

# ANNUAL REPORT 2005 - 06



**Wildlife  
Trust  
of India**



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# **ANNUAL REPORT 2005 – 06**



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## Executive Summary

The financial year 2005 – 06 has seen WTI operate for its eighth 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.

Part of the success comes by 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.

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 2005-06 is given below:

1. The launch of the Schaller Conservation Surveys with a pioneering study of the Tibetan Antelope (*Panthelops hodgsonii*) and Wild Yak (*Bos mutus*) in the trans-Himalayas of Ladakh on the borders of India and China, which resulted in pin-pointing a migrating population of approximately 300 antelopes
2. In another of the Schaller surveys Markhor, the largest and the rarest wild goat in the world that inhabits two isolated pockets in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir in the remote and inaccessible valleys bordering Pakistan were surveyed. The surveys revealed close to 300 individuals in an area while the goat was once thought close to extinction in India.
3. The immensely successful Tibetan Conservation Awareness Campaign was launched by His Holiness, The Dalai Lama in New Delhi on April 06, 2005. His Holiness, The Dalai Lama released his message on nature conservation there and followed it with a discourse at Kalachakra (Wheel of Time) at Amaravati, in southern Andhra Pradesh where at least 10,000 pilgrims from Tibet and other Tibetan areas of China came. This led to burning of animal skins in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China, as widely reported in the press.
4. A detailed survey identifying 88 active elephant corridors in India was published in a report entitled "Right of Passage- Elephant corridors of India". The process of persuading the State Governments to officially declare these as corridors has begun and at least four of them are in various stages of securement.

5. In a first for India a Wildlife Rehabilitators Exchange Network (WREN) was launched in May 2005 enlisting 129 enthusiastic members in its opening year. The network was instrumental in helping tackle emergencies arising out of floods in three states rescuing over 200 animals of all kinds. This is also the only forum that encourages the development of the nascent field of wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary medicine.
6. In another first for India, a Greater one horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) calf, which was hand reared after being rescued from heavy floods that annually affect the Brahmaputra valley in the north-east Indian Assam state, was shifted for in-situ acclimatization pending release at the Manas National Park. Earlier, most of the 100 odd rhino population of the park had been wiped out due to armed militancy affecting this area. The rhino is expected to be released from its *boma* in the winter of 2007.
7. Continuing the tradition of working in neglected areas of the country the WTI team monitored tiger population in the remote bandit infested forests of the Valmiki Tiger Reserve in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, an area contiguous with the Chitwan National Park in Nepal and carried out habitat recovery interventions.
8. Due to habitat loss and disturbances elephants are moving into areas of the country, which had no records of such activity for at least the last 200 years. Considering the severity of human-elephant conflict in these new refuges and the absence of base line data, a field study in the central Indian state Maharashtra and adjoining areas of the Karnataka state was conducted. The Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation Cell also conducted a study on the conflict in the Chattisgarh state.
9. The former captain of the Indian Cricket team who is reportedly a habitual poacher and who had never been caught, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, and his seven accomplices were booked after being found traveling with a carcass of a Black buck and two hares. The case is being tried at a Special Environment Court and WTI is an intervener and will also be assisting the public prosecutor.

## 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. Official responses could suffer for lack of funds and equipment. 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. Proactive action for emergencies which may arise out of known threats are also addressed by taking steps to prevent such mishaps.

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 Project (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 2005-2006:

Sl No.	Rapid Action Project	Species under threat	State
1.	Survey and study of the threat of wildlife corridors of the upper section of the Damodar river	Elephant/ Tiger	Jharkhand
2.	Engagement of local watchers at Dezling elephant corridor, Arunachal Pradesh.	Elephant	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Providing the Maharashtra Forest Department technical and veterinary support to better deal with wild animals that require human intervention	Leopards	Maharashtra
4.	Monitoring avian flu among migratory waterfowl	Water fowl	Jammu & Kashmir
5.	Training police personnel of Special Task Force of	Elephant/ Tiger	Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	Rapid Action Project	Species under threat	State
6.	Wireless handset for D'Ering National Park	Elephant	Arunachal Pradesh
7.	Maintenance of damaged power fence in Aralam WLS	Elephant	Kerala
8.	Investigation into the mysterious deaths of golden Langur ( <i>Trachypithecus geei</i> )	Golden Langur	Assam
9.	Investigation into the mysterious deaths of Himalayan griffon vulture, <i>Gyps himalayaensis</i> at Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve	Griffon Vulture	Sikkim
10.	Post tsunami assessment of coastal ecosystem recovery in Nicobar Islands.	Multi species	Andaman & Nicobar

## RAP Case studies

### Protection of Dezling elephant corridor in Arunchal Pradesh

The Dezling area is an important corridor for elephants passing from Doimara Reserve towards Pakke Tiger Reserve and also provides contiguity with forests in Bhutan. Plantations and villages adjoining the corridor are often affected by elephants. An anti-poaching camp near Dezling corridor was used as a base for a team of watchers supported by WTI. The team undertook patrols to monitor elephant movement and assess threats to both wildlife and human settlements.

Presence of other threatened species such as tigers, leopards, barking deer, sambar and wild boar using the corridor as a transit area was also determined by direct sightings or through the tracts and signs and documented. Encroachment in the corridor area by locals was reduced during the period due to frequent patrolling.





## **Training police personnel of the STF, Tamil Nadu Police Department for protecting wildlife**

After the death of Veerappan, the dreaded ivory and sandalwood poacher and dacoit, the Special Task Force (STF) constituted for this purpose, withdrew from the forests of Sathyamangalam, Nilgiris and Dharmapuri. The brigands presence was a deterrent for all those who would have loved to roam around the forests. Poaching cases and extremist violence saw a sudden spurt due to the withdrawal of the STF and the death of Veerappan.

The STF realised this and requested scientists to train their personnel about the importance of biodiversity and the forests. Training in field craft and use of equipment apart from the importance of forests and biological diversity was provided by scientists from the Centre for Ecological Sciences of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Identification of species from animal tracks and signs, sexual dimorphism, evidence collection, use of GPS system to effectively navigate and map areas were some of the points covered under the training.

A booklet in Tamil summarizing all aspects of the training was distributed to STF personnel as well as Tamil Nadu Forest Department officials.

## **Investigation into the mysterious deaths of golden langur *Trachypithecus geei***

Mysterious mass death of golden langurs *Trachypithecus geei*, an endangered species, was reported from the Chirang Reserve Forest, Assam by local villagers and forest officials. Though it was too late to prevent some deaths, an RAP was sanctioned and carried out by members of the Green Hearts Nature Club along with scientists of the State Veterinary College and forest officials. Collection of samples to determine the exact cause of death and to monitor both healthy populations and identify troops showing signs of sickness was the immediate objective of the survey. Poisoning, either accidental due to contamination by pesticides or poisoning of water by poachers, was ruled out. Fecal and blood samples were collected for detailed pathological investigation on troop size, location of troops, mortality and mapping of the area was also done.



Great Hearts Nature Club team inspecting carcass of a golden langur at Chirang Reserve Forest, Assam

## Investigation into the mysterious deaths of Himalayan griffon vulture (*Gyps himalayaensis*) at Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve

Mass deaths of Himalayan griffon vulture populations were reported in the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in Sikkim. Increasing mortality in vulture populations across India due to accidental consumption of the pharmaceutical drug diclofenac is already a concern area. An RAP was sanctioned on a request from the local NGO, Sindrabong Khangchendzonga Eco-friendly Society (SKES) to investigate and determine the cause of the deaths if possible.

The Yambong valley was surveyed by members of SKES members and Forest Department officials. The team came across 33 dead vultures and collected one for pathological analysis by the High Security Disease Investigation (HDSI) Centre in Bhopal as this lab has advanced facilities for diagnosis of avian diseases. The laboratory ruled out bird flu as the cause of deaths. The remaining carcasses were destroyed to prevent further transmission of any possible diseases among other wild or domestic species.

