench comprising of Justice Ruma Pal, Dalveer Bhandari and Markandey Katju. On previous hearing dated November 22, 2005, the court had asked the State of J & K to obtain declarations from those who possessed Shahtoosh Shawls and wool. A number of persons made these declarations, details of which were provided to Supreme Court by the state.

After hearing both the counsels, the Court has directed that unless a person has submitted such a declaration and obtained such a certificate within a period of two months from this date, the Shahtoosh pieces including shawls, mufflers etc. or wool, these must be confiscated forthwith.

Legal Support Division

Anand Tashi & Ors. Vs. State:

Thanks to diligent efforts by WTI legal experts, Anand Tashi is yet to get bail.

Lakhwinder Singh vs. Paima & Ors.

On May 05, 2006, the case was listed for pre-charge evidence of B. S. Dhaiya, the Investigating Officer in the case. On June 29, 2006 the court was adjourned due to the absence of the Judge. Legal Advisor of WTI, Saurabh Sharma has provided the Wildlife Inspector a statement from I.O.B.S. Dahiya for the next date of hearing.

On July 24, a bail-able warrant for a sum of rupees 2000 has been issued against B. S. Dahiya, the Investigating Officer by the court, to ensure his presence in court on the next date of hearing.

State vs. M. A. K. Pataudi & Ors.

On May 09, 2006, the matter was listed for hearing in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jhajjar, in Haryana. On June 12, 2006 due to the non-availability of the suspected car the court was adjourned. According to the local Advocate, the matter is now listed for filing reply to the Bail cancellation application.

State vs. Naresh Narula

On May 19, 2006, two witnesses were examined on behalf of the Prosecution.

State vs. Moti Lal

On May 24, 2006, the prosecution examined a witness. The case is in the post charge stage.

State vs. Sudesh Kumar & Ors.

On 29 May, 2006, the CBI had filed supplementary charge sheet against the accused Satyavan. The case has been pending in the Special Court of Mr. B. R. Kedia, ASJ.

Wildlife Trust of India vs. State of Uttaranchal (Application No.337 of 2004):

In this case additional submission has been submitted before the CEC so that the families living in the Lal Dhang village in the Corbett Tiger Reserve could be relocated and resettled outside the Protected Area and to ensure that no additional families are allowed to settle in Lal Dhang village in accordance with the approved scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Wildlife Trust of India versus Bhagwan Singh & Anr.

(Regarding illegal possession of Ajar (Python) by the respondents)

A fresh Criminal Special Leave Petition was filed in Supreme Court against the judgment given by Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case. Criminal Revision No.1152 of 2004. (Punjab and Haryana High Court, had dismissed the petition filed by WTI on June 9, 2006).

State vs. Bishan Singh

On July 7, exemption of personal appearance of Vivek Menon was sought from the

court. While allowing the request, the court asked for an undertaking that he would appear in court in the next date of hearing.

State vs. Ritu Ansal

On July 17, two witnesses were examined by the prosecution in the case. The case was registered against the accused following the recovery of shahtoosh shawls by an income tax raid team.

State vs. Sansar Chand (four cases)

On July 24, pre-charge evidence of one of the witnesses has been examined. Currently, all the cases are listed for arguments on charge. The next date of hearing is August 8.

Rani vs. State of Rajasthan

On July 24, the Special Leave Petition of Rani, wife of wildlife trader Sansar Chand was dismissed by the Supreme Court.

Faiyaz Khudsar vs. State of Uttar Pradesh

In regard to the ongoing case of Okhla Bird Sanctuary, a fresh application has been submitted before the CEC on August 30, for urgent relief against the continuous harassment of forest officers by the Irrigation Department while implementing Supreme Court orders.

Earlier, the Range Forest Officer and the Assistant Wildlife Warden of Okhla Bird Sanctuary had issued notice to the Irrigation department to stop the illegal constructions in the sanctuary. In reply of the notice, the forest officials received summons that they have made offence under the Canal Act in obstructing Government Work.

In the application, the aggrieved party has requested the CEC to pass orders directing that the cases against the forest officials, R. B. Uttam (Range Forest Officer) and Kanahiya Lal (Assistant Wildlife Warden) should be withdrawn and further action to be taken against the officials of the Irrigation Department for deliberate violation of the Supreme Court orders.

State vs. Romesh Sharma

The case has been listed for pre-charge evidence. A summon was issued to the Vice Chairman of WTI for deposition in the court. He was present during the proceedings.

State vs. Raees and Nafees Ahmed

Non bailable warrants were issued against the accused by the court for not appearing in the case.

State vs. Mohan Lal Relia

In this case, the court has recorded the statement made by the Vice Chairman of WTI. However, the accused R. K. Tiukku was absent in the court and subsequently a Non Bailable Warrant was issued against him.

Wild Enforcement & Law

Letter to CEC regarding encroachment of Reserve Forest in South Banbasa, Compartment No.7, Tehsil Khatima, District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttaranchal:

A letter has been submitted to the Central Empowered Committee regarding the aforesaid encroachment requesting the Committee to intervene in the matter and to give appropriate direction in order to protect the Reserved Forest.

