

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012



The team at Daribokgre, Garo Hills, after the village Nokma set aside land to create a Village Reserve Forest

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About WTI

WTI is a national conservation organization committed to effective action for the protection of India's natural heritage. Our principal objectives include managing or preventing wildlife crises and mitigating threats to individual wild animals, their populations and habitats through holistic strategies and practical interventions

Our Priorities defined in our strategic planning document lists big ideas, key taxa and geographic regions to focus our long term projects.

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

A secure natural heritage of India.

WTI's big ideas

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

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

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

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

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

WTI currently focuses its resources on six priority landscapes – northeast India, western Himalayas, Terai, southern Ghats system, central India and marine. These landscapes notwithstanding, we have and will continue to provide aid and assistance to wildlife in need in any part of India, either through direct intervention or by supporting initiatives of like-minded individuals or institutions.

Our Projects are administratively classified as 'Depth' or 'Breadth' projects: WTI currently runs 12 Depth Projects that holistically address multiple conservation hurdles specific to an area through a multi-pronged approach. These projects, most often than not incorporate more than one of WTI's Big Ideas into their goals and generally last multiple years.

The Breadth Projects are those that address specific conservation issues that may not be limited in time and space in the country. These projects most often address one priority issue. They include capacity building of frontline staff – training, equipping and insuring, prevention of wild animal (particularly elephant) death due to train hits, Rapid Action Project aid to grassroots NGOs and individuals among others.

Our noteworthy achievements in 2011-2012

Coral Transplantation

We pioneered a mechanism for long-distance transport of live coral while implementing an unprecedented coral reintroduction initiative. Fragments of branching coral (*Acropora humilis*) were harvested from Agatti reef in Lakshadweep islands, moved 1500 km over sea and on land, and transplanted in Mithapur.

Gibbon Translocation

Gibbons are the only apes found in India, and their distribution is limited to the country's northeast. In Dello village in Arunachal Pradesh, about 18 families of eastern Hoolock gibbons were found stranded. With their habitat razed down for agriculture, these canopy-dwelling apes were confined to small clusters of trees. After nearly two years of meticulous strategising and planning, four families were successfully captured and moved to safety in Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary this year by our team comprising biologists, veterinarians and trained animal keepers.

Anti-snare Operations

Snares and traps are among the most potent threats to Indian wildlife. Even large animals including leopards and tigers fall victims to these simple yet deadly contraptions. Yet, this threat remained ignored in the country. A Rapid Action Project was initiated in Bandipur National Park in Karnataka to address the threats of snares and traps. Intensive anti-snare walks led to clearing animal trails (particularly in the buffer areas) of snares or traps. More than 100 snares were recovered during the year.

Events and Conferences: Through strategic events hosted by us, we brought together ministerial delegations, religious heads and international conservationists to deliberate and arrive at common charters on conservation of wildlife, with a focus on elephants. An unprecedented initiative to mobilise global cooperation in elephant conservation and welfare was made through the **Elephant 8 Ministerial Meet**. On the other hand, the **Global Buddhist Congregation** had Buddhist scholars and environment conservationists endorse a global declaration to apply Buddhist principles in societal, consumer and political decision-making frameworks to address the current environmental crisis. This was conducted as a day long session Environment & the Natural World: A Buddhist Response' organized by WTI chaired by His Holiness the Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorjee.

VALMIKI TIGER CONSERVATION PROJECT

In Valmiki (Bihar) our efforts continued to improve livelihoods of locals and reduce their dependence on this once-neglected tiger land. A model village - Matiarwa Tola was created promoting fuelwood efficient cookstoves, improved farming practices, safe drinking water provision among many others. Yashwant Singh, a flood plain agriculture expert, visited the project area and conducted a training programme on improved agriculture practices. Production of seeds of a high yielding paddy variety, and preparation of bio-pesticides (christened as *Amrit Paani*) using neem leaves, cow urine, *Calotropis* leaves and other locally available herbs, were the focus of the training. Three-day training was conducted by officials from Goat Trust, Lucknow from November 24 to 26 at Doan Valley in Valmiki Tiger Reserve. Five para-veterinarians and 15 SHG members were also trained.



Women from the Self Help Group in Naurangia, Doan valley

33 Self Help Groups were created covering more than 400 families to promote similar activities in other target villages-- Naurangia and Khairahni, Piprahwa and Singhrahwa. Mushroom spawns were given to villagers of Matiarwa Tola, under NABU Project. Technical inputs were given to the villagers. In the first phase, 10 kg spawns of *Pleurotus florida* were inoculated on paddy husk.

Three camera traps were deployed in Valmikinagar Range. Camera traps were placed in Gonauli Forest Range to opportunistically monitor tigers, especially breeding females. One female with two cubs and another tiger were captured during this exercise. Movement of a tigress has been recorded in the area.

SLOTH BEAR CONSERVATION AND WELFARE PROJECT

This year marked a significant milestone in our effort to rehabilitate Kalandars (former sloth bear performers). A group of 24 individuals whom we had helped shift to alternative livelihoods through years of association, committed themselves to sloth bear conservation, and established a society to help sustain the rehabilitation process.

The Van Suraksha Samiti (VSS) of the village protection committee with ten members was formed at Tareveda village by Forester Chabila Kumar Pradhan.

A travelling exhibition was held from November 5 to 19, covering 30 villages of three village blocks in Sambhalpur district which come under high conflict areas. The exhibition spread awareness on conservation and protection of the species and the legal implications of poaching and hunting. The exhibition ended with a fair on November 20, at Rairakhol in Sambalpur district. The had the participation of the State Forest Department, 40 Van Suraksha Samitis (VSS), Village Panchayat members, WTI-WSPA representatives and local villagers.



Street play on sloth bear awareness at Sambalpur

Kalandar beneficiaries were linked to government initiatives like Horticulture Mission and NREGA.

A health camp for kalandar families was organised at the stitching training centre in Naya Basera, that was attended by 70 members of kalandar families who were also provided free medicines. Ten women of the community formed the **"Kalandarahila Swayam Sahayatha Samooh"** SHG at Naya Basera, Bhopal.

Women Micro-enterprise: Training on 'maintenance and repair of sewing machines' was conducted for the group. Support for admission, school uniform, school bag and books were provided to Kalandar children.



Education support for kalandar children

An exposure visit to other *kalandar* settlements was organised for six selected rehabilitated *kalandars*. They will in turn help other members of the community in their livelihoods, health, education and other social requirement after the exit of the project. The selected six *kalandars* were ready to take the leadership for guiding their community beyond the exit of the project.



A Kalandar takes on leadership after the exposure visit

The exposure resulted in the seizure of three guns and 25 kg of bear meat through assistance of the locals in the Village Protection Committee.