Presence of three carcasses of domestic dogs near the vultures led to further investigations. This revealed incidents of predation by wild dogs on livestock. Herders retaliate by poisoning the livestock carcasses to kill the predators, and it is suspected that the cause of the vulture deaths was a similar poison which they ingested by eating the carcasses of poisoned dogs. No further deaths of vultures were observed after destruction of all the carcasses in the area.



SKES search team at Yambong region

## Study of the threats to wildlife corridors in the upper most section of the Damodar River

The Damodar valley is an important wildlife habitat with the Palaumau Tiger Reserve, Hazaribagh National Park, Gautam Buddha National Park and the Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary and other forested areas. Connectivity between these protected areas is patchy and the remaining corridors are also threatened by developmental activities such as mining and other industrial projects. WTI felt that there was a need to survey and assess the threats to these wildlife corridors in order to identify sensitive areas, and thus help prioritise intervention activities. An RAP was sanctioned and executed by the Hazaribagh chapter of INTACH.

The study involved a detailed survey of the wildlife populations including presence / absence data and information on animal movement which serve as important indicators of the habitats status. The various threats to the wildlife corridors such as opencast and other mining, railroad and road construction, water pollution, displacement of indigenous populations and were documented along with cases of human-animal conflict in the region.

Documentation of habitat usage by wild species and destruction of the remaining habitat will serve as baseline information which can serve as the basis for future litigation efforts or to influence policy decisions.



Mining activities going on at the Damodar Valley wildlife habitat near Hazaribagh NP

### **Technical and veterinary support to the Maharashtra Forest Department to deal with incidents of human animal conflict requiring intervention**

Leopards are a highly adaptable species, due to increasing habitat degradation and loss, and naturally inhabit areas with high human density; a fact which is not recognized very often. Cases of leopards involved in conflict situations, such as entering human habitations, livestock kills and in a few cases mauling of people, have been reported from across India. One such area with a high conflict potential is the Nasik - Ahmednagar area. In ignorance of leopard biology the standard response is to trap all

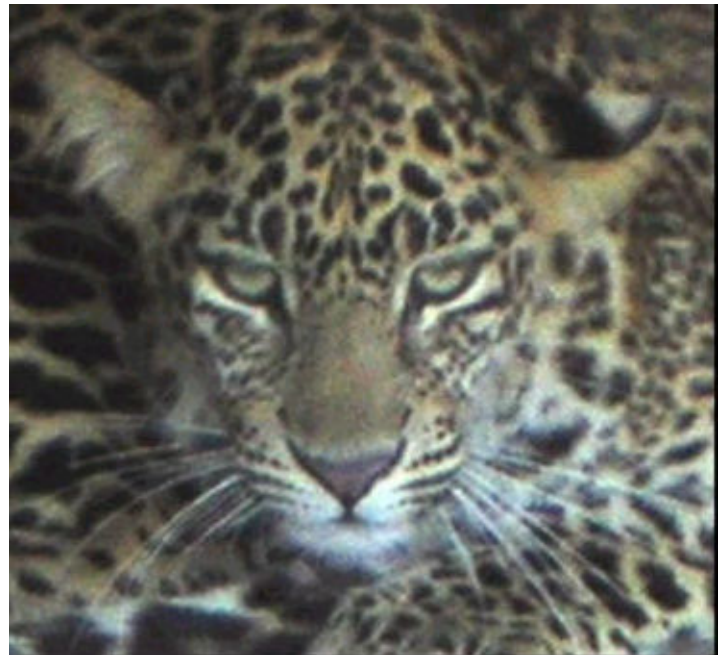


leopards and relocate them to the wild. The leopards inevitable due to strong homing instincts and competition from resident leopards move back to the original area from which they were captured, transiting through human habitations, thus increasing chances of conflict.

Research into large carnivore biology has shown that leopards can live in densely populated landscapes without serious conflict. Further, in the absence of technical expertise while capturing, delays in relocation were frequent and some leopards died in the process of capture.

To assess whether leopards are moving back and to identify animals are causing problems, and arrive at a solution that proactively seeks to reduce conflict a RAP was requested by Vidya Athreya and Aniruddha Belsare, a veterinary doctor.

The team provided technical assistance in tranquilising and capturing leopards in a manner that minimized trauma to the leopards. 19 captured leopards were tagged using PIT microchips that forest department. Further reduction of predation on livestock can happen if proactive protection measures are put in place, thus reducing the need for leopard captures.



### **Maintenance of damaged power fence in Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary**

Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, situated in the northern part of Kerala, forms part of the Wayanad Elephant Reserve. The migratory paths of the elephants of Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary and North Wayanad Division end in Aralam Sanctuary. The area adjoining the sanctuary is thickly populated and has about ten tribal settlements. These people are dependant on cultivation for survival. With about 0.645 elephants per square kilometre and easy access of elephants to nearby crop land, the conflict between human and elephant is a serious issue here.

To minimise the conflict, a power fence had been erected near habitation areas. However, heavy rains in the months of July and August of 2005, lead to floods and landslides in the area. Most of the power fence was badly damaged making it almost ineffective. WTI felt that since the potential of wild animals crossing over to the adjoining inhabited area was high, the repair and maintenance of the damaged power fence was very urgently required. It joined hands with A. Jayamadhavan, the Assistant Wildlife



Warden of Aralam Wildlife Division, and a RAP was sanctioned to repair and maintain the power fence. The activity was a timely intervention to prevent human-wildlife conflict, thus contributing to overall protection and conservation of wildlife.



Power fence at Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

### **Improving patrolling and communications in D'Ering Wildlife Sanctuary**

D'Ering is a 190 sq. km wildlife sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh. Situated in the eastern Himalayas, D'Ering has a diverse range of flora and fauna as a result of being in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. The sanctuary harbours many endangered species like elephant, tiger, Bengal florican and Gangetic dolphin and two elephant corridors. Major threats are forest fires in summer, floods in monsoon leading to wild animal mortality or frequent marooning, poaching, crop depredation and human animal conflict.

Efficient communications between patrolling teams and park management can help in providing timely solutions. TI through the RAP provided three portable wireless sets and one vehicle mounted wireless set to the forest department. The park management, in response to threats and emergency situations, can co-ordinate responses, due to better communications between the patrols and park authorities as testified by the Divisional Forest Officer of D'Ering Wildlife Sanctuary.



Sunil Subba of WTI handing over the wireless sets to the Division Forest Officer

## GUARDIANS OF THE WILD

**G**uardians of the Wild / Van Rakshak Project (VRP) continued its mission of training, equipping, increasing awareness and motivation of field staff across the country to help them effectively combat the poaching menace.

WTI has actively helped combat poaching incidents by training 1639 and equipping 1720 front line forest staff in three states across the country in various protected areas. Frontline forest staff while patrolling face many hazards such as difficult terrain, long patrols and subsequently long duty hours, wild animals, threat to life from poachers and other unlawful elements, road accidents etc. VRP division provides free insurance cover to the forest staff who might lose their life to these multiple dangers in the line of duty. Eight insurance claims were paid to the families of staff who died due to accidents while on duty. Causes of death were diverse in these cases and ranged from murder, elephant attacks and road accidents. These cases were across five states in the country and processing of the insurance claims and release of money provided succour to the kin of the deceased.



Forest Guards with Anti-poaching kit



Frontline Forest Guards at a training session



N K Vasu, Director KNP handing over insurance cheque to widow of Patiram Das,FG



Exgratia and Merit Certificate distribution at Kerala

## WILD SPECIES

The Wild Species programme undertakes long-term projects that help recovery of wild populations and works to mitigate human – wildlife conflict. Another area of focus is to undertake short term surveys to gather more information on the status of species about which very little is known.

