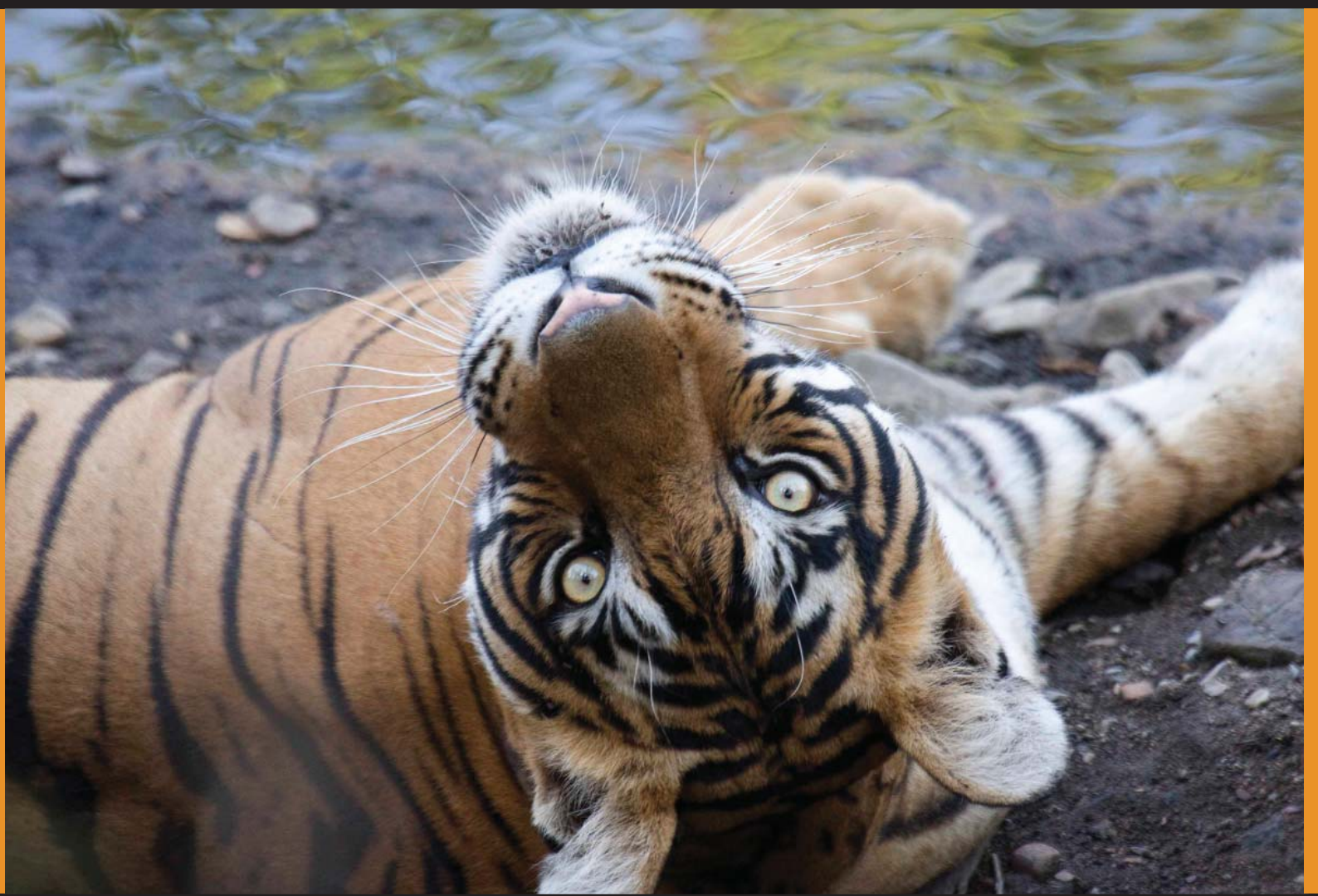


BI-MONTHLY OUTREACH JOURNAL OF NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