Wildlife seizures

- On April 18, wildlife articles were seized from an accused Pritam Singh by the Policeteam in Dilshad Garden, Delhi. The articles included tiger and bird claws. The case was brought to light by a volunteer of People for Animals (PFA). According to police, other two accused managed to escape.
- A similar seizure took place with the aid of PFA on April 26 near Kalka Mandir in south Delhi, which yielded 11 tiger claws, 2 wild boar tusks and a stuffed tiger head. The accused, a self proclaimed holy man also claimed to be a soothsayer was arrested by the police. Most of the articles were later identified as fakes.
- A leopard skin measuring 7 ft. in length was recovered at Champawat from an accused Bharat Ram by the local police team there.
- On April 18, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Sanjeev Jain remanded accused Omwati to judicial custody till May 01 for illegal possession of 89 live soft shelled turtles. The court also ordered for release of these turtles in Yamuna river. The accused was arrested from Najafgarh in South West Delhi and was booked under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.



Live soft shelled turtles seized at Dilshad Garden, Delhi

- The updated CITES training presentation was recorded in a CD and was handed over to the Legal intern to be forwarded to the CBI.

Elephant mortality database:

- A report was completed by Carly Debyshire, Programme Officer on the status of the elephant mortality database. It identified areas of the database and data collection process, which require rectification or clarification.
- Entered 95 records of Assam and West Bengal into the database.
- Arranged AERCC data of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka (2001-2005) into WTI data format.
- Compiled details of mortality of Elephants recorded in India due to poisoning, since 1997.

- Compiled details of mortality of Elephants in Assam due to Train Accident, since 1997.
- Cross checked all mortality records of West Bengal (1997 to 2004).



Elephant mortality due to train hit at Deepor beel, Assam

Dinesh Pandey, Asst. Programme Officer collected data from the following Divisions and Ranges;

- Rajaji NP (Chillawali, Dholkhand West, Chilla, Gohari, Motichur)
 - Dehradum Forest Division (Lachhiwala, Barkot, Rishikesh)
 - Haridwar Forest Division (Shyampur, Chiriyapur)
 - Narandernagar Forest Division
- 12 deaths were recorded at the above divisions.

Shahtoosh Trade Control

Ashok Kumar, Vice Chairman raised the issue of preparing the Shahtoosh shawl identification kits in person with Dr. Lal of the CITE's management authority and also indicated to send a follow up letter, setting out the details of the request.

CITES Management Authority

Pro-Wildlife Organization prepared a proposal to include the *Nautilus* shell in Appendix 2 at the CITE's CoP meeting in June 2007. Pro-Wildlife requested WTI to liaise and recommend the Indian Government that it could either become the sole proponent or a co-proponent to the proposal, as India is also a range state for the Nautilus Shell. Ashok Kumar attended a meeting with the CITES Management Authority and submitted a copy of the proposal, information sheet and a letter to lobby support for the proposal.

Wild Enforcement & Law

The Species Survival Network (SSN) Summit was held in Hungary (Budapest) from April 25 to 27. Vivek Menon, Executive Director attended the Summit on behalf of WTI. WTI has been requested to attend the Animals Committee Meeting in June 2006 and represent the SSN at that meeting.

The IFAW publication - Between the CoP's was disseminated to all Asian CITE's Management Authorities and the selected NGO's.

Trade Study Division

Bear Trade Control:

Bear bile trade information has been collected from the Kangra and Chamba Districts of Himachal Pradesh. Following a covert operation by WTI, three persons were arrested in Chhattisgarh on August 12 for illegal possession of Bear Bile. This is the second seizure of bear bile in August in the State. All the accused are residents of Jashpur under the Korba Forest Division.

Import license approved by the DGFT:

The DGFT granted an import license under a scheme to procure items from abroad. (License No: 0550000431 dated: 01.05.2006) This license will be used to procure identification kits of Shahtoosh shawls developed by DEFRA in collaboration with IFAW-UK. These kits would be distributed to the relevant enforcement agencies.

Endangered and Endemic Nilgiri tahr (*Hemitragus hyllocrius*)

A status survey of this endangered species was initiated by Dr. R. J. Ranjit Daniels of Care Earth. The project is supported by WTI. The first installment of the proposed budgetary support for the project has been sent.

Law Enforcement Workshop in Nathula:

WTI in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (India) and with support from the Hill and Associates organized a Law Enforcement Workshop in Gangtok on June 23 and 24. The main objective of the workshop was to sensitize the law



Law enforcement Workshop held at Gangtok on June 23 - 24, 2006

enforcement agencies in the state to tackle wildlife crime. Experts from WTI and WWF provided guidance to the participants on wildlife law, identification of wildlife products, confiscation, apprehending offenders, steps to strengthen prosecution, and effectively network with different agencies. The need for the workshop was felt after the Government's decision to re-open the

border crossing in July this year. This will be the shortest route to Lhasa (Tibetan Autonomous Region of China) from India and there have been apprehensions that traffickers might end up using this route for illegal wildlife consignments.

