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Conducting Anti-snare and Anti-electrocution Walks in Wildlife Areas – A Field Manual

Wildlife Trust of India founded in 1998, is dedicated to securing India's natural heritage through on-ground conservation action, policy advocacy, wildlife crime prevention, and community engagement. With a strong multidisciplinary team, WTI works across priority landscapes to reduce threats to wildlife and strengthen long-term conservation outcomes.

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Printed at:
Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)
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In Collaboration with:
Maharashtra Forest Department
Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve

Supported by:
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

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Foreword



Much of wildlife conservation is shaped not by what happens in meeting rooms, but by the decisions taken every day in the field. The knowledge, vigilance, and commitment of frontline staff often determine whether a threat is detected in time or whether it goes unnoticed.

Across many forested landscapes in India, snaring and illegal electrification continue to claim the lives of wild animals. These are among the most persistent and difficult wildlife crimes to address because they are inexpensive to deploy, easy to conceal, and often spread across large areas. Illegal electrification presents an added challenge, as it not only causes wildlife mortality but also poses a serious risk to frontline personnel during detection and removal of live wires in the field. While every incident may appear isolated, together they represent a serious challenge to wildlife conservation and to the long-term security of our protected areas and corridors. Responding to these threats therefore requires not only effective enforcement but also careful planning, sound field practices, and constant vigilance.

Nawegaon–Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR), together occupies a strategic position at the tri-junction of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, serving as an important link in the network of wildlife corridors that connect Protected Areas and tiger reserves across the Central Indian landscape. Protecting this landscape requires not only enforcement but also practical tools that enable field staff to detect threats early, respond effectively, and document incidents systematically. The value of this document lies in its field orientation. It brings together observations, experiences, and practical approaches developed through regular anti-snare walks and anti-electrocution drives conducted in collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department.

I believe conservation is strongest when field experience is documented and shared. Many of the most effective conservation practices have evolved through years of learning by those working closest to wildlife. By putting these experiences into a structured set of guidelines, this document provides a useful reference for frontline staff while encouraging consistency in the way such operations are planned and conducted.

I commend the Maharashtra Forest Department for taking the initiative to develop these guidelines in partnership with the Wildlife Trust of India. I hope these guidelines will serve not only the Nawegaon–Nagzira Tiger Reserve landscape but will also encourage similar efforts in other landscapes facing comparable challenges. Every preventable wildlife mortality avoided is a meaningful step towards securing India's wildlife for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vivek Menon'.

Vivek Menon

Founder, Trustee and Executive Director
Wildlife Trust of India

Message



Nawegaon–Nagzira Tiger Reserve occupies a critical position within the Central Indian tiger landscape, supporting a dispersing population of tigers and a wide range of other wildlife across its core and buffer zones. In recent years, incidents of wildlife mortality due to illegal electrification and snaring have emerged as a serious and recurring concern across the landscape. These incidents not only result in irreversible loss of wildlife but strike at the very corridors through which tigers and other species move, threatening the long-term integrity of the landscape we are entrusted to protect.

Addressing this threat demands more than reactive response. It requires regular field vigilance, systematic detection, careful documentation, and coordinated action carried out consistently, across seasons, by officers and frontline staff who know this landscape better than anyone. The commitment and field knowledge of our protection staff remain the most important asset we have in preventing these losses.

These guidelines have been prepared to strengthen and support that effort. They draw directly from field experiences in the NNTR landscape and are intended as a practical reference, not a rigid prescription, for staff engaged in anti-electrocution drives and anti-snare walks. I hope they serve as a useful companion in the field and contribute in some measure to reducing wildlife mortality in this landscape.

I place on record my appreciation for the field teams of Nawegaon–Nagzira Tiger Reserve, the Wildlife Trust of India, and the officers of MSEDCL whose work and observations have informed this document.



Smt. Piyusha Jagtap, IFS

Field Director

Nawegaon–Nagzira Tiger Reserve

Executive Summary

The Nawegaon–Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) landscape in Central India represents one of the most critical linkages for maintaining Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) connectivity between protected areas (PA's) and sustaining long-term dispersal. While India harbours the largest global population of tigers, their habitats are highly fragmented and under immense anthropogenic pressure. Dispersing tigers frequently move through agricultural lands and village fringes that lie outside the protected area network, where the risks of mortality from human-induced causes are significant. Among the most pervasive threats are electrocution and snaring.

Crop depredation by Wild Pigs (*Sus scrofa*), and other ungulates often compels farmers to resort to harmful practices such as setting live electric wires or snares around their fields. These methods are non-selective in nature and endanger not only herbivores but also carnivores, including tigers, that use these human-dominated corridors. Unlike linear infrastructure such as roads or railways, which create predictable barriers, these threats are scattered across the landscape, forming an unpredictable “matrix of risk” that wildlife must navigate.