### Chiru and Wild Yak

This year was marked by the launch of the Schaller Conservation Surveys with a pioneering study of the Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops bodgsonii*) or chiru and wild yak (*Bos grunniens*) in the trans-Himalayas of Ladakh near the Indo-Chinese border.

The WTI team in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Department, surveyed the Chang Thang and Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuaries resulting in the identification of wild populations, their numbers and location. It helped in estimated that about 250 – 300 individuals of Tibetan antelope and 200-255 wild yak occupy the area.

A variety of other endangered species were reported by team including Tibetan wolf, snow leopard, Ladakh urial, bharaal, pale or mountain weasel, wooly hare, Ladakh pika, Royles pika, plateau pika, Stoliczka's mountain vole, silvery mountain vole.

The team identified competition from livestock grazing, feral dogs and solid waste accumulation due to defense personnel stationed in this sensitive border area.

A project to increase awareness among defense personnel about the threatened species in their area and how they can help in conserving is being planned as a result of this survey.



Tibetan antelope survey team at Ladakh region



A Tibetan antelope (Chiru) grazing at Chang Thang region



## Markhor

Another survey to assess the status of **markhor**, the largest wild goat in the world, was undertaken this year by WTI. In Jammu and Kashmir, markhor inhabit two isolated pockets in remote inaccessible valleys bordering Pakistan. Heavy poaching has brought down their number drastically and it is believed that their populations are still declining.

The WTI team survey sighted markhor populations and mapped the habitat. The survey helped to estimate that about 300 individuals occupy the area. The survey team also found that a proposed highway connecting these remote areas would bifurcate the markhor habitat and efforts are now on to convince the government to re-align the road.



A Markhor in its habitat



Markhor Survey team at work

## Wild Buffalo

Wild buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*) are one of the most endangered ungulates in India. Populations exist in the northeast and in Chhattisgarh in Central India.

The Wild Buffalo Conservation project in Chhattisgarh aims to improve the wild buffalo populations in protected areas in Chhattisgarh. A field station was set up in collaboration with the Forest Department as a base to operate from. A comprehensive survey to assess abundance and habitat parameters with socio-economic status of villagers and their needs was carried out.





## WILD RESCUE

The goal of 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

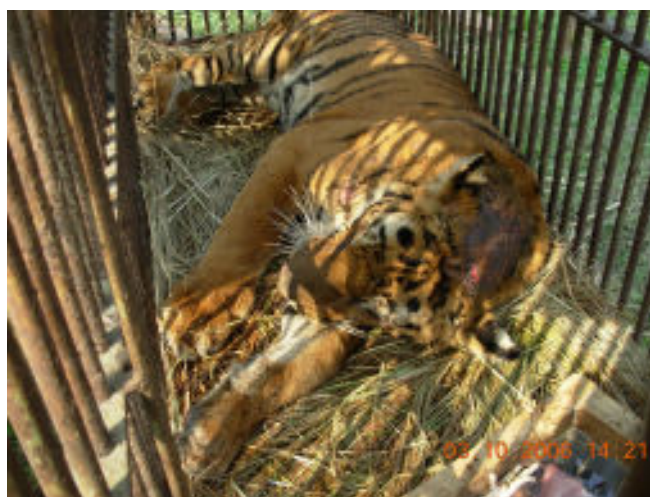
### Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC)

From July 2005 to June 2006, 115 cases of displaced wild animals were handled at the centre (see table on page 7). Of these 6 were already dead on arrival. Of the remaining 109 cases, 35% were released, 11% are in captivity, 10% transferred to other facility and 43% died during care.

**Table. Outcome of the number of cases brought to CWRC from July 2005 to June 2006**

Class	No.brought	Outcome (%)					
		Released	Died	DoA	Escapes	Transferred	In care
Mammalia	56	27	46	7	2	8	17
Aves	32	26	64	3	-	-	10
Reptilia	27	61.5	11.5	4	-	27	-
Total/Average	115	35	43	5	1	10	11

For the first time in the history of CWRC, 10% of the permanently displaced animals that could not be released were transferred to other care facilities. This includes a badly injured tiger that was successfully treated and transferred to the Assam state zoo and three Asiatic black bear cubs that were subsequently transferred to CBRC in Arunachal Pradesh.



An injured tiger rehabilitated to CWRC

## Mammals in care

Almost half of the animals admitted to the centre in 2005-06 were mammals (49%, N=115). In spite of a large number of animals being released back to the wild after proper nursing and veterinary care, 16% of the mammals still remain under care at CWRC. With the admission of one more elephant calf last year, the total number of calves at the centre has increased to 10. The number of leopards at the CWRC has also increased to five, following the addition of two more cubs this year.



Keepers at CWRC feeding the elephant calves

The rhino calf rescued during the floods in 2002 was translocated from CWRC to the Rhino Rehabilitation Station in Manas National Park for eventual reintroduction to the wild in February, 2006. The daunting task of shifting the rhino involved several stages like fabrication of the crate, construction of the *boma* at Manas, radiocollaring, crating and loading the animal, transportation by road and its final release in the *boma* at Manas. Since there was adequate natural grass, forbs and shrubs available in the 25,000 square meter area, no supplementary fodder was provided to the rhino. Only a concentrate comprising a mixture of bran, gram and cereal was fed for 15 days. The rhino is expected to be released from the *boma* during the early part of the winter in 2007.



## Expansion of CWRC infrastructure

Thanks to the discretionary grant from IFAW, the entire CWRC campus is getting a facelift. Enclosures are being renovated and new facilities are being created. The proposed constructions included the following:

1. Relocation and extension of present dimension
2. New facilities at CWRC and CBRC
3. Nursery for neonates
4. Elephant calf stabilization unit
5. Office space, retiring rooms & post operative ward
6. Lifetime care facility for bears at CBRC

Few enclosures like the leopard enclosure, elephant and rhino calf paddocks have all been either relocated or extended to cover larger areas. As far as new facilities are concerned, the elephant calf stabilization facility was built in 2005. The office and retiring rooms are being built (see photograph below) and is expected to be completed by August. Construction on the additional free ranging area for leopards is also scheduled for completed in August. The nursery for neonates has been designed and the work will begin in August 2006. The progress of all these works have been rather slow considering the formalities like government permissions and agreements with the builders had to come through.



Office and retiring rooms under construction at CWRC



## Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC)

With the support from AWBI, Govt. of India, WTI established the Center for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation in the Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary to address the problem of displaced Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) cubs. The centre was established in the year 2002 in collaboration with the Forest Department of Arunachal Pradesh and is being run in partnership with IFAW. Since its inception, the centre has handled twelve Asiatic black bears.

In the financial year 2005-2006, CBRC was home to nine bears – Liza (Rescued in 2003-04), Bana, Teddy Diyun (all rescued in 2004-05), Zoo 1, Zoo 2, Karbi, Seppa 1 and Seppa 2 (all rescued in 2005-06). Liza and Bana died earlier this year. Liza was predated upon by a leopard after release into the wild and Bana died due to hemorrhagic enteritis while in captivity. Teddy and Diyun, are alive and doing well. Two bear cubs, a five month old female rescued from Hojai district of Assam (Zoo 1) and a two month old male rescued from Mongoldoi (Zoo 2) temporarily housed in the Assam zoo were transferred to CBRC in the month of August. While Zoo1 died this year in April due to infighting, Zoo 2 is doing well. Subsequently one more female bear cub (Karbi), aged eight months, was admitted at the centre in October 2005 from Samaguri in Assam. Recently on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006 two more bear cubs, a male (Seppa 1) and a female (Seppa 2), both only a month old were brought to the centre.