s t r i p e s

Volume 1 Issue 5

July-August 2010

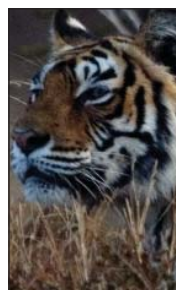


TIGER ESTIMATION



TOURISM

MANAGEMENT



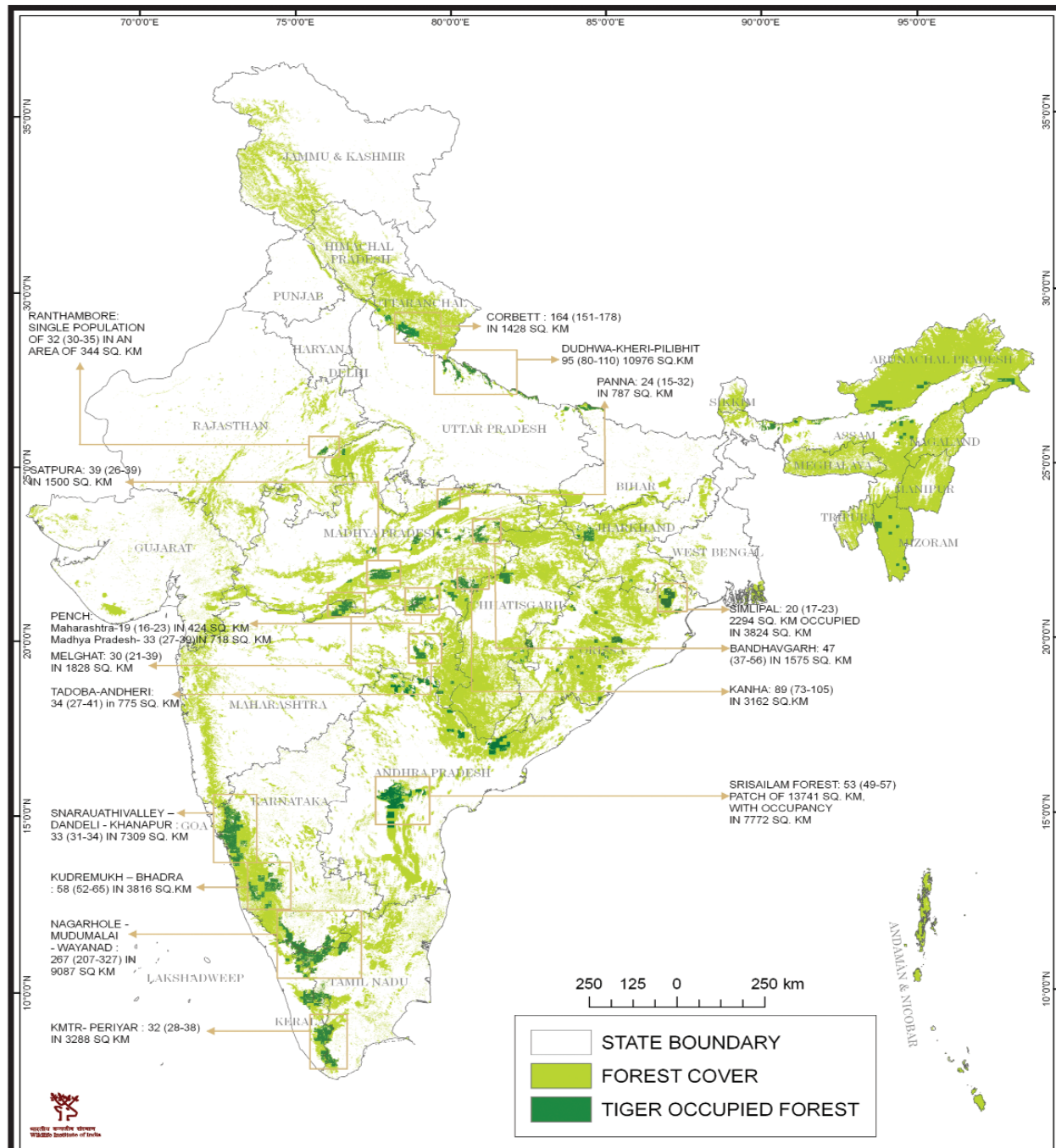
WILDLIFE CRIME

INITIATIVES



MOYAR VALLEY

The National Estimation of the Status of the Tiger is based on established scientific procedure to provide information on tiger populations in India.



The population of the tiger was estimated in 17 Indian states. The results from this procedure indicate that tiger populations are viable within Protected Areas but are under threat outside them.



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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



Transboundary cooperation is important in tiger conservation and India has taken a number of initiatives on this front. We have bilateral arrangements with our neighbouring tiger range countries like Nepal and China, and efforts are underway to put in place similar bilaterals with Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The Indo-Nepal Memorandum of Understanding was formalized in the 90's for transboundary cooperation on issues relating to trafficking of wildlife body parts and tiger conservation. Animal movements along the Nepal border are common in the tarai areas of Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Katarniaghat and Valmiki. The recently held 4th Nepal-India Consultative Meeting provides a roadmap to address illegal wildlife trade hotspots in such areas. The transboundary cooperation would pave the way for a shared vision to safeguard biodiversity, besides providing a cross boundary pool of expertise in solving the problem.

The range countries bordering each other need to cooperate for prosecuting offenders. Wherever necessary, such cooperation has to facilitate extradition of persons who are charged with offences, within the ambit of agreed actions and

reciprocal commitments between such countries. It is earnestly hoped that such cooperation would ultimately result in transboundary protected areas for strengthening the cause.

The need for securing inviolate space for tiger is well understood. This also is one of the major recommendations of the Tiger Task Force. Based on simulation models, it has been seen that 20 breeding tigresses are at least required for making a population viable, and given the territorial nature, space requirement and social dynamics of tiger, an area of 800-1200 sq.km. needs to be kept inviolate as a core area for tigers with an exclusive tiger agenda. The Government of India is committed to secure such space in tiger reserves and has been providing 100% central funding towards voluntary relocation. This process is followed within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 read with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act, 2006. Elaborate guidelines have been issued for handholding the States in this regard with close monitoring by independent teams while taking care to ensure the welfare of the people during and after relocation.

Dr Rajesh Gopal / Member-Secretary, NTCA



TOURISM IN TIGER RESERVES

Looking at the problem of heavy tourism inside tiger reserves the NTCA has put forward the following advisory/guidelines:

(i) The patrolling camps / chowkis / watch towers inside a tiger reserve (core as well as buffer) should not be used for accommodating tourists or facilitating tourism. As these structures have been constructed under Project Tiger, for the sole purpose of accommodating the frontline field staff (at places with wireless), it needs to be ensured that they are solely used for patrolling / antipoaching work.

(ii) Tourists should not be allowed to patrol the core / critical tiger habitat owing to the risk involved vis-à-vis the intensive legwork in a formidable terrain with wild animals. Further, exposing tourists to sensitive patrolling routes / paths / spatial presence of animals, besides the patrolling strategy would make the habitat vulnerable by exposing such details which may be confidential for apprehending the offenders / poachers. Besides, there can be no method by which a poacher entering a wildlife habitat under the garb of a tourist can be identified. Likewise, there is no mechanism available to ensure that sensitive information pertaining to wildlife

protection is not advertently/inadvertently passed on to miscreants / poachers. The frontline staff would also be burdened with the task of acting as “caretakers” for the tourists, besides attending to their possible health related emergencies. Needless to point out, patrolling is effective and successful only if it is organized discretely. Patrolling is a technical / specialized task requiring considerable physical fitness and a knowledge of a terrain which by and large, is done at odd hours. While the tourists would not be in a position to undertake this task, there is also a risk of patrolling strategy and related details getting exposed to poachers.