Five persons were detained by the Orissa Forest Department assisted by WTI in Redakhol Division in Sambalpur, Orissa. The Village Protection Committees (VPCs) comprising local youth were established in Redakhol under the WSPA-WTI Sloth Bear Conservation and Welfare Project to encourage and facilitate their participation in wildlife conservation. Cases have been filed against all accused by the Forest Department. WSPA-WTI members are providing legal support.



L: Village protection committee burns the seized bear meat
R: Arms seized with VPC help

The IBA conference was planned to be co-hosted with MoEF in November 2012 at India Habitat Centre. The surveys leading up to the drafting of the National Bear Conservation Action Plan were kick started.

WHALE SHARK CONSERVATION PROJECT

A satellite tagged whale shark yielded data on the movement of the fish for 45 days. It was recorded to have moved from Gujarat to all the way south of Mumbai and returned back to Gujarat when finally the tag stopped transmitting. This is a first for the country when the movement of the whale shark has been recorded.

Whale Shark Day Celebration: Whale Shark Day was celebrated at Sutrapada on November 25 in collaboration with the Forest Department and local NGOs. Over 250 children from two schools participated and the children took part in various games designed around the whale shark. **Whale Shark Fair:** A whale shark fair spearheaded by WTI on November 28 followed the Whale Shark Day, which targeted the primary schools of the fishing community at Sutrapada. The beach at Sutrapada was the venue for thematic games specially devised on the Whale Shark theme, such as Snakes and Ladders, Mehandi competition, thematic kite flying, tug of war, relay race, sand art competitions and Jig saw puzzles. Tattoos of different marine life were drawn on the student's faces. Pencil pouches with the whale shark theme were distributed to the children on both days.



L & R: Children celebrating Whale Shark Day with fun activities at Sutrapada

Communities in Sutrapada, Veraval and Dhamlej were sensitized on the change in the rescue protocols and documentation of whale shark release. The rescue team of the Forest Department was oriented on the use of the waterproof cameras for the documentation of the rescues by the fishermen.

CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION (CWRC) AND SATELLITE CENTRES

Rhino Reintroduction



The rhino reintroduction team before the translocation

After kickstarting rhino reintroduction in Manas National Park in 2006 with the move of an orphan calf hand-raised at CWRC, and release of two more individuals by 2008, two hand-raised rhino calves were moved from CWRC to the UNESCO World Heritage Site this year. These two calves – Maju and Raja (both males) - are

now undergoing *in situ* acclimatisation in the spacious boma in Bansbari range of Manas NP.

Maju was orphaned in an unfortunate incident in Kaziranga National Park on February 9, 2009. His mother was killed not by poachers for the horn but by forest guards in self defence. The guards were on duty with researchers in the field when they suddenly encountered Maju and his mother who had been foraging in the forest. Alarmed, Maju's mother charged at the guards, compelling them to fire at her for the safety of the researchers and their own. He was only three months old then and was in a state of extreme shock. He was handraised at the CWRC and moved to Manas in March 10, 2012.

Accompanying Maju was Raja. A year older than Maju, Raja was found alone by the Forest Department staff in Bagori range of Kaziranga National Park. He was very dehydrated and weak. With no sign of the mother found by the team, Raja was moved to CWRC on January 31, 2008 for handraising.



Rehabilitated rhino being released in a boma at Manas National Park

Clouded Leopard Rehabilitation

The first successful hand-raising and release of a pair of orphaned clouded leopard cubs by our team in 2009-11 was made into a popular Nat Geo documentary titled 'the Return of the Clouded Leopards'. Even as our team and the documentary makers tracked the fate of the released cubs, two more were admitted to the CWRC Transit Home. These two new cubs were hand-raised, moved and acclimatised to the wild at the release site in Kachugaon Forest Division in Greater Manas.



L: Flag off for the Clouded leopards; R: Two new clouded Leopard cubs at the transit home

Tiger Rehabilitation

A four-year-old male tiger under our care at CWRC since December 2007, was moved to Van Vihar National Park (a Central Zoo Authority recognised tiger breeding centre that hosts the biggest large mammal enclosures among the zoos in the country) in Bhopal Madhya Pradesh in May 2011, to contribute to the gene pool.



The tiger in his temporary enclosure prior to his move to Bhopal

The tiger was discovered as a cub in an extremely critical state due to poisoning in a tea garden in Assam. Carcass of his female sibling was found nearby; their mother was never found.

In October 2011, another cub that was found alone by frontline staff in Kaziranga NP was admitted to CWRC. The cub is currently being hand-raised by our keepers and veterinarians.

EMERGENCY RELIEF NETWORK

This year, heavy monsoon rains caused massive inundation in the east Indian state of Orissa. We quickly formed a team on ground and provided emergency relief to affected animals in Puri district - one of the worst-affected. A total of 421 animals in seven villages were provided treatment for a wide variety of ailments.



L & R: The ERN team treating domestic animals in flood affected Odisha

CENTRE FOR BEAR REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION (CBRC)

Even as the rehabilitation of the Asiatic black bear cubs moved to the wild last year continued, four more bears hand-raised by our veterinarians and animal keepers at the CBRC were moved to the release site in Mehao WLS for *in situ* acclimatisation in preparation for an eventual release.



WTI biologist monitoring the bear cub in the new enclosure

Likewise in Greater Manas – four cubs hand-raised at the CWRC Transit Home in Kokrajhar, Bodoland, were moved to the release site in Kachugaon Forest Division.



Bear cubs being hand raised at the CWRC transit home

In Pakke Tiger Reserve in the meanwhile, we caught up with one of the bear cubs released earlier. Its radio-collar was removed, and was set free again.

Construction of the bear enclosure near Mehao nala was completed. The site is roughly 7 km away from Roing. Four Asiatic Black Bear cubs from CWRC were shifted to the acclimatisation site in Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, Lower Dibang valley, Arunachal Pradesh on December 3. With the 'Walk the bear' programme, their dependence on supplemental feeding reduced and they started showing signs of living a life in the wild.

VAN RAKSHAK PROJECT

Through the VRP (also known as the Guardians of the Wild project), we provide training to frontline staff in the country's protected areas on effective preemptive wildlife crime prevention, as well as crime detection and recording evidence for effective filing of cases against offenders. We also provide them with basic field kits to equip them for their daily duties.

This year we trained 934 staff members in nine protected areas and six wildlife divisions across the country, and equipped 1179. Each kit consisted of six items that included daypack, rain suit, jacket, cap, torch and water bottles.

A total of 18000 frontline staff were insured under WTI's unique Group Accident Insurance Scheme this year, providing them a cover of up to 1 lakh rupees in case of injuries or death on duty. An insurance amount of 1 lakh rupees was provided to the family of Kaziranga National Park boatman – Dinu Nath who died on duty as a result of an animal attack. Three pending insurance cases were settled with Reliance Insurance – Late Atul Chandra Bora (Forest Guard, Kaziranga National Park, Assam), Late Amrit Lal Pandey (Forester, Bandhavgarh National Park, MP) and Ratan Kumar Pandey (Forester, Gorumara National Park, WB). Rs One lakh each was handed over to their nominees.