Wild Policy

The quarterly report (January - March 2006) on the Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development in the tribal hill councils of north east India was sent to British High Commission.

Forest conservation in the northeast

A draft report of the existing laws for protection of forest and wildlife in the northeast has been prepared. The report discusses the status of forests post 1995, ownership of forests, type of forests, flora and fauna etc. The role of the District Councils in forest management was also discussed. To actively engage these councils in forest management following hypothesis were drawn;

- Inclusion of 'wildlife' as a subject under the District Council Authority.
- To declare 33% of the forest cover under these councils as reserve forest, wildlife sanctuaries etc.
- To prepare wildlife management plan for the District Councils.

WTI organized a training workshop on wildlife prosecution for the IFS probationers at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun. Legal Advisor of WTI, Ritwick Dutta conducted the training sessions. On August 14, lessons on wildlife law were imparted to the probationers of the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun by the legal advisor of WTI.

Enforcement Assistance

In an under cover operation by People for Animals, Haryana and assisted by WTI, Delhi police on July 24 apprehended five traders in Jahangirpuri, Delhi dealing in illegal mongoose hair brushes.

About 42 kilograms of raw mongoose hair and 2757 mongoose hair brushes were seized by the investigating officers late night from five different premises owned by them. Officials of the wildlife department (Delhi government) were also present during the proceedings. WTI assisted the police in the subsequent legal processes.



Mongoose hair seized in Jahangirpuri, Delhi

Shahtoosh Trade Control

In another undercover operation, a Shahtoosh shawl was recovered from Yakub Shalla, a resident of Mcleodganj in Dharamshala. The raid was conducted by the Directorate of Wildlife Preservation with support from WTI.

Awareness for Conservation

Whale Shark Campaign

The Whale Shark campaign, a WTI and Tata Chemicals partnership along with the Gujarat Forest Department, to save the whale shark has been one of our strongest campaigns of late and has won plaudits both from industry as well as conservationists for its success. Dhiresh Joshi, manager is one of the main movers of the campaign. Dhiresh Joshi participated in the Environment Awareness Rally organized by the forest department and the district collectorate in Porbandar on April 28. More than 5000 people participated in the rally.



Whale shark awareness campaign in Porbandar, Gujarat

Fishermen in Rupen have reported about 15 whale shark sightings along the coasts. Champak magazine was contacted to publish whale shark stories for children.

Tata Chemicals have showcased the whale shark inflatable during the company's Innovation Day event in Pune. Dhiresh Joshi, Manager conducted a meeting with the forest department to discuss about the whale shark stickers to be distributed among the fishermen for their fishing vessels. The sticker would carry necessary information and telephone numbers for rescue operations.



Whale shark campaign event during the Gujarat state forest department sponsored Environment Awareness rally at Porbandar

Dhires Joshi briefed the Chief Wildlife Warden of Maharashtra of the alleged supply of dead whale sharks from Gujarat.

A field office has been established in Mithapur. Drawing competitions were organized at schools in Porbandar and Mangrol as part of WTI's efforts to engage school children in conservation.

Rajshekhar, Inspector General Mumbai was contacted and briefed on the illegal landings of whale sharks in Mumbai ports. Last month, the issue was brought to the notice of the State Chief Conservator of Forest at a bio-diversity seminar in Ahmedabad. Dhires Joshi, Manager of WTI who participated in the seminar briefed CCF about the illegal landings, after Vivek Talwar of Tata Chemicals had brought this to his notice.

The whale shark drawing competition organized at various schools in Gujarat by WTI has now been extended to all schools under the Gujarat Board of Secondary education.

Presentation on the whale shark project was made for coast guards at Okha and Vadinar.

A whale shark awareness stall was set up at the vibrant Gujarat celebrations alongside the inflatable and was visited by over five lakh people.

A presentation on the whale shark traffic island was made to the district collector of Diu, who has favorably received the proposal. Photographs and other details were



Whale shark drawing competition at schools in Diu

also provided to him. The collector has promised his support in making the whaleshark part of the annual liberation day celebrations.

Shri Morari Bapu, supporter of whale shark campaign spoke about the whale shark in an interview on India TV conducted by Rajat Sharma for a programme “Court Marshal”.

Whale shark became the focus of the celebration - the inflatable whale shark was displayed at the Diu Jetty on December 19 and 20. A rally by the school children was also organized during the celebration. Nearly, 1500 students participated in the rally. A photo exhibition on the whale shark was also organized.

The whale shark day celebration in Veraval has been postponed till February. An amount of Rs 50, 000/- is raised for the whale shark calendar. On November 30, the fisheries who were involved in the rescue and release of the whale shark along the coast of Gujarat were interviewed on AIR, Gujarat.