The clandestine nature of these practices makes detection difficult and often dangerous for frontline staff, particularly when dealing with live wires in agricultural fields. At the same time, the lack of systematic documentation and response mechanisms limits the ability to understand patterns and address hotspots effectively. To counter this, Anti-snare Walks (ASWs) and Anti-electrocution Drives (AEDs) have been developed as structured, preventive measures.

This guideline aims to provide basic ways of detecting, conducting, planning and necessary precautions to take in the field in the NNTR landscape, ensuring both staff safety and effective mitigation of wildlife crime, while contributing to the long-term conservation of tigers and the functionality of critical corridors in Central India.



Illegal live wire fence activated at night along the forest–farmland boundary in NNTR. Photo © Idris Ahmed/WTI

Purpose:

To provide a quick reference for the frontline forest staff of Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) on the effective methods of detecting and dismantling illegal electrification and snares to reduce unnatural wildlife mortality and potential threats.

Objectives:

- Establish standardized guidelines for conducting ASWs and AEDs.
- Enhance safety for forest staff during field operations.
- Ensure systematic documentation and reporting of wildlife crime incidents.
- Strengthen wildlife crime prevention efforts in NNTR.

What is Electrocution?

Electrocution in wildlife contexts refers to the intentional use of electric current by humans to deter or kill wild animals. As a basic protection measure, farmers install fences around their fields to reduce crop depredation. However, in some cases, these fences are illegally electrified by tapping overhead power lines — either high-tension (HT) 11 kV lines or low-tension (LT) domestic supply (440 to 220/240 V). Offenders often resort to this method to prevent crop depredation by wild animals such as Wild Pig (*Sus scrofa*), Elephants (*Elephas maximus*) and other Ungulates. Unfortunately, this practice also poses a deadly threat to non-target species, including Tigers (*Panthera tigris tigris*), Leopards (*Panthera pardus fusca*), and other wild animals, leading to injury or instant death.

Lethal Methods of Fence Electrification

- 01) **Direct Powerline Transmission Line Connection:** Insulated electrical wires are illegally tapped from overhead powerlines or domestic supply lines and hooked to farm fences, converting a simple GI wire fence into a live circuit carrying lethal alternating current (AC)



02) **Live Wires:** Offenders have been observed stretching single live wires for several kilometers deep inside the forest. Poachers commonly anchor this live wire to bamboo pegs and illegally tap high-tension (11 kV) transmission lines to electrocute wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and other ungulates for wild meat. Unlike typical electrocution cases, which involve energising boundary fences using LT or HT Lines, these live wires are deliberately laid deep inside the forest specifically to facilitate poaching.



03) **Meter Box Connections:** Most farmers are provided with an electrical connection through a distribution point (DP) to operate irrigation pumps. However, some misuse this system by illegally diverting connections from the DP or meter box to electrify farm boundaries.



04) **Household Supply:** Extension wires are drawn from a household's main electric switchboard or socket. These wires are connected to the farm fence



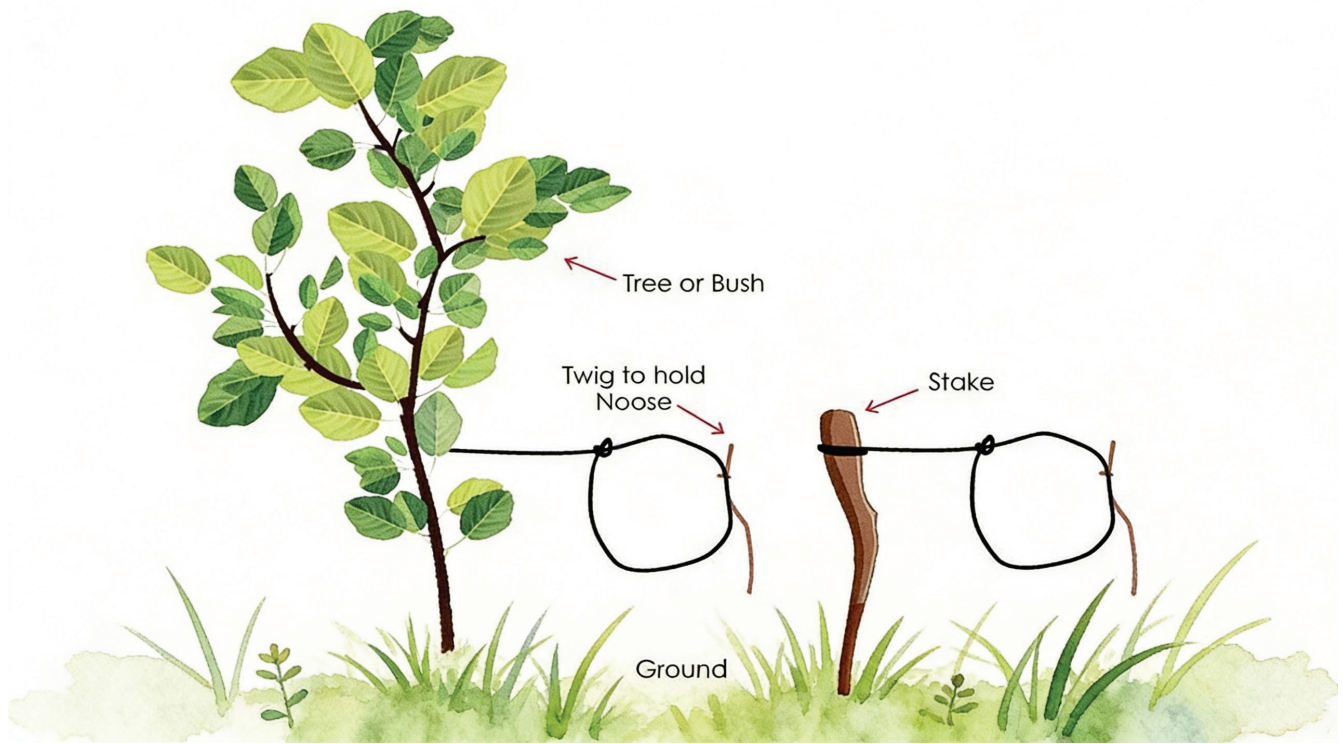
Ways to Detect Electrocutation:

The most effective time to detect illegal electrocution setups is during night patrols or in the early morning hours (between 4:00–5:00 a.m.). Offenders typically electrify their fences at night and disconnect the power supply soon after dawn, making detection difficult later in the day. However, with careful observation of specific cues and indirect signs, it is possible to ascertain whether a fence is being illegally electrified during the night.

- 01) While walking along the boundary of farmland, closely examine the fence for any wires that appear to be hooked or drawn from overhead power lines or other sources.
- 02) Pay attention to hanging bulbs (usually install 100-Watt bulbs) inside fields. In many cases, the bulb is earthed and connected to the fence, while the live phase supply comes from another source. When the fence is electrified, the bulb glows, serving as a caution signal to the others that the fence is electrified
- 03) Inspect high-value or dense crops such as sugarcane, corn, and sometimes chickpea. These areas have a higher chance of electrification, as locals often run thin wires through the crops to make them less visible.
- 04) Look for earthing rods or earthing points on the ground. These may be used for motor pumps or for bulb connections, but in some cases, they also serve as the neutral line for electrifying fences.
- 05) Special night patrols should be conducted along high-tension transmission lines passing through forests or adjoining buffer and corridor areas of NNTR. These patrols must always be carried out in the presence of electricity department officials and with the use of appropriate safety gear.

What are Snares:

A snare is a trapping device crafted using readily available ductile materials, designed to capture animals by tightening around their body, neck, or limb when triggered. While the mechanism of all snares remains the same, the type of snare used varies depending on the physical characteristics and behaviour of the target species.



Types of Snares:

Single Loop Snares: typically made from clutch wire cables, motorcycle brake cables, or thick galvanized iron wires but sometimes nylon cable or ropes are also used. It consists of a single loop at one end, designed to tighten around an animal's body part, usually the neck.

These snares are often anchored securely to a fixed object, such as a bamboo fence near forest edges or tree log hidden within a thicket. Their placement is typically around entry points between forests and farmland, where wildlife movement is frequent.



Single-loop snare made of GI wire detected during an anti-snare walk. Photo © Moneish Singh Tomar/WTI

Target Species: Primarily large mammals such as Wild Pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and other ungulates.

Where and How to Detect Them:

- Typically concealed within thickets along farm boundaries or at habitual entry points used by animals and sometimes placed near streams along the farm boundaries.
- Inspect farm fences for unusual knots or twisted wires that may be part of a loop mechanism.
- In forested patches, check the base of trees or logs for looped wire secured around trunks, which serves as anchoring for the snare.

Multiloop Snare: Consists of consecutive single loop snares made of thin GI wire or Nylon Wire tied to a central line. The key advantage of a multiloop snare is its effectiveness in capturing a flock of birds or a group of animals, such as hares, that do not move in a straight line. This design significantly increases the chances of capture compared to a single-loop snare.

However, they are also used to hunt larger mammals for which they are made of strong materials of multiple strands of clutch wire or thick and thin GI Wires. The loop diameter and the material and design depends on the target species.



Multi-loop snare detected in a paddy field during field operations Photo © Idris Ahmed/WTI

Target Species: Mostly hares and ground birds and wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and monkeys

Where and how to detect them:

- Usually anchored firmly at both ends using bamboo pegs.
- Often placed directly across narrow animal trails near open grasslands or shrubby habitats and water bodies.
- A rope or cloth tied at both ends of the central line is used to secure the snare, which can also serve as a clue for detection.



Note: Electrocution and snaring are preferred by offenders because these methods are low-cost, silent, and require minimal presence, allowing perpetrators to avoid direct confrontation or detection. These characteristics make them particularly dangerous for both wildlife and humans.