(iii) Under no circumstances forest produce material should be used for making a temporary / permanent construction to facilitate tourists in the core / critical tiger habitat.

(iv) It is reiterated that provisions under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 should be implemented in letter and spirit for ensuring the inviolate status of the core / critical tiger habitat.

(v) The guidelines / advisories issued from the Project Tiger/NTCA may be strictly followed for organizing intelligence based patrolling in tiger reserves.

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH NEPAL - INDIA CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON TRANS-BOUNDARY BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION 8-9 JULY 2010 / NEW DELHI, INDIA

The fourth consultative meeting on Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation between Nepal and India was held in the Conference Hall of the National Tiger Conservation Authority at New Delhi on 8th July, 2010.

The representatives of two parties and other delegates discussed at length the resolutions made in the third meeting held at Kathmandu and the progress made in implementation of the same. The participants expressed satisfaction on the fact that all the resolutions are relevant for addressing the challenges faced by the two countries in Biodiversity Conservation. These are more crucial particularly for resolving the Trans-boundary problems like maintaining the biological

corridors, control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife products, human-animal conflict across the border and migration of wild animals.

The representatives of India and Nepal and other participants noted with satisfaction the fact that WWF and other organizations like NTNC are making significant contribution to catalyze and facilitate the Biodiversity Conservation efforts and in particular for the conservation of tiger, rhinos and elephants, besides other animals in the Terai Arc Landscape in both the countries.

During the course of the meeting the issue of "repatriation" of Red Sanders smuggled from India was also flagged. It was informed that about 21.68 MT alone of Red Sanders could be repatriated to

India for which the Nepal Government had already agreed. However, around 58 MT, as per the decision of the court of law, would be auctioned in Nepal, and the money so realized would be used for conservation purpose. As reported by the Indian delegation in December 2007, an amount of 229.8 MT of Red Sanders wood is lying in various depots in Nepal. Presently 23.75 MT has been repatriated during October 2009 and 21.68 MT free of legal encumbrances has to be repatriated for which the Nepal Government has agreed. However a balance of 184.37 MT is still to be decided for repatriation, out of which the Nepal Government is planning to auction 58 MT, whereas the same needs to be repatriated to India.

AMITABH DWIVEDI



RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOURTH NEPAL - INDIA CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON TRANS-BOUNDARY BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

29 JULY 2010 KATHMANDU, NEPAL



SIRSHENDU MOOKHERJEE

A joint resolution between Nepal & India was signed on 29/7/10 at Kathmandu, Nepal for transborder biodiversity conservation including tiger. The salient points of the resolutions are reiterated:

In pursuance of the resolution made by the two parties in the earlier consultative meetings, the representatives of Government of Nepal and the Government of India while expressing concern about the increasing threats to biodiversity caused by various factors, and realizing the urgent need for an effective strategy to address the problems confronting the biodiversity and the ecological security in the Trans-boundary region, hereby resolve to:

1. Strengthen the existing MOU and implementing it within the year 2010.
2. Strengthen their respective National Action Plan under the Global Tiger Forum (GTF) for tiger conservation with a time bound implementation.
3. Strengthen the Capacity Building of personnel involved in tiger and wildlife conservation/protection under the GTF.
4. Strengthen implementation of National Action Plans for rhino, elephant and other endangered species.
5. Establish a joint monitoring

arrangement using standardized protocols in selected landscapes through the GTF.

6. Ensure reciprocal actions including restoration of corridors using voluntary relocation.
7. Explore funding opportunities to strengthen bilateral conservation efforts.
8. Develop institutional mechanism for regular monitoring, interaction and reporting at three levels, viz (i) Field Level - Range Officer/DFO/Park Warden/Director/Civil Society Institutions (sharing of information, joint patrolling, joint actions); (ii) Divisional/Regional Director/Commissioner level (coordination) and (iii) National level (policy)
9. Intensify priority areas for bilateral cooperation in the following landscapes:
 - Suklaphanta- Lagga Bagga-Pilibhit
 - Bardia- Katarniaghat- Khata
 - Dudhwa- Dhangadhi/Basanta-Laljhadhi
 - Valmiki/Bettiah- Chitwan-Parsa
 - Banke-Suhelwa
 - Jhapa- Darjeeling

- Kosi Tappu
10. Intensify regular monitoring of trade hotspots covering the following areas:
 - Kanchanpur/Tanakpur
 - Nepalgunj/Rupendiya/Nanpara
 - Bhairwa/Sunauli
 - Birgunj/Raxual
 - Biratnagar/Jogbani
 - Kakarvitta/Siliguri
 - Darchula/Dharchula
 11. Identify their respective Focal Points under the South Asia Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and plan collaborative activities for enforcement, besides identification of institutional nominees at the field and regional levels for better communication.
 12. Use diplomatic channels, wherever necessary, to resolve problems and issues pertaining to Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation.
- And in pursuance of these:
13. Hold national level consultative meetings regularly, at least once every year, to review the progress made and evolve future strategies on the basis of experience gained through implementation of aforesaid resolutions.