“Whale Shark, *Vhali Utsav 2007*” was jointly organized by WTI, the *Kharva Samaj* in Veraval, Tata Chemicals Limited and the Gujarat Forest Department on February 17 - in an event marked by several important declarations. Shri Morari Bapu was the guest of honour. Mangubhai Patel, the state Forest Minister was the chief guest. About 5,000 people including fishermen, school children, representatives of NGOs, and government officials participated in the event - organized at the Kharva Samaj Cricket Ground.



Shri Murari Bapu and other dignitaries in the dais during Vhali Utsav 2007 held at Veraval

Two forest guards, two fishermen and three school children were honoured for their contribution for conservation of the whale shark. Mangubhai Patel announced the “Kartak Amas” as the official date for the Whale Shark Day, to be celebrated every year in Gujarat. Kiranben Bhimjiani, the President of Veraval Nagarpalika (Local administration) adopted the whale shark as the mascot of Veraval.

A cheque of rupees 25,000 was handed out to each fisherman by Vivek Talwar, Business Excellence Head, TCL - to honour them - for cutting their nets to save two whale sharks in two separate incidents last year.

Direct conservation achievements- Whaleshark rescue and releases

On February 9, a whale shark trapped in a net off the coast of Karwar in Karnataka was rescued and released.



Fishermen and Gujarat state forest department officials releasing a whale shark

“Vhali” the whale shark was the mascot for this year’s *BAL Utsav Celebration* held on March 10 and 11. The event was organized by Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development. Nearly 425 school children from 21 primary schools of Okhamandal Taluka participated in the two day event.

Tibetan Conservation Awareness Campaign

The Central Tibetan Administration issued an official letter permitting WTI to visit all Tibetan settlements in India. The Ladakhi translation of the Dalai Lama leaflets has been completed.



Monks gathered at TCAC stall during Springs teaching at McLeod Ganj in Dharamsala

The mapping of the Tibetan settlements, monasteries and schools in India has been completed.

Information on snow leopard and other endangered species in Tibet was collected for designing new collateral. Furniture and other amenities were purchased for the stall. Inauguration of the conservation stall was strategized. Invite list was finalized. Had discussions with the office of the Tibetan Government in Exile and the Tibetan Welfare Department on a joint programme to celebrate His Holiness birthday on July 6 and the inauguration of the stall.



TCAC stall inauguration at Majnu-ka-Tila

The stall was in operation for six months and spread awareness on endangered species through educative CDs, literature and collaterals among the Tibetan community in Majnu-Ka-Tila.

Since the opening, the stall has been providing educative CDs and collaterals for the Tibetan public. The TCAC film and the burning of animal skin CDs from Dharamshala

and Lhasa is being regularly screened. A mass screening of the TCAC film was also organized on July 27. About 200 Tibetans in Majnu-ka-Tila attended the screening.

Tibetan awareness campaign activities were carried out in the north Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.



Monks in Dharamsala collecting TCAC leaflets, film CDs etc.

Each spring His Holiness The Dalai Lama gives spiritual teachings at the Tsulakhang monastery in Dharamsala which is attended by thousands of Buddhists from all over the world. Consecutively, a campaign was conducted at the Spring Teaching in Dharamsala. TCAC educational films were screened at McLeod Ganj in Dharamsala for three nights. Nearly 4,200 Tibetans, Indians and foreigners formed the audience

Trip to Corbett Tiger Reserve

An educational trip to Corbett Tiger Reserve for eight resource people from April 2 to 5, 2007 was planned and executed. The Tibetans had the good fortune of seeing Tigers. Elephants, deer, gharial and several species of birds in the wild.

Dancing Bear Awareness campaign

The Kalandar bear campaign advertisement appeared in the Rajasthan State Tourism magazines free of cost. The ad also appeared in the January issue of Outlook Traveler and in the inflight magazine of "Go Now". Delhi Tourism state office gave permission to place the awareness posters in their office premises. This awareness campaign is aimed at the "inbound" tourist and the "domestic" tourist along the golden triangle route (Delhi-Agra-Jaipur) - as this route is the most popular circuit among foreign



One of the hoardings put up for the campaign against bear dancing

and domestic tourists. Several hotels have placed the collaterals at their reception, in guest rooms and at the travel desk.

Collaterals - tourist maps, pledges, book mark, posters and an advertorial were printed.

Several tour operators have placed maps and pledges in their cabs and coaches and will continue to do so for the peak tourist season in the first phase. Dave Eastham, Head of Wildlife (WSPA) and Iris Mazurek, Wildlife Projects Manager visited two sites (Mathura and Fatehpur) where the anti-bear dancing hoardings were put up.

The volunteer of the campaign has interacted with tourists at museums, memorials and at the National Art gallery in New Delhi and got about 100 pledges signed. About 350 book marks were also placed at four museums in Delhi.

