



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

# **MISSION**

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

# **VISION**

**A secure natural heritage of India**

# **MOTTO**

**In Service of Nature**

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**Front cover photograph: Simon Pierce  
Back Cover Photograph: Sujnan M K/WTI  
Layout and Design: Adil Arif/WTI**



Photograph by Abhijeet Vijay/WTI



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# HIGHLIGHTS

## 1. Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC):

Attended to 517 distressed animals, successfully releasing 74.66% (386) back into their natural habitats.

## 2. Pan India Whale Shark Project:

Gujarat fishermen, sensitized since 2004, surpassed 900 whale shark rescues between 2023-24 and two whale sharks—27-ft male and a 30-ft female—were tagged with satellite devices off Gujarat's coast in 2024.

## 3. Countering Pangolin Trafficking Project:

Strengthened enforcement and mobilized Tangkhul communities in Manipur, leading to six villages banning pangolin trade with ₹25,000 fines.

## 4. Mithapur Coral Reef Recovery Project:

Added 444.5 sq. m. (175 reefs) in 2023 to the artificial reef created off the Mithapur coast in Gujarat to assist the natural recruitment of corals.

## 5. Garo Green Spine Project:

Notified 1,041.5 hectares of forest land as Village Reserve Forests (VRFs), set aside for conservation by the Garo community in Meghalaya.

## 6. Pan India Enforcement Assistance (E&L):

Anti-snare walks covered 873 km across 8 Protected Areas, removing 58 snares and 11 hunting tools commonly used to capture wild animals.

## 7. Rapid Action Projects:

70 RAP initiatives sanctioned to address wildlife conservation emergencies.

## 8. Right of Passage: National Elephant Corridors Project:

Gaj Utsav Campaign launched in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, in collaboration with the Odisha Government, celebrating India's National Heritage Animal, the elephant. The event featured handcrafted elephant art, cultural performances, a cycle rally, student workshops, and media discussions, raising awareness for elephant conservation and their Right of Passage.

## 9. Kannur Kandal Project:

Restored 17 acres of mangroves in Kerala, with 46,800 saplings planted.

## 10. Emergency Relief Network:

10 oil spill-affected Spot-billed pelicans rescued, rehabilitated, and released in Tamil Nadu following the Ennore oil spill.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), our commitment to protecting India's wildlife and natural heritage has never been stronger. As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the strides we have made in conservation and community-driven initiatives.

Our wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts continue to save lives. The Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) and the Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) in Eastern Assam successfully rehabilitated and released over 385 animals in their care. Meanwhile, our MVS-Unit at the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC) achieved a 70.59% release rate for rescued animals. These numbers aren't just statistics—they represent real animals getting a second chance in the wild where they belong.

In marine conservation, our long-standing partnership with Gujarat's fishing communities has led to over 900 whale shark rescues, and this year, we took it a step further by implementing satellite tracking to better understand these gentle giants and their movements.

One of our biggest highlights this year was our partnership with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) to establish South Asia's first-ever Centre for Species Survival (CSS), uniting experts and specialist groups to drive conservation efforts.

The battle against wildlife trafficking remains a priority. In Manipur, six villages took a bold stand by banning pangolin trade and enforcing strict penalties to protect this endangered species. Our Pan-India enforcement efforts have also made an impact—the removal of 58 snares across 873 km of anti-snare walks. On a global level, our Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) project, developed

to combat illegal wildlife trade, was presented at the 34th INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group Meeting in Lyon, France.

Our Mithapur Coral Reef Recovery Project in Gujarat expanded with artificial reef structures to support marine biodiversity. In Kerala, the Kannur Kandal Project saw extensive mangrove restoration across 17 acres, while in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya, communities united to establish more Village Reserve Forests (VRFs)—demonstrating the power of conservation-led community action.

This year, we also expanded the Gaj Utsav campaign to the state of Odisha, bringing students, policymakers, and the media into the conversation about protecting elephants and their habitats.

Conservation is not just an effort—it's a movement, and with your support, we will continue safeguarding India's incredible natural heritage for generations to come. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our dedicated WTI team members, donors, supporters, partner organisations, and stakeholders, whose unwavering commitment has made this remarkable journey possible.



**Vivek Menon**  
Founder & ED, Wildlife Trust of India



## **WILD RESCUE**

To increase the welfare of individual displaced animals while enhancing conservation and pioneering science based rehabilitation and wildlife health across India, and in doing so, to save at least 40,000 lives in the decade.

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## **CONFLICT MITIGATION**

Demonstrate six innovative and replicable large-scale models of Human Wildlife Conflict reduction.

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## **WILD AID**

To provide at least 750 short term, focused and innovative aid at times of emergencies and conservation issue so as to nip problems in the bud and provide game changing solutions to age old problems.

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## **SPECIES RECOVERY**

To recover population / sub-populations of at least six threatened species by improving their recovery states (categories) and demonstrating recovery through improved recovery scores.

## **PROTECTED AREA RECOVERY**

Improve the existing functionality of six selected Protected Areas (PAs).

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## **ENFORCEMENT AND LAW**

To combat key wildlife crime and demonstrably reduce poaching or trade in at least six taxa or geographies.

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## **WILD LANDS**

To secure 200,000 hectares of critical habitats outside the traditional PA system, especially habitat linkages, wetlands, grasslands, community reserves, important Bird Areas and sacred groves.

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## **NATURAL HERITAGE CAMPAIGN**

To create a positive and measurable change in people's perceptions to improve the conservation and welfare of wildlife in India with at least six planned campaigns.

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## **RIGHT OF PASSAGE**

Right of passage for two umbrella species secured in 50% of their landscape.