WHAT AILS THE MANAS TIGER RESERVE

Dr. Rathin Barman, Samir Kumar Sinha, Dr. R. K. Singh,
Dr. D. S. Srivastava and Dr. R. P. Mishra

An urgent appraisal of tiger reserves, having low tiger density and problems on account of extremist engineered disturbances was becoming necessary so this team, was given the responsibility to appraise Valmiki Tiger Reserve (Bihar), Palamau Tiger Reserve (Jharkhand), Manas Tiger Reserve (Assam) and 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-à-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 Manas Tiger Reserve between 30th September and 5th October 2009 and we interacted with cross-section of people including frontline staff, senior officials of the reserve and Assam Forest Department, Deputy Chief of Bodoland Autonomous Council, officials of the civil administration and Sashastra Seema Bal, community representatives and local villagers.

We adopted various methods to accomplish the objectives of appraisal and tried to understand the situations minutely. We also attempted understanding the



One of the very recently encroached areas in Manas Tiger Reserve

positive aspects pertaining to tiger conservation in the reserve. In general, we have a strong feeling that the reserve is recovering at a significant pace after several years of civil unrest, which caused great damage to management, infrastructure and wildlife of the area. Supports of local community groups to built up the damaged infrastructure and protection of the area is commendable. The tiger reserve management is also committed and trying to re-establish Manas a safe home for

wildlife, but 'system error' inherited to the reserve is the main obstacle, which needs to be sorted out at earliest to get the desired conservation success.

During the appraisal we found that;

1. In all practical purposes, the Manas National Park area is only being considered as the Manas Tiger Reserve area, which is only about 18% of the total area of the tiger reserve. This is one of the main reasons for not having a tiger oriented conservation and



Field visit by the members in Manas TR and discussions with the Field Director

management practices in Manas.

2. There is confusion and poor communication between the Assam Forest Department and Bodoland Territorial Council on several issues pertaining to management of the tiger reserve.
3. Tiger occupies most of the areas but density is low. We could observe tiger signs in many areas. Pugmarks of a tigress and cubs were also seen along Beki River in Bansbari range. Some NGOs are involved in camera trap surveys of tiger and have successfully photographed tigers in a small portion of the tiger reserve.
- Secondary information suggests increased sightings of tiger in recent years.
4. Density of natural prey is low. Domestic cattle from the fringe villages supplement the natural prey of tiger.
5. Grasslands areas are advancing into woodlands due to long absence of proper grassland management interventions.
6. Wildlife monitoring system is not in place in the reserve and field staffs are very poorly oriented towards a systematic wildlife monitoring system.
7. Research officer of the reserve has been engaged elsewhere for other assignments and this is one

- of the reasons for not having in-house research activities. Limited numbers of NGOs are doing wildlife research / monitoring activities in the reserve, but their efforts are also restricted to a small area inadequate to provide comprehensive management inputs.
8. Poaching pressure of prey was reported by local community members however tiger and leopard poaching seems low.
9. Infrastructure and human resources required for effective protection is grossly inadequate.
10. Protection mechanism is basically dependent on the local volunteers and long term viability of this system is questionable.
11. Road along the southern boundary of the National Park area crucial for protection mechanism but it is not operational.
12. Advisories of NTCA / Project Tiger regarding the protection measures are poorly followed in the reserve.
13. Encroachment seems to be a big problem in Manas. However, some encroached areas have been evacuated from unauthorized human settlements; still a large portion is under encroachment. Several areas of the reserve are

under constant encroachment threats.

14. Law and order situation has improved significantly in the Manas Tiger Reserve areas in comparison to recent past time.
15. Involvement of local youth groups as conservation volunteers for the Manas Tiger Reserve is a good sign of community participation for the management of the reserve. However, long term viability of these groups needs further thoughts.
16. Presence of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in the southern boundary has strengthened the protection mechanism in many areas of the reserve. But a regular and systematic coordination between SSB and Forest Department is required for more effective protection measures.
17. No proper system to report or monitor of wildlife / forest offences in the reserve. Only in National Park area efforts are in place but it is also inadequate or not as per standard procedures.

Based on our assessment we make following recommendations:

1. There is an urgent need to address administrative issues on priority basis. The confusions

between the state government and BTC on management of Manas TR should be resolved and entire reserve should be brought under unified control of the Field Directorate for all practical purposes.

2. The BTC should be a party in all committees/bodies meant for the management of Manas TR.

3. It is needed to reorganize forest divisions and ranges of the tiger reserve and create sufficient posts of officials and frontline staff to manage the entire reserve area effectively. Sufficient infrastructure needs to be created throughout the reserve. Sufficient funds should be secured through the state and central grants.

4. There is a need to develop a system to regulate the activities of NGOs in the reserve so as to derive maximum output from their efforts. Volunteers engaged for protection duties should be under direct control of the Field Director rather than their own organizational management system.

5. Joint forest patrolling with SSB in the southern boundary and with Bhutan counterpart in the northern boundary should be initiated.

6. South boundary of the national park should be properly demarcated and the road along the boundary must be made usable and maintained for management and protection of the reserve, especially the core area. Protection camps should be increased along the southern road instead of increasing camps inside the reserve.

7. Frontline staff and conservation volunteers should be trained for day-to-day monitoring of prey and predators.

8. Local universities and NGOs should be encouraged to undertake research activities even outside the Manas National Park. The reserve management should

create basic facilities in these areas to attract the researchers.

9. Habitat management interventions should be emphasized for recovery of the grasslands.

10. Timely fund availability to the reserve must be ensured by the NTCA and state forest department.

11. A process should be institutionalized to regulate implementation of BTC funded activities by agencies/departments other than the reserve management and ensure that the activities are as per the management plan of the reserve. Such activities should be brought into the notice of state



government as well as NTCA.

12. The reserve management, state government and NTCA should act pro-actively to ensure timely fund flow for field based activities and overall management of the reserve.

13. Eco-development activities should be started in the fringe villages to reduce dependency of villagers on the reserve. Eco-development committees need to be constituted for the purpose. We suggest implementing eco-development activities through competent NGO rather than the forest department.

