

BI-MONTHLY OUTREACH JOURNAL OF NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

s t r i p e s

Volume 1 Issue 4

May-Jun 2010



STATUS



STRATEGY

CHALLENGES



MANAGEMENT

INITIATIVES



FINDINGS

DETAILS OF FAMILIES RESIDING AT CORE / CRITICAL TIGER HABITATS

| S.No | Name of Tiger Reserve | State | Date of Notification of Core/Critical tiger habitat | Area (Sq.Km.) | No. of Villages | No. of families |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Manas | Assam | 20.12.2007 | 840.04 | 32 | 912 |
| 2 | Kaziranga | Assam | 20.12.2007 | 625.58 | Nil | Nil |
| 3 | Nameri | Assam | 20.12.2007 | 200 | Nil | Nil |
| 4 | Nagarjunasagar | Andhra Pradesh | 20.12.2007 | 2527 | 27 | 102 |
| 5 | Namdapha | Arunachal Pradesh | 24.12.2007 | 1807.82 | 8 | 84 |
| 6 | Pakke | Arunachal Pradesh | 24.12.2007 | 683.45 | Nil | Nil |
| 7 | Valmiki | Bihar | N.A* | 840* | Nil | Nil |
| 8 | Indravati | Chhattisgarh | 20.02.2009 | 1258.37 | 56 | 993 |
| 9 | Undanti-Sitandadi | Chhattisgarh | 20.02.2009 | 851.09 | 45 | 3138 |
| 10 | Achanakmar | Chhattisgarh | 20.02.2009 | 626.195 | 25 | 1774 |
| 11 | Palamau | Jharkhand | 31.12.2007 | 414.08 | 3 | 105 |
| 12 | Periyar | Kerala | 31.12.2007 | 881 | 1** | 100 |
| 13 | Parambikulam | Kerala | 16.12.2009 | 390.89 | 6 | 299 |
| 14 | Bandipur | Karnataka | 20.12.2007 | 872.24 | Nil | Nil |
| 15 | Bhadra | Karnataka | 20.12.2007 | 492.46 | 4 | 81 |
| 16 | Dandeli-Anshi | Karnataka | 20.12.2007 | 814.884 | 52 | 4725 |
| 17 | Nagarhole | Karnataka | 20.12.2007 | 643.35 | 45 | 1353 |
| 18 | Tadoba-Andhari | Maharashtra | 27.12.2007 | 625.82 | 5 | 924 |
| 19 | Pench | Maharashtra | 27.12.2007 | 257.26 | 1 | 85 |
| 20 | Melghat | Maharashtra | 27.12.2007 | 1500.49 | 31 | 5835 |
| 21 | Bandhavgarh | Madhya Pradesh | 24.12.2007 | 716.903 | 14 | 2164 |
| 22 | Kanha | Madhya Pradesh | 24.12.2007 | 917.43 | 26 | 1828 |
| 23 | Bori-Satpura | Madhya Pradesh | 24.12.2007 | 1339.264 | 41 | 2693 |
| 24 | Panna | Madhya Pradesh | 24.12.2007 | 576.13 | 5 | 2811 |
| 25 | Sanjay-Dubri | Madhya Pradesh | N.A* | 831.25 | 47 | 3256 |
| 26 | Pench | Madhya Pradesh | 24.12.2007 | 411.33 | Nil | Nil |
| 27 | Dampa | Mizoram | 28.12.2007 | 500 | 1 | 224 |
| 28 | Satkosia | Orissa | 31.12.2007 | 523.61 | 5 | 77 |
| 29 | Simlipal | Orissa | 31.12.2007 | 1194.75 | 6 | 221 |
| 30 | Ranthambhore | Rajasthan | 28.12.2007 | 1113.364 | 55 | 6124 |
| 31 | Sariska | Rajasthan | 28.12.2007 | 681.1124 | 28 | 2254 |
| 32 | Kalakad-Mundanthurai | Tamil Nadu | 31.12.2007 | 895 | 8 | 245 |
| 33 | Mudumalai | Tamil Nadu | 31.12.2007 | 321 | 30 | 449 |
| 34 | Anamalai | Tamil Nadu | 31.12.2007 | 958 | 33 | 94 |
| 35 | Corbett | Uttarakhand | 24.12.2007 | 821.99 | 2 | 71 |
| 36 | Dudhwa | Uttar Pradesh | 20.12.2007 | 1093.79 | 18 | 1475 |
| 37 | Buxa | West Bengal | 06.08.2009 | 390.5813 | 19 | 1744 |
| 38 | Sunderbans | West Bengal | 18.12.2007 | 1699.62 | Nil | - |
| 39 | Sahyadri | Maharashtra | 05.01.2010 | 741.22 | 83 | 2309 |
| Total | | | | | 762 | 48549 |

*N.A - Notification Awaited, ** Enclave in the core



Strategy

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BI-MONTHLY OUTREACH JOURNAL OF NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

s t r i p e s

n o t e f r o m t h e e d i t o r



India is the only tiger range country which can take the credit of saving the tiger 'source sites' since the early seventies, thanks to the vision of the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The Project Tiger and the National Legislation on Wildlife [Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972] together gave a new impetus to tiger conservation in particular. Since then, the project coverage has been increasing with almost 34,000 sq.km. of tiger forest being conserved today as 'core areas' of tiger reserves in 17 tiger States of the country.

The 'in-situ' conservation philosophy of Project Tiger, with an inviolate core for tiger and an outer buffer and corridor having an 'inclusive agenda' for the people, while providing habitat supplement to wild animals, has been vindicated. There is a need for vegetal connectivity to facilitate tiger dispersal from source areas. However, the various ecologically unsustainable land uses in the human dominated landscapes around tiger source sites foster human-tiger interface conflicts. In the recent past, there have been several tiger 'straying' incidents in the country, viz. Uttar Pradesh,

Rajasthan and Maharashtra. It is important at this juncture to address this issue actively at the landscape level.

Unfortunately, such moving tigers get 'branded' as 'man-eaters' eventually landing in 'zoos' or getting eliminated. This is lamentable. We are in a situation where every tiger is precious to us. An instance of a straying tiger or leopard should be treated at par with any other violence, and adequate deployment of local police and State Armed Force needs to be done, besides sensitizing the local people. Perhaps, to avoid lethal encounters, it is advisable to impose section 144 of the CrPC in such areas.

The traditional movement path along natural features and forested tracts should be carefully mapped for restoration inputs, while incentivising the local people on a quid-pro-quo basis with reciprocal commitments. Even small patches of forests in such landscapes should be sustainably maintained to retain their quality for serving as 'stepping stones' to dispersing tigers. The recent incidence of a moving tiger taking refuge at Bharatpur is a case in point.