# KEY PROJECTS

## CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION (CWRC)

Located in Assam, the centre is a one of its kind facility in India where orphaned and/or injured wild animals are hand raised, treated and rehabilitated. The facility is jointly run by WTI, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Assam Forest Department. CWRC is serviced by Mobile Veterinary Service Units (MVS) operating across the landscape with dedicated veterinarians and animal keepers.



**Flood Preparedness Workshop for student volunteers.**

Photograph by Samshul Ali/WTI

**517** | **animals in distress were attended to by the team**

**74.66%**

**animals successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild**



**Leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis horsfieldi*) under treatment at CWRC.**

Photograph by Samshul Ali/WTI

# CENTRE FOR BEAR REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION (CBRC)



CBRC is the first specialised rehabilitation centre for Asiatic black bears in India. Supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the centre was established jointly by the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in 2002, with an aim to rehabilitate and reintegrate displaced cubs back into the wild.



Orphaned Asiatic black bear cubs (*Ursus thibetanus*), hand-raised at the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC), explore their natural habitat as part of their 'soft rehabilitation' back into the wild.

Photograph by Amrit Menon/WTI

Photograph by Ayshman

**02** bear cubs rescued

**70.59%** of 17 rescued animals released by MVS-Unit (CBRC)

# EMERGENCY RELIEF NETWORK (ERN)



**Rehabilitated spot-billed pelicans ready for release under Addl. Secretary of Forests Ms. Supriya Sahu.**

Photograph by Shantanu Krishnan

ERN was conceptualised as a knowledge and skill exchange platform for experts as well as amateur rehabilitators and animal rescuers across India. Through this network, WTI works with committed and trained responders to help animals in distress during both natural or man-made disasters across the country.

## **10** | **Oil-spill affected spot-billed pelicans (*Pelecanus philippensis*) from Ennore, Tamil Nadu were rescued, rehabilitated and released**




**The released spot-billed pelicans perched on a log at Ennore creek.**

Photograph by Shantanu Krishnan

# TERAI TIGER PROJECT

The project, launched by the Wildlife Trust of India in 2009, focuses on mitigating human-big cat conflicts using a multi-pronged model focusing majorly on developing integrative and participatory approaches towards conflict mitigation with the support of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) comprising sociologists and biologists.

To strengthen community involvement, the project established Primary Response Teams (PRTs), currently comprising 86 trained volunteers across 15 teams. These community representatives assist in crowd control, data collection, community awareness, and monitoring conflict-prone animals. They receive regular training, essential tools, and recognition for their contributions.

A tiger with orange and black stripes is walking across a set of railway tracks. The tracks are made of dark metal rails on a bed of grey gravel. The background is a dense, green forest with many trees and bushes. The lighting is natural, suggesting daytime.

**82%**

**big cat conflict incidents mitigated through safe passage provided by RRTs.**

# SUNDARBANS TIGER PROJECT

The project aims to effectively reduce human-tiger conflicts, and develop positive attitudes towards tiger conservation initiatives, in select areas adjoining the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve.

Key initiatives include installing nylon net fences to prevent tiger ingressions in villages, forming a network of Primary Response Teams (PRTs) to respond to human-tiger conflict incidents, and providing alternative livelihoods to reduce people's dependency on forests. The project team also assists the forest department in handling all wildlife emergencies and human-tiger conflict situations, nature sensitisation through the Sundarban Education Centre (SEC), and transboundary learning across India and Bangladesh.

**15 km** | fence maintained  
by PRTs

**100%**  
tiger incidents  
mitigated

# WAYANAD CONFLICT MITIGATION PROJECT

The project aims to reduce human-big cat and human-elephant conflicts in the Nilgiri Plateau of the Western Ghats, which is home to Asian elephants and Bengal tigers. As conflicts rise, the perception of wildlife among local communities is changing, threatening both wildlife and residents. To address this, the project works closely with stakeholders, including the forest department and local governments, to implement sustainable interventions. A key strategy is the establishment of Primary Response Teams (PRTs), which operate in conflict hotspots throughout Wayanad, coordinating efforts to quickly and effectively mitigate conflicts on-site.



**75** conflict cases addressed

**260** forest staff trained



**31** anti-snare walks

**Covering 237.62 Km**

An elephant ventured into the Mananthavady town | Photograph by Sujnan M K/WTI



Photograph by Subrat Behera/WTI

## GANDAK GHARIAL RECOVERY PROJECT

The project aims to recover the population and increase the occupancy of the 'critically endangered' Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) across its distribution range through monitoring and protection of the population and nests engaging local communities, establishing an ex-situ hatching and rearing centre to enhance the hatching success, and creation of a protected area along the Gandak river to strengthen protection.