Seizures and Arrests

Our enforcement assistance team coordinating with authorities at the highest levels and the informer network at the ground level, facilitated 11 undercover operations across the country. A total of 23 wildlife traders were arrested as a result and 14 leopard skins, a sloth bear skin, mongoose hair brushes, two elephant tusks and a live bear were among the items seized.



Arrested traders with seized items in Himachal Pradesh

RAPID ACTION PROJECT

One of our most significant initiatives and also our oldest is Wild Aid (Rapid Action Projects and Executive Director's Discretionary Grants), through which we provide support to dedicated individuals, institutions and organisations to address wildlife emergencies in their locales. Over the past 14 years of our existence we have supported more than 250 RAPs and EDDGs across the country.

This year a total of 32 RAPs were sanctioned to proponents from 16 states and a Union territory. These included support for human-elephant conflict mitigation, equipping frontline staff, promotion of alternatives to firewood to reduce extraction from forests, surveys, and poaching prevention.

Anti-snare Operations

Snare and traps are among the most potent threats to Indian wildlife.

A Rapid Action Project was initiated in Bandipur National Park in Karnataka to address these threats. Intensive anti-snare walks led to clearing animal trails (particularly in the buffer areas) of snares or traps. More than 100 snares were recovered during the year.

Turtle conservation program in Sibsagar, Assam

A RAP was sanctioned in March 2011 to Palash Goswami of Seven Look to aid in conservation of fresh water turtles in Sibsagar, Assam. Various awareness activities and patrolling of beels to prevent poaching of turtles and their eggs helped in conservation of three key species of these fresh water turtles, namely the Assam roofed turtle, the Asian leaf turtle and the spotted pond turtle..

Rescue of painted storks in Veerapuram, Andhra Pradesh

In April, a Rapid Action Project was sanctioned to Clementien A Pauws of Karuna Society for Animals and Nature, in Veerapuram, to aid in the rescue of the Painted Stork chicks in the area. An outdoor enclosure was created to house around 50 storks which were fed by the animal rehabilitator. There were 22 smaller chicks, in the newly constructed nursery that were also fed and taken care of till they were old enough to fly.



Anti Poaching Watch Tower: The construction work on the anti-poaching watch tower at the south boundary of Manas was completed.

Installation of signage along National Highway 37 in Kaziranga National Park to prevent road kills of wild animals

The National Highway 37 runs through the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. During monsoons, many wild animals in the park migrating to Karbi Anglong in search of higher ground to avoid the floods in the area, are hit by speeding vehicles. The signage in Hindi and Assamese was placed at important corridors along the NH37.

Protecting wolves in West Bengal:

The wolf population of south-western West Bengal is the last surviving population in the state and faces serious threats due to habitat loss, scarcity of prey species and water. Despite its Schedule I status, some communities hunt the cubs and eat them after burning them alive. Dr Urmila Ganguli of Pugmarks Society for Conservation of Natural Heritage, who has been working with wolves in West Bengal for more than a decade, covered districts of Birbhum, Bardman, and Bankura and identify the wolf populations in these areas. An awareness campaign to help educate the villagers on the law against hunting wolves was also targeted at involving the community in conservation initiatives including protection of den sites and the wolves around their villages.



File photo of an Indian Wolf

Equipping the anti-poaching staff of Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary in Srivilliputhur with field gear and tents to aid them in their patrolling activities

The Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu is home to the largest population of grizzled giant squirrels in India. Apart from the squirrels, the sanctuary is also home to other endangered animals like the lion tailed macaque and the Nilgiri tahr. Sightings of tigers have also been reported from within the

sanctuary. Asian elephants are also found in Srivilliputhur, who use this sanctuary as a corridor to traverse to the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala. The sanctuary spreads across 477 sq. kms and has four ranges and 32 forest beats of which 29 are high altitude areas. Most of the anti poaching watchers in the sanctuary are tribals who do not have the right gear to conduct their patrolling duties effectively. The difficulty arises especially when they have to patrol high altitude areas within the sanctuary. A RAP was conducted through which 39 field kits comprising of a backpack, jackets, flash lights, caps and ten four-man tents were handed out to the staff to help them in their patrolling activities.

Mitigation of Human – Elephant Conflict in Singhi Jora, West Bengal

In September 2010 an RAP was sanctioned to address the issue of human-elephant conflict in three settlements in Toribari, a small village in West Bengal. An Early Warning System (EWS) was installed in the village as a part of this RAP. As a result of this there was a notable rise in crop production this season in Toribari. This year a similar proposal was received from Singhi Jhora, a village neighboring Toribari, where the villagers were facing similar problems. An RAP was sanctioned to address the issue of humanelephant conflict in Singhi Jhora. Elephant depredation poses a constant threat to the crops cultivated in this area. Singhi Jhora is adjacent to Toribari village in North Bengal and the request has come from the villagers themselves for the EWS installation as they have seen the successful paddy cultivation due to a the RAP which was done last year in Toribari village. The EWS was installed in September and is functional at the moment. As part of HEC mitigation measures, searchlights were also provided to the villagers. The villagers were also be trained on maintaining the EWS and also on methods to drive elephants once the EWS alarm goes off.

Protecting wetlands of Pampore:

Pampore is a town in Pulwama district in Kashmir, which is known for its saffron cultivation. The Chatlam wetland in Pampore is an important wetland area and hosts thousands of winter migrant birds. Though this is a protected area, the birds in the wetland face threats from poachers. Further to that, the wetland is also threatened by illegal human encroachment which also adds to pollution of this area, which in turn will have adverse effects on the wetland habitat and the birds visiting this area. An RAP was sanctioned to Nadeem Qadri of the Centre for Environmental Law, which would not only keep a check on the poachers in the area, but also run an awareness campaign in ten selected schools to gain the support of the public to help in conserving the wetland and the birds inhabiting it. As a part of this campaign, a patrolling team was also formed and trained to patrol the wetland and help prevent poaching in the area.

Provision of low floor rickshaws to rickshaw pullers in Bharatpur to help promote ecotourism in the park.

The Keoladeo National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a popular destination for bird watchers. To promote ecotourism, the forest department proposed to provide low floor rickshaws within the park, which can be used to get around and also provide better bird watching experience. An RAP was sanctioned and through this ten low floor rickshaws were sanctioned to

the forest department. The main aim of this project was to reduce carbon footprints and promote eco-tourism among the people visiting the park.

Provision of equipment to repair a 13 km. power fence installed in Golaghat, Kaziranga: The fence has and will help in preventing wild animals like elephants, rhinos and wild buffalos from entering the farms and raiding crops.