Dr Rajesh Gopal
Member-Secretary, NTCA

What is management effectiveness evaluation (MEE)?
'..the assessment of how well a protected area is being managed – primarily the extent to which it is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives'
 WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas) Guidelines (2006)

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES FOR AN INDEPENDENT MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION OF TIGER RESERVES - 2010

The NTCA constituted the following Committees for an independent management effectiveness evaluation of Tiger Reserves, 2010. The terms and reference of the above Committees are;

- (i) To apply the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) framework and assessment criteria for independent evaluation of the Tiger Reserves in the country.
- (ii) to evaluate whether the chosen approaches in Tiger Reserve management are sound, adequate and appropriate.
- (iii) To evaluate whether the funds allocated are being used effectively for meeting the objectives of

management of Tiger Reserves as laid down in the respective Tiger Conservation Plans/ Management Plans.

(iv) To evaluate the process and outcome of long-term monitoring of the biological and socio-cultural resources.

The Wildlife Institute of India would provide a pre-assessment orientation to the experts for using the new matrix, apart from collation/publication of the results with financial support from the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

An independent assessment, based on WCPA-MEE framework adapted to Indian conditions, was carried out in 2005 by 8 independent experts, using 45 parameters. The results were peer-reviewed by IUCN experts in 2006 and the reports were placed in the Parliament.

Purpose of Evaluation

Broadly speaking, MEE can:

- Enable and support an adaptive approach to management
- Assist in effective resource allocation
- Promote accountability and transparency and
- Help involve the community, build constituency and promote protected area values

In addition to substantive benefits, the process of MEE can also deliver a number of procedural benefits such as improved communication between managers and other stakeholders.

Evaluation should be seen primarily as a tool to assist managers in their work, not as a system of watching and punishing managers for inadequate performance.

Evaluation must be used positively to support managers and be seen as a normal part of the process of management.

Recent experiences around the world have demonstrated that involving external stakeholders in the assessment process and transparent sharing of the results of assessment can help to build cooperation and support for protected areas



| | |
|--|--------------|
| Kanha | VERY GOOD |
| Dudhwa | |
| Corbett | |
| Sunderbans | |
| Pench (M.P.) | |
| Palamau | |
| Simlipal | GOOD |
| Melghat | |
| Panna | |
| Tadoba-Andhari | |
| Bori-Satpura | |
| Bandhavgarh | |
| Periyar | |
| Bandipur & Rajiv Gandhi N.P. (Nagarhole) | |
| Pench (Maharashtra) | |
| Buxa | |
| Dampa | SATISFACTORY |
| Bhadra | |
| Nameri | |
| Pakke | |
| Valmiki | |
| Kalakad-Mundanthurai | |
| Manas | POOR |
| Namdapha | |
| Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam | |
| Ranthambhore | |
| Indravati | POOR |
| Sariska | |

COMMITTEES FOR INDEPENDENT MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION OF TIGER RESERVES

| S. No. | Name of the Tiger Reserve | Name of the Landscape | State |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Cluster I (7 Nos.): Chairperson - Dr. P.C. Kotwal | | | |
| Composition of Committees - Sh. Ajay Desai and Dr. Jamal A. Khan | | | |
| 1. | Dudhwa | SG | Uttar Pradesh |
| 2. | Corbett | SG | Uttarakhand |
| 3. | Ranthambhore | CI & EG | Rajasthan |
| 4. | Sariska | CI & EG | Rajasthan |
| 5. | Melghat | CI & EG | Maharashtra |
| 6. | Pench | CI & EG | Maharashtra |
| 7. | Tadoba-Andhari | CI & EG | Maharashtra |

| | | | |
|--|---------------|---------|----------------|
| Cluster II (6 Nos.): Chairperson - Shri V. B. Sawarkar, | | | |
| Members - Dr. Erach Bharucha and Shri Rajeev Sharma | | | |
| 8. | Bandhavgarh | CI & EG | Madhya Pradesh |
| 9. | Satpura | CI & EG | Madhya Pradesh |
| 10. | Kanha | CI & EG | Madhya Pradesh |
| 11. | Panna | CI & EG | Madhya Pradesh |
| 12. | Pench (M.P.) | CI & EG | Madhya Pradesh |
| 13. | Sanjay- Dubri | CI & EG | Madhya Pradesh |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Cluster -III (8 Nos.): Chairperson - Dr. R.L. Singh, | | | |
| Members - Ms. Prerna Singh Bindra and Shri R.K. Dogra | | | |
| 14. | Valmiki | SG | Bihar |
| 15. | Indravati | CI & EG | Chhattishgarh |
| 16. | Achanakmar | CI & EG | Chhattishgarh |
| 17. | Udanti-Sitanadi | CI & EG | Chhattishgarh |
| 18. | Simlipal | CI & EG | Orissa |
| 19. | Satkosia | CI & EG | Orissa |
| 20. | Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem | CI & EG | Andhra Pradesh |
| 21. | Palamau | CI & EG | Jharkhand |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|----|------------|
| Cluster -IV (9 Nos.): Chairperson - Shri C.K. Sreedharan | | | |
| Composition of Committees - Dr. Yogesh Dubey and Dr. E.A. Jayson | | | |
| 22. | Bandipur | WG | Karnataka |
| 23. | Nagarhole | WG | Karnataka |
| 24. | Bhadra | WG | Karnataka |
| 25. | Dandeli-Anshi | WG | Karnataka |
| 26. | Periyar | WG | Kerala |
| 27. | Parambikulam | WG | Kerala |
| 28. | Kalakad-Mundathurai | WG | Tamil Nadu |
| 29. | Annamalai | WG | Tamil Nadu |
| 30. | Mudumalai | WG | Tamil Nadu |

| | | | |
|--|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Cluster -V (8 Nos.): Chairperson - Shri H.K. Choudhury, | | | |
| Members - Dr. D.S. Srivastava and Dr. P.S. Easa | | | |
| 31. | Namdapha | NE & BF | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 32. | Pakhui | NE & BF | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 33. | Kaziranga | NE & BF | Assam |
| 34. | Manas | NE & BF | Assam |
| 35. | Nameri | NE & BF | Assam |
| 36. | Dampa | NE & BF | Mizoram |
| 37. | Buxa | NE & BF | West Bengal |
| 38. | Sunderbans | Sunderbans | West Bengal |

SG: Shivalik- Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex
CI & EG: Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex
WG: Western Ghats Landscape Complex



PHOTOS NANAK DHINGRA

GLOBAL TIGER FORUM

*Proceedings of the
GLOBAL TIGER FORUM (GTF)
consultative meeting in
New Delhi, June 2010*

The meeting was chaired by Mr Deepak Bohara, Chairperson of GTF and Minister of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal. The meeting was attended by all tiger range country members of GTF (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam), member non-tiger range country (U.K.), member international NGOs (WWF, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) & TRAFFIC) and member National NGOs (Ranthambhore Foundation, Wildlife Protection Society of India, Wildlife Trust of India, Tiger Research and Conservation Trust, National Trust for Nature Conservation and Wildlife Conservation Nepal). In addition, the meeting was attended by Global Tiger Initiative--World Bank, tiger experts, Field Directors and Chief Wildlife Wardens of various states of India.