**60%**  
gharial nesting  
success

**130** | gharial hatchlings  
released into the  
Gandak river



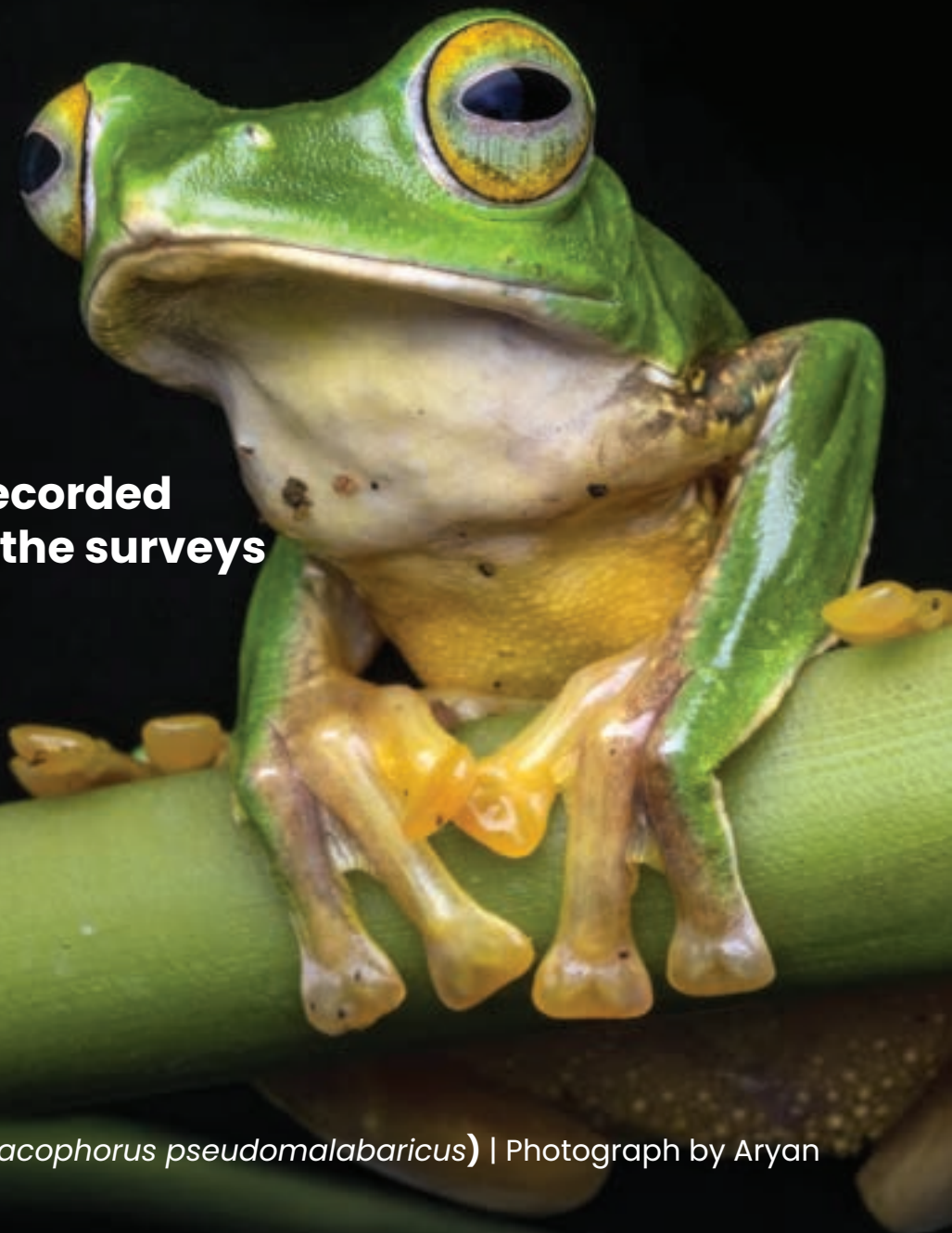
Photograph by Sreenanth/WTI

## AMPHIBIAN RECOVERY PROJECT

The project aims to address the long-term conservation of five threatened amphibians endemic to the southern Western Ghats. The project has working towards the distribution and life history strategies for these target species, while also documenting the prevalence of the frog-parasitic Chytrid fungus in the landscape. Partnership are also being established with cardamom plantations to create 'frog-friendly' habitats.

**41** | surveys  
conducted

**886** | frogs recorded  
across the surveys



**Anaimalai Flying Frog** (*Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus*) | Photograph by Aryan



Photograph by Abhijeet Vijay/WTI

## 01 artificial breeding pond constructed



Photograph by Abhijeet Vijay/WTI

Frog hotel installed around the artificial pond to provide shelter for endemic frog species.

## 38 amphibian species identified, establishing critical baseline data

Meowing Night Frog (*Nyctibatrachus poocha*) | Photograph by Renjith Hadlee

# WHITE-WINGED DUCK RECOVERY PROJECT

The long-term goal of this project is to recover the white-winged duck population by stabilising and ultimately increasing both their numbers and the locations where they are found in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. On October 16, 2023, Assam's Forest Minister, Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, officially launched the "Conservation Strategy and Action Plan" for Assam's state bird, the white-winged duck. This strategy document was developed collaboratively by the Wildlife Trust of India and the Assam Forest Department.

**49**

**white-winged duck  
documented by  
volunteer network**



Photograph by Mahesh Swargiani/WTI

**47**

**forest staff trained in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to protect the white-winged duck across three sites.**

**05**

**awareness programs engaged local communities near Dehing Patkai and Pakke Tiger Reserve.**

# KASHMIR MARKHOR RECOVERY PROJECT

The project aims to recover the wild population and habitats of Pirpanjal Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) in Jammu and Kashmir through targeted actions to safeguard habitats and increase the population and reduce anthropogenic threats through community engagement. Ongoing efforts focus on conserving habitats and population by reducing grazing pressures, providing alternative livelihood, and strengthening law enforcement engaging local "Markhor watchers".

**30**

families supported with alternative livelihoods to reduce dependency on Markhor habitats

**25**

Markhor watchers and 40 frontline staff trained to enhance habitat protection and monitoring

**35**

nature guides in Kazinag NP trained in eco-tourism, CPR, and first aid

**100+**

transient herders discouraged from grazing livestock in Critical Markhor Habitats in Hirpora WLS

**3000+**

children participated in the Wildlife Walkathon in Srinagar to support conservation



Kashmir markhor (*Capra falconeri*)  
Kazinag National Park, J&K

# HANGUL RECOVERY PROJECT

This project aims to safeguard the “critically endangered” hangul (*Cervus hanglu*) corridors in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure safe movement between fragmented habitats and restoring connectivity. The project involves precise corridor usage studies, threat identification, and protection measures, with a focus on involving local communities and organizations. Collaboration with stakeholders and a Corridor Securement Plan are key components of this conservation initiative.