Provision of walkie talkies to the forest staff to help them in their anti-poaching activities in and around the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala: An RAP was proposed by the Periyar Foundation to provide walkie-talkie sets to help in strengthening the communication among forest camps in the Periyar Tiger Reserve. This proposal was sanctioned and through this we provided 11 walkie-talkie sets. Better communication would in turn improve the protection of the rich biodiversity of Periyar Tiger Reserve which includes tigers, leopards, elephants, gaur, lion tailed macaque etc.

Training on Human-Elephant Conflict mitigation methods in Dhenkanal Forest Division, Orissa

The Dhenkanal Forest Division in Orissa located adjacent to the Mahanadi Elephant Reserve and connected to the Satkosia gorge wildlife sanctuary hosts a population of Asian elephants that often come into conflict situations with the villagers in Dhenkanal district. The elephants also face threats from upcoming construction projects like railway lines, canals and mining projects and conflict incidents are further aggravated because of encroachment of land by labourers in elephant corridors turning them into temporary settlements. Further conflict incidents happen when elephants raid crops in villages which lie close to their migratory paths. Four training sessions were held from February to March in four different ranges in Dhenkanal namely, the Kamakshya Nagar East and west range and the Dhenkanal and Hindol range. The training aimed to incorporate better conflict management skills in the villagers and the forest staff and thereby improve the situation for both elephants and the people in Dhenkanal.

Provision of a boat to help in patrolling activities in D'ering Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh

The D'ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary near Pasighat in East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh is surrounded by the Siang and Sibya Rivers on three sides and covers the alluvial flood plains of both the Rivers. Some of the dense forest areas in the sanctuary are only accessible by boat. The forest department proposed for a boat to help the antipoaching staff increase their reach while patrolling the sanctuary. The boat was tested and put to use immediately in January. On the 17th of January the patrolling staff managed to seize six country boats and gill nets that were to be used to poach dolphins, from suspected wildlife offenders. The boat provided has not only improved the efficacy of the anti-poaching staff in D'ering but has also boosted their morale.

Equipping the anti-poaching staff of Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary and Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala with field gear to aid them in their patrolling activities

Equipping the anti-poaching staff of Boramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary and Achanakmar Tiger

Reserve in Chattisgarh with field gear to aid them in their patrolling routines.

Distribution of cameras to help fishermen document whale shark rescues off the coast of Gujarat.

Since 2006, Gujarat Forest Department has been giving compensation for fishing nets damaged while rescuing whale sharks trapped in them. Whenever a whale shark gets entangled in a net, the fishermen have to inform the Forest Department officials and Wildlife Trust of India field staff. This team has to verify the rescue and document it to avail for compensation for the fishermen. The time lapse between the whale shark getting entangled in the nets and the verification needed to be reduced as in most cases it increases the stress on the whale shark that could result in immediate or delayed mortality.



A fisherman trying out his camera given for self-documentation of whale shark rescues

A RAP was sanctioned through which we provided 1159 cameras to the fishermen in three village communities: Sutrapada (400), Veraval (362) and Dhamlej (397) in Gujarat. The underwater cameras given to the fishermen help them document the whale shark rescues immediately. A training was also conducted to help guide the fishermen and volunteers on how to document the rescues of the whale sharks.

EDDG

Grain-for-Grain relief scheme in Pakke

The grain-for-grain scheme initiated in 2005 provides relief to villagers for crop loss caused due to elephant depredation. The relief scheme has been sanctioned for this year, to Tana Tapi, Divisional Forest Officer, Pakke Wildlife Division.

Photo documentation of Goodrical Range and Periyar East and West Divisions to aid in conservation of forests and wildlife in the area

The Sabarimala temple in Kerala is situated inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala. Every year lakhs of pilgrims trek through these evergreen forests to visit this temple to pay homage to Lord Ayyappa. The damage caused to the forests in this area is devastating and affects the wildlife in the reserve which includes tigers and elephants.



Two faces of Periyar Tiger Reserve and the anthropogenic pressure during Sabarimala pilgrimage season

Through the project sanctioned to N P Jayan, an experienced photogrpphaer, a camera has been provided to the proponent to document the Periyar Tiger Reserve and the destruction caused by the anthropogenic activity of the visiting pilgrims. It will also document direct and indirect evidences of threats to wildlife in the reserve. The photographs acquired through this project will facilitate a larger project - a campaign to prevent degradation in Periyar Tiger Reserve.

CENTRAL INDIA TIGER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Mansingh Deo Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) was notified by the Maharashtra government, bringing more than 170 sq km of prime tiger habitat in the crucial central Indian tiger landscape under state protection. The state also notified New Nagzira WLS and Nawegaon WLS effectively doubling the area of Nagzira WLS and Nawegaon National Park and strengthening the case for the proposed Nagzira-Nawegaon Tiger Reserve.



File photo of a Royal Bengal Tiger in Nagzira

The average fuel wood consumption was found to be 1 to 1.5 tonnes per annum per family. Improved cook stoves constructed of cement, that are durable, highly fuel efficient and that reduces indoor air pollution were thus promoted through micro-plan activities in Sondlagondi village. A 10-day training programme on fuel efficient cook stoves and biogas technology was conducted in the village in collaboration with Appropriate Rural Technology Institute (ARTI), a Pune based organisation from October 11 to 20. Villagers were also trained on production and implementation of fuel efficient cook stoves and biogas technology. Three biogas units and 30 eco-friendly cook-stoves were provided to families in Sondlagondi village with the support of JTEF to reduce their dependence on the forest.

January 2012 marked the initiation of a new project in the Nagzira Navegaon corridor under the aegis of the 'Ecosystem Alliance' to be supported by IUCN Netherlands. The project while complementing the community initiative in village Sondlagondi, through a similar set of activities in Jambhlapani, will also benefit the 89 villages in the corridor. It was pertinent to understand the pressures exerted by these 89 villages to the forests of the corridor. During the first phase (2012-14) three main corridor areas have been identified for work i.e. Pench-Kanha, Kanha- Navegaon and Kanha- Achanakmar.

GTF SUPPORT PROJECT

Tiger Watch Programme: Two Russian wildlife inspectors were invited to attend the "Tiger Watch" programme from May 16 to 26 to visit the tiger occupied central Indian landscape to see tigers in the wild and learn about the tiger conservation efforts in India. The programme was jointly organized by the Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and IFAW-WTI. The major tiger population of India is restricted to the Central Indian tiger landscape, with the population constituting to 43 % (601 (mid value) lower and upper values 486 and 718 respectively) of the total tiger estimates of the country. The best managed tiger reserves, Pench and Kanha Tiger Reserves in the Central Indian tiger landscape were therefore, selected for their visit.

The new GTF website ready and operational. (www.globaltigerforum.com)
GTF membership fee for Cambodia was facilitated.