Keepers at CBRC feeding the bears



### Release of Liza

Liza, a female cub rescued by the Forest Department and CBRC staff in August 2003 was released back to the wild on 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2005, after two years of rehabilitation at the centre. Unlike other bears at CBRC, Liza always avoided people. In the last few months, she could hardly be sighted in the 5000 sq. metres *in-situ* acclimatization yard at the center. She was captured and radio-collared and put in a wooden enclosure as a temporary arrangement for the night. She was transferred in a crate the next morning. Wading for 3 hours through the Pakke River the rescue van loaded off the crate at the bank of Bharali river in Tippi (see photos below). After nearly an hour of travel on foot the crate was opened at the release site near the dense forest of Tippi and the bear was seen walking into the wilderness. A team of six trackers – a biologist and a vet from WTI, two youths from the local Akka tribe and two residents of Seijosa were engaged to monitor the bear. Liza stayed within a square kilometer area from the site of release. Unfortunately nine days post release, Liza was predated upon.

The predator was identified as a leopard based on the pugmarks found around the carcass and the manner in which the carcass had been devoured. Her partly eaten carcass, alongwith the intact radio-collar, was recovered within 24 hours of her death. Laza was the third bear being released in Arunachal Pradesh, the first two bears being killed and hunted after 30 and 40 days respectively.



Liza at CBRC before release



Loading crate onto boat

## Wildlife Rehabilitators Exchange Network (WREN)

Realizing the urgent need to educate, train and/or equip wildlife rehabilitators across the country to utilize their services for attending animal emergencies, IFAW launched the Wildlife Rehabilitators Exchange Network (WREN) for the purpose of networking and capacity building across India.

### Activities undertaken during 2005-06

#### a. Networking

The network launched in May 2005 has so far enlisted 179 members enthusiastic and proactive in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Since its launch 124 topics were discussed in the forum. Many of the members have actively attended to the following wildlife emergencies:

Of these, the major ones have been the ER provided during the floods in Maharashtra and Gujarat and the suspected cases of avian poisoning in the states of Uttaranchal, Assam and Delhi.

#### i) Floods in Maharashtra and Gujarat

Monsoons and heavy rain in Western India resulted in unprecedented floods and landslides in the states of Gujarat (June/July 2005) and Maharashtra (July 2005). Flood waters cut off transportation routes, communication and power supplies, and inundated and destroyed homes, crops and livelihoods, affecting millions in rural and urban areas. IFAW - WTI made every attempt to provide post-flood emergency relief to the distressed animals affected in the flood through select members in the WREN network, Mr. Darshan Desai from Gujarat and Mr. Dharmesh Solanki in Maharashtra.



### ii) Poisoning of birds

The sudden death of birds in different parts of India from poisoning, both accidental and intentional, raised serious concern on the plight of resident and migratory birds across the country. Four different instances from different regions of the country were documented in a short span of one month. Members from the network immediately responded to the cases and a brief summary of each case is presented below:

#### Accidental poisoning in Uttaranchal

The sudden deaths of steppe eagles (*Aquila nipalensis*) in the Army Cantonment area of Ginghrikhal and its adjoining forests in Ranikhet, Uttaranchal on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2006 started a scare of bird flu in the area. Dead carcasses were recovered till 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 in and around a garbage dump area within a radius of about two kilometers. The Forest Department, villagers and volunteers of the N.G.O. “*Lok Chetna Manch*” counted 60 carcasses (03 juveniles and 57 adults). A guesstimate of total fatality was about 75 birds. Local NGOs found 23 ailing birds and treated them with supportive therapy (glucose solution and multivitamin syrup orally). Dr. Bhaskar Choudhury, WTI MVS veterinarian stationed in Corbett Tiger Reserve, on arriving at the site along with the two WREN members on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 found that the dumping of garbage had stopped and the residual garbage had been burnt down. The team could spot three ailing birds hiding in the bushes which were immediately treated. Dr. Choudhury trained the WREN members, local NGOs and the local forest staff on methods to deal with poisoned, sick or injured birds.



Carcasses of steppe eagles collected at Ranikhet

- ® The results of the four samples sent to the High Security Disease Investigation lab in Bhopal were negative of Avian Flu.
- ® The result of the histopathological test conducted on the internal organs of the bird sent to Bareilly revealed severe toxicity. The cause of toxicity however has not been confirmed by the lab tests.
- ® Samples were also collected by Pantnagar University staff. They ruled out the chances of toxins like endosulfan and chlorpyrifos as the causative agents.



## Deliberate poisoning of teals in Assam

Poisoning of more than 100 lesser whistling teals (*Dendrocygna javanica*) in the village of Madhurpurpathar, Bokakhat on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2006 was reported by some locals to the Forest Department. The Forest officials of Golaghat Division on reaching the site recovered 70 traditional traps and packets of tea garden pesticides. Thirteen dead birds and three live ailing birds were recovered from the area. Feathers of birds cooked for consumption were found on the site. The three live birds were transferred to CWRC for initial treatment. However two birds died after a few hours and the third one died on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2006. Fresh carcasses of eight birds were brought to CWRC by the Forest department for post mortem (PM). PM examination revealed hemorrhagic lesions in the heart, mucosal surface of the gastro intestinal tract and other vital organs indicating consumption of toxic materials. The forest officials were requested to send the three carcasses to the Forensic Laboratory for toxin diagnosis. However no confirmatory result was obtained.



Poisoned dead bird

## Food poisoning in birds in Gujarat

The death of over 550 sea gulls in the Lakhota lake in the town of Jamnagar, Gujarat posed a serious threat to the safety of migratory birds visiting the area in winter. The residents of the town taking great delight and pride at the arrival of these birds customarily feed these birds with locally made bird food sold around the lake. Information from the Forest Department revealed that snacks made of poor quality raw material and feeding of stale food having fungus moulds on it led to food poisoning resulting in the mass death of the sea gulls. The species which died of food poisoning are reported to be slender-billed gull (*Larus genei*), brown headed gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*) and black headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*). Three dead birds were sent by the Forest Department to the High Security Disease Investigation Laboratory, Bhopal for test for avian flu. A report from Dr. H.K. Pradhan, Director, HSDIL, Bhopal has confirmed the



Dead bird removed from the lake

samples to be negative for Avian Flu. The above information was provided by member of the network, Mr. Jaydev Nancey and Mr. Arpit Deomurari on a daily basis.

### **Birds deaths in Okhla bird sanctuary, Delhi**

Mass mortality of nearly 50 birds on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2006 was the first case ever reported in the history of the Okhla bird sanctuary. Scanning the entire stretch of the sanctuary Wild Rescue team of Dr. N.V.K. Ashraf, Dr. Prajna Paramita Panda and Ms. Kadambari Mainkar of WTI along with the Forest Department staff, wildlife researcher, Mr. Gopi Sunder of International Crane Foundation and few wildlife enthusiasts (Mr. Jose Louies and Dr. Prabhakar) could recover 47 dead birds and three dead fishes. Birds of eight different species comprising 40 shovelers (37 males, 7 females), two common teals, a lesser black backed gull, a brown headed gull, a medium cormorant, a little cormorant, a little egret, a common teal and a coot were recovered from the area. The post mortem findings revealed blotches of heamorrhagic spots on the lungs, partly clotted blood in the heart, partially congested kidneys. Three birds were handed over to the Forest Department to be sent to Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar in Bareilly and to the High Security Disease Investigation Laboratory, Bhopal. Rest of the birds were incinerated on the site in the presence of the Forest Department. The lab results ruled out bird flu and confirmed death due to poisoning. However, the toxin involved in the death of the bird could not be diagnosed. The local residents might have poisoned the lake for fishing and the birds would have in turn died of consuming poisoned fishes and invertebrates.