**25** Hangul watchers trained and equipped to build a strong monitoring network

**Community sensitisation programme held along the Hangul habitat in Kashmir to build support for conservation and foster coexistence.**

Photographs by Sameer Dar/WTI



**Hangul watchers collecting samples to aid monitoring and conservation efforts.**

Photographs by Sameer Dar/WTI



**150** Students & **85** Villages sensitised on hangul conservation



**Hangul (*Cervus hanglu*)**  
**Dachigam National Park, J&K**

Photograph by Ansar Ahmad

## RIGHT OF PASSAGE

This project aims to ensure protection for 101 identified elephant corridors across the country. The aim, in partnership with Government of India, is to mobilise action through awareness, involvement and participation from stakeholders as well as favourable policies to secure the future of these majestic species. Safe elephant corridors translate to minimum human-wildlife interface, protected habitats, reduced unnatural mortality and a balanced ecosystem.

# 57

**elephant corridors across India were monitored with the support of 25 dedicated teams**

# 28

**acres secured in Karnataka to widen the Chamarajanagar-Talamalai Mudahalli to its ideal width, thereby ensuring safe passage for elephants**

# 16

**key corridors equipped with strategically placed signboards to inform people and alert drivers in frequent elephant crossing zones**

# 183

**frontline forest staff in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu, received extensive training on wildlife crime and rescue**



Photograph by Sujnan M K/WTI

# CENTRAL INDIA TIGER CORRIDOR PROJECT

This project aims to ensure the long-term survival of tigers by maintaining landscape connectivity across 14 protected areas in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh. It focuses on mitigating human-tiger conflict, reducing habitat fragmentation, and fostering coexistence through community engagement. By collaborating with Green Corridor Champions (GCCs) and conducting ground-truthing studies, the project identifies key bottlenecks and strengthens corridor management. Securing these critical corridors preserves genetic diversity and ensures a sustainable future for tigers and their ecosystems.



Photograph by Sandeep Dutta

**75**

**community watchers in 15 teams across the NNTR corridor work with forest guards to mitigate human-wildlife conflict**

**139**

**frontline staff trained in Wildlife Crime Prevention; legal support extended across three tiger reserves in Central India**

# D'ERING DIBRU SAIKHOWA ELEPHANT LINK PROJECT



Wall painting by local students at Namsing, Arunachal Pradesh

The D'ering - Dibru Saikhowa Elephant Link Project aims to secure the connectivity for elephants and other key wildlife between D'ering Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in Assam in partnership with the local community and forest department by setting aside and restoring critical part of corridor land as a Community Reserve.

**170+**

**students of Namsing Government School participated in mask-making and wall painting activities during World Elephant Day**

**68**

**indigenous women weavers were empowered, enhancing their livelihoods and preserving cultural heritage**

**250 Kg**

**of yarn distributed to directly support traditional weaving practices**

# SARUS CRANE CONSERVATION PROJECT

This project aims to protect and monitor sarus crane (*Antigone antigone*) population and secure their habitats including agricultural fields and wetlands outside protected areas, in eastern Uttar Pradesh.



**Sarus crane chick hatchling from Chiraiyakot wetland.**

Photograph by Arshad Hussain/WTI

**2907**  
sarus cranes recorded in  
annual survey

**1300**  
participants engaged in  
conservation activities

**100%**  
hatching success

Member of the Sabiya village wetland management committee observing a sarus nest after one egg hatched at the Chiraiyakot wetland.

Photograph by Arshad Hussain/WTI



# GUJARAT WHALE SHARK CONSERVATION PROJECT

Launched in 2004, the project aims to generate baseline data on the whale shark to aid its long-term conservation in India.



Workshop on satellite tagging of whale shark.  
Photograph by Prakash Doriya/WTI

**31** | Whale sharks were rescued and released

**02** | Whale sharks tagged with satellite devices to study their movements and understand their biology.

## GARO GREEN SPINE PROJECT

The overarching aim is to connect the fragmented forest patches located between the West Garo Hills and Nokrek National Park, with a view to establishing an uninterrupted natural corridor that extends to Balpakram National Park. This network of forest patches forms the backbone of the region's biodiversity and has been designated as the Garo Green Spine.



Students of Alokpang village showcase their nature-themed paintings during an awareness programme.

Photograph by John Fernando D Shira

**1041+**

hectares of forest land notified as 8 Village Reserve Forests

# MITHAPUR CORAL REEF RECOVERY PROJECT

The project aims to develop and implement effective conservation strategies for the restoration of Mithapur Reef, located 12 km south of the Gulf of Kachchh in Gujarat.

Dotted Nudibranch (*Jorunna funebris*) observed during WTI's survey along tide pools of Mithapur Coral Reef | Photograph by Altaf Bhaya/WTI

**01** biorock installed

**175** total artificial reefs established

**444.5**  
sq.m

added to the artificial reef area created off the Mithapur coast

# KANNUR KANDAL PROJECT

'Kandal' being the Malayalam word for Mangroves, the project aims to ensure survival of the existing mangroves through securing land and community sensitization as well as to increase the acreage of mangrove.

## 1 lakh

saplings of 10 mangrove species raised in nurseries



## 17+

acres planted



## 1828

people engaged through 44 awareness programs

Photograph by Anil Kumar

# STRENGTHENING CROSS-BORDER WILDLIFE CRIME PREVENTION

India shares borders with countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar underscoring its strategic position in South Asia. The dense forests along the Indo-Nepal border are home to endangered species such as tigers and elephants, making them vulnerable to wildlife crime. In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, six protected areas need strengthened surveillance to combat poaching, which often involves snares that harm animals. In response, WTI collaborates with local forest departments and other enforcement agencies to conduct training and anti-snare patrols in these vulnerable regions.