GUJARAT COAST CORAL SECUREMENT PROJECT

Mithapur Coral Reef Securement

A 2nd Coral Rescue Operation was conducted with volunteers from Tata Chemicals Ltd and local fishermen.



Coral Transplantation

We pioneered a mechanism for long-distance transport of live coral while implementing an unprecedented coral reintroduction initiative. Fragments of branching coral (*Acropora humilis*) were harvested from Agatti reef in Lakshadweep islands, moved 1500 km over sea and on land, and transplanted in Mithapur.



WTI's scientist checking the coral substrate for transplantation

Coral reefs are highly productive tropical marine habitats. They are made of fused calcium carbonate exoskeletons secreted by millions of organisms called coral polyps. Known as the 'rainforests-of-the-seas', coral reefs harbor more than 25% of the marine biodiversity in an area covering less than 0.015% of the world's oceans. Corals around the world are threatened by natural or man-made pressures.

Additionally, the project discovered a sea horse and two nudibranch (sea slug) species previously not recorded in India, as well as another nudibranch that had not been recorded in Gujarat for more than four decades. A total of 27 coral species and 40 other marine species have been recorded till date in Mithapur under the project.

NATIONAL ELEPHANT CORRIDOR PROJECT

In 2005, WTI had published a comprehensive report on 88 elephant corridors of India, with threats and conservation recommendations. Since then, WTI has been working with the support of regional partners and donors to secure some of the high priority corridors in India under the NEC Project. Currently working in the Rajaji-Corbett corridor, the village of Khandgaon was earmarked for voluntary relocation to an alternative safer location. On April 29, land possession certificates were distributed among the residents of Khandgaon for relocation to Lal Pani Compartment II.

Corbett corridor securement

Securement of Sunderkhal Corridor (Chilkiya- Kota Corridor): The corridor was monitored every fortnight to document wildlife movement in the area through transect survey. Apart from this, the boundary of the village was also monitored for movement of elephants and other animals. The team encountered signs suggesting the birth of an elephant calf on May 6, as well as elephant herd movement consisting of 30-35 elephants through the corridor area.

Wayanad Corridor Securement

For the voluntary relocation of people from Pulayankolly, the 3rd settlement in the Tirunelli-Kudrakote corridor, a function was organised on August 2 to hand over the keys of the new house and land paper at Chekadi. Raja Raja Varma, PCCF and CWLW, Kerala; DK Verma, CCF Northern Circle; Dan Bucknell, Head of Conservation and Campaigns, Elephant Family; senior officials from Wildlife Trust of India, Abdul Ashraf, President, Mananthavady Block Panchayath, OR Kelu, President, Thirunelli Grama Panchayath; Panchayath and Block Panchayath Members, DFOs, Range Officers, other forest department personnel, villagers from Pulayankolly, Chekadi, Panavally, Anappara, media personnel, local supporters of WTI and others attended the function. About 225 people participated in the ceremony despite heavy rain. Total of 15 families with 35 cent of land each, three families with ten cents land each and eight families with five cents land each, were distributed land transfer record during this function. The village of Puliyankolli, when vacated and demolished, recorded increased presence of elephants and gaur (direct sighting) and tiger, sambar deer, wild dog and wild boar (indirect sighting).



Karbi Anglong Corridor Securement

In November, villagers of Sar Kro, Ram Terang and Ram Killing met at Silonijan forest range office and gave their final consent for the securement of the corridor. Villagers of the corridor fringe areas and forest officials from Silonijan range also participated as witnesses. Proposed relocation of Ram Terang village is to an alternate land for settlement at Ram Killing village and lies outside the corridor. As an entry point activity, a free health camp was organized with support from local NRHM (National Rural Health Mission) block for the Villagers from Sar Kro, Ram Terang, Ram Killing and Satiana. Other eco-development activities in the corridor villages, such as drinking water facility, capacity building program, etc. were identified in consultation with villagers.

NILIGIRI - EASTERN GHAT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECT

Craigmore Forest fragmentation securement & biodiversity assessment

Thirty new species of birds have been added to the existing list, taking the species richness to around 110. Night walks in the field to get photographs yielded a picture of a brown palm civet, in addition to the opportunistic photo-documentation of the Nilgiri Marten.



The Nilgiri Marten in Craigmore

A prototype 'Green book' for the Craigmore management was also prepared, which outlines different faunal types of Craigmore, with detailed facts and conservation status of the same.

GARO HILLS CONSERVATION PROJECT

The project aims to bring a larger area under conservation focus and shares the benefit of conservation with the local communities. This is done through setting up of community owned Village Reserve Forests and providing connecting canopies for hoolock gibbons and corridors for elephants, broadening the Garo Green Spine through plantation activity,

In Garo Hills (Meghalaya), through our recommendations and support, Chandigre Village Reserve Forest (VRF) was notified, bringing additional 62 hectares of community land under protection for wildlife. Nearly 2000 hectares have been protected as VRFs so far.

Selbalgre - Nokrek conservation

Over 45000 saplings of various indigenous species were planted this year.

The Nokma of Daribokgre agreed to give 35 hectare area to WTI. Clarification was made that the Reserve will be managed by the VRF committee and the ownership will be with the A'khing Nokma and the restrictions will be on activities like jhumming, hunting, mining and other activities that will alter the habitat in any possible ways. If any, violation occurs the VRF committee can penalize any individuals or groups in the court of GHADC. In the meeting, the eco-development assistance to the villagers was also discussed to consolidate the conservation efforts in the area. The village is in need of these developmental schemes.



WTI's Executive Director Vivek Menon at the village meeting at Daribokgre

Siju-Rewak corridor securement

Motor boats for Aretika and Kosi villages were handed over to the community to make for ease in commuting.



Villagers inspecting the boat at Aretika

Rewak - Imangiri corridor securement

The meeting between the clan members concluded with unanimous support to create the Jadegindame VRF. The identified VRF forms the vital elephant corridor linking Rewak RF with Imangiri RF.

GARO HILLS REDD+

WTI with World Land Trust (WLT) initiated a carbon project as a means to facilitate holistic conservation initiatives in Garo Hills. REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is the global endeavour to create an incentive for developing countries to protect, better manage and save their forest resources. REDD was approved in principle at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 13th Conference of the Parties, December 2007 in Bali. Later the REDD was broadened to REDD+ checking incentives for positive elements of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stock.

WLT and WTI signed a contract to proceed with the REDD+ project in Garo Hills with the two years Design Phase. One of the main aims of this project is to conserve the forest and wildlife around the Nokrek National Park in Meghalaya. The main deforestation drivers in the Garo Hills are human population pressure, agriculture and mining. In consultation with Vivek Menon and Professor NH Ravindranath, it was decided to keep the "Garo Hills Green Spine" Nokrek-Balphakram landscape as the project area.