Dead birds recovered from the Okhla Bird Sanctuary

### **Capacity building through workshop on Wildlife rehabilitation at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

Each year Wild Rescue programme conducts a workshop on wildlife rehabilitation in different regions of the country to address the rehabilitation needs region. IFAW and WTI have already conducted four workshops in different regions of the country since 2001 covering the Southern, Western, Northern and North-eastern India. This year the fifth regional workshop on wildlife rehabilitation was conducted in Visakhapatnam to cater to the rescue and rehabilitation needs in the Eastern Ghats. The local hosts this year were Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Visakha- SPCA, an NGO.

The workshop was held over three days from the 27<sup>th</sup> of March to the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2006 at Hotel Meghalaya in Visakhapatnam. The workshop attracted select group of rehabilitation experts as resource persons, both from India and abroad. From IFAW, Dr. Ian Robinson and Dr. Anand Ramanathan came as resource persons. This is the first time that representatives from IFAW came to attend the workshop. Fifty one participants from seven different states including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh attended the workshop. The participants, like in the previous occasions, came from a wide spectrum of background. There were foresters, veterinarians, wildlife enthusiasts and biologists. This year, the focus was on marine turtles and snakes. A major part of the discussion was also on the problem animal management and rehabilitation of the displaced animals.



Select group of rehabilitation experts at the workshop



Dr. Anand analysing the avian flu symptoms

### Mobile Veterinary Service

Wildlife Trust of India launched Mobile Veterinary Services (MVS) with the purpose of providing much needed emergency relief, rescue and rehabilitation services to wild fauna in different Protected Areas of the country. Since the costs of establishing rescue centres all over India were prohibitive, MVS units are considered an efficient, rapid service that would cater to the needs of wildlife in remote parts of the country. The mobile units attended the following cases:

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Central Assam</b>	<b>Lower Assam</b>	<b>Upper Assam</b>
Wildlife rescue cases	67	15	7
Problem Animal management	4	0	2
Captive Elephant care	67	31	0
Disease investigation	4	5	0



## Immunizing cattle around Protected Areas

To create an immune belt around the Protected Areas MVS units are engaged in vaccinating the cattle present around the fringe areas. In Dibru Saikhowa 2741 cattle were vaccinated against Heamorrhagic septicaemia and Black Quarter in the month of May and June.



Mobile Veterinary Service team conducting cattle vaccination

## Captive Elephant Care

### a. Health Camps for captive elephants

IFAW and WTI conducted only one elephant health camp this year, examining and providing treatment to 77 elephants in the state of Bihar.

### Health Camp at Sonpur Mela, Bihar, East India

Sonpur lies in the State of Bihar, about 15 km from its capital city Patna. Elephants have been traded at this fair since time immemorial. WTI-IFAW team has been conducting a health camp for the elephants that assemble at the fair each year since 2001.

This year the health camp was held from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November. The camp is always organized a few days before the 'kartik purnima' ending on the day of the 'purnima'. This year the 'purnima' fell on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. At the health camp data was collected from elephant owners on ownership and animals' details. Every animal was assessed for body condition. Elephants were examined for the presence of wounds and abscesses and localized and/or generalized oedema. Feet of all animals were examined for evidences of fissures and the extent of erosion in the footpads. Toenails in both fore and hind limbs were also inspected for crack marks. Mucous membrane of all individuals was inspected and eyes for any evidence of blindness and/or corneal opacity. A standard format has been followed each year for collecting all clinical and non-clinical data about every animal. This year however with the

initiation of a nation wide sweep survey on the status of India’s captive elephants a comprehensive data sheet was prepared for collecting data on ownership, animal details, health status, husbandry and management, behaviour as well as information on the mahout. All animals were also dewormed. Wounds and abscesses were cleaned and dressed, taking into account the severity of the infection.

The Bihar Forest Department also began micro chipping the captive elephants congregating at Sonpur since last year. WTI veterinarian assisted the forest department last year as well as this year in micro chipping some of the elephants. Seventy of the elephants were also provided with reflectors, the emergency safeguards to protect them from collisions with vehicles at night.



Wild Rescue team at elephant health camp venue

One of the Wild Rescue team members feeding the elephants

**b. Nationwide sweep survey on status of captive elephants in India**

In September 2005, the CEC project initiated a nation-wide sweep survey on the status of captive elephants in India. The survey was initiated in all states of India to gain an insight into the distribution, ownership, health conditions, welfare conditions, management practices and mahout-elephant relationship. Veterinarians from across the country were identified and then trained and deputed to collect data in the various captive elephant bearing states. The data collected through this survey will be entered into a centralized national data base on India’s captive elephants. The data will be analyzed to produce a national status report on India’s captive elephants which will then be used to influence the policy on captive elephants to eventually push for no elephants in captivity. Of the 25 states in India, the survey has been completed in 10 states. The table on the right represents the states covered by the visiting veterinarians and the total number of captive elephants recorded in each state.

A standard data sheet was used in all of the states. The data sheet consisted of the following sections- Ownership details, Elephant facts, Husbandry/Management, Activity and Behaviour, Health Evaluation,

## Wild Rescue



History of reproduction and Information on mahout. The data thus collected is expected to give detailed information on the origin and source of the existing stock of captive elephants, their major source of employment, management of musth, nutrition, common diseases and most importantly the welfare conditions of India's captive elephants. With comprehensive, analyzed data it would be easier to suggest better management and welfare practices to owners, forest department and state governments in the short term and lobby for phasing out of elephants in captivity in order to re-home them in lifetime care facilities such as retirement homes and sanctuaries.

S. No.	State	Number of elephants
1.	Haryana	24
2.	Punjab	20
3.	Rajasthan	128
4.	Gujarat	15
5.	Madhyapradesh	49
6.	Orissa	13
7.	Jharkhand	10
8.	West Bengal	40
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	103
10.	Andhra Pradesh	26
11.	Assam	804
12.	Bihar	29
13.	Uttar Pradesh	62
14.	Maharashtra	32
15.	Kerala	150
16.	Karnataka	21
17.	Tamil Nadu	65
<b>Total so far</b>		<b>1591</b>



## WILD LANDS

The mandate of Wild Lands programme remains to facilitate acquisition / securing of land critical to the needs of wildlife. While the main focus of the programme continues to be the areas important for elephant movement, the programme also addressed the needs of other species that occupy the same habitats. Some of the major threats facing crucial habitats are fragmentation, roads/ railways passing through prime habitats, invasion by exotic weeds, encroachment.

Notable among the projects under the programme are the Mimosa eradication project in Kazirange, the Rajaji Elephant – Railway project, the Chilla – Motichur corridor project, the Valmiki Tiger Reserve habitat recovery project and the Markhor survey. A brief description of the project objectives and achievements is given below.

### Mimosa

Invasive plant species pose an increasing threat to global biodiversity. Introduced legumes have been identified as one of the major invasive weeds. *Mimosa invisa*, introduced by the tea estates as a legume spread to Kaziranga National Park, Assam threatening one of the crucial habitats of Greater one horned rhinoceros, elephants and other endangered species. The Forest Department initiated an intensive weed eradication programme in the mid 90s soon after the weed was noticed. Wildlife Trust of India in collaboration with Assam Forest Department and with the financial support of IFAW conducted a survey in 2002-2003 to identify the species and assess the distribution and extent of infested area. The survey also assessed the management strategy adopted for control of the weed. Quadrats were also laid in burnt areas to estimate the seedling germination. The preliminary observations indicated that *Mimosa invisa* (thorny) and *Mimosa invisa inermis* (thornless) were present in the areas. The distribution was mostly confined to the boundary areas especially in the tall grasslands. The extent of infestation was only 2.13km<sup>2</sup>. Though the WTI and Forest Department attempt had resulted in getting rid of the weed to a great extent, observations indicate its spread to more areas.