**511** Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Personnel Trained in Wildlife Crime Prevention



**92**

forest staff trained in two Tiger Reserves



**65 Km** covered in Anti-Snare Walks

Anti-snare walk by Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel at Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar

# HOSTILE ACTIVITY WATCH KERNEL (HAWK)

Combating forest and wildlife crime is a critical task for state forest departments. The Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) is a cloud-based information management system designed to track wildlife crime, criminals, and mortality. It aids officials in data analysis and intelligence generation to combat wildlife crimes and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). The system integrates real-time data across the state forest department with restricted access levels and modular scalability, allowing customization, procedural adaptations, and regional language interfaces.

HAWK ensures secure data management with government and industry-standard security measures. Developed by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), it launched in Kerala in 2019 and expanded to Karnataka in 2022 in collaboration with state forest departments. WTI's dedicated team oversees development and staff training to support seamless implementation.

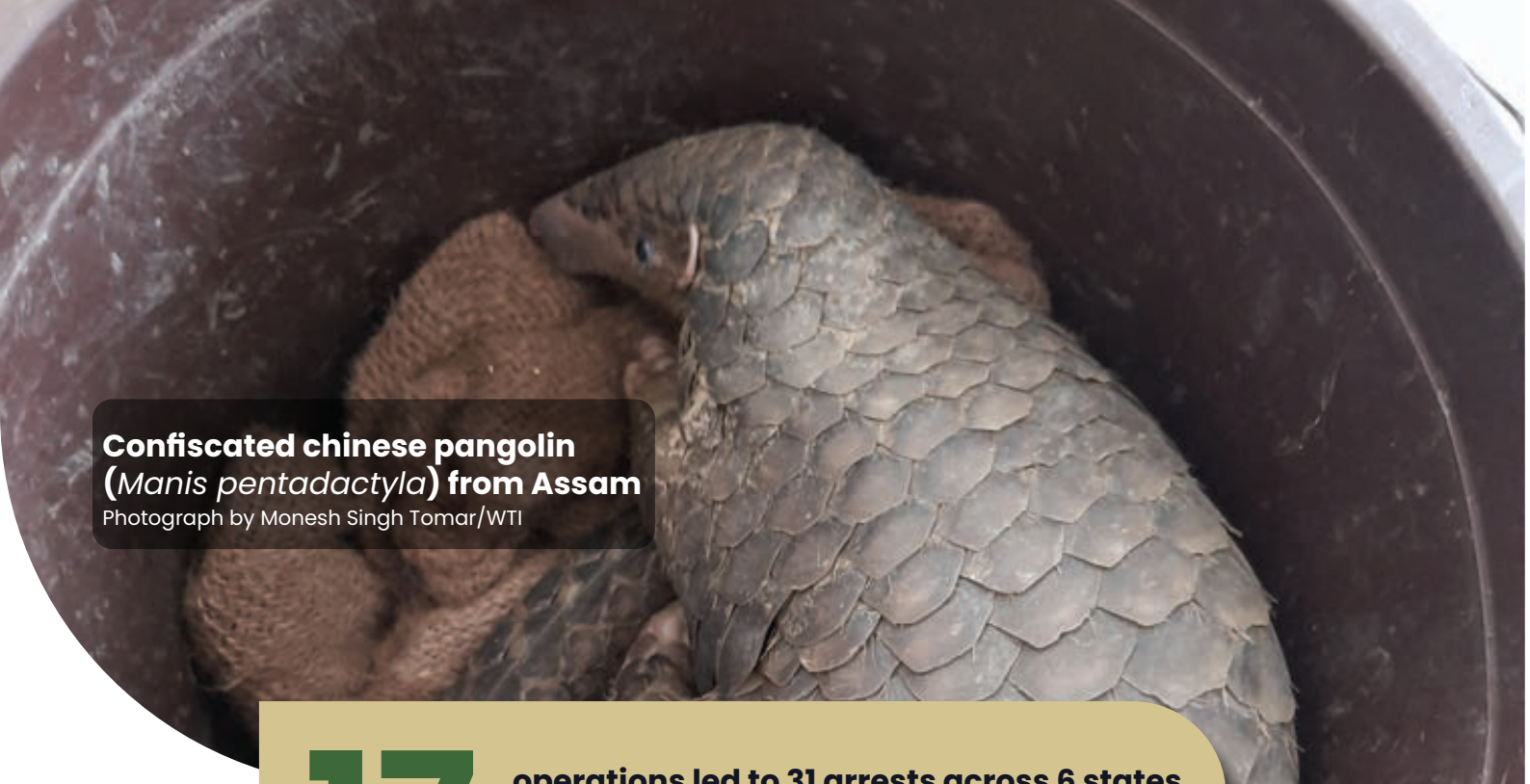
State	Trainings Conducted	Staff Trained	Key Initiatives
Kerala	8	202	Launched 'Check Post' app for real-time vehicle surveillance. Mandated HAWK for data entry.
Karnataka	6	149	Signed MoU to customize and implement HAWK statewide.
Uttar Pradesh	9	76	Trial phase conducted in Dudhwa, Katerniaghat, and North Kheri divisions.



Photograph by Hareesha Shasthri

## PAN-INDIA ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

The Wildlife Crime Control Division (WCCD) of WTI implements a multi-faceted strategy to combat wildlife crime in India. This encompasses a range of measures including training and equipping the frontline forest staff, preventing wildlife trade and trafficking (on ground and in cyberspace) through the acquisition of intelligence, and furnishing legal assistance to the forest department through the engagement of WTI appointed lawyers.



**Confiscated chinese pangolin**  
(*Manis pentadactyla*) from Assam

Photograph by Moneesh Singh Tomar/WTI

**17**

operations led to 31 arrests across 6 states, involving 26 wildlife species, including pangolins, elephants, and tigers.

**261**

instances of illegal wildlife trade reported by WTI cyber spotter network – 60 wildlife crime cases resolved.