Forests near Nokrek Peak as seen from Daribokgre

GREATER MANAS CONSERVATION PROJECT

Lobbying for removal of Greater Manas from “UNESCO’s list of world heritage sites in danger” was done at various levels. Awareness events, such as World Environment Day and wall painting competitions invited great participation from schools to instil pride in Manas.



L: Painting pride in Assam; R: WTI’s CEO with IG Forests, MoEF at the UNESCO WHS meeting at Paris after Bringing Back Manas; Bottom: Manas Pride made public

Manas (in Assam) was reinstated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the removal of the ‘in danger’ tag at the 35th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Paris. WTI Executive Director was a part of the three-member team representing the Indian government. Following the reinstatement, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Royal Government of Bhutan to facilitate greater trans-boundary cooperation and coordination in conserving the contiguous Manas landscape.



Ten villages (Daranga 1, Daranga 2, Koilamoila, Sisubari, Khumursali, Takampur 1&2, Rupnatpur, Polodabsi, Arisapara and Nabin Nagar) which comprises two clusters of five villages each from Kachugaon RF and Manas RF were identified for community-based conservation activities.

The first phase of eco-development activity in the fringe villages of Manas National Park was initiated. A hand over function of the green livelihoods was held on December 24 at Kokrajhar Rescue Field Office, Assam. Kampa Borgoyari, Deputy Chief for Forest and Environment, BTC was the Chief Guest for the function along with Vivek Menon, GC Basumatry, Chief Head of Council and the DFOs of Kokrajhar, Kochugaon and Kaltugaon. The village of Takampur-I was provided with 18 piglets. The villagers of Sisubari were given two general shops and two sewing machines. Village Nabi Nagar was provided ten weaving looms. The beneficiaries formed groups and have constructed a common weaving centre. The villagers in Kumursali were provided support to construct a poly-house for vegetable cultivation. Villagers in Dwiswmjora were provided support for Chilly cultivation.



Eco development activities being handed over to villagers by WTI and the Council

Earlier, in December 2011, we had provided equipment to facilitate better communication between forest camps, which has successfully helped in improving wildlife crime prevention in the Division. Equipped with facilities to improve communication between forest camps, the frontline carried out four successful operations against poachers and encroachers in March 2012 through which 27 persons were apprehended.

MARKHOR SPECIES RECOVERY PROJECT

In Jammu & Kashmir, Tatakuti WLS was notified, bringing additional 66 sq km of the endangered Pir Panjal markhor habitat under state protection.

The latest notification, as that of Kajinag, was recommended by the J&K Department of Wildlife Protection, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), and Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), as part of a joint research to help develop a holistic conservation strategy for this rare mountain goat.

With an estimated population of less than 350 individuals remaining in the country, the Pir Panjal markhor (*Capra falconeri cashmirensis*) faces high risk of local extinction. The majestic flare-horned animal now survives only in pockets of Kajinag and Pir Panjal ranges in J&K.

HANGUL CONSERVATION PROJECT

A workshop held in Srinagar, Kashmir on the “Conservation of hangul and other endangered mountain wildlife biodiversity” for stakeholders was organised by the Sher-e- Kashmir University of Agricultural Science & Technology on November 27 and 28. The two day seminar discussed the future of conservation of hangul and other species. Dr. Ranjitsinh, Dr. Rahul Kaul and Mansoor Nabi Sofi participated from WTI.



Dr. Rahul Kaul, Dr. A.JT. Johnsingh, Dr. Ranjitsinh & A.R. Wani

HOOLOCK GIBBON RESCUE & REHABILITATION PROJECT

Gibbon Translocation

Gibbons are the only apes found in India, and their distribution is limited to the country's northeast. In Dello village in Arunachal Pradesh, about 18 families of eastern Hoolock gibbons were found stranded. With their habitat razed down for agriculture, these canopy-dwelling apes were confined to small clusters of trees. After nearly two years of meticulous strategising and planning, four families were successfully captured and moved to safety in Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary this year by our team comprising biologists, veterinarians and trained animal keepers.



L: The tranquilised gibbon being taken for medical examination; R: The second family of gibbons captured

Of the second family of eastern Hoolock Gibbons at the village, one juvenile male was found to have a forelimb missing and was completely dependent on his mother. The captured family was released at Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary the next day. Two families of gibbons were captured in February and translocated from Dello to Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary. The first group comprised of an adult male, an adult female and a sub-adult female, while the second comprised of an adult male, an adult female and a suckling infant. The released families of gibbon as well as the ones to be translocated are regularly monitored.

KAZIRANGA - KARBI ANGLONG CONSERVATION PROJECT

Community-based conservation in Karbi Anglong (habitat restoration & campaign)

Exposure trip for formation of CCA: An exposure trip was organised for *Gaonburas* and Forest Department staff from Kailamati, Karbi Anglong, Assam to West Garo Hills, Meghalaya from April 12-14, to familiarise them with the successful community-based conservation initiatives and motivate them to create Community Conserved Areas (CCA) in Karbi Anglong. During the two-day trip, the *Gaonburas* and the *Nokmas* held interactions regarding declaration of Village Reserve Forest (VRF), habitat restoration and setting aside land for securement of elephant corridors. The team also visited the plantation site of Sakal Aduma and Selbalgre VRF. The MOU between WTI and Karbi Forest Department was signed

and letter handed over to the Principal Secretary of Karbi Anglong for approval from Environment Ministry.

A training programme on animal husbandry practices was organised in Balijan LP School in February. The training was attended by villagers from Mellor, Manim, and Presbattarian SHG from Sar Kro, Ram Killing, Ram Terang, Hondem Singhar and Kaubura Terang village. The villagers of Sar Kro, Ram Terang and Ram Killing were provided livelihood support of twelve piglets in February at Balijan Gorungga LP School.

UP TIGER CONSERVATION PROJECT

WTI imparted the Wildlife Crime Prevention Training (VRP Module: B) to the frontline forest staff of Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary (both part of Dudhwa Tiger Project) in Uttar Pradesh during September. A total of 93 frontline staff (Range Forest Officer, Forester and Forest Guard) was trained. The course focused on the overview of wildlife crime trends in India and throughout the world, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and its various sections, anti-poaching techniques, crime scene investigation, intelligence gathering, interrogation techniques, and preparation of an Offence Report. Training programmes were conducted at six sites in the forest ranges of DTR namely Gauriphanta, Kishanpur, Mailani, Belaraien, Dudhwa, North Sonaripur and Bankatti. A total of 52 front line staff participated in the training programme. Training on tranquilisation techniques was given to forest staff of Kishanpur and Mailani Range.



A conflict leopard was trapped on November 17. The leopard was creating havoc in Nishangarha Range of Katerniaghat WLS and caused two human deaths and six injuries within a span of two months. The WTI team along with the Forest Department undertook both ecological surveys to identify the animal and installed iron trap cages with live baits in the conflict prone sites. Each of the traps were camouflaged and monitored regularly. Primary Response Team (PRT) teams kept a close vigil and conducted routine patrols and played an important role in awareness generation in the conflict villages.