Labours engaged in uprooting the Mimosa seedlings

## **Rajaji**

Rajaji National Park (RNP), located in the state of Uttaranchal in India holds a population of about 470 elephants which forms a major part of the North Western Indian elephant population. It is spread over the area of 820 km<sup>2</sup> and is contiguous with Corbett Tiger Reserve and is thus a biodiversity rich conservation unit. The Park is under intense biotic pressure due to development programmes, settlements and the villages in the surroundings. A few of these settlements are also on the elephant corridors, thus preventing elephant movements between the Eastern and Western part of the Park. The Gujjar families scattered all around with their 20,000 livestock depend on the area for cattle grazing and grass for thatching and the small timbers for fire wood. The 18 km long railway line passing through the Park was responsible for mortality of 20 elephants, since 1987. The road and the irrigation canal pose further threat to the contiguity of the area. The proximity of human habitation to Rajaji result in human-elephant conflict mostly because of crop depredation.

WTI had been implementing conservation action programmes in Rajaji National Park since 2001. These efforts, in collaboration with Uttaranchal Forest Department and Railways helped in averting several animal deaths due to train accidents leading to zero mortality since 2002, relocating 744 of the 1390 Gujjar families from the Park, initiating the process of securing Chilla-Motichur elephant corridor, mitigating human-elephant conflict in selected villages and motivating the public and railway officials to be a part of elephant conservation programmes.

It is proposed to continue the conservation actions in Rajaji National Park to make the programme initiated more sustainable and to assist the Forest Department in securing the corridor and rehabilitating the Gujjar families. The major goal of the proposed project is to conserve North West Indian elephant population in RNP. To achieve this goal the overall project objectives are to secure the Chilla –Motichur corridor, assist in Gujjar Rehabilitation from the Park area, reduce elephant mortality due to train accidents in RNP and reduce human-elephant conflict around Rajaji National Park.

WTI will lobby with Government Department and coordinate with various Government agencies and villagers to rehabilitate the Khand Gaon III village and relocate ammunition dump from corridor area and to solve the problem of road and canal. Meetings will be organized for villagers and for other concerned organizations. The corridor area will be monitored before and after rehabilitation of the village and relocation of ammunition dump for information on animal use of the corridor as a part of the evaluation. To rehabilitate the remaining 646 Gujjar families from the Park area, WTI will organize meetings and conduct awareness activities.

To reduce elephant mortality due to train accidents and to continue the mitigation measures, patrolling of the railway track will be continued in collaboration with Railway and Forest Department, workshops will be organized and awareness materials will be developed. Education materials on elephant

conservation will be developed for Railway's Training School. Further, elephant conservation message will be put up in railway stations and trains. WTI will help in maintaining electric fencing in two selected villages through a village through people participation.

The securing Chilla-Motichur corridor will provide more undisturbed habitats to elephant and will help in reducing human-elephant conflict. The implementation of mitigation strategies for reducing elephant deaths due to train accidents will help in developing a mitigation model for other such locations. Implementation of conflict mitigation measures with the participation of people will help in reducing the conflict. The Project will be facilitating Gujjar rehabilitation through a smooth interaction with the people, thereby helping the Park to be free of human habitation.



Garbage removal operation at Rajaji NP to avert wild animals death due to train hits



Signages put up to slowdown trains passing through Rajaji

## **Pakke**

The Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is distributed across 13 Asian range states, of which, India holds over 50% of the global population - approximately, 24-28,000 distributed across 18 states of the country. The southern zone of distribution in India is home to approximately 50% of the country's population, with a further 30% of the population residing in the northeast of the country (Bist, 2002). Habitat degradation and fragmentation, human-elephant conflict, and poaching primarily for ivory and to some extent meat, are all threats that have pushed the Asian elephant to the brink of extinction throughout its distribution range. Fortunately, the Asian elephant is inextricably linked to the continent's mythology and history. Traditionally worshipped as Lord Ganesha, the elephant headed God, the elephant is also a symbol of fertility, wealth and abundance and has a long history of domestication in India. It is this indirect prevalence of the animal in the daily lives of the general populace that has saved the species from local extinction.

The northeastern elephant population is no exception to human encroachment into forested areas, and its habitat being lost to agricultural practices, development projects and other anthropogenic pressures.



While the northeastern part of the country has a spread of approximately 41,000km<sup>2</sup> of elephant habitat, only 14.5% of this area is protected (Bist, 2002). A population of around 1,600 elephants in Arunachal Pradesh is (Bist, 2002) spread over different districts to the north and south of the river Brahmaputra, an area comprising 7,400 km<sup>2</sup> (Choudhury, 1999). However, the protected area coverage for the elephant population is only around 3,281 km<sup>2</sup> through D' Ering Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), Itanagar WLS, Namdhapa Tiger Reserve, and Pakke WLS (Envis, 1998) in the form of forest types which comprise both elephant habitats and corridors, while the remainder of the area is unprotected. The overall decline in the forest cover of 334 km<sup>2</sup> of dense forest between 1993-95 in Arunachal Pradesh (Source; National Remote Sensing Agency for 1980-82, and State Forest Report for 1993) is an alarming figure, but it might be an outcome of incorrect classification while conducting change detection. In general it gives an indication of degrading habitat condition due to several biotic activities. The site location of this project, Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary, falls under the Kameng-Sonitpur elephant reserve. The estimated area of the reserve is around 4,300km<sup>2</sup> which stretches into Assam as well as Arunachal Pradesh, and is home to about 1,580 elephants (Bist, 2002).

Human-elephant conflict in the elephant's home range is an escalating issue threatening all efforts associated with elephant conservation. Approximately 20% of the globe's human population resides near or in the present range of the Asian elephant (WWF Species Status Report, 2000). The Indian government's figures show an average of 192 people being killed by elephants annually for the past ten years (Project Elephant, 2002). Recently, the death of 18 elephants due to poisoning immediately across the border from Arunachal Pradesh in Nameri National Park, and other parts of the Sonitpur East Division of Assam simply accentuates the gravity of this problem. This episode has set a dangerous precedent in the region especially since no culprits were found. Elephant mortality in retaliation to crop depredation and human killing and due to poaching has far reaching implications for the long-term survival of the elephant population in the region and thus, this and its related aspects should be the prime focus of conservation work in the region.