Mr Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India welcomed all the delegates to the meeting and called for strengthening of the GTF for taking ahead the conservation of tiger and to ensure strong political will to bring back this species from the brink of extinction. He requested the participants to deliberate, discuss and take decisions on the agenda items and hoped that the meeting would be a fruitful one.

Mr Deepak Bohara, Chairperson of GTF and Minister of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, expressed his immense



GTF meeting in progress

pleasure in being able to attend the meeting and to see how this year has been very exciting and crucial for efforts on tiger conservation. He welcomed all delegates from the tiger range countries, members of the GTF and specifically mentioned Thailand - a key tiger range country participating in this meeting. He stated that it was good to see many more countries behind this initiative and gives greater hopes for the iconic species. He further said that this year has been particularly exciting for work on tiger conservation. Many things happened after the Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop held in October 2009, as it gained momentum with the Hua Hin meeting in Thailand this January. Therefore it is a good time to establish ourselves as a key platform

to strengthen global tiger conservation efforts. He hoped that this meeting can give new energy and impetus to tiger conservation among range countries and across the globe. He said that we would like to establish this intergovernmental forum as an enabler to help revamp tiger conservation efforts in respective range countries and across the world. The Government of Nepal remains deeply committed to the future of wild tigers and we are very happy to be a part of this crucial Forum that will secure the future of tigers on this planet.

Dr Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General, GTF, & Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Government of India, (also the editor of STRIPES) welcomed all the delegates and stated that GTF had been engaging in several activities, but

that during the meeting the issue of what GTF had done, the problems which GTF is facing and suggestions for a way forward would be discussed. He also stated that lot of interaction took place between World Bank/GTI and GTF and it would be greatly appreciated if synergy is developed between GTI and GTF. He expressed his sincere thanks to WWF for helping to organize the meeting and hoped that this meeting comes up with strategies for strengthening the Forum.

EMERGING APPROACHES IN TIGER CONSERVATION, MONITORING AND TRADE CONTROL FROM RANGE COUNTRIES (focusing on issues/models that can be globally or regionally replicated)



only seven tiger range States are members to the Forum. He informed that the Indian Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr Jairam Ramesh had very recently written to his counterparts in the tiger range countries to join the GTF. The issues, problems and the areas of concerns with regard to tiger conservation are almost common in all the tiger range countries. The status of tiger continues to remain endangered despite several efforts. With the support of the tiger range states, non tiger range states and organizations working for tiger conservation, the GTF will be able to address these issues. He expressed his gratitude to WWF, IFAW and several other organizations and countries who have helped in keeping the GTF alive. He stated

The Chair of the session, Mr Ravi Singh, Secretary General & CEO, WWF-India requested tiger range countries to make their presentations in the following sequence:

1. Bangladesh - Tiger monitoring in Sundarbans
2. Bhutan - Bhutan Biological Corridors
3. Cambodia - Law Enforcement and Monitoring
4. Myanmar - Managing tigers and trade in world's largest tiger reserve (Hukuang Tiger Reserve)
5. Nepal - Nepal/China MOU on Biodiversity Conservation
6. Vietnam - Addressing tiger trade and demand reduction
7. India - All-India Tiger Estimation Exercise phases I - IV

STRATEGY

DISCUSSION:

Bangladesh wanted to know from Dr Ullas karanth that which method would be the most suitable for tiger estimation in Bangladesh Sundarbans.

Dr Karanth stated that track survey was suggested by him, which could be monitored between tides, if tiger tracks are found. Occupancy modeling has got tremendous scope besides genetic capture and scat collection.

Wildlife Protection Society wanted to know when was the last camera trapping done and when was the last tiger sighted in Cambodia.

Cambodia submitted that the last camera trapping was done in 1997 in protected forest areas and the last tiger sighting was just a few months back.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu, submitted that with regard to prey base density, the prey base density should be determined taking into account other predators present in the tiger reserves.

U.K. wanted to know at what level the MOU between china and Nepal was signed.

Nepal submitted that the MOU signed between China and Nepal was at the Ministry and Secretary Level to conduct regular phase of survey in the border areas to prevent illegal trafficking of animal parts and products.

India wanted to know from Myanmar that why there are a limited number of check posts and guards in Hukuang tiger reserve, which is one of the largest tiger reserves in the world; and the yellow areas inside the sanctuary earmarked for development activities, which would adversely impact tiger conservation.

Myanmar submitted that the limited number of check post and guards were due to limited manpower available with them and the yellow areas inside the sanctuary are human settlements who are there for centuries.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION ON HOW THE APPROACHES CAN BE ROLLED OUT ACROSS RANGE COUNTRIES (where relevant)

Facilitator: Mr Vivek Menon, regional Director (South Asia), IFAW
The Facilitator summed up the following common issues relevant to all tiger range countries:

1. Standardisation of methodology, sampling and censusing
2. Law enforcement - patrolling
3. Linkages between protected areas and habitat areas
4. Consumer awareness

DISCUSSION:

India submitted that tiger corridors and landscapes which extend beyond boundary of countries need to be protected and measures developed for joint management, which the GTF can facilitate. This was concurred to by Bangladesh.

WWF submitted that using the example of MOU between China and Nepal, such bilateral agreement need to be developed not only for tiger conservation, but also for control of illegal trade in tiger parts and products. GTF can facilitate to make

A Strategy

(I) OBJECTIVES: Encourage greater international cooperation in addressing tiger conservation efforts

KEY ACTIONS

- Identify institutions working on tiger conservation across countries and their key strengths /requirements
- Help to build institutional capacity and create new institutions wherever required (e.g. supporting setting up of forensic facility in Nepal)
- Conduct a study in at least two landscape (as a model) on values of Tiger ecosystems, esp. trans-boundary (e.g. Terai Arc, Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia)
- Facilitate collaborative management of trans-boundary Tiger landscapes (in two areas) through promoting joint management protocols and joint actions (including monitoring)
- Lobby at international forums as 'Voice of the Tiger'

(II) OBJECTIVES: Foster high-level political commitment at all levels for tiger conservation efforts in all range states