Anti-Mongoose Paint Brush awareness workshop

Two different workshops on Anti-Mongoose Paint brush awareness were conducted at Happy School, New Delhi and The Shri Ram School, Gurgaon on November 22 and November 23 respectively. Around 200 people including teachers, students and parents participated to the workshop. A presentation briefing about WTI's various conservation programmes and a film; "A brush with death" was screened to the participants. A demonstration on identification of the brushes was made and ideas were exchanged. Asst. Programme Officer, N.Irina spoke on the workshops as one of the resource persons.

Animal Action Week

Animal Action Week kits on "Making waves for seals" were distributed to more than 300 schools across the country. About 1000 activity packets and a film on seals were distributed.

This year, the theme was “Making Waves for Seals”. About 300 schools across India, Students from 6 to 9 standards participated in the activities. Film screening, quiz and painting competitions were organized.



Students of Sanskriti school, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi with their paintings on the theme: Making waves for seals

Seventy three schools in 16 different states participated in the “Paint a Seal” contest. About 1500 paintings received from the competition.

The paintings of the finalists’ were exhibited during the Venu Menon National Animal Award function. Awards were distributed to two winners of the painting competition and Certificates of Appreciation were given out to all the



Paintings exhibited at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre during VMAAF Award function held on Feb. 19, 2007

finalists.

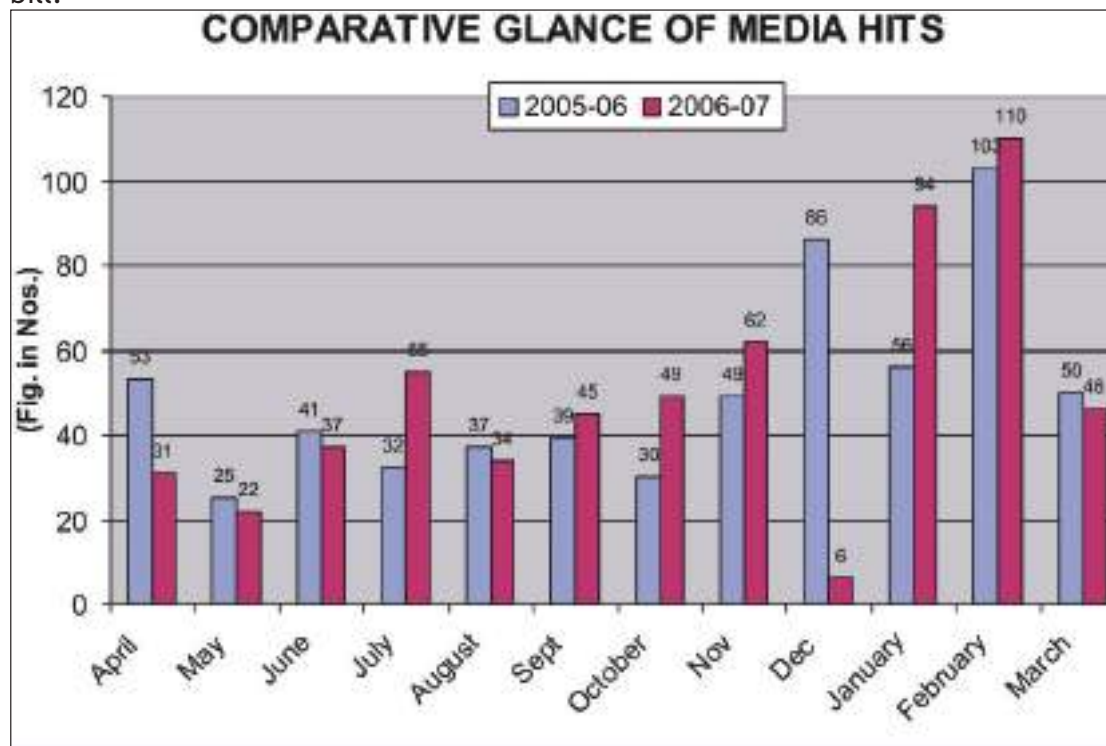
COMMUNICATIONS

The WTI website logged on average close to 1.5 lakh hits per month. Some major stories were covered included the 27 min. NDTV 24 X 7 programme of the rhino translocation in Manas, a debate on Salman Khan’s case in DD News and India TV, and the Whale Shark Campaign rally in Zee TV and ETV in Gujarati. A full page story of the RAP on Golden Langurs has been published in the North East Sun magazine (50000 readerships).

A microsite on sloth bears is being prepared. Three domain names have been registered for the site. The final name will be decided after consultations; www.indianbears.com, www.dancingbearsindia.com, www.bearsindia.com

The electronic media covered the Anti-Shahtoosh Campaign at “*Bhoomi*” programme on Doordarshan and an interview with Ashok Kumar on India TV for Tiger Conservation.

Delhi Doordarshan has carried the interview of Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh on the National Forest Commission Report in their Hindi and English news bulletins. Vivek Menon, Executive Director was interviewed by the North East Television on the Tribal Rights bill.



COMMUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

The communities for conservation programme has a large stake in the Integrated Sloth Bear Conservation and Welfare Project. This is the skill set which is responsible for rehabilitating the thousands of Kalandars across the country who have given up their traditional profession in the wake of change. The work involved nationwide surveys and making demographic and socio-economic profiles of the Kalandar families. Winning their trust, counseling them to give up their profession, helping them make informed choices so far as their alternate livelihood is concerned, facilitating their transformation from animal showmen and pedlars of amulets and trinkets to business men all for part of their work.



Kalandar families are taking part in detergents making training

Communities work was ongoing in Bhopal, MP, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh and a few other states. In Bhopal the situation is unique because WTI got no bears from there. We are practically rehabilitating kalandars pro-bono. They were trained to manufacture detergents, phenyl, liquid soap, incense stick etc.

Eighteen kalandars received certificates and bank drafts from the Vice Chairman of WTI, Ashok Kumar. Legal agreements were duly signed between WTI and the kalandars on the proposed alternate livelihoods. The embroidery and stitching training for the Kalandars is ongoing. Four Kalandars who had expressed their desire to start poultry business have been provided with rupees 12,500 each, to establish their venture. The cost and the necessary equipments for the training are being provided by WTI.



Kalandar community girls provided with sewing machines after their training in stitching and embroidery

On December 14, Mr Ashok Kumar, Vice Chairman of WTI distributed certificates to all those who have successfully completed the embroidery and stitching training as part of the winding up function of the alternative livelihood interventions of WTI. Sewing machines and wooden frames for embroidery will also be distributed to the trainees. Eighteen (18) Kalandars present at the function also promised not to return to their old profession.

Chhattisgarh

Dr Easa obtained a copy of the sanction order to undertake the sloth bear conservation work in Chhattisgarh from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF). He also briefed the Chief Wildlife Warden on the sloth bear rehabilitation programme of WTI, the proposals for setting up a permanent rescue facility in Kanan Pendari zoo and the shifting of rescued sloth bears from this centre to the proposed Life Time Care Centre in Jaipur .

On a visit to a Kalandar settlement in Chorbhatti two sloth bears were found with the Kalandars. During discussions, the Kalandars expressed their willingness to surrender these bears at once. Sloth bears in their possession were surrendered to the forest department. Kallu and Tinku, affectionately called by their masters, have been sent to the Kanan Pendari Zoological Park situated in the outskirts of Bilaspur city. The bears, aged 16 and 14 years respectively, will spend their time at the temporary enclosure built in the park. Raj Ali, one of the Kalandars has accepted a temporary position of a caretaker of the surrendered bears.

Following this, seven more Kalandars came forward to surrender their bears. All the seven Kalandars have forwarded their applications explaining their intent and for alternative livelihood. Bhanwar Bhagat Singh Asst. Field Officer, went on an epic journey accompanied by two Kalandar elders deep in the jungles of Jharkhand and

lived with the Kalandars, winning their trust and affection. As a result of this and spurred by the first two surrenders, seven more Kalandars agreed to give up their profession and returned to Bilaspur with Bhagat Singh.



Rescued bears enjoying freedom in a temporary shelter built in Kanan Pendari Zoo

Kalandars were aided in the task of finding alternate livelihoods. Three Kalandars have opted to buy a tractor to undertake tilling and other public services in the neighbourhood. Two other Kalandars have bought auto-rickshaws (public transport service) for alternate livelihood. Another Kalandar opted for rearing goats and buffaloes. Due to some perceived dissatisfaction with the rehabilitation process, one of the kalandars unilaterally broke the agreement with WTI and took off with his bear. After consultations with the DFO, enforcement proceedings were taken up against him.



Kalandars opted for Auto rickshaw and buffalo for their alternative livelihood

Communities for Conservation

Survey West Bengal

The survey of sloth bears in West Bengal is complete. A total of 20 sloth bears recorded in the state. On June 14, Sr. Director met the PCCF (Wildlife), CCF (Wildlife) and the Conservator (Wildlife) of the state for discussions on the Kalandar rehabilitation programme. They pointed out to him that a rehabilitation centre could be established in Purulia. Later, the officials informed that they would first like to appraise the Minister in-charge before responding to the request.

Uttar Pradesh

The Kalandar survey in Uttar Pradesh has been completed - covering Lucknow, Barabanki, Radauli, Agra, Kosi, and Mathura etc. Besides meeting with the Kalandars, socio-economic data of the community was also collected.

Andhra Pradesh

The survey has been completed in four districts of Andhra Pradesh. These districts are, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, and East Godavari. The Forest Department has micro-chipped 22 sloth bears in possession of the Kalandars in Andhra Pradesh. As per the official records, about 35 to 40 sloth bears were still with the Kalandars in the state.

Goa

The Kalandar survey in Goa has been completed. No sloth bears reported since past nine years in the state.

Karnataka:

In Karnataka, the survey has been initiated and so far 12 sloth bears have been recorded.