14. A long term comprehensive awareness programme is strongly

required to mitigate the human-wildlife conflict problem.

Community groups along the south boundary may be funded for such activities. Compensation for crop damage and cattle killed outside the reserve should be given to the villagers. A realistic compensation package needs to be developed in consultation with experts and communities.

It is worth mentioning that the reserve management, BTC and local communities have shown their commitment to regain the old glories of Manas. The park is getting attention from the civil administration, BTC and national and international NGOs. Rhino

population was wiped out from the reserve by poachers during the civil unrest period. But, now Government of Assam and organizations like Wildlife Trust of India and WWF-India has successfully brought back the species to the park from Kaziranga through reintroduction and translocation programmes. Local Civil society groups have formed their own "conservation volunteers" for helping the park managers for conservation and protection measures. This can be noted as a new beginning for the Manas National Park. However, similar efforts need to be initiated for the entire Manas Tiger reserve area.

Importance of Information in controlling **wildlife crimes**

By **R. Hemanth Kumar I.F.S.** Conservator of Forests, Varanasi Circle,
(Former Regional Dy. Director, Wildlife Preservation, South Zone)



CHAPAGAIN D. / WILDLIFE CONSERVATION NEPAL

Seizure by the army in Langtang, Nepal, Sept 2005 (5 tiger skins and 113 kg bones)

For controlling wildlife crimes information from informants plays a vital role. Information on wildlife crime can be obtained from (a) public spirited citizens (for which different organizations use different methodologies-some advertise in news papers, some seek info on their web sites as it is being done by NTCA-<http://www.tigernet.nic.in> etc) (b) Eccentric or nuisance individuals (c) contacts (d) complaints (e) informants (they can be participating

informants or agent provocateurs) and/ or (f) by covert or overt means-some of these means can be (1) open sources like reports from news papers and electronic media, magazines, books etc (2) information from local police (3) Internet (4) Surveillance (5) on file data etc.

The information thus collected by the enforcers from different sources can be evaluated and analyzed for converting it into intelligence, which

can be used for tactical, operational and strategic purposes. Information, if it is subjected to six steps of intelligence process viz. (a) Planning (b) Collection (c) Evaluation (d) Collation (e) Analysis and (f) Dissemination; it becomes intelligence, as experts say.

This intelligence analysis helps the managers/enforcers in identification of priorities, risk assessment, targeting, re-deployment of human/technical resources, knowing about modus operandi of criminals, patterns & trends in crime, links with other crimes, for preparing CRIMINAL PROFILES with the photographs of criminals (that can be used in latter stages for the preparation of National Wildlife Criminal Records- may be in the lines of work done by National Crime Control Bureau) etc purposes, the usage of it can be limitless.

For writing this article I used only two sources viz. Magazines (India Today, Frontline etc) / News paper reports (Times of India, Hindustan Times, Daily Pioneer, The Hindu, Indian Express etc) and Internet for gathering information on criminals of wildlife. My search using search engines like Bing and Google directed me to thousands of web addresses in a fraction of seconds, of which about 60% has got some relevance to my research. For preparing this paper I used only a fraction of that information, even though I got a wealth of information (printed notes in 65 A4 size papers). In this article I am going to give information on

I. Criminal Gangs, their accomplices, their foreign connections, modus operandi-under this I discussed about Shabeer Hassan Qureshi and Sansar Chand only

II. International Gangs and tiger trade

III. Gave a bit of emphasis on books/ technical papers on wildlife trade etc issues.

Criminal Gangs, their accomplices, their foreign connections

SHABEER HASAN QURESHI

SANSAR CHAND

Brief Back ground:

Shabeer Hasan Qureshi and Sansar Chand are partners in wildlife crime and relatives. Shabeer's brother-in-law Mohammad Ayub is reportedly married to the sister of Rani Saini, wife of Sansar Chand. Nidhi Mittal reported in Daily Pioneer on 6th October 2010, that their association goes back to the year 1995, when both of them were caught in June 1995 from Taj Hotel in Saharanpur, UP with 2 tiger pelts and 60 kgs of tiger bone.

(A) Shabeer Hasan Qureshi

Shabeer Hasan Qureshi, a notorious wildlife criminal from, Fatehpur / Allahabad region of Uttar Pradesh is presently in Naini Central Jail since 2008, after he was arrested in December 2007 in connection with the famous Khaga seizure that took place in the year 2000 (where in 1880 leopard and 132 tiger claws neatly packed in polythene bags, pelts of 150 leopard, 4 tiger and 221 blackbucks, 150 kg of leopard and tiger bones, two leopard teeth and a dried leopard penis, were seized). This entire consignment is to be sent to Siliguri, West Bengal; from here they might have been destined to Lhasa via Sangsang (this place came into prominence in the year 2003, when 31 tiger, 581 leopard and 778 otter skins were caught from a truck, some of these skins are neatly packed in Delhi edition of Times of India revealing their Indian origin-they were neatly photographed and reported in their "Tiger Skin Trail" by a team of EIA and WPSI). Shabeer Hasan Qureshi managed to evade arrest at that time but 25 members of his family including his wife, three sons (he has 4 sons, the fourth one is the owner of a hotel valued at Rs 1100 crores in Dubai), his father, brother, brother-in-law etc were arrested. In the year 2007, SIT, UP police finally could caught him with his 15 accomplices, of them 12 are expert poachers from Katni area of M.P, among the others to be caught were his 2 sons Sarfaraz Ahmad and Siyaz, and his brother-in-law Mohammad Ayub. Arrested among them is Sukh Chiana, wife of Dauwa (a member of Kanti Lal gang) another notorious criminal. Dauwa at present is residing in Khiraini village, which is on the road that leads to the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.