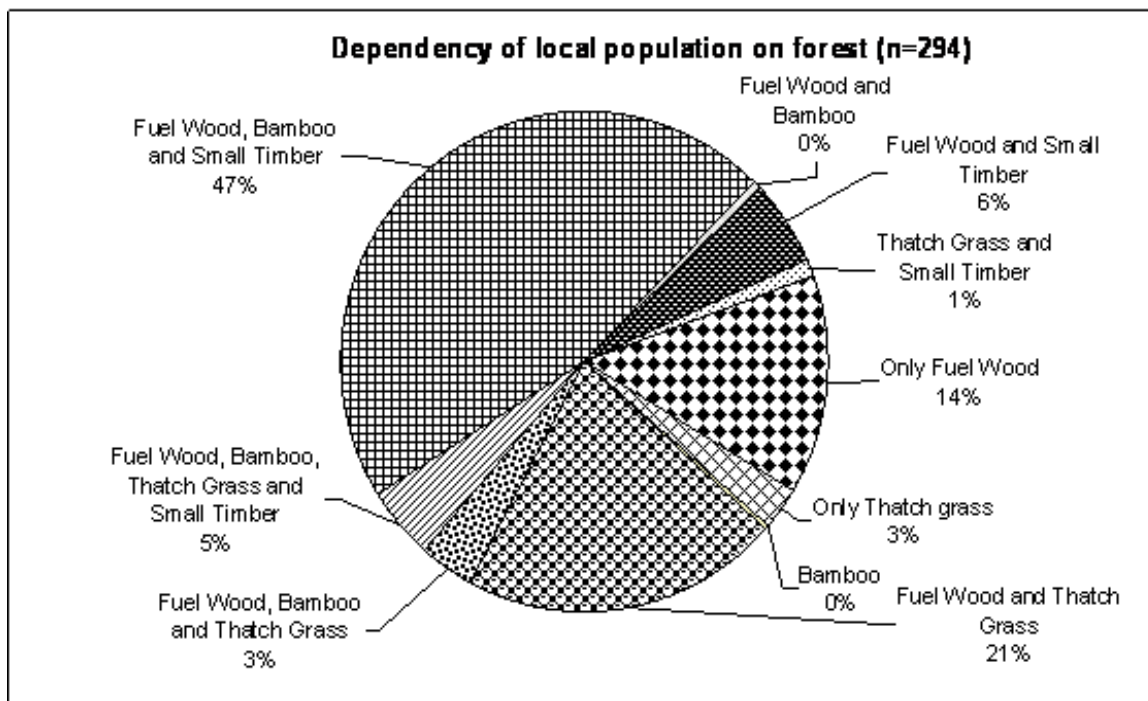


Elephant poisoning due to crop depredation

## Valmiki

Valmiki Tiger Reserve is located in the North Western part of Bihar in India. It is contiguous with Royal Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve of Nepal. Though it is only 880 km<sup>2</sup> in extent, along with the areas of Nepal forms a level I Tiger Conservation unit covering about 3550 km<sup>2</sup> of tiger habitat. Valmiki Tiger Reserve with diverse vegetation has about 53 species of mammals in addition to a variety of other species. The Reserve is bordered by 140 villages with 81,000 people. The villagers are completely dependant on the forest for various resources. The area is also prone to fire because of various activities affecting the habitat composition leading to poor regeneration, which adversely affect the wildlife.

Wildlife Trust of India, through a grant from USFWS generated base line data on the vegetation and animals in Valmiki Tiger Reserve. The project also assessed the biotic disturbances in the area. Since the frequency of animal sightings was low, animal abundance in different Ranges and zones were estimated based on indirect evidences observed in systematically laid 832 plots along randomly selected transects. Information on vegetation structure was also collected from the plots. Hoof marks of cattle and evidence of fire were considered as indicators of biotic disturbances. Socio-economic profile and dependency pattern of 107 villages around the Park were collected by interacting with selected households in villages.



Eighty-one herb and grass species were recorded with a variation of 30-54 species in Forest Ranges. Buffer zone had 77 species while the core had only 45 species. Low dominance values for all the Ranges indicate poor dominance by any particular species. Thirty species of shrubs and climbers were recorded. Core zone was more diverse in shrubs. Regeneration and number of established seedlings were comparatively better in the buffer zone. This was true in the case of saplings and established species in the pole category. Eighty four tree species were recorded during the study. Core zone was diverse and had higher mean density in terms of tree species. About 70% of the trees were below 100 cm GBH. Though presence of almost all the animals were evident, none of them were abundant. Animal evidences were dominated by seven ungulates of which chital, sambar and barking deer were more abundant. Indirect evidences of tiger and leopard indicate their distribution in all the Forest Ranges except Raghia. Presence of a minimum of 12 tiger is evident from the pugmark measurements.

The Reserve lacks proper infrastructure especially for patrolling. The sightings of evidences and infrastructure are plotted in an area map. Cattle grazing and fire occurrence are the major biotic disturbances in addition to collection of grass, small timber and firewood.

The details collected from 107 villages within 4 km along the Reserve indicate that about 74% depend on forest for fuel wood, bamboo and small timber. More than 90% consider the forest as a resource for firewood, fodder and housing materials. Most of the villagers are completely unaware of the conservation value of the Reserve. The Eco-Development Committees formed by the Forest Department are either non functional or working at a slow pace due to lack of proper guidance and resources. Wildlife Trust of India trained and equipped the Tiger Reserve staff in anti-poaching activities.



Collecting firewood, a daily chore of the women from surrounding villages at Valmiki Tiger Reserve

## AWARENESS FOR CONSERVATION

The awareness for Conservation programme aims to increase awareness of threats to wildlife amongst the stakeholders and ran some immensely successful projects which targeted a huge base of people. Notable among them were the Tibetan Conservation Awareness Programme and the Whale Shark campaign.

### Tibetan Conservation Awareness Campaign (TCAC)

The TCAC was launched this year to address the newly identified threat of trade in wildlife with consumers in Tibet. TCAC has elements of two programmes and addresses the objectives of both, the Awareness for Conservation as well as the Enforcement and Law programmes.

TCAC was launched in April in the presence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Dr Barbara Mass of Care for the Wild International, a collaborator on the project. His Holiness also addressed the audience and gave a message about nature conservation. A stall was put up at Majnu-ka-Tila in Delhi, a Tibetan locality to spread awareness of conservation issues. WTI also participated in two Tibetan conferences on traditional medicinal practices to understand the needs and create awareness. The project also identified Tibetan settlements and monasteries. Footage of animal skins being burnt by Tibetans was widely showcased by the media. A special film on TCAC which addressed the whole issue was seen by nearly 15000 people.



Tibetan Conservation Awareness Campaign launch function held on April 6, 2005 at New Delhi.



Tibetans expressing solidarity at Dharamshala after the burnings of Wild Animal skins in Tibet



*Awareness for Conservation*

**Whale Shark Campaign**

Marine species and habitats are often poorly understood and people are not aware as their habitats are different from the terrestrial habitats occupied by humans. The whale shark campaign planned to create awareness about the plight of the Whale Shark. This programme has enjoyed considerable support from Tata Chemicals Ltd (TCL). Different aspects of the programme were hugely successful awareness campaign with ‘Vhali’ a life size inflatable model of a whale shark. A film titled “homecoming” was made and translated to Gujarati. The Gujarati version was shown extensively on local cable networks in Gujarat. WTI participated in the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) event at Nairobi, where the movie was shown. Extensive discussions in Nairobi resulted in the visit of Dr B Norman to India to shape the scientific part of the campaign. Discussions with the fishing community have resulted in one whale shark being released after getting caught in the nets, increased legal awareness and willingness to provide scientific information on whale shark biology. TCL also won the Green Governance award due to its involvement in the campaign.



Top : Whale shark inflatable in display for awareness campaign at Rupen, Gujarat coast.

Right: Whale shark campaign team with the award received from the Prime Minister at a function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



## COMMUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

As outlined earlier India has a major problem of low per capita income and high human population density coupled with rich biodiversity. Communities for conservation plays a major role by identifying people needs and helps understand the social scenario, which is important in optimizing the needs of wildlife and humans to mitigate conflict.

Communities for conservation has been involved with the human aspect of many projects notably the man-animal conflict scenarios with respect to elephants, leopards and bears by working with communities to provide an alternate livelihood. As part of the Integrated Sloth Bear Conservation and Awareness Campaign this programme worked with the Kalandar communities of Central India, identifying settlements and doing socio-economic profiling of the families.



Women from the Kalandar community undergoing embroidery, tailoring, and detergent making training for alternative livelihood

## ENFORCEMENT AND LAW

India has one of the strongest sets of legislations, namely the Wildlife (Protection) Act, among all countries. In spite of that the ground reality is that enforcement assistance by NGOs play an important role in assisting the law enforcement authorities to curb illegal trade in wildlife products and derivatives.

Enforcement and law has provided extensive legal assistance in a host of wildlife related cases. Apart from these the programme has been instrumental in intelligence gathering which has lead to many wildlife product seizures. A legal digest is in the final stages of preparation which will have comprehensive wildlife-related legal information and will be a useful handbook for conservationists. The enforcement wing has also participated in number of seizures during the year.