Rehabilitation station at Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary

The bear cub which was shifted from the Kanan Pendari zoo, escaped from the rehabilitation station in the Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary. The bear managed to escape, when the rehabilitator Arjun Nayar, was taking the animal for walk (as part of the walk the bear programme). Currently, the search is on to locate the bear. The construction of the rehabilitation station in Achanakmar has been completed. A temporary living quarter was also constructed at the site to facilitate 24-hour monitoring of the cub. The monitoring team was unable to trace the bear which had escaped from the enclosure (planned for rehabilitation) in Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary.



Journey to freedom - a Kalandar taking the bear to surrender

Alternative to Shahtoosh

A Field Office was established in Srinagar to undertake project activities. The project aims at facilitating the shahtoosh weavers in their switch to Pashmina. It is an ambitious project aiming at creating a distinctive product, hand woven pashmina shawls and other products with the unique talents developed by the weavers making it distinctive. A geographic indication of origin certificate applied for. Community consultations for the workers have been organized for creating local groups for support towards alternative to shahtoosh. Ten groups had been formed during April. Local groups of Pashmina workers were formed to mitigate their problems jointly. Consultations were carried out in each group to educate them on the issues involved and to counter problems. Opinions were sought on the legal status of these associations. Over 30 groups were formed.

Documents related to the Geographical Indication of Origin tag were prepared and the final copy will be used as a supporting document at the time of applying for GIO. The first general body meeting of the Kashmir Handmade Pashmina Workers Association (KAHWA) was held on August 21. About 21 members of various stake holders participated in the meeting. Aniruddha Mukherjee, Sr. Director represented WTI at the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mushtaq Ahmed Mir.

WTI participated in a seminar on “Shahtoosh myth and Realities” organized by the Indian Institute of Public Administration in Srinagar. Various stake holders including the artisans, handicraft associations, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce (KCC), wildlife experts and government officials participated in the seminar. The livelihood issues of shahtoosh workers in the aftermath of the shahtoosh ban were also discussed. On behalf of WTI, Ashok Kumar, Vice Chairman of WTI presented his views on the implication of the Shahtoosh trade in the declining *chiru* population.

A meeting was organized among the weavers on September 20, to discuss steps for better coordination among the members and towards forming a registered body. The meeting also clarified several doubts raised by the members on the formation of the proposed body. Legal opinions were sought on the status and the structure of the body. A draft “trust-deed” is also being prepared.

An agreement was signed with the consultancy firm to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study of the Kashmir hand-made Pashmina. The firm submitted a commercial feasibility report, at the end of the study. A meeting was organized with pashmina workers in Srinagar to decide on the suitability of the “trust deed” for setting up of the Kashmir Handmade Pashmina Promotion Trust (KHPPT). The trust would facilitate equitable distribution of resources and other benefits among the trust members.

Under the provision, the committee has the right to nominate two members to the Board of Trustees (BOT). The committee also advises the BOT on all important matters related to the trust. Besides approving the trust deed, 15 individuals were also selected in the meeting as members to the Founder’s Committee. The committee also nominated two founding members to the BOT.

Communities for Conservation

The working group also decided to include Wildlife Trust of India as a permanent member of the BOT - with the right to nominate one member for its dedicated work towards setting up of the trust.

In a separate development, another organization has already filed an application for the patent on Kashmir Handmade Pashmina, to which members cast doubts on the locus standi of the product. In response, members decided to contest the claim - by arriving at a precise (Pashmina) category and product.

A lawyer was contacted for discussions on the GIO and to formulate strategies against the claims made by the Crafts Development Institute (CDI) for patenting the Kashmir handmade pashmina. Market survey of Pashmina products was initiated by the consultancy firm, - "Dhriiti the courage within". The firm submitted a commercial feasibility report to WTI. The Kashmir Handmade Pashmina Promotion Trust (KHPPT) was formally registered and the trust deed was signed on November 13, 2006. The Trust will promote the production and sale of the handmade Pashmina. It will promote the interest of the people engaged in Pashmina shawl using the traditional methods. The trust will also aim to ensure the maintenance of the quality of the handmade Pashmina and authentication of the process employed.



KHPPT members signing the Trust Deed for registration

The consultation with the law firm for obtaining GIO tag went on. Formalities for obtaining "Craft Mark" Logo were discussed with the All India Craft Welfare Association (AIACA). On November 20, draft report on the commercial feasibility study was presented by the Consultancy firm, Dhriiti along with a short film on the various processes involved in the Handmade Pashmina Production. The final report was submitted by December end.

In the Dastkar Crafts Mela, 2006 at the Dilli Haat from Nov 21st to Dec 4th the Kashmir Hand made Pashmina Promotion Trust (KHPPT) set up a stall. The stall had display and sale of Kashmir Handmade Pashmina Products.



KHPPT stall at Dilli Haat during Dastkar crafts mela 2006

Applications were received from seven groups of workers in December - taking the total number of workers to 126 (combining all groups) in the Rathpora Idgah. Another spinners' group has registered itself in the *Shaghi Mobbalah* of the Soura locality along with the present strength of 12 spinners. Consultations with the spinners and weavers are ongoing. Issues related to the production of Handmade Pashmina and Geographic Indication of Origin (GIO Tag) were discussed.