What is an Anti-Electrocution Drive (AED)/Anti-Snare Walk (ASW):

It is a specialized joint patrolling method that was introduced to counter Snaring, Electrocution, Traps and other activities in and around protected areas to reduce wildlife crime and prevent mortalities. With the help of these walks the chances of detecting snare, electrocution, traps and other hunting tools are higher since it involves foot patrolling with specialized focus on finding these tools in specific areas based on the experience of experts with the frontline staff along the sensitive fringe areas.

Administrative Process for Conducting Anti-electrocution and Anti-snare Operations:

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)/Field Director/Area Manager identifies sensitive areas for Anti-electrocution and Anti-Snare walk operations based on inputs from range-level reports, past wildlife crime data, and local intelligence. The area manager issues directions to the concerned Range Officer to conduct the walk within a specific timeframe and ensures that the team is adequately equipped and briefed.

The Range Forest Officer (RFO) constitutes the field team comprising beat guards, chowkidars, and representatives from supporting agencies such as WTI or local NGOs and local PRT team members. The RFO guides the team on the operational focus areas, safety protocols, and reporting format. After completion of the walk, the RFO reviews the field observations and submits a brief report with GPS tracks, photographs, and key findings to the area manager for further action and record.

AED/ASW Methodology:

Planning:

1. Collect background data on cultural hunting practices, hunting communities (if any), cropping patterns, and previously documented wildlife crime in the region to identify sensitive areas.

2. Select a fringe of a village along the buffer of a Beat based on the data collected.
3. Check and prepare all necessary equipment one day before the walk (e.g., GPS, camera, mobile phone, safety gear).
4. Use Google Earth or Maps to identify access points and mark the start and end points of the walk. Verify these points on the map to plan the route accurately.
5. The walk length is based on terrain, area size, road accessibility, weather, and staff availability. A typical walk ranges between 4 and 8 kilometers but may extend further depending on field conditions.
6. Form a team of at least four members, including the Range Forest Officer or Round Officer, beat guards, and respective forest chowkidars with maximum of 10-12 people in a walk. Deploying more staff increases the search area and ensures better control and accountability when confronting offenders or detecting illegal activities.
7. The team should aim to cover the entire edge habitat within a single beat boundary, which may be accomplished over multiple days if required. The emphasis should remain on the quality and thoroughness of the walk rather than the distance covered in a day.
8. Conduct walks randomly across different beats and ranges.
9. Avoid fixed patterns of patrolling (such as the same day each week or the same beat repeatedly) to maintain unpredictability.
10. Ensure periodic coverage of all sensitive areas within the division, focusing not only on peak rice harvesting periods but also on regions and seasons where crops like sugarcane, corn, and chickpea are cultivated and harvested.

Tools/Items to carry:



- **GPS device** – To record the track of the walk and mark exact locations of snares, live wires, traps, etc.



- **Mobile device with NoteCam and Geo Tracker installed** – To capture geo-tagged photos and videos and map the walk route in case GPS is unavailable.



- **Cutting pliers** – To safely dismantle snares or cut wires and fences.



- **Electrical tester** – To check for live electric wires and active solar fences to prevent shocks.



- **Protective gloves** – To protect hands from injuries while handling wires, snares, or thorny vegetation.



- **Gum boots (season-dependent)** – To keep feet dry and protected in wet or muddy terrain.



- **Datasheet** – For structured recording of all observations and findings.



- **Sticky Notes** – To geo-tag snares or mark locations after dismantling.



- **Fibre sticks** – For probing and detecting hidden snares or live wires safely.



- **Measuring tape** – To record dimensions of snares, traps, wires, or other field observations.



- **Notepad and pen** – To jot down additional notes, observations, or sketches.

Other Tools one can carry to check for electrified fences include:



Meco 27 Auto BI Digital
Clamp Meter



Hard Hat Mounted
Voltage Detector by
Honeywell

During the Walk:

Anti-snare walk:

1. Distribute all team members evenly along the patrolling line to maximize detection efficiency. Avoid forming clusters and maintain continuous visual contact to ensure coordination and safety.
2. Use a fibre stick or dry bamboo stick to carefully probe farm boundary thickets, dense undergrowth, and shrub patches for hidden snares. Focus particularly on bamboo fences and similar boundaries where illegal devices are often concealed.
3. Inspect animal entry and exit paths along the boundary, as poachers commonly set snares at these points.
4. Look for visible knots, loops, or twisted wires that may indicate the presence of snares.
5. Check for ropes or pieces of cloth tied at both ends of a setup, as these are often used to anchor snares.
6. Examine nearby tree trunks for any wire or rope looped around them, which may serve as snare anchors.
7. Search thoroughly around nearby streams and water bodies for snares, trip wires, or other types of traps.
8. Inspect machans and small farm huts carefully for stored snares, hunting tools, or other materials used in illegal activities