KEY ACTIONS

- Use membership or interest of developed countries with ability to influence decision making on economic issues that impact Tiger conservation to lobby for political commitment
- Use St. Petersburg summit to identify and sustain political commitment post summit
- Identify a senior "political" leader (not necessarily a politician) to be a 'Brand Ambassador' for GTF and engage other high level decision makers

(III) OBJECTIVES:

Promote active collaboration among range states to address illegal tiger trade and demand for tiger products and assess effectiveness of actions

KEY ACTIONS

- Collaborate with international / multi-country agencies like SAWEN (also endorse this) / ASEAN WEN / WCO / CITES / INTERPOL / UNDOC

and Roadmap for GTF 2010-2015

for facilitating training/information sharing /joint actions

- Assist in developing protocols for sharing information for joint actions on illegal trade
- Assist to identify and put in place focal points for information sharing on illegal trade
- Catalyse the development of national databases on tiger related mortality / crime / seizures in range states (GTF to collaborate with int'l



comm, collate and disseminate information)

(IV) OBJECTIVES: Raise awareness on tiger conservation efforts, trade, emerging threats and new solutions globally, regionally and nationally
KEY ACTIONS

- Sensitize political leaders and top bureaucrats at the regional, country and provincial levels in the TRCs,

with help of partner organisations

- Promote and celebrate an International Day of the Tiger through the UN system (some GTF member countries will celebrate July 29)
- Identify 'Champions' for awareness raising among each TRC
- Revamp GTF publicity strategy including website, newsletter, and other media options (competition for creating website)
- Make a "splash" - through an event/ campaign/video
- Set up an award for contributions to tiger conservation
- Conduct a review meeting after the Year of Tiger to take stock of efforts and impacts

(V) OBJECTIVES: Build capacity, increase professional training and provide tools for governmental staff involved in tiger conservation efforts in Member States

KEY ACTIONS

- Assist countries in developing and updating Tiger Action Plans
- Identify best practices across countries and document and disseminate these through the country focal points
- Strengthen the functions of the focal points to play a lead role in disseminating and promoting uptake of best practice
- Organise workshops /seminars /study tours to promote uptake of best practices at national/regional level

(VI) OBJECTIVES: Facilitate funding directed at priority actions to strengthen tiger conservation efforts globally and regionally
KEY ACTIONS

- Each member country to put seed funds into GTF where possible for building up an initial corpus (based on willingness to pay)
- INGOs raising money for tiger conservation earmark some funding for GTF activities through their projects
- Approach selected corporate active in tiger range countries to sup-

port high profile actions (target specific companies working across range countries collectively)

- Get country level commitment for securing long-term funding for the core functions and team where possible
- Develop a business plan for GTF which can be presented to governments to encourage funding (including membership fees)
- Link with GTI for ongoing funding for agreed transboundary/regional actions

(VII) OBJECTIVES: Encourage all Tiger range States and other countries with an interest in tigers to join and actively participate in the GTF

KEY ACTIONS

- Demonstrate value proposition for non-member countries to be encouraged to join
- Clearly demonstrate that all countries in GTF have an equal ownership and participation
- Present a revised vision and strategy at Bali to generate renewed interest in membership
- Actively engage with counterparts from non-member countries at Bali to encourage them to become members
- Chair (or Executive Committee) of GTF to send a letter to each government participating in Bali about the outcomes of this meeting
- Assist GTF and NGO members to act as ambassadors through providing a "toolkit"

(VIII) OBJECTIVES: Engage with new partner organisations involved in Tiger conservation and strengthen existing partnerships

KEY ACTIONS

- Identify key partner organisations who can work with GTF on capacity building, research/monitoring, awareness, fundraising
- Actively engage with identified partners on a needs basis on specific issues (training, research, campaigns)
- If agreed, partners could also become GTF members



NANAK DHINGRA

these MOUs functional. Similarity of approach by tiger range countries is required not only in standardization, but also for habitat management, pressure indices etc.

Bhutan submitted that sustainable financing is a priority in their country.

World bank/GTI submitted that the civil society, other societies and international communities need to be engaged to maintain sustainable financing. Awareness is also required from those who profit from ecological areas.

U.K. submitted that capacity and expertise on the ground is essential and GTF can be a platform for such capacity building and sharing of knowledge.

India submitted that it was important to increase the capacity of the frontline staff for effective management of the protected areas.

Wildlife Conservation Nepal submitted that intelligence sharing and international partner is essential for tiger conservation. Nepal submitted that most of the tiger range country governments does not give priority to tiger conservation. It is therefore necessary to change the attitude of the bureaucrats and the finance ministries, by conveying the importance of tiger conservation.

GTF: LOOKING BACK AND LESSONS LEARNED (HISTORY/VISION/ROLE/ CHALLENGES)

Presentation by Dr Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General, GTF. The Secretary General, GTF, made a presentation on the history of GTF, its vision, role and challenges faced, revitalizing agenda and suggested mandate for the GTF.

LINKS BETWEEN GTI AND GTF

Mr Keshav Varma of GTI submitted that with the rapid urbanization and infrastructure activities taking place in tiger range countries, conservationists face a huge challenge. There is a sense of urgency to overcome the problems faced for tiger conservation. An effective management is required to match the challenges faced today.

The GTI have positive reaction to synergize with GTF and feel open to start further collaboration with GTF to rise to the challenges faced by tiger conservation.

DEVELOPING A STRATEGY AND ROADMAP FOR GTF:

Facilitator: Dr Sejal Worah, WWF-India



A 10 point strategy for GTF was presented by the Facilitator for discussion/suggestions from the delegates, which were as follows:

1. Encourage greater international cooperation in addressing tiger conservation efforts (including joint lobbying and transboundary protocols and Protected Area linkages/biological corridors)
2. Foster all high-level political commitment for tiger conservation efforts in all range states
3. Promote active collaboration among range states to address illegal tiger trade and demand for tiger products and assess effectiveness of actions
4. Build capacity, increase professional training and provide tolls for government staff involved in tiger conservation efforts in Member States
5. Promote uptake of innovative tiger conservation methods, mechanisms and solutions across range states (including estimation and monitoring)
6. Raise awareness on tiger conservation efforts, trade, emerging threats and new solutions globally, regionally and nationally.
7. Facilitate funding directed at priority actions to strengthen tiger conservation efforts globally and regionally
8. Engage with new partner organizations

involved in tiger conservation and strengthen existing partnerships

9. Encourage all Tiger Range States and other countries interested in tiger conservation to join and actively participate in the GTF

10. Evaluate and review the effectiveness of the governance, structure and organization of the GTF and GTF Secretariat

PROPOSED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR GTF Presentation by Dr Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General, GTF

The Secretary General made a presentation on the proposed Governance structure of GTF, for discussion and taking decision in the next session.

DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT ON GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR GTF

Facilitator: Dr Sejal Worah, WWF-India
The delegates (Executive Committee and Core Working group members of GTF) discussed the proposed Governance structure of GTF presented by the Secretary General, GTF, and decided as follows:

Global Tiger Forum (GA)



PHOTOS: NANAK DHINGRA

(Range state and other country government representatives and INGOs/NGOs)

- Chair to be elected by voting members
- Term of Chair to be three years
- One NGO member per country can vote ?? (keep in mind that some countries may not want to be outvoted by NGOs and the intergovernmental nature of GTF)

Responsibility:

- Setting strategic direction & policy for GTF
- Overall review and assessment of functioning of GTF
- High-level decision making on critical issues affecting tiger conservation in member countries

GTF Standing committee

(Subset of the GTF)

- Members to be decided by GTF GA
- 4 range state reps + 2 NGO reps + 2 non-range state members
- Rotation every 3 years

Responsibility:

- Overseeing implementation of the GTF strategy
- Appointing and monitoring performance of GTF

Secretary General (on behalf of GA)

- Recommending and reviewing membership of other Committees
- Assisting the Secretariat with critical functions

GTF Secretariat

(Secretary General + support staff)

- Term of SG to be 3 yrs
- Should be a tiger range state national
- Support staff could be from different range states through open selection process

Responsibility:

- Providing coordination and administrative support for GTF
- Communicating progress on implementation of strategy and other key issues to GTF Standing Committee on a regular basis
- Assist SC in monitoring implementation
- Managing database and website for information sharing on GTF and tiger issues across TRCs
- Acting as the focal point for information flow and communication between different GTF bodies
- Managing finances and budgets of GTF
- Coordinating and collating national action plans and other information from national focal points



The Global Tiger Forum (GTF) is an inter-governmental and international body established with members from willing countries to embark on a worldwide campaign, common approach, promotion of appropriate programmes and controls to save the remaining five sub-species of tigers in the wild distributed over 14 tiger range countries of the world.
<http://www.globaltiger.org/>

GTF Technical Advisory Committee

(National and international experts on tiger biology, landscape ecology, protection, trade, community engagement, infrastructure, information)

- Term of members to be 3 years (staggered rotation)
- Total no of members not to exceed 12
- Maximum of two members per country
- Maximum of two members per institution
- Should function electronically as far as possible

Responsibility:

- Developing and updating status of tiger and its habitat across range states
- Providing technical inputs into development of GTF strategy
- Assisting with review of implementation of the strategy
- Assisting with implementation of strategy (e.g. capacity building)
- Alerting GTF to emerging issues in tiger conservation

GTF National Core Group

(National focal point and in-country partners)

- Country specific terms and conditions

Responsibility:

- Assisting with development, implementation and review of national actions within the GTF strategy
- Focal point for communicating with the GTF Secretariat
- Building national awareness and support for tiger conservation

- Other roles as relevant to the country

GTF Enabling Committee

(National and international NGOs, Donors, GTI , SAWEN, ASEAN-WEN, Corporates)

- No specific terms and conditions
- Should function electronically as far as possible
- Could have a smaller representative core group to enable actions and report back

Responsibility:

- Assisting with fundraising for GTF (core and implementation of specific actions)
- Bringing in external perspectives and providing inputs into strategy and monitoring
- Assisting with communication and external profiling for GTF
- Upscaling advocacy for tigers among political leaders, corporations, and donors

NEXT STEPS, PLANS FOR BALI AND CLOSING

Chair: HE Mr Deepak Bohara, Chairperson, GTF, & Minister, Forest and Soil Conservation, Nepal

The Chairperson of GTF submitted that the 10-point strategy for GTF should be addressed in the Bali Pre-summit meeting and the Bali Forum should be convinced that GTF is the platform for tiger conservation. GTF should also target tiger range countries to become its members. GTF need to have some concrete ground works to be presented in the Tiger Summit.

U.K. submitted that the goals and strategies for GTF discussed in the meeting should be summarized and presented in the Bali meeting inviting comments from others.

Tigers and Naxals

Excerpts from the appraisal report of Indravati Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh by Dr. R.P. MISHRA, Dr. RATHIN BARMAN, Mr. SAMIR KUMAR SINHA, Dr. R. K. SINGH and Dr. D. S. SRIVASTAVA

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) constituted special teams, vide letter no. 7-22/2009-NTCA, dated 10th August 2009, for an urgent appraisal of tiger reserves, having low tiger density and problems on account of extremist engineered disturbances.

The authors of this report, were given the responsibility to appraise Indravati Tiger Reserve (Chhattisgarh) on **the terms of reference;**

1. Appraisal of status of tiger, co-predators and prey animals
2. Protection efforts taken vis-a-vis the advisories of Project Tiger / NTCA
3. Administrative / ecological problems and managerial issues and
4. Suggestions for restoring the area and eliciting local support to strengthen protection.

We undertook field visit of Indravati Tiger Reserve between 7th and 10th October 2009 and interacted with frontline staff, senior officials of the reserve and Chhattisgarh forest department, Forest Secretary to the state government and few locals. We could also manage to visit a small area in the core zone of the reserve. We adopted various methods to accomplish the objectives of appraisal and tried to understand the situations minutely. **We found that;**

1. The reserve is passing through a critical phase in terms of manage-



A panorama of the Indravati Tiger reserve. (Below) Staff participating in SWOT Analysis exercise

ment and protection, due to severe naxal threats. Entire core area of the reserve is under strong influence of naxalites and in several areas in buffer zone also, such threats are looming at large. Naxals have grossly damaged the reserve infrastructure. Staff are also demoralized due to naxal threats.

2. It is speculated that the naxal influenced areas are safe for wildlife and forest, but actual ground situation is unknown.
3. Due to negligible movement of staff inside the reserve, no authen-



tic information on population status of wildlife of the area is available.

4. Frontline staff have been withdrawn from the core area of the



Leopard pugmark inside the core area of Indravati TR. Forest road inside the core area of Indravati TR blocked by naxalites. Unmanaged Salepalli water hole inside core area of Indravati TR

reserve and they reside at Bijapur.

5. However, there is shortage of staff in the reserve and about 60% posts of frontline staff are lying vacant, but we feel that even if the full strength of staff are posted and facilities made available to them, protection cannot be assured due to threats of naxalites.
6. Buffer area of the reserve is not under the control of Field Director and buffer area management by territorial forest division does not focus at wildlife management.
7. Most of the statutory provisions have been complied by the reserve. However, rights of locals inside the reserve have yet to be settled.
8. Sufficient funds are available to the reserve as per the limited need in the present context. But, the problem of delayed funding exists.
9. In the recent years Wildlife Trust of India has undertaken rapid survey of wild buffalo in the reserve. The results show presence of tigers near the border of Indravati TR with Sironcha Forest Division in Maharashtra.
10. Biotic pressure seems to be intense due to presence of 156 villages in and around the reserve, but assessment of biotic pressure has not been done till date.
11. The social life of local communities is also disturbed due to naxal problem, and very negligible support for wildlife conservation is anticipated from them.