The market study to find out the current price and availability of raw material was completed.

Filing of Opposition against Craft Development Institute (CDI):

After the opposition filed by the KHPPT in the Patent Office, Chennai, the CDI has now called for a series of meetings with the KHPPT officials for resolving the issue.

In this regard, the first meeting took place on February 7 at the KHPPT office in Srinagar, where the representatives of CDI and the Directorate of handicrafts participated.

Followed by this, another meeting took place at the Directorate of Handicrafts in Srinagar. The KHPPT members gave details for opposing the CDI's claim to the officials. Members explained that they are eligible for the GIO, since KHPPT is exclusively a worker's body. If the GIO goes to CDI - which is a government

Communities for Conservation

organization - it may result in the dominance of big manufacturers and traders and may sideline the interests of the traditional pashmina workers of the valley.

To discuss the progress made at the two meetings with the officials, the Founders Committee sat for a discussion on February 14 in Hawal in Srinagar. The meeting reiterated the stand taken by the KHPPT on the opposition and resolved to obtain the GIO for welfare of the workers.

Trust (KHPPT)

The final product of the work started in October. Hand separation process is completed. The hand spinning process (delayed due to worker inhibition) is expected to get over soon. *Filing of Opposition against Craft Development Institute's claim* Negotiations between KHPPT and CDI over the issue of GIO are on in the court. Both the parties are settling the issue in a beneficial way for the welfare of the workers. *Craft Mark Registration.* A Craft mark was applied by the KPHHT for hand processes in Pashmina production. It is a unique mark promoted by All India Craft Workers Welfare Association (AIACA) for hand made processes such as spinning and weaving.



An artisan showing the finished pashmina shawl

FINANCE

WILD LIFE TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2007

AS AT 31.03.06 AMOUNT (Rs.)	FUNDS & LIABILITIES	AS AT 31.03.07 AMOUNT (Rs.)	AS AT 31.03.06 AMOUNT (Rs.)	ASSETS	AS AT 31.03.07 AMOUNT (Rs.)
900,541.80	CORPUS FUND Opening Balance	900,541.80	11,838,690.76	FIXED ASSETS (Schedule " C ")	17,504,987.13
909,341.80				CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES	
11,970,658.69	CAPITAL FUND Opening Balance	11,930,690.76	73,065.20	CURRENT ASSETS	102,119.22
1,698,415.99	Acc: Addition during the year	5,744,598.53	1,033,048.90	Cash in hand	7,681,806.09
383,544.43	Acc: Transfer from General Reserve	2,688,058.00	33,637,849.00	Bank balance in designated account	26,226,120.00
13,452,819.11	Less: Sale/ Written off during the year	20,269,347.29	249,389.00	Fixed Deposits	1,893,192.00
1,818,128.95	Less: Depreciation	66,208.00		Accrued Interest	
11,838,690.76		2,695,102.16	17,504,987.13		
8,067,688.11	GENERAL RESERVE Opening Balance	8,597,280.96		LOANS & ADVANCES	567,074.00
824,446.00	Acc: Excess of income over expenditure	1,827,967.54		Security Deposits	2,177,036.11
383,544.43	Less: Transfer to capital fund	2,688,058.00		Advances	
2,068,512.86	Acc: Net Addition as per schedule	5,402,664.16		Prepaid Expenses	243,445.00
8,597,280.96			14,139,854.26	Tax Deducted at Source	541,433.00
25,463,748.37	UNUTILISED FUNDS (Schedule " B ")	23,357,198.37			
668,753.65	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS Sundry Amounts Payable	1,216,520.47		TOTAL	57,126,112.05
47,464,016.14	TOTAL	57,126,112.05	47,464,016.14		

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts - Schedule 'D'
In terms of our report of even date attached

FOR KOSHI & GEORGE
Chartered Accountants



GEORGE KOSHI
Partner
M.No. 82981

New Delhi
September 3, 2007

FOR WILD LIFE TRUST OF INDIA

(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)



(TRUSTEE)

(TRUSTEE)

Epilogue

The year 2006-07 saw a number of positives and firsts for WTI. In a strategic move, the Van Rakshak Programme was merged with Wild Enforcement & Law. WTI facilitated the surrender of its first performing bears and has been instrumental in stopping this outdated and cruel practice in one state and finding alternate livelihoods for practically an entire settlement of Kalandars. A well designed and spacious temporary facility center has been constructed for the bears in Bilaspur. The Whale Shark and Tibetan awareness campaigns have been going from strength to strength and are proving to be clear winners.

Rehabilitation projects for the elephant, rhino and buffalo calves got underway, one entire village in an elephant corridor in Wayanad was resettled.

We have had our share of reverses too. Two bears in our care died from chronic illness. To conclude WTI has had its ups and downs like any conservation organization, this year but our successes are clearly definable and stand out as rays of hope in an otherwise dark tapestry.