Anti-electrocution drive:

1. During the walk, assign one person at the front to keep an eye on the ground using a fibre stick or bamboo stick to check for any live trip wires.
2. Always carry the fibre stick or dry bamboo stick and keep it in front of you while walking. You should always be behind the pole so that in case there is a live wire setup, you do not come in direct contact with it.
3. Locals often use thin GI wire which is difficult to notice against the background of vegetation or crops, therefore close inspection is necessary.
4. If a fence is found with an electric wire hooked to it, or signs such as a bulb connected to the fence or an earthing rod are observed, do not touch it directly. First, use a clamp meter or tester to check whether the line is live or not.
5. If the fence is inactive at the time of inspection, assign one team member to document the evidence properly by taking photographs and videos, while other members trace the source of the connection.
6. If the setup shows that power can be drawn from a lethal source, such as an overhead power line, household electricity supply, or distribution point, and is designed to complete a circuit through the boundary fence, it should still be treated as an illegal attempt to kill wildlife or cause harm to human life.
7. A hooked wire on a fence clearly indicates that the fence has been electrified, even if the connection is temporarily switched off, unless the system is confirmed to be a solar fencing unit.

Conventional places to look for snares include:



Farm boundaries – The most common locations for snares; carefully inspect wire fences, electric fences, and bamboo fences.



Animal trails.



Outside Animal dens or burrows.



Nearby water bodies.



Tree top.



Poultry farms and Chicken coops.



Machan/Farm huts – Used to hide or store snares and hunting tools, usually after night-time use.

Documentation and Reporting:

1. Take clear photographs and videos, both overall and close-up, when you find a snare, trap, or illegal electric fence, and record the GPS coordinates.
2. Fill in the datasheet immediately after documentation, noting the exact location, type of snare/trap/wire, standing crop, distance to the nearest village or habitation, and, in the case of an electric fence, mention whether the suspected source is HT (e.g., 11 kV), LT/domestic supply, or a distribution point.
3. Verify with a tester or clamp meter whether the line is live at the time of inspection, and note any visible indicators of intent such as switches, concealed leads, or bulbs.

4. Dismantle snares carefully while wearing hard rubber gloves to avoid any cuts from barbed wire fences. Label and geo-tag the seized material using a sticky note with the date of seizure, type of snare, and beat/range details.



Dismantled snares geo-tagged using sticky notes for seizure and documentation. Photo © WTI

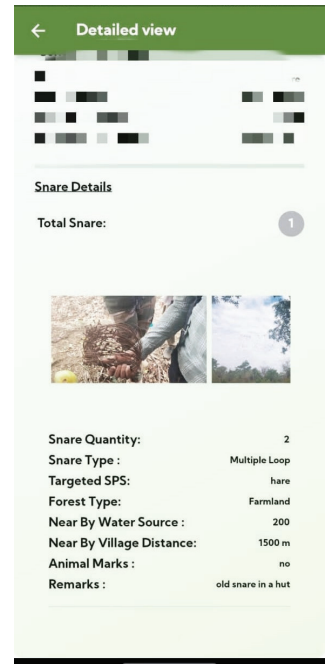
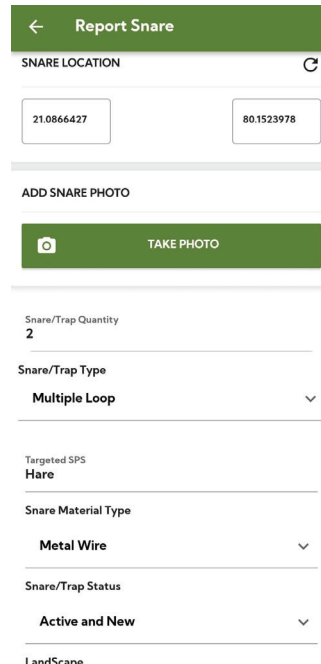
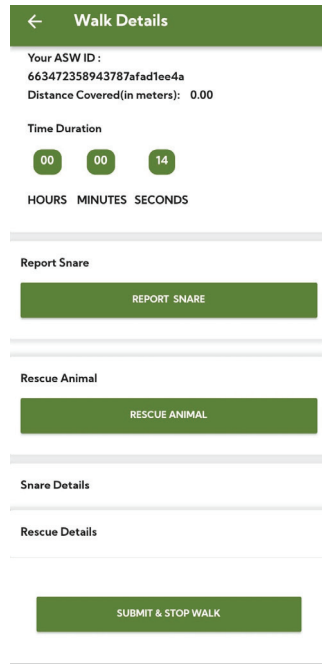
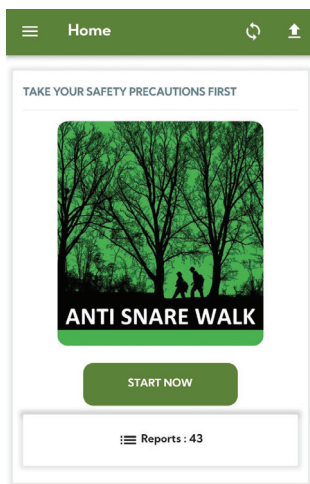
5. Avoid dismantling any setup that is live or suspected to be dangerous. Inform the local electricity authorities immediately in cases involving electrical risk. Proceed with dismantling or removal only after consulting departmental professionals and following their instructions.
6. Record every walk's details, including total distance covered (in kilometers), start and end time, date, number of participants, and the GPS track, regardless of whether any snare, live wire, or trap is found.