We do feel that effective man-

agement and protection of Indravati would not be possible until the naxal problem in the region is controlled / solved.

However, we make following recommendation which might be helpful in management of the reserve;

1. Tiger and prey population status should be assessed in feasible areas.
2. It is suggested to identify the areas outside the core, which are least disturbed and comparatively free from biotic pressure. Management interventions should be initiated to build up prey population in the identified area. This would help in improving tiger occupancy.
3. A dedicated effort should be made to involve locals in wildlife monitoring, wherever possible. Help of local staff should be taken for the purpose.
4. Buffer area should be brought under the control of Field Director of Indravati Tiger Reserve, and the buffer should be managed as per the needs of wildlife.
5. The life of frontline staff including temporary workers should be insured. This would help motivating them.
6. Need for more staff quarters and Range Officer quarter/office in Pharsegarh and Kutru.

METHODOLOGY

The team visited Indravati tiger reserve between 07th to 10th Oct. 2009 and followed different methods to understand the ground situation and accomplish the objectives.

Following were the broad methodologies adopted;

- Submission from the reserve management: We asked the reserve management for their submission on the specified terms of reference given to us.
- Field visit: We visited the forest range offices of the reserve and the nearby forests.
- Interviews and consultations: We interviewed and consulted different group of people to get views of every strata on tiger conservation of Indravati TR. Beside field staff and casual workers of the reserve, we interacted with present managers of the reserve, senior forest officials and officials of civil administration. A few villagers were also consulted.
- SWOT Analysis: We conducted a group session of the reserve managers and field staff for participatory SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis to get the information that will assist the reserve in accomplishing its objectives and identifying the obstacles on the way which need to be overcome or minimized to achieve desired results.
- Questionnaire and checklist: We developed a questionnaire cum checklist to get the desired information. Field Director was interviewed to fill up the questionnaire.

PENCH TIGER RESERVE

INCREASE IN FOREST COVER

Dr. Mohan Jha, IFS, Field Director, Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

The Pench National Park comprises of two ranges which are separated by the Pench River. The forest is of Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous type in which Teak is predominant species. Important carnivores in its faunal wealth are Tiger, Leopard, Wild dog, Jackal, Hyena, Jungle cat etc. Whereas herbivores include Sambar, Nilgai, Gaur, Chital, Barking deer, Chausinga, Wild boar, Bear etc. The Pench Tiger Reserve along with the adjoining forests of Pench Tiger Reserve (M.P.) forms an important Tiger conservation unit. The forests of the Tiger Reserve are major catchments for the Totladoh reservoir and play an important role in ensuring its life expectancy.

The Core Zone includes the core area of tiger reserve which is inviolate and tourists' activities are permitted to a limited extent. During last 10 years deliberate efforts has been made to reduce the tourist inflow by applying strict checking and control on the movement of tourist. Many sought after locations in core zone has been deliberately closed for tourists to avoid the undue pressures on tiger habitat and the movement of tigers.

Currently Pench Tiger Reserve has moderate tiger density i.e 7.3 tigers/ 100 sq.km (Dr. Ullahas Karanth), but it is also considered as one of the potential reserves in the Indian subcontinent that can host a viable breeding tiger population. The capacity of a forest for sustaining tiger populations depends on its habitat and the abundance of the prey species. Forest cover gives an indication of the richness of habitat

Pench Tiger Reserve is the smallest Tiger Reserve in the country having an area of 257.26 sq.km.. The Pench National Park was declared by the Government of Maharashtra vide gazette notification No. PGS 1375/121758-F I. dated 22nd November 1975. Later on Pench National Park has been declared as 25th Tiger reserve of India vide Government of India letter F No. 1-1/96-PT, dated 18 February 1999 and Government of Maharashtra Resolution No. WLP-1095/CR-110/F-1, dated 23rd February 1999.

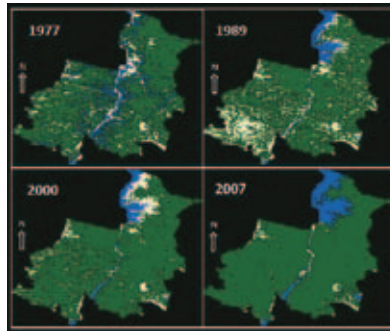


Figure showing satellite images of Pench Tiger Reserve from 1977, 1989, 2000 and 2007. Green color represents forest, white represents cleared forest and agricultural land, blue represents water bodies. (Photo: Pinki Mondal)

and plays a vital role in sustaining the herbivores and carnivores including flagship species Tiger. Hence, the conservation of forest cover plays an important role in increasing the density of herbivores and carnivores.

A remote sensing study was conducted by Ms. Pinki Mondal and Dr. Jane Southworth of the University of Florida, USA in Pench Tiger Reserve during 2008-09. She has submitted a preliminary report and findings about the forest cover change in Pench Tiger Reserve during 1977 and 2007. Above men-

tioned study reveals that almost 9% of forest cover was lost between 1977 and 1989. The reasons for decrease in forest cover can be partly attributed to the submergence resulting from the Totladoh dam construction, and partly due to the regular coupe working activities and biotic interference from the Totladoh and Fulzari village inside the PTR and also form the adjoining villages. This was the phase when awareness about the wildlife conservation was very low.

After constitution of National park in 1975 protection efforts and awareness about the wildlife conservation gradually increases leading to the recovery of forest cover during the year 1989 to 2000. The increased degree of protection had positive effect on Pench forest cover. The forest of Pench not only recovered from the previous forest loss, but it also gained notable amount of forest cover around 12% (from 70% to 82 %) during 1989-2000.

During 1999 Pench National Park was declared as Tiger Reserve. After declaration of Tiger Reserve protection level further increases and more restrictions were put on the entry of visitors. Intensive patrolling by creating protection huts in interiors of the Tiger Reserve reduces the illicit felling and grazing incidences



NANAK DHINGRA

leading to the further increase of forest cover from 82% to 88% (6% increases) during 2000-2007. The Tiger Reserve started with an overall 79% forest cover in 1977, which decreased to 70% in 1989 and then has increased to around 88% in 2007, mostly due to its increased protection and removal of Totladoh Village from the core of Pench Tiger Reserve. The study sheds a ray of hope that efforts of establishing Tiger Reserves by Government of India to protect the Tiger is working well and the findings are even more encouraging in Indian context, where park-people conflicts are not uncommon.