On November 17, the leopard again caused one human casualty, injuring a girl. Following the incident the problem leopard was captured in one of the trap cages in the evening. The leopard captured was a young (4-5 yrs) female leopard which was later sent to Kanpur zoo.

ONGC EASTERN SWAMP DEER CONSERVATION PROJECT



The Eastern swamp deer is found only in Kaziranga National Park; this threatened sub-species is in grave danger of going extinct if its population is restricted to one location. Efforts are in process to translocate a group of 20 odd animals to Manas National park to mitigate the risk of local extinction.

Population count and genetic analysis revealed about 1169 individuals as against 681 estimated in 2008. The study area consisted of four ranges in Kaziranga National Park namely Eastern (Agaratoli) Range, Central (Kohara) Range, Western (Bagori) Range and Burapahar (Gorakati) Range.

In an effort to conserve this threatened sub-species of the Swamp deer, information gathering on their herd composition, primary activity patterns, dietary profile and habitat selection parameters have continued over the past one

month in Kaziranga National Park, Assam. Relevant information was gathered through systematic group scans.

Field data on behaviour, herd dynamics, and diet profiles was collected through a month. Additionally, a Project Monitoring Committee meeting was held on the December 15 to discuss the project progress and future course of actions. The meeting was attended by the Field Director (Kaziranga National Park), Deputy Director (Kaziranga National Park), Research Officer (Kaziranga National Park), donor representatives, external experts from the Wildlife Institute of India and WTI representatives. The work plan was revised and verified by external experts and two additional directives for conducting genetic studies were suggested during the meeting.

CITES SUPPORT PROJECT

A draft syllabus was prepared for the CITES course to be initiated in India at Wildlife Institute of India. A framework was prepared for the MoEF publication on "CITES and India". A draft on two chapters for the publication was prepared:

1. Regulations of trade in Appendix I, II and III: Regulations of trade on species listed various Appendices of CITES. CITES species in India (Checklist with photographs).
2. Structure & contents of the convention: Important CITES definitions, roles and tasks of CITES Authorities, convention text, etc.

The 61st Standing Committee Meeting of CITES was held in Geneva between August 15 and 19. ADG (WL), DIG (NTCA), ED (WTI), attended the meeting as delegation of India. Prasenjeet Navgire helped the CITES Management Authority of India (ADG, MoEF, GoI) and IFAW in preparing the interventions on the agenda items, with special focus on elephants and Asian big cats. India represented by Vivek Menon was elected as chair of Working Group for revision of resolution 10.10 (CoP15) on "trade in elephant specimen".

CENTRAL INDIA WILD BUFFALO CONSERVATION PROJECT

We have been working in Udanti WLS in Chhattisgarh to help recover the drastically-low population of the state animal – the wild buffalo. The predicament here is the presence of a lone female in the population, who has been confined in a spacious boma for security and to facilitate captive breeding. This year a healthy male calf was born, bringing the total number to nine.



The new born calf with his mother in the enclosure at Udanti

The female wild buffalo (Asha) gave birth to a male calf on October 2. Both, the mother and the calf were reported to be healthy. WTI posted a Veterinarian to ensure the successful delivery and for the post natal monitoring. The veterinarian provided primary treatment & deworming of female wild buffalo and her calf. In addition de-worming was also done to the other three males (Former calves of the captive female) in captivity. To safeguard buffaloes from disease outbreaks from domestic cattle in the area, a vaccination drive was organised. As an additional initiative to prevent the outbreak of fatal communicable diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, another booster round of cattle vaccination was conducted in and around Udanti WLS by WTI along with the Chhattisgarh Forest Department over 6 days and resulted in the vaccination of nearly 3000 cattle heads.

The Governing Council meeting was also organised by the forest department wherein the main agenda was the breeding programme for wild buffaloes in the state of Chhattisgarh. Dr SK Singla, Principal Scientist, NDRI, Karnal presented details about cloning techniques while Dr Ajay Gaur, CCMB Hyderabad presented details about the genetic status of wild buffaloes in Udanti WLS.

Proposals for cloning of wild buffaloes and cryo-preservation of Wild buffalo gametocytes were invited and WTI was approached to provided technical support to the cryo-preservation of Wild buffalo gametocytes and prepare an Integrated Habitat Recovery Plan for wild buffaloes in Udanti WLS, to be submitted to MOEF. Dr MK Ranjitsinh, Chairman WTI also participated in the meeting.

ALTERNATE LIVELIHOODS FOR EX SHAHTOOSH WORKERS

A Capacity Building Training on Entrepreneurship and Organisational Management for the KHPPT members was organised in November, at CDI Complex, Srinagar, which was attended by 12 participants. KHPPT participated in Ode to Earth and Crafts Bazar exhibitions at Delhi. A meeting with NOVICA resulted in approval of KHPPT products to be taken up for marketing by NOVICA. WTI has ordered for a purchase of Pashmina Shawls worth Rs 25 lakh from KHPPT as a one-time gesture of support.

ELEPHANT – 8 MINISTERIAL MEET AND HAATHI MERE SAATHI CAMPAIGN

We have been assisting the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on an unprecedented initiative to mobilise global cooperation in elephant conservation and welfare. This year, along with the MoEF, we organised the Elephant – 8 Ministerial Meet (E-8) in the Indian capital.

Representing regions with all three species of elephants, policy makers, conservationists, scientists, historians, art and culture experts among others from India, Botswana, Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Thailand held discussions on Science and Conservation, Management and Conservation, and Cultural and Ethical perspectives of elephant conservation and welfare.



Minister for Environment and Forests, Shri Jairam Ramesh at the inaugural of the Elephant 8 Ministerial Meet

The national Haathi Mere Saathi campaign was launched by the Minister, Shri Jairam Ramesh, to help spread awareness on the plight of the elephant in the country, and promote its new designation as the National Heritage Animal, during the meet.

GLOBAL BUDDHIST CONGREGATION



His Holiness the Karmapa being honoured with a KHPPT Pashmina by WTI's ED, Vivek Menon

We partnered the Asoka Mission in organising the session on 'Environment and the Natural World: A Buddhist Response' as part of the GBC 2012. Chaired by His Holiness the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje, the session saw eminent Buddhist scholars and conservationists explore solutions to the environmental crises in Buddhism. A global declaration to apply Buddhist principles in societal, consumer and political decision-making frameworks was drafted and endorsed by the experts.



The eminent speakers at the closing session of Global Buddhist Congregation

The keynote address by His Holiness the Karmapa was followed by eminent speakers, Dr George Schaller, Dr Chirstopher Chapple, Dr Manish Vyas, Cindy Milburn, Dr Catherine Scheutze, Dr Barbara Maas, Dasho Paljor Dorjee, Gabriel Lafitte, Dr Hemant Mishra and a video talk by John Stanley.