Mark the end point once the walk is completed and stop the GPS track.

Recording Observations Using the ASW Mobile Application:

Observations from the field can also be documented using the Anti-Snare Walk (ASW) Application, an Android-based mobile tool developed by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) to streamline data collection during the walks:

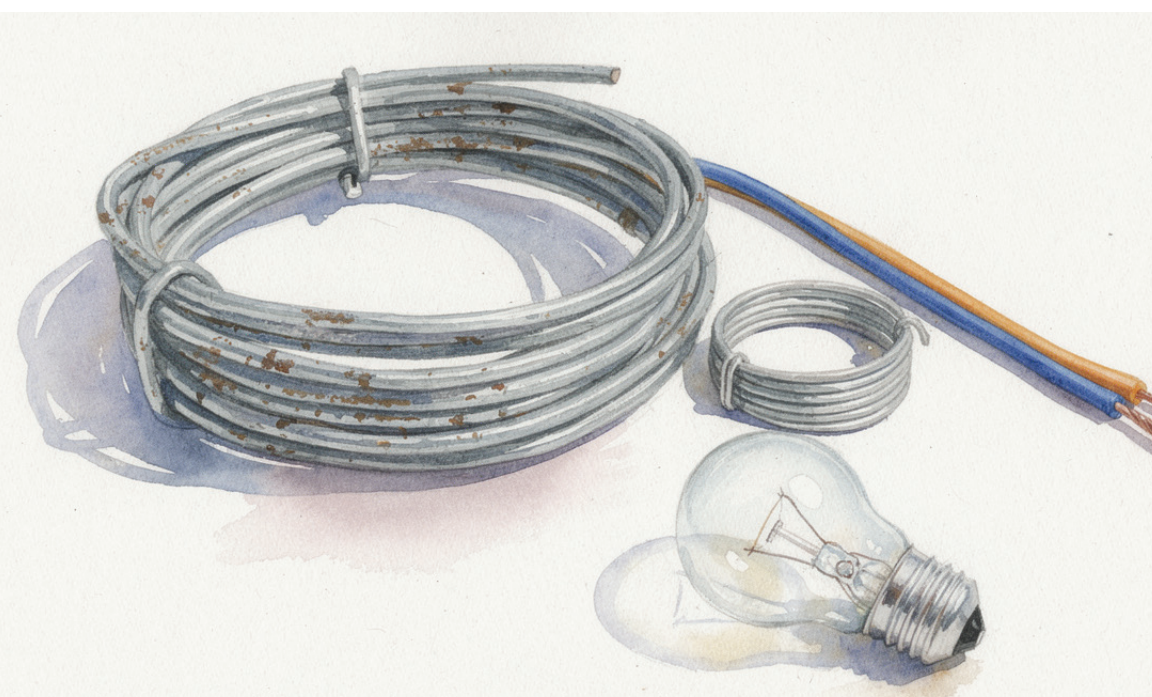
The application serves as a comprehensive platform for recording various types of hunting practice such as snares, traps, and wires encountered in the landscape, along with their precise locations. Through its user-friendly interface, field teams can log the details of each encounter, including the types of snares, GPS coordinates, and any pertinent observations. Additionally, the application facilitates the recording of participant details, ensuring comprehensive documentation of all individuals involved in the anti-snare walks.



Scan the QR code to download WTI's Anti-Snare Walk (ASW) mobile app and record field observations—snares, traps and wires—with GPS locations, notes, and participant details.

Observations from the Field

1. In several cases, farmers do not use properly coated wires for carrying electricity. Instead, they rely on GI wire or thin centering wire to draw a connection from the source to a bulb. This is highly unsafe, as such wires pose a serious electrocution risk if they fall or remain exposed.



2. Unlike the common practice of erecting 4–5 layers of fencing, some farmers adopt a single-line fence bordering their fields, which acts as a “trip wire.” Most electrocution cases have been recorded in such trip-wire setups. Whenever a single fence line is observed along the forest boundary, it must be inspected for electrocution signs. Particular attention should be given to hooked wires or any hidden connections leading from the fence to a power source.



3. If a thin centering wire is seen running through standing crops, it is often an indication of electrocution, since such wires neither deter wild animals nor act as a physical barrier, they are purely intended to deliver current.