The data of Tourist inflow in relation to Tiger and Prey population from the Pench Tiger Reserve management plan when analyzed along with the forest cover study of

Ms. Pinki Mondal also proved that decrease in tourist inflow not only helps in increase in forest cover but also helped in increasing the Population of Tiger and its prey base.

Data of tourist inflow in Pench Tiger Reserve is an eye opener for the practitioner of Ecotourism. Report of Project Tiger Status report of Ministry of Environment and Forests 2001 also states that "on an average 100000 tourists visit this reserve every year." In Pench Tiger Reserve tourist number have been reduced from 97900 per annum to 25760 per annum during the year 2000 to 2007. Sharp reduction in tourist number may be one of the reasons for increase in forest cover and increase in number of Tiger and its prey species. Reduction in tourist number coupled with removal of

Totladoh village has played an important role in positive change in forest cover, prey base and number of Tiger in Pench Tiger Reserve. Increase tourism in Tiger area in the name of Ecotourism can definitely increase visibility of Tigers due to changing behaviour of Tigers particularly females and cubs. Restricted movement of female tiger rearing cubs makes them vulnerable for easy tracking for tourism purpose. These cubs when grow they are more adapted to tourist disturbance and noise of vehicles. Tigers which are not disturbed by the tourist and vehicles are more prone to hunting which is clearly proved in many Tiger Reserves in past.

Report of the Tiger Task Force 'Joining the Dots' by Sunita Narain and others also recommended that "..... Tourist interests if allowed to take precedence over those of conservation can be extremely detrimental to a reserve." (quoted from page 151 of the report).

This study also proves that Tiger needs inviolate space for breeding and sustaining the viable population. Increasing forest cover within the park boundary is definitely a silver lining, especially in the context of decreasing tiger population worldwide as a result of poaching and habitat destruction; however, the task is not finished yet. Tigers often roam beyond the administrative boundaries of reserves, and thus need favorable habitats beyond the protected area in the form of well managed buffer. In the absence of proper awareness, human-dominated and modified land uses in the surrounding area of the reserve may become detrimental to the tiger population. While more care is needed to minimize the human-tiger conflicts, active involvement of local inhabitants can play important role in the Tiger conservation effort.



STRIPESmail



SUDHIR MISHRA/REO, KANHA TR



It was really good to go through different articles. It's an excellent initiative. Best Wishes.

*Chiranjiv Choudhary
Special Secretary, Irrigation & CAD
Dept. Secretariat, Hyderabad.*

I would request authors to use gender neutral words. Human Wild Animal Conflict (HWAC) may be used instead of Man Animal Conflict. I would request you to bring out a special issue on this topic in the near future. Please try to provide details of compensations paid by State Governments in this issue. NTCA may consider introducing "Sher Suraksha Bima" scheme in the villages around tiger reserves in collaboration with insurance companies for providing insurance cover to human beings, domesticated animals and crops.

*R K Singh
Rabindra Kumar Singh, IFS
Director, Chhattisgarh State
Institute of Rural Development
Raipur, India*

It is exceedingly pleasing to see such a valuable and an attractive

newsletter. All the best.

A.J.T. Johnsingh

The Panna story is really very encouraging and attractive photographs.

Amit Sharma, WWF India

Thanks very much, very nicely produced and with much useful information.

Ullas Karanth

I must commend on the data regrading funding. I have been associated with Project Tiger since 1993 but it is for the first time that I have seen the funds allocated to different TRs. As expected Corbett gets a meagre amount. In fact in 2007-08 it got the least amount in the decade.

Rajiv Bhartari

In my knowledge, this is the only and the most informative journal on tigers. Please continue sharing this in the days to come.

*Shant Raj Janwali
NTNC, Nepal*

It is quite informative and useful

to keep updated on tiger conservation issues in India. This also brings out the challenges and the efforts that NTCA is putting together to protect remaining tiger populations in India. I look forward to receiving them in the future.

*Mahendra Shrestha, Ph.D.
Director, Save The Tiger Fund
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation, USA*

Thanks for "Stripes" - more good stuff from NTCA! I especially appreciate the balance (some good news, some not so good news) and the two opinion pieces (Gopal and Sen). The stats on money disbursed and core/buffer areas are also useful. This kind of openness adds credibility to Stripes. Do you get comments from people and, if so, would you consider a "letters to the editor" sort of dialogue in Stripes?

*Miles Roberts
Smithsonian Conservation Biology
Institute
National Zoological Park, USA*

TIGER MORTALITY 2010 (JANUARY TO JUNE)

| SL . | DATE | LOCATION | STATE |
|------|-------------|--|----------------|
| 1 | 5 Jan 2010 | Phulei, Dhikala, Corbett Tiger Reserve | Uttarakhand |
| 2 | 6 Jan 2010 | North Kheri Forest Division | Uttar Pradesh |
| 3 | 11 Jan 2010 | Gujadi, Dhikala, Corbett Tiger Reserve | Uttarakhand |
| 4 | 28 Jan 2010 | Pench National Park | Madhya Pradesh |
| 5 | 14 Feb 2010 | Eastern Range, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve | Assam |
| 6 | 18 Feb 2010 | Eastern Range, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve | Assam |
| 7 | 20 Feb 2010 | Gundlupet Kollegal Forest, Bandipur | Karnataka |
| 8 | 7 Mar 2010 | Ranthambore National Park | Rajasthan |
| 9 | 7 Mar 2010 | Ranthambore National Park | Rajasthan |
| 10 | 8 Mar 2010 | Wayanad | Kerala |
| 11 | 11 Mar 2010 | Madanpur Range, Valmiki Tiger Reserve | Bihar |
| 12 | 14 Mar 2010 | Jaspur Range, 43, Ramnagar | Uttarakhand |
| 13 | 27 Mar 2010 | Bandipur Tiger Reserve | Karnataka |
| 14 | 7 Apr 2010 | Brahmpuri, Chandrapur | Maharashtra |
| 15 | 20 Apr 2010 | Kanha Tiger Reserve | Madhya Pradesh |
| 16 | 28 Apr 2010 | Bandipur | Karnataka |
| 17 | 19 May 2010 | Tala Range, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve | Madhya Pradesh |
| 18 | 31 May 2010 | Urulikhal, Valparai, Periyar Nagar | Tamil Nadu |
| 19 | 6 Jun 2010 | Kisli range, Kanha Tiger Reserve | Madhya Pradesh |