**Confiscated rose-ringed parakeets**  
(*Psittacula krameri*) from Chhattisgarh.

Photograph by Sandeep Singh, ACF, Chhattisgarh



Photograph by Saurabh Varma

## COUNTERING PANGOLIN TRAFFICKING

Pangolin trafficking poses a significant threat to India's biodiversity, with the Northeastern region, a global biodiversity hotspot, serving as a key transit route for illegal wildlife trade. In Manipur, traditional hunting practices, porous borders, and illegal markets contribute to the smuggling of pangolins (*Manis crassicaudata* and *Manis pentadactyla*). WTI's 'Countering Pangolin Trafficking Project' focuses on disrupting these networks by strengthening enforcement, enhancing forest department skills, and mobilising communities in border regions. Collaboration and awareness are vital to combat this pressing issue.

**39** | villages surveyed in Manipur, revealing 8 trade hotspots for pangolins.

**06** | village heads issued resolutions banning the hunting and trade of pangolins.



Photograph by Madhumay Mallik/WTI

**Mr. Kashung Tennyson, President of Tangkhul Naga Awunga Long (TNAL), signed a resolution banning the hunting and consumption of pangolins across 230 Tangkhul Naga villages in Manipur's Ukhrul, Kamjong, and Senapati districts.**

# WILDLIFE CRIME PREVENTION ASSISTANCE IN KARNATAKA

Karnataka is home to significant wildlife, including tigers and elephants, but it faces increasing threats from wildlife crime, particularly snaring. WTI has partnered with the Karnataka Forest Department in five tiger reserves to address these challenges, successfully removing 4,520 snares and training 573 forest officers in wildlife crime prevention techniques. The initiative also provides legal assistance for nearly 450 cases and engages local communities through the Village Vigilance Volunteers network, all aimed at protecting these flagship species and enhancing wildlife crime management.



**37** | snares removed from 198 Km anti-snare walk



**Forest guards on anti-snare walk in Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka.**

Photograph by Ganesh Rathod

# RAPID ACTION PROJECT (RAP)

RAP address wildlife threats that require an immediate, short-term response. Through RAP's, WTI collaborates with grassroots organisations/individuals, government agencies and community stakeholders – to identify and resolve potential threats to wildlife at an early stage. We extend financial and logistical support as well as technical expertise to proponents with proven credibility. So far, WTI has effectively implemented 720 Rapid Action Projects across India. These projects have been carried out in 20 states and three Union Territories, showcasing a widespread impact.

# 70

**Rapid Action Projects  
Sanctioned**

# 26

**species were a focus of conservation efforts through  
RAPs, addressing critical threats to their survival.**



**Rescued short-toed larks (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) being  
released back to the wild .**

Photograph by Santanu Das



Photograph by Madhumay Malik/WTI

## VAN RAKSHAK PROJECT (VRP)

Since 2001, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has been dedicated to supporting the frontline staff of our Forest Department and their families through the Van Rakshak Project's Supplementary Accidental Assurance Scheme. WTI's initiative is the only NGO-managed pan-India program that offers ex-gratia support of up to INR 1,00,000 in the event of death occurring while on duty. In cases of injury, a partial amount is provided. To date, 23 state Forest Departments have joined this scheme, benefitting over 20,000 frontline forest personnel. Over the past 16 years, more than 150 families have received support.

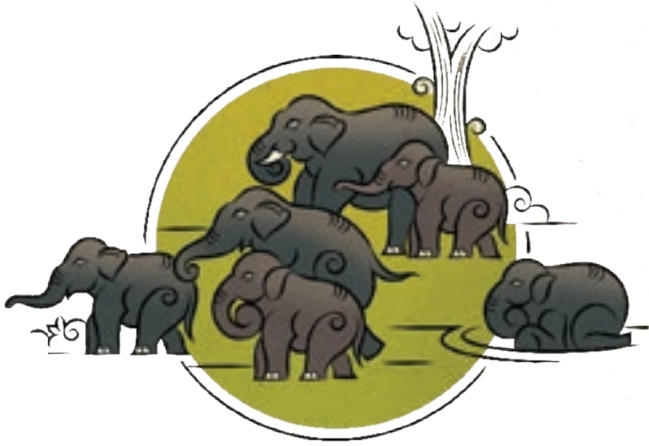
# 35

**Cases of ex-gratia support was provided**

**Ex-gratia support for the family of late Bimal Kumar Jena (Forest Guard, Similipal, Odisha) who lost his life in the line of duty.**







**30,000** Students

**50,000** Adults

were engaged in awareness efforts



Photograph by Karnival

Student awareness activity during the launch of Gaj Utsav in Bhubaneswar, Odisha



Photograph by Karnival

# WHALE SHARK CONSERVATION ALONG KERALA AND LAKSHADWEEP

Launched in 2022, the project aims to stop accidental entanglement of whale sharks in fishing nets in an effort to protect their population along the Indian coast.



**Whale Shark Campaign at Amini islands, Lakshadweep.**

Photograph by Madhumay Mallik



**17,874**

**fishers sensitised across  
9 districts in Kerala**

**11,414**

**fishers in Lakshadweep  
sensitised across 5 islands  
to become Guardians of  
the Whale Shark**



Photograph by Melody Sky

**A whale shark being released back to the ocean  
after getting accidentally beached in Trivandrum.**

Photograph by Ajith Kumar/WTI



# MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

## 91 whale sharks rescued in two years in Gujarat

Thiv / Updated: Mar 1, 2023, 06:50 IST

The state government rescued 91 whale sharks through the whale shark conservation project. The government paid Rs 9.31 lakh as compensation to fishermen.



ANMEDABAD: The state government rescued 91 whale sharks through the whale shark conservation project. The government paid Rs 9.31 lakh as compensation to fishermen.

The state government in a tabled reply stated that since 2012 the government has implemented the project under which if a whale shark gets trapped in the fishing nets, the government would rescue and get the whale shark released.