Sensitive Beats Identified from 6 Ranges of Gondia Forest Division:

Between December 2023 and June 2024, we conducted the first phase of Anti-Snare Walks (ASW) across the six ranges of Gondia Forest Division. This effort was replicated between July 2024 and March 2025 to reassess the same beats. The goal was to systematically document hunting practices such as snaring, electrocution, trapping, and other illegal activities.

In addition to field data from the two ASW phases, we incorporated historical hunting records (2017–2024) obtained from the forest department. By combining these three datasets, we identified beats with recurring hunting incidents and classified them based on their sensitivity to wildlife crime.

Classification of Sensitive Beats

Each beat was assessed based on the presence of hunting activities across three categories:

1. Findings from ASW Phase 1 (Dec 2023 – June 2024)
2. Findings from ASW Phase 2 (July 2024 – March 2025)
3. Past poaching data (2017–2024) from department records

Using this data, beats were categorized into three sensitivity levels:

1. Sensitive Beats:

These beats had at least one instance of snaring, electrocution, trapping, or other hunting methods recorded in either Phase 1 or Phase 2, or had a past poaching incident reported in departmental records.

2. Moderately Sensitive Beats:

These beats had hunting incidents or poaching records in at least two out of the three categories (either across both ASW phases or one ASW phase and past records).

3. Most Sensitive Beats:

These beats showed hunting activity (snaring, electrocution, trapping, etc.) in both ASW phases and also had a history of hunting incidents in department records.



The following heatmap visually represents the distribution of sensitive beats across different ranges in Maharashtra.

Beat	Range					
	Gondia	Goregaon	North Deori	Sadak Arjuni	South Deori	Tirora
Bhajepar						1
Bonde					1	
Chichewada			1			
Chirchadi				1		
Chutiya	1					
Dalli				1		
Dandegaon	2					
Deori			3			
Dongargaon - I			2			
Duggipar				1		
Ghoti						1
Ghunarra		1				
Girola - I				1		
Gonadi - I					1	
Gongale				3		
Govindtola						1
Haldi					2	
Indora						1
Jhambadi				2		
Kaneri				1		
Kanhalgaon - I					1	
Kanharpayli				1		
Kawalewada		2				
Khoba				1		
Kodelohara						1
Kosabi					1	
Kosamton-di II				1		
Koylari				1		
Kurhadi		1				
Lonara						1
Malijunga II				3		

Mangezari						1
Mogrra				1		
Mohadi		1				
Murdoli		1				
Palewada		1				
Pandhar-wani				2		
Pindkepar		1				
Purada - I			1			
Rengepar - I				1		
Rengepar - II				1		
Sahakepar				2		
Serpar			1			
Sindipar				1		
Sirpur			1			
Sukhadi						2
Tedha		1				
Tilli		1				
Wadegaon			3			



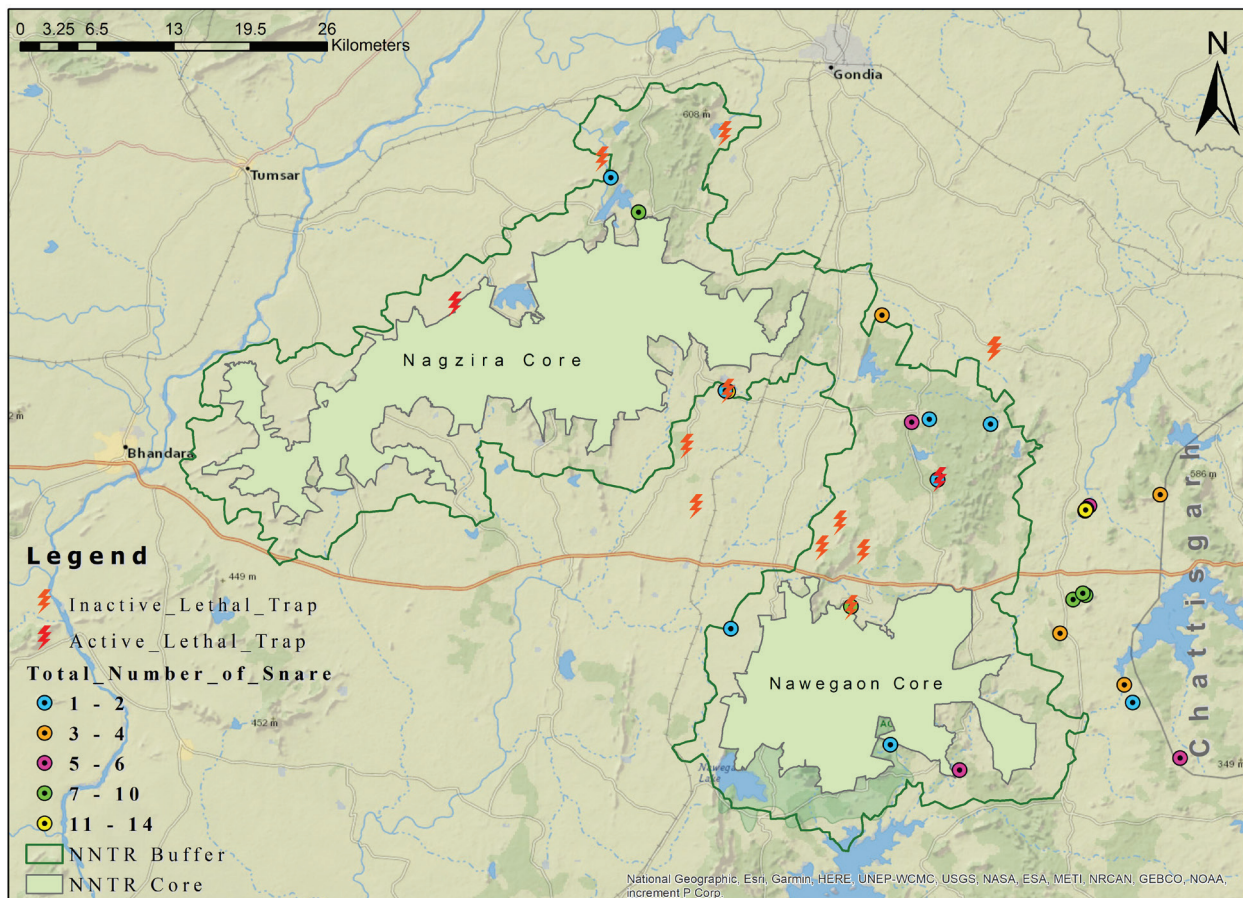
Bundle of snares found hanging outside a farm hut. Photo © Idris Ahmed/WTI