WTI officials assisted the seizure of wild animal skins at Majnu-ka-Tila on April 6, 2005

## COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

The year 2005-06 was an especially dynamic year for the communications division. 78 stories and 6 features were uploaded to the website during this year. Almost 584 media hits, print, online and electronic, were recorded with the main features being the Dalai Lama's event, whale shark campaign, Markhor feature, arrest of Sansar Chand and 'Tiger' Pataudi.

The website hits during the financial year 2004-2005 on a monthly average was 29,000 per month. In the current financial year i.e. up to November 2005, website hits on a monthly average recorded was 37,000/- a 27% increase over the corresponding period last year.

### Publications

#### 1). Occasional reports

- A policy document on India's involvement in the IWC 1981 – 2003,
- Report on Eradication of Mimosa in Kaziranga National Park.
- Report on the Markhor survey was printed and released at Srinagar.

#### 2) Conservation Action report

The Conservation Action Reports on the impact assessment of the tsunami "The Ground Beneath the Waves: The Mainland and The Islands are published and released at a function held at Scope Convention Centre, Lodhi Load, New Delhi. Mr. Anil Baijal, Secretary Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India was the guest of honour.

The Markhor Survey report was reprinted as a Conservation Action Report series.

#### 3) Conservation Reference Series

The Elephant Corridors of India book was published and released at a special function held at IIC. Union Minister for Environment and Forests Thiru P. Raja presided over the function.

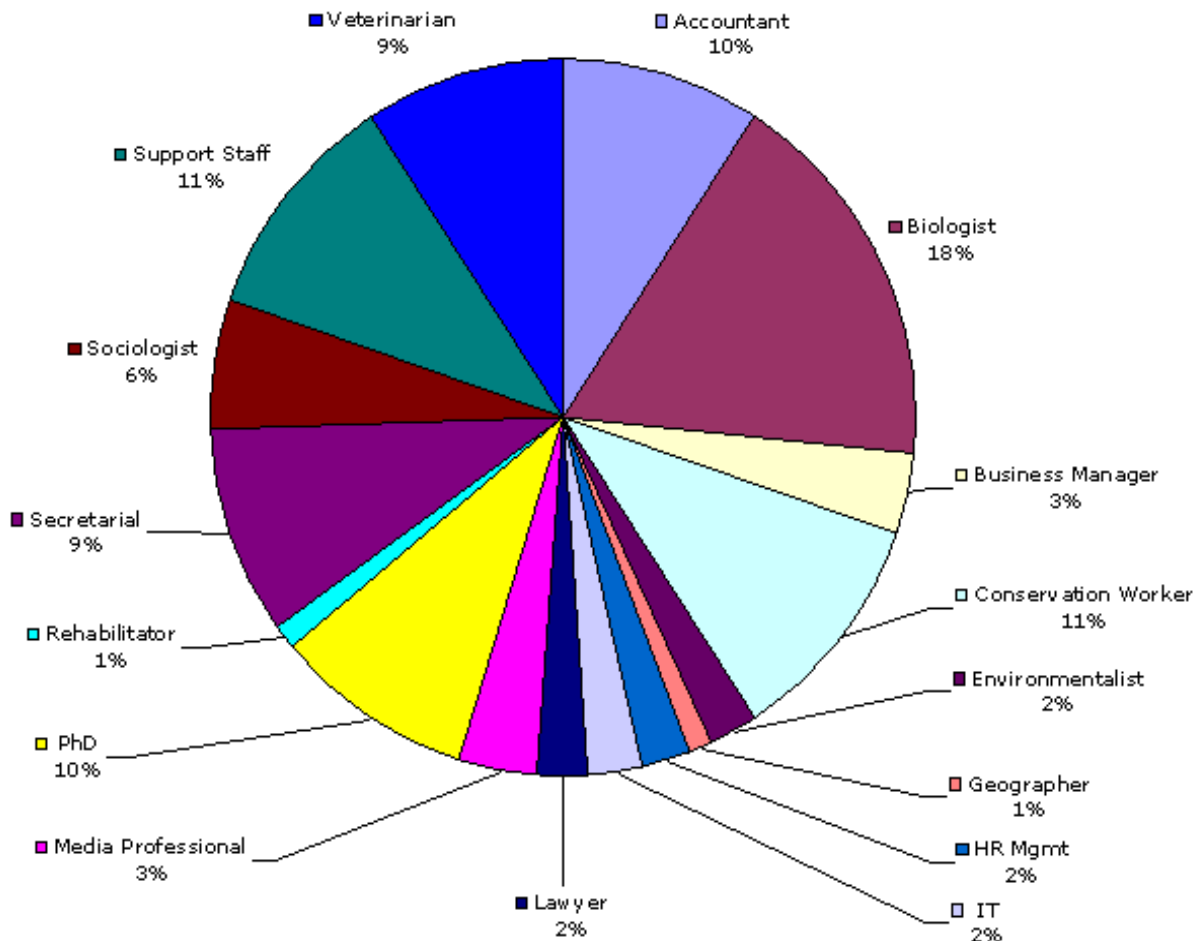
The book - Tiger Bridge by Barbara Curtis Horton was reprinted with a print run of 500 copies.

The Annual Venu Menon Animal Allies Foundation awards was ably conducted and the communication's team did its part in making the event a big success, preparing the backdrop, panels, profile of awardees, invites and brochure informative sheet on the awardees.



## HUMAN RESOURCE

In 2005-06 a total of 30 people joined different programmes in different designations. Six in communities, four each in enforcement & lands, three each in species, rescue and finance, two each in VRP and planning, and one each in admin, campaigns, human resource and marketing. Given below is the chart of skill set analysis for Staff & Consultant.



# FINANCE

## WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2006

AS AT 31.3.05 AMOUNT (Rs.)	FUNDS & LIABILITIES	AS AT 31.3.06 AMOUNT (Rs.)	AS AT 31.3.05 AMOUNT (Rs.)	ASSETS	AS AT 31.3.06 AMOUNT (Rs.)
909,541.80	<b>CORPUS FUND</b> Opening Balance	909,541.80		<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	11,970,858.69
909,541.80				<b>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b>	
11,235,806.17	<b>CAPITAL FUND</b> Opening Balance	11,970,858.69		<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>	73,005.20
2,394,752.50	Add : Addition during the year	1,098,415.99		Cash in hand	(523,546.10)
1,378,407.60	Add : Transferred from Capital Equipment Fund	383,544.43		Cash at Bank	33,637,849.00
15,008,966.28		13,452,819.11		Fixed Deposits	249,388.00
371,190.88	Less : Written off during the year	-		Accrued Interest	
2,666,916.71	Less : Depreciation	1,616,128.35			
11,970,858.69		11,836,690.76		<b>LOANS &amp; ADVANCES :</b>	503,120.00
1,260,938.07	<b>GENERAL RESERVE</b> Opening Balance	6,067,866.11		Security Deposits	1,033,087.50
575,075.63	Add : Excess of income over expenditure	824,446.00		Advances	81,628.75
91,327.98	Add : Transfer from Projects	-		Prepaid Expenses	572,793.03
2,973,524.43	Add : Net Addition	1,704,968.45		Tax Deducted at Source	
1,167,000.00	Add : Loan from Reserve	-			
6,067,866.11		8,597,280.56			
22,599,330.63	<b>UNUSED FUNDS ( Schedule " B " )</b>	25,453,749.37			
462,267.95	<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES &amp; PROVISIONS</b> Sundry Amounts Payable	666,753.65		<b>TOTAL</b>	47,464,016.14
42,009,865.18	<b>TOTAL</b>	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



New Delhi  
October 10, 2006

FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA



*Vishu*  
(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)



*Shri Anil D. Sharma*  
(TRUSTEE)

47,464,016.14





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