## 112 tigers deaths from January to July this year, says Wildlife Trust of India

The WTI has relied on the data from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

Shreyas Bhat / ANI

Jan 04, 2024, 10:47 IST



Representative image of tiger in forest.

Between January-July 2023, India has reported the death of more than 100 tigers, with a significant percentage lost to poaching, according to the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI).

## Amazon's "Poacher" series, previewed at US embassy, highlights India's fight against wildlife crime

ANI | Updated: Feb 16, 2024 10:43 IST

New Delhi [India], February 16 (ANI): The US Embassy organized a preview screening of the first episode of the Amazon Original series Poacher, an investigative crime series that unearths the largest ivory poaching ring in Indian history.

The US Embassy informed in an official press release, "This series is based on a real investigation led by Indian forest officials, the Indian Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, and a local NGO, the Wildlife Trust of India, which is the recipient of U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service grants."

The US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, introduced the event with remarks on combating illegal wildlife trafficking, in addition to engaging with Indian forest officials and civil society experts.

## Karnataka Forest Dept to throw digital dragnet to crackdown on poachers, smugglers

The Karnataka Forest Department is adopting the Wildlife Activity Watch KARNAT (WAWK) a software developed by Wildlife Trust of India (WTI).

Chinnappa Ballant / ANI

Jan 14, 2024, 10:50 IST



Representative image of forest. Credit: ANI/Photo

Wild State Monitoring wildlife crime and forest officers will soon shift to a digital environment in a move that will not only act as a dragnet in curbing poachers and smugglers slipping away through state borders but also strengthen the legal arm of the Department in ensuring conviction through streamlining the process.

## Rice distributed to families affected by human-elephant conflicts

December 18, 2021

ITANAGAR, 18 Nov: The Pakke Tiger Reserve Foundation (PTRF), in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), on Friday distributed rice to 69 families who were affected by human-elephant conflicts in Pakke-Kessang district this year.

As many as 69 quintals of rice were distributed to the families in Seljosa, located close to the Pakke Tiger Reserve in the district, a WTI official informed.

"The distribution was carried out as part of the 'grain-for-grain' initiative for 2022-'23," Parjit Basumatary, manager of the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation & Conservation (CBRC) under WTI, said.

## From brink of extinction to flourishing: Bihar's Gandak river now home to over 200 Gharials

PTI | Posted by Singh Rahul Santhoshwar

Nov 07, 2023 04:23 PM IST

The Bihar's Gandak river should be declared as a conservation reserve for gharials, officials demand, adding that it is a critically endangered species.



Gharial population in Gandak river was about 30 in 2014. (Representative Image)

## Rescued & rubbed, will these pelicans ever be white again?

F Oppl / Thiv / Jan 2, 2024, 13:34 IST



A spot-billed pelican draped in oil slick that was rescued.

A spacious enclosure at the Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Children's Park is now home to five spot-billed pelicans drenched in oil slick at Enners. Despite wiping and cleaning their feathers and body, they are yet to get back their original colour.

Chennai Wildlife Warden E. Prasant said six pelicans drenched in the oil have been rescued so far.



## EVENTS

### WTI's "Right of Passage" stall exhibition at Gaj Utsav 2023 in Kaziranga, Assam



Kaziranga National Park, 6 April 2023: Gaj Utsav 2023 commenced, celebrating 30 years of Project Elephant in India. Inaugurated by Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the 3-day event featured a WTI stall on the "Right of Passage," showcasing 101 elephant corridors across 11 states. Policymakers, forest ministers, and local communities gathered to discuss conservation strategies.

### IUCN SSC partners with WTI to set up the first-ever Centre for Species Survival in South Asia



New Delhi, 26 July 2023: WTI and IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) signed an MoU to establish South Asia's first Center for Species Survival (CSS) in India. Signed by Prof. Jon Paul Rodríguez, Chair of IUCN SSC, and Mr. Vivek Menon, IUCN Councillor & Executive Director of WTI, this marks the 10th CSS globally. The partnership aims to enhance conservation efforts and protect India's rich biodiversity through collaboration with wildlife experts and specialist groups.

## WTI & IFAW celebrate 20 years of conservation success in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh



Pakke, 18 December 2023: WTI and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) have collaborated with local communities and state forest departments in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh for over 20 years. IFAW's President & CEO, Mr. Azzedine T. Downes, and WTI's Founder & Executive Director, Mr. Vivek Menon, visited project sites in the Manas and Pakke landscapes to celebrate this milestone. They engaged with stakeholders, highlighting a holistic approach that balances ecological impact with community-driven conservation.



Guwahati, 5-8 December 2023: WTI-IFAW participated in the 1st Asian Ranger Forum which brought together 146 participants from 20 countries to address global challenges faced in protecting forests and wildlife. It was organised by Assam Forest Department, Aaranyak, International Ranger Federation, Ranger Federation of Asia, and Universal Ranger Support Alliance in collaboration with NGO partners.



New Delhi, 28 September 2023: Vivek Menon, Executive Director of Wildlife Trust of India, and Tom Schmid, President and CEO, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, sign an MoU to establish the first-ever Center for Species Survival in South Asia.



10 December 2023: A session titled “Protecting Biodiversity: A Critical Tool for Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change” was held during COP28 UAE. Speakers included H.E. Dr. Mohammed Salman Alhammadi (UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment), H.E. Paula Coelho (Angola), John Scanlon AO (EWC and EPI Foundation), and Jimmiel Mandima (IFAW), moderated by Vivek Menon (IFAW, Wildlife Trust of India, and IUCN).

France, 12 December 2023: WTI’s Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) project which was conceptualised, designed, developed and implemented to counter Illegal Wildlife Trade was presented at the 34th INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group Meeting in Lyon, France.





Mumbai, 27–28 January 2024: WTI in partnership with Re:wild set up an educational kiosk at the global music festival Lollapalooza. The event served as a platform to showcase our efforts in conserving India’s precious wildlife and its habitats through Lollapalooza’s messaging channels and on-site interactions.