ANIMAL ACTION WEEK

A total of 2900 activity packs were sent out to schools across India. While schools conducted the activities on the theme Elephants Never Forget, the Regional Science Centre at Guwahati organised a mega event on 24th October that brought 26 schools together under their roof to celebrate Animal Action Week. The film was telecast in their auditorium to all visitors over multiple shows as the capacity was limited to 100 and there were over 300 visitors that day. An on-the-spot art competition was conducted in which 339 children participated and nine prizes given out in the presence of our Trustee Dr P C Bhattacharjee.



Children from schools in Guwahati watching the AAW film at Regional Science Centre

The global IFAW AAE team met at Amboseli National Park for a planning and brain-storming meeting to take AAE to the next level. The objectives were to fine-tune the working of AAE and integrate it better with programmes. This objective would be best fulfilled by India as the theme this year on elephants has been extended by another year. This integrates beautifully with the MoEF – WTI campaign Haathi Mere Saathi and all other elephant projects of WTI as well as gives some good fund-raising hooks for IFAW through Animal Rescue in Assam.

COMMUNICATIONS

New websites were produced for Haathi mere Saathi campaign and IBA Conference.



A screen shot of the Haathi Mere Saathi Campaign website


New panels for CWRC were designed and produced. A wall calendar targeted for rural distribution in Odisha was produced on the sloth bear - Jambavanta theme. New Year greeting cards using paintings submitted by school children on the Animal Action Week theme on tigers were also produced this month. A wall calendar on the Haathi Mere Saathi theme was produced with funds from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Banners and standees on the campaign were produced and displayed at the All India Forest Sports meet at Dehradun. Stickers on the campaign showing the mascot and logo were given out to all visitors at the campaign stall. New standees on Manas were produced for the GMCF handing-over event at Kokrajhar.

In a first ever exercise the Communications team conducted a social media awareness initiative for the rhino translocation and the coral transplantation activities through live and real time posts of text, images and videos on Facebook and Twitter. By successfully co-ordinating on-site reporting with backup posts from HQ, the team kept virtual travellers engaged through the journey of the two rhinos from Kaziranga till their release at Manas and followed the coral transplantation story online. Both event pages were created on Facebook and people were invited to join the virtual journey with our onsite teams.

PUBLICATIONS

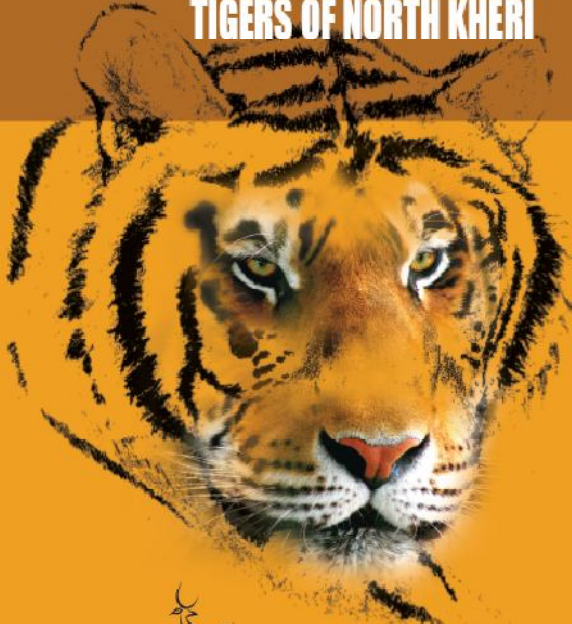

A compilation of short stories on tigers of North Kheri by WTI's Vice Chairman Mr Ashok Kumar was published and launched at the New Delhi event of Kovalalm Literary Festival. The public event was well attended and a slide show of tigers photographed on camera traps in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve was followed by a tete a tete of the author with wildlife conservationist writer and journalist Prerna Bindra.

TIGERS OF NORTH KHERI



Ashok Kumar is one of those rare and endangered breeds of mankind whose working life is his personal passion as well. His fight against organised wildlife crime was both pioneering and timely and if the illegal mafia in tiger parts was revealed to the world or the word shaktihood, instead wildlife conservation lexicon, it is him that we have to thank. His unflinching focus on the issue at hand, his unerring crusade against those who exploit wildlife, his fidelity to Old Man's Room and his wry-humour even in the most dire situations are as legendary as the man himself. These messages, early into his wildlife career were prophetic and as relevant today to those interested in conserving India's wildlife.

- Fresh Memory

Ashok Kumar



WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2012

AS AT 31.3.11 AMOUNT (Rs.)	FUNDS & LIABILITIES	AS AT 31.3.12 AMOUNT (Rs.)	AS AT 31.3.11 AMOUNT (Rs.)	ASSETS (Schedule " C ")	AS AT 31.3.12 AMOUNT (Rs.)
900,541.80	CORPUS FUND Opening Balance	900,541.80	26,771,688.08	FIXED ASSETS	53,372,067.51
900,541.80				CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES	
25,691,246.05	CAPITAL FUND Opening Balance	26,771,688.09	205,193.97	CURRENT ASSETS :	228,893.13
1,981,746.00	Add : Addition during the year	2,756,852.78	1,145,464.01	Cash in hand	6,815,704.36
1,461,716.56	Add : Transfer from General Reserve	29,472,023.19	99,949,408.67	Bank balance in designated account	62,595,987.93
29,334,708.62		59,000,664.06	3,244,061.48	Fixed Deposits	1,399,199.41
3,800.00	Less : Salar/ Written off during the year	2,423,258.49		Accrued Interest	
2,559,420.54	Less : Depreciation	3,205,298.06			
26,771,688.09	GENERAL RESERVE	53,372,067.51			
34,787,310.57	Opening Balance	54,374,561.18		LOANS & ADVANCES	
8,516,935.44	Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure	549,422.89	462,274.00	Security Deposits	808,234.00
1,461,716.56	Less : Amount Transferred to Capital Fund	29,472,023.19	3,765,505.88	Advances	6,517,759.28
12,532,051.73	Add : Net Addition as per Schedule D	11,740,593.37	1,137,184.37	Tax Deducted at Source	1,303,598.81
54,374,561.18					
53,889,319.80	UNUSED FUNDS (Schedule " B ")	60,502,634.87		TOTAL	153,481,054.43
635,649.70	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS	1,494,236.00	136,680,780.57		
	Sundry Amounts Payable		153,481,054.43		
136,680,780.57	TOTAL	153,481,054.43			

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

FOR KOSHI & GEORGE
Chartered Accountants
(Reg. No. 009528N) 1



GEORGE KOSHI
Partner
M No. 42961

New Delhi
21.06.2012

FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(Signature)
(TRUSTEE)

(TRUSTEE)
(Signature)