Map Showing Spatial distribution of Electrocution and Snaring incidences from Gondia Forest Division.

Since live wires are difficult to detect during daytime, we divided electrocution cases into two categories based on their status at the time of observation. Power sources include overhead lines, motor connections, or household supply.

- **Active Lethal Trap:** An electrified fence carrying live current at the time of detection
- **Inactive Lethal Trap:** A fence setup wired for electrification but not energized during our walk (typically switched on after dark).

Spatial Distribution of Electrocution and Snaring Incidences in Gondia Forest Division - NNTR (2023-2025)



Disclaimer:

The observations and findings presented in this document are based solely on the anti-snare and anti-electrocution drives conducted across the six ranges of the Gondia Forest Division. They do not represent or include any data, activities, or field conditions from the Bhandara Forest Division.

Frontline staff preparing a spot panchnama of the seized snares. Photo © Idris Ahmed/WTI



Annexure:

1) Datasheet for recording observations during Anti-Electrocution Drive:

Anti-Electrocution Drive data sheet for Maharashtra

Division – Range – Beat - Comp. - Date -

Start time - End time - Start GPS - End GPS - ASW day -

No. of participants - No. of snare removed - hunting tool recovered - No. of traps removed - K.M. Walked -

GPS Location	Source of Power: (HT, LT, DP etc)	Type & Status	Targeted sps.	Landscape	Nearby water source	Nearby village Name & distance	Forest type	Animal marks (indirect/direct)	Remark/Observation (Crop pattern & Resident Communities)



2) Datasheet for recording observations during Anti-Snare Walk:

Anti-Snare Walk data sheet for Maharashtra

Division – Range – Beat - Comp. - Date -

Start time - End time - Start GPS - End GPS - ASW day -

No. of participants - No. of snare removed - hunting tool recovered - No. of traps removed - K.M. Walked -

Snare/Traps GPS Location	Snare/Traps Quantity	Snare/Traps type & status	Targeted sps.	Landscape	Nearby water source	Nearby village Name & distance	Forest type	Animal marks (indirect/direct)	Remark/Observation (Crop pattern & Resident Communities)



Note: Legal Provisions Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

As per Section 2(35) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, snares, live wires, traps, and similar devices are classified as weapons. The act of setting, placing, keeping, or using any snare, live wire, trap, or device intended to capture or kill wild animals constitutes a punishable offence under Section 9 (prohibition of hunting of wild animals), read with Section 51 (penalties).

Possession of any weapon, trap, or device used or intended to be used for committing such offenses is also punishable under Section 39(1)(d) and Section 50(1)(c) of the Act.

For detailed procedures on registering wildlife crime cases, officers are advised to refer to the WCCB Manual on Wildlife Crime Investigation.

End Note: Once a snare, trap, or electrocution incident has been identified, it is essential to conduct routine, regular, and random checks at the same spot. This helps to prevent recurring incidents and ensures early detection of repeated attempts.

Inspecting a farm distribution point (meter box) for potential unauthorized connections; the supply is designated for operating irrigation motor pumps. Photo © WTI.





Frontline staff approaching a forest-edge farm hut for inspection during an anti-snare walk. Photo © Idris Ahmed/WTI