Shabeer's name came into criminal records for the first time in May 1995, when he was arrested for the first time on the Ganga Bridge in Hardwar with pelts of 4 tigers.

Shabeer, a ruthless criminal has about 1200 people in his pay roll running across in India, Nepal and China. Shabeer reportedly is the owner of 3 palatial houses in Allahabad and two in Delhi collectively valued at Rs 22 crore and has two German cars, which are now attached by UP police under UP Gangsters act. (Source: Meet Shabeer by Nidhi Mittal published in Daily Pioneer dated 6th October 2010)

(B) Sansar Chand

Sansar Chand was born in 1958, and has been involved with the wildlife skin trade virtually all his life. He was first arrested at an age of 16, in September 1974, in a case involving tiger and leopard skins and 676 other wildlife skins. Sansar

WILDLIFE CRIME

and his gang members have at least 100 court cases pending against them in nine states in India - Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. Despite the large number of cases against Sansar and his colleagues, he has only received 3 convictions - for his first case in Delhi in 1974, and for a case in Bhilwara, Rajasthan, in January 2003 (in April 2004, he was convicted to five years imprisonment by Ajmer court). Now the Delhi high court sentenced him with imprisonment.

Many of Sansar Chand's close relatives are in the trade. WPSI identified that about 35 members of his family are involved in the crime. Important among them are his wife Rani Saini, his son Akash, (presently in Jaipur jail), his brothers- Raj Kumar, Narayan etc.

Sansar Chand's brothers mostly act as peddlers and suppliers of snares, traps etc. Sansar Chand owns a house in Sadar Bazaar area of Delhi, which is close to Majnu Ka Tila, a place in news after the arrest of Tibetan peddlers with pelts.

Poachers, Peddlers, suppliers of poaching materials

Very often in this type of organized crime the difference between poachers, peddlers and suppliers of snares etc is blurred. The deadly cocktail of family organized crime syndicate and intimacy among the gangs through family kinships is making them a unified and dreaded force. The list is a vast one; some of the prominent names that appeared in press are as given below:

1. **Lala Qureshi** (presently in Jail), a resident of Shahdol, is believed to be an important supplier of pelts to Shabbir Hasan

2. **Prabhakar Keshav Gajakosh** of Hubli, Dharwar Dist of Karnataka, Abdul Khader Chowdhary of Hyderabad were arrested in a joint operation by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh police at Hyderabad in Feb 2008 in connection with recovery of pelts of one Tiger, 23 Leopard and 43 common Otters from the house of Mr. Gajakosh. The duo sells wildlife products to Mr. Rajkumar, brother of Sansar Chand and to Shabeer Hassan Qureshi. The duo has contacts with Hariprasad Lasakchand, father of Durra, a Bahelia tribesman who is specialised in trapping the wild animals using jaw traps. Prabhakar Keshav Gajakosh's brother Panaji Keshav Gajakosh is also a part of the crime. Poachers of Gir Lions named Gajakosh as a trader, with whom they were in touch with. Gajakosh admitted to his interrogators that he purchased leopard and tiger pelts from Pappu, Akash and Dorra of the Katni gang of MP, in turn



BANKS EIA / WPSI

Tiger and leopard skin for sale on the main street of Litang, Sichuan Province, Aug 2005

sold them to Abdul Khader Chowdhary, who then sold them to Narayan and Rajkumar brothers of Sansar Chand----a south Indian connection to the tiger trade

3. **Narayan** is currently in a jail in Alwar; Rajasthan He was caught on charges of poaching a Panther in Tehla region in Sariska in 2004. He is named in the Delhi seizure of January 31, 2005 which brought out two tiger skins, 38 leopard skins, a snow leopard skin, 42 otter skins and other wildlife parts. Then there is the Hubli and Haliyal seizure after which Gajakosh was arrested. Narayan was also a part of that, not to mention another case pertaining to Ramnagar in Nainital in 2009 where a tiger skin and a skeleton was seized, involving nine other offenders. The CBI has registered a case against him under the Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act (MCOCA). Narayan is wanted by the security agencies of Karnataka, Gujarat, UP, Uttarkhand and Delhi.

4. **Bheema**, Sansar's key aide in all his operations even while he was in jail. When the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) received specific Intelligence that Bheema had tiger bones, tiger fat, body parts and implements for poaching at his home in Gurgaon, it helped authorities nab not just him but 12 other members of his network



5. **Dariya**, an expert poacher, and his wife Baghmata are both residents of Samalkha, Panipat district in Haryana. Dariya was first arrested in Bahoriband range of Jabalpur forest division in 1988 with 8 spring traps, 1 hyena skin, 1 tiger skin, tiger bones, tiger paws, and tiger fat in his possession, but was released on bail. He was rearrested in April 2008 in Corbett National Park with poaching equipment (2 tiger traps), but once again managed to get bail. In March 2009, when the husband and wife duo were posturing as beggars in Ramnagar, Uttarkhand, police from Madhya Pradesh apprehended them. Now both of them were convicted for a jail term of 3 years by the court at Sihora, Jabalpur.

6. Times of India reported on 8th October 2010 that women named **Sundar Devi** along with her 8 years old grand son Mahavir were caught from Manguraha jungles of Valmikinagar Tiger Reserve in Bihar's West Champaran district adjacent to the Indo-Nepal border, where the duo had laid an iron trap for unsuspecting big cats. Sundar is the wife of notorious poacher Dariya Singh, not to be confused with another one with the same name.

7. **Laxman Pardhi**, a poacher, peddler and supplier of traps and his accomplice Kamala were arrested by officials of Madhya Pradesh in Sept 2007 from Chanera village in Khandwa district. They are active in Melghat area of Madhya Pradesh.