## **‘POACHER’ an Amazon Original Series by Richie Mehta Highlights Elephant Poaching & Wildlife Crime in India**

New Delhi, 22 February 2024: Amazon Original Series ‘Poacher’ by Richie Mehta and Alia Bhatt spotlights India’s largest ivory poaching ring, based on ‘Operation Shikar’ (2015–2017). It showcases the bravery of forest officers, WTI, and law enforcement in exposing wildlife crime.



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



WTI's Founder and Executive Director, Mr. Vivek Menon was presented a 'Green Warrior' award by the FPWC (Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets), Yerevan, Armenia for his efforts in showcasing the importance of sustainability and conservation during the SunChild Festival with the theme of Bio Diversity: The pattern of life.



WTI's Founder and Executive Director, Mr. Vivek Menon was awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Bodoland Territorial Council in recognition of his continuous support for the last 20 years for the vision "Greater Manas" to Secure the Rich Natural Heritage of Bodoland.



WTI was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation by Planet Indonesia for providing assistance in intelligence collection and operation of wildlife crime, encouraging law enforcement agencies to prosecute one of the organised criminals in West Kalimantan province who traded 109.54 kgs scales of pangolin.



Mr Vivek Menon was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Department of Environment & Forest, Arunachal Pradesh for the collaborative efforts of WTI-IFAW for the contribution towards rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife in Arunachal Pradesh, North East India through Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC).

Mr. Azzedine Downes, President and CEO of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), USA and Mr. Vivek Menon, Founder and Executive Director, WTI, Senior Adviser to the President IFAW, were honoured with certificates of appreciation by Arunachal Women and Child Welfare Society for contributing towards wildlife conservation and community initiatives in Seijosa, Arunachal Pradesh



WTI was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, for the valuable contribution and continued support for the Welfare of Forest Staff at the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve for the cause of conservation of Wildlife.

WTI was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Department of Wildlife Protection, Central Division, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir for actively participating in various awareness and outreach programmes for Wildlife Conservation and Protection efforts.

## TIE-UPS AND COLLABORATIONS



Photograph by Sreenanth/WTI

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), Asian Adventures, and Global Wildlife Fair (GWF) have partnered to host monthly wildlife film screenings as a unique initiative to raise awareness and inspire conservation action. These screenings offer a visually captivating journey into some of India's most wildlife-rich destinations while spotlighting real-world conservation challenges and the heroes working tirelessly to address them. Through expertly curated documentaries, attendees gain a deeper understanding of ecological issues and the vital work of conservationists.



Photograph by Sreenanth/WTI

# BALANCE SHEET

<b>WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA</b>					
Balance Sheet as on 31 March, 2024					
AS ON 31.3.23 AMOUNT (Rs.)	FUNDS & LIABILITIES	AS ON 31.3.24 AMOUNT (Rs.)	AS ON 31.3.23 AMOUNT (Rs.)	ASSETS	AS ON 31.3.24 AMOUNT (Rs.)
1,45,48,042	<b>CORPUS FUND</b> Opening Balance 1,45,48,042 Add: Addition during the year 2,20,000 <hr/> <b>CAPITAL FUND</b> Opening Balance 13,36,08,361 Add: Addition during the year (Schedule C) 1,93,37,855 Add: Transfer from General Reserve 24,63,740 Add: Transfer from Communications & Development 4,83,849 <hr/> Less: Sale/ Loss during the year 1,56,567 Less: Depreciation 67,43,272 <hr/> <b>GENERAL RESERVE (Schedule "B")</b> Opening Balance 8,57,59,554 Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure 56,79,251 <hr/> Less: Amount Transferred to other project funds (As per Schedule B) 31,50,830 Less: Amount Transferred to Capital Fund (As per Schedule B) 24,63,740 <hr/> <b>UNUTILISED FUNDS (Schedule "B")</b> Project Fund 24,79,17,283 Social Enterprise Fund 66,837 <hr/> <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES &amp; PROVISIONS (Schedule "D")</b> Sundry Amounts Payable 68,49,529 <hr/> <b>TOTAL</b>	1,47,68,042	14,89,93,896	14,89,93,896	50,44,20,092
13,36,08,361		14,89,93,896	13,36,08,361	<b>FIXED ASSETS (Schedule "C")</b>  <b>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS &amp; ADVANCES (Schedule "A")</b>  <b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b> Cash in hand 2,59,945  Bank balance 2,21,16,057 Fixed Deposits 31,70,98,823 Accrued Interest 1,85,94,542 Closing Stock (Social Enterprise) 2,92,068 Tax Deducted at Source 28,69,279  <b>LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b> Security Deposits 34,52,678 Advances (3,88,234)	14,89,93,896
49,58,11,997	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,44,20,092</b>	<b>49,58,11,997</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,44,20,092</b>

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

FOR KOSHI & GEORGE  
 Chartered Accountants  
 (Reg. No. 0039265)  
 GEORGE KOSHI  
 Partner  
 M.No. 62961  
 New Delhi  
 24-09-2024  
 UDIN: 24082961BKDFMF9819

*(Signature)*  
 (TRUSTEE & CHAIRMAN)

Venkateswara Prasad Gunupati  
 Trustee & Chairman  
 Wildlife Trust of India



FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA  
*(Signature)*  
 (FOUNDER TRUSTEE & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

VIVEK MENON  
 Founder Trustee & Executive Director  
 WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

*(Signature)*  
 LOUIES  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

# PARTNERS

Wildlife Trust of India is thankful to all individuals, governments, institutions and corporates for supporting our conservation projects.

Institutional Partner | **ifaw**



HCLFoundation



KFW



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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**Vivek Menon**  
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**Elias George**  
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India**