SEIZURE OF TIGER BODY PARTS 2010 (JANUARY TO JUNE)

| SL . | DATE | LOCATION | STATE | SEIZURE INFO |
|------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 1 Jan 2010 | Venamani, Kalpetta | Kerala | Tiger Skin |
| 2 | 9 Feb 2010 | Sijhoura, Mandla Forest Division | Madhya Pradesh | Tiger Bones |
| 3 | 24 Feb 2010 | BRT Wildlife Sanctuary | Karnataka | Tiger Skins |
| 4 | 14 Mar 2010 | Warangal | Andhra Pradesh | Tiger Skin |
| 5 | 15 Mar 2010 | Kottavasal | Kazikode | - |
| 6 | 14 Apr 2010 | Tenmala , Nilgiri | Tamil Nadu | Tiger Skin |
| 7 | 5 May 2010 | Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve | Maharashtra | Tiger 5 Claws+Bones |
| 8 | 1 Jun 2010 | Panhala, Kolhapur | Maharashtra | Tiger Skin |
| 9 | 8 Jun 2010 | Bilaspur Town | Chhattisgarh | Tiger Skin |
| 10 | 20 Jun 2010 | Guwahati | Assam | Tiger Bones, Tiger skull |
| 11 | 21 Jun 2010 | Pench Tiger Reserve | Madhya Pradesh | Tiger Paws |
| 12 | 25 Jun 2010 | Palar forest, Kollegal Division | Karnataka | Tiger skin |

SOURCE: WWW.TIGERNET.NIC.IN

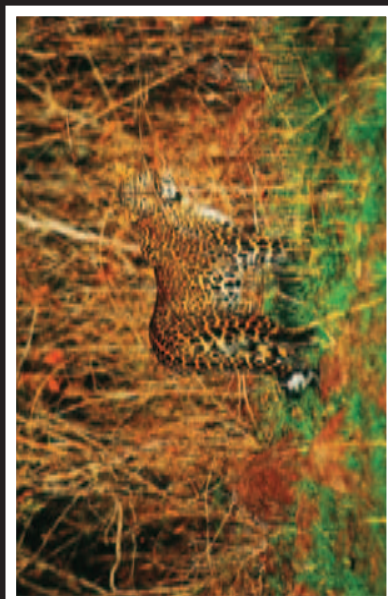
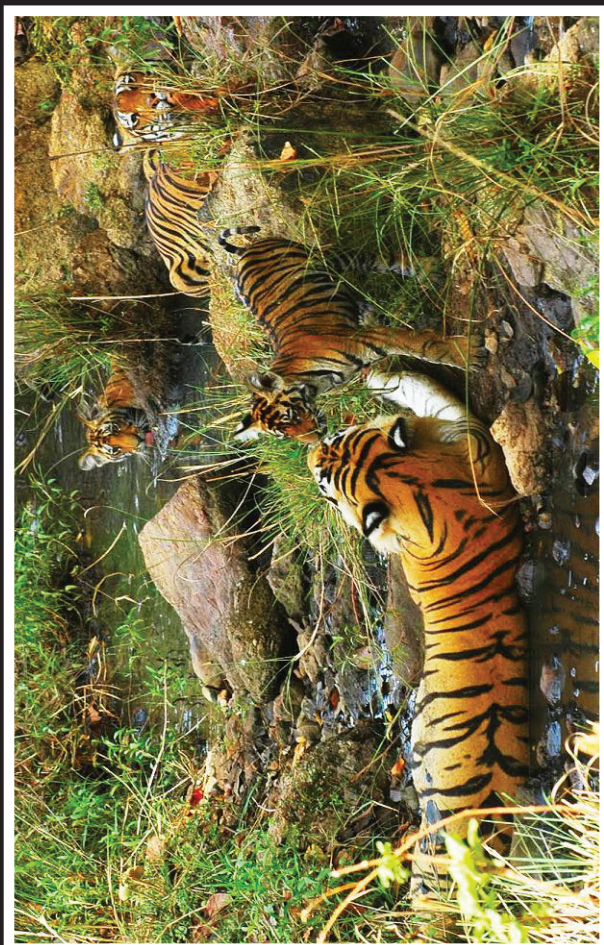
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STRIPES | BI-MONTHLY OUTREACH JOURNAL OF NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY,
A STATUTORY BODY UNDER MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

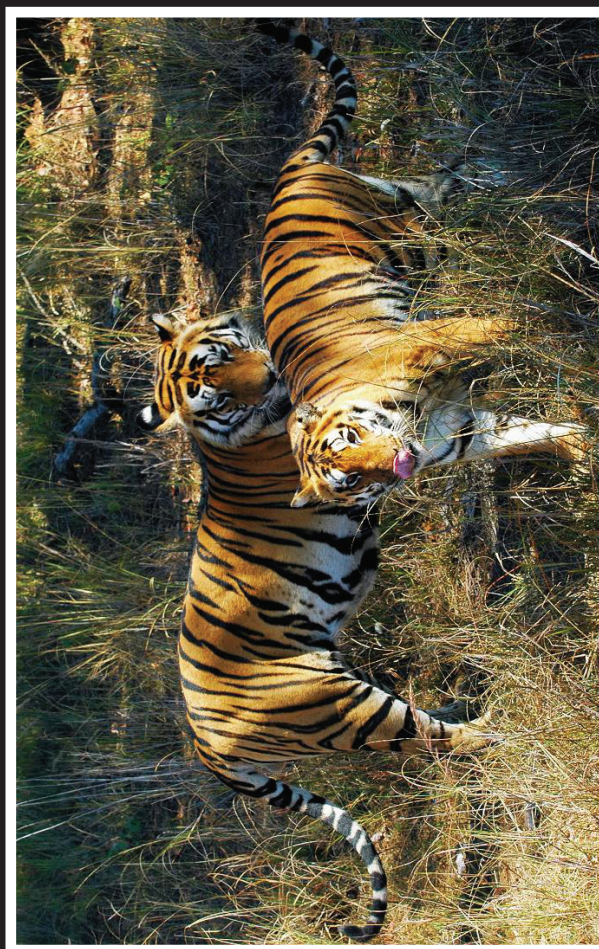
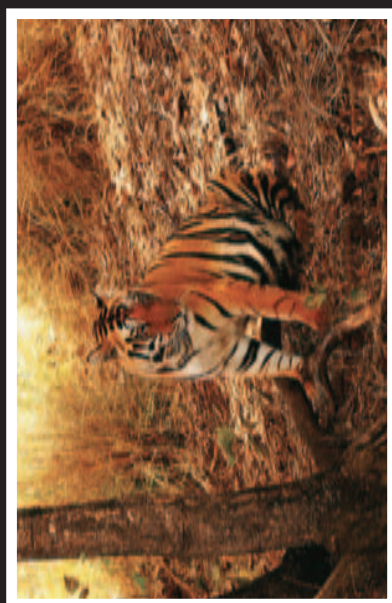
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Photos by Sudhir Mishra/RFO, Kanha TR



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