8. **Birbal alias Totha Ram**, a resident of Panipat,

Haryana was arrested recently in Champawat dist of Uttarkhand with a tiger trap, knives, skinning tools, a net etc. He was arrested twice before to it-in May 2003 and in August 2004. He hails from a family of poachers, his sister Dilpo, another noted criminal presently in Philibit jail facing 5 year imprisonment for a tiger poaching case of 1992. She got minor punishment in 2005 too by a court in Bahraich for carrying the skin and bones of a tiger

9. Mihir Srivastava in his article titled "Tracking the Tiger Killers" published in India Today issue dated 28th May 2010 mentioned that **Dabuliya Bai** head of a clan of the Pardhis reportedly delivered 35 tiger skins to Sansar chand. He further reported that her husband Raj Mahal with his gang is believed to have killed 35-40 tigers in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Her brother, Siddhe Singh, died in jail serving a sentence for tiger poaching. Daru, who operated in Gujarat and Karnataka and is under arrest for poaching, is a relative. Her nephew, Ajit Pardhi is also in this trade.

10. **Lallan Pardhi** was arrested from Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh and is in jail facing 3 years imprisonment.

11. Wildlife trader **Jagdish Lodha** from Bawaria community is arrested by Nepal Police in Kathmandu. He is believed to have given patronage to 50 families of Bawaria poachers

12. **Sarkaslal Pardhi**, the kingpin of the lion poaching gang in Gir Sanctuary, was convicted by Junagarh Court after he was arrested in Una Town April 2007, has connections with a south Indian trader Prabhakar Keshav Gajakosh. He is native of Baijan village in Hosangabad district in Madhya Pradesh, a master poacher of Tigers and now might have shifted to poaching of Gir Lions

13. **Sachmer Singh alias Dadi Pardhi** is active in Melghat area

14. **Bahadur Singh** gang of Katni now in to killings of lions

15. "**English**" is another dreaded criminal in to tiger poaching. His accomplices include his relatives like **Mintar Singh** (A resident of Shahmagar near Panna), who is in jail, others like **Daryawani, Lalarsi** who are at large. He commands a gang of 35 people. Mintar Singh is wanted in Gir Lion killing case by Gujarat police was arrested by MP police in the border of Katni and Panna District.

16. Many named poachers like **Baburu Pardhi, Dauwa** and his wife **Sukh Chiana** and many unnamed poachers arrested from time to time by police are active in tiger trade.

17. Some of the criminals that are active in killing of Tigers from Ranthambore and Sariska areas of

WILDLIFE CRIME

Rajasthan are **Pirthia and Kesra** who hail from Kota and Bundi in Rajasthan; **Devi Singh** is a sarpanch of Dhamni village in adjacent Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh is considered to be conduit of the pelts. All three at present are in jail.

18. **Prahlad, Ram Singh, and Raju** at Dumariya village who are involved in tiger killings are some other names which prominently appear in tiger killing cases, are arrested in Bharatpur District, Rajasthan.

These are just a few names and the list as mentioned is not exhaustive, it's only an indicative one.

Foreign Connection:

It's being reported that previously some people from Kashmir are involved in tiger smuggling trade, but with increasing numbers of arrests of some Tibetans, it's now being suspected that this community might be active. Some of the important Tibetans arrested in recent times are as given below:

Sansar Chand admitted to C.B.I. that the following are his main "clients".

1. Tsering Atup Tamang a.k.a (a.k.a: also known as) Sonam Lama of Kathmandu, who was arrested in November 2005. Sansar Chand admitted that he sold 300 tiger skins, 2,000 leopard skins, 6,000 fox skins and 4,000 cat skins to him. Meetings between the two would take place in New Delhi's Connaught Place or Majnu Ka Tila. Tamang a repeat offender was arrested on 5 January 2003 in Lucknow in possession of 12 leopard skins along with Ameen Ahmad, a relative of Shabeer Hasan Qureshi, and Wakil, brother of Ameen Ahmad. He was also involved in illegal Shahtoosh trade.

2. Tashi Tshering a.k.a Chhewang Utke Lama of Humala district in Nepal: Arrested. Sansar claimed to have sold 20 tiger skins, 60 leopard skins and 100 otter skins to him.

3. Pema Limi: One of Chand's "biggest clients" since early '90s.

4. Tenzing Lama: Allegedly bought 100 tiger skins, 70 leopard skins and 100 otter skins from Chand

5. Neema Kampa, a Tibetan, was arrested in Delhi by Rajasthan Police, is the kingpin in pelt smuggling.

6. Other prominent Nepali/ Tibetan names in the skin trade are Tashi a.k.a Wanchoo, Tamding Khamba (both reportedly wanted in Khaga/Ghaziabad/Siliguri seizures), Gopal Gurung (arrested at Kooli bazaar in Kanpur), Prem Bhutia Gurung (a man wanted by Siliguri Police), Pasong Chimbela Lama, arrested in Nepal with 109 skins of leopards, Pema Thinley of Leh and Mohammed Yakub, who were arrested in connection with 1993's



Tiger bone wine openly available for sale in China

Delhi/ Ghaziabad seizure, Jampa Lama, who was arrested in Nepalgang in 2004, Konchok Lama the names are unending. Newer and newer persons are entering this illegal activity due to lax enforcement and un-deterrent sentences. Photos of these people will definitely help the enforcers in better enforcement.

Modus operandi:

Poachers are hired and sent to the jungles by the smugglers like Sansar Chand. The hunting party, including women and children, sets off by train to the target zone. Reaching the targeted forest, they camp in the vicinity, setting up temporary shops selling cheap jewellery/ country medicines/ rudraksh (they fetch rudraksh from Nepal) as a cover. It takes them just a few days to learn about tiger movements in the area. Once they find out the movement of tiger they set meat for attracting tigers/ leopards and lay iron traps en-route [here comes the utility of DSMDs -Deep Search Metal Detectors]. Once the tiger is trapped they pierce the mouth of tigers by poisoned spears mounted on bamboo sticks and then they do the preliminary tanning (use turmeric and salt) at the site itself after the tiger is skinned. Flesh along with bones is buried and the bones are taken back after some time. Usage of muzzle-loading guns and poisoned pellets are also some times used for killing of tigers. They call skins as "chaadars"

International Gangs and Tiger trade:

1. Bryan Christy in his article titled "Asia's Wildlife Trade: The Kingpin" published in the January 2010 issue of National Geographic mentioned the arrest of Anson Wong's by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bryan mentioned in his article that primarily Anson Wong is a reptile smuggler based in Malaysia is now into tiger smuggling too. He further mentioned that Anson like

all other animal smugglers uses the web site www.vorras.net for selling his products.

Such websites can be a source of information for our enforcers too.

2. PRNewswire-US Newswire reported on 8th October 2010 that a coordinated international law enforcement operation by INTERPOL and IFAW has led to the arrest of 25 Asians suspected of taking part in the illicit trade of tigers.

3. Findings by the CID of West Bengal revealed that Bangladeshi money lenders are behind killings of Sunderbans tigers

Books/ Articles on Wildlife crime:

(A) There are many books and investigative articles written on the tiger poaching, markets, trade routes etc some of the titles are:

1. What's driving the wildlife trade: A discussion paper published by TRFFIC International; among other things, this paper documented beautifully about interventions to address illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade-a must read paper

2. "Skinning the Cat: crime and politics of the big skin trade": published by EIA and WPSI-among other things explained about the trans-Himalayan trade routes-a must read

3. Far from a cure: the tiger trade revisited by Kristin Nowell an excellent informative paper on TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine)

4. KILLED FOR A CURE: A Review of the Worldwide Trade in Tiger Bone: A TRAFFIC Species in Danger report by Judy A. Mills and Peter Jackson August 1994, an excellent paper,

5. "The Tiger Skin Trail" A report of EIA and WPSI, is excellent and worth reading, as it tells us about the trade routes, crime syndicates etc.

6. The International Wildlife Trade and Organized Crime A review of the evidence and the role of the UK by Dee Cook, Martin Roberts and Jason Lowther

7. Booklets published by agencies like Wildlife Crime Control Bureau etc

(B) For field personnel it is high time that they should have knowledge on the issues related to basic forensics, some of the interesting and informative books / articles on this subject are:

8. "Wildlife Crime: An Enforcement Guide " By Vivek

Menon and Ashok Kumar

9. Arrow versus gunshots: tips for field investigators published in international game warden

10. Bear and Cat claws by Sims, M.E. and B.C. Yates. 2001

11. Shot pellets: an overview By: Mary-Jacque Manni, Edgard O. Espinoza', Rhoda M. Ralston', Richard K. Stroud', Michael D. Scanlan and Steven, Strauss

12. Identification of mid-size cat skulls Identification Guides for Wildlife Law Enforcement by Margaret "Cookie" E. Sims National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, 1490 E Main Street, Ashland, OR 97520

13. Distinguishing real vs. fake tiger penises Identification Guides for Wildlife Law Enforcement No. 6 by Bonnie C. Yates National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory 1490 East Main Street Ashland, OR 97520

(C) Other Resources:

14. Information on seizures of wildlife articles-world wide between 1997-2010 , can be obtained from http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_bulletin_seizures_1997-2010.pdf

15. "Animal Investigators" by Dr. Laurel Neme.

The coordinated efforts with the line departments like police (including the CID, local intelligence units, SIT etc), dedication and smartness of the staff, improved analytical capabilities, empathy by the concerned citizens, and enforcers assisted with technology (to name a few-usage of M-STriPES, using Applied Wildlife Genetics in crime detection, using DSMDs for detecting camouflaged metallic traps, snares etc, using Thermal Cameras, using Species specific software like MIKE-the one that is developed for elephants, its full name is Monitoring of Illegal Killings of Elephants, etc) can only save our majestic Tigers.

Amongst us, we can find a plenty of persons like Duru Baloch, a former forest guard of the Gir sanctuary, from whom lion nails were recovered, has also been arrested on the charge of abetting poaching as he took poachers in to the waterholes in the deep jungles and at the same time we have people like Sanatan Barkachari, poacher turned forest guard of Manas Tiger Reserve, who killed about 28 poachers till now and Babulal Orang of Manas



THE WASHINGTON POST

WILDLIFE CRIME

Tiger Reserve, whom his colleagues fondly call Rambo, killed about 35 poachers-both of them deservedly got bravery awards constituted by Tiger Conservation Programme for their valor. We have people like Saroj Kumar Mohanty of Similipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa, Udayan of Mudhumalai sanctuary, and Ram Kumar of Dudhwa National Park who are real jems. I wish that in the days to come we will hear the names of more and more such people.

We have organizations like Belinda Wright's WPSI, Ashok Kumar's WTI, TRAFFIC India, under the able leadership of Sameer Sinha, EIA (Debbie Banks and her associates are doing a very good work) are doing wonders in documenting the crime, assisting in the capture of poachers and imparting training to the enforcement authorities. NTCA, a nodal agency for tiger conservation in India is doing excellent work in their designated field. Endeavors like imparting training to enforcers of wildlife act, in the science of forensics in association with Gujarat Forensic Science Laboratory, Ahmadabad by WWF and its attempt in association with the Government of MP for rehabilitating Pardhi tribes (under Pardhi project) are also worth mentioning. Very good, informative and investigative articles by our friends in journalism very often are finding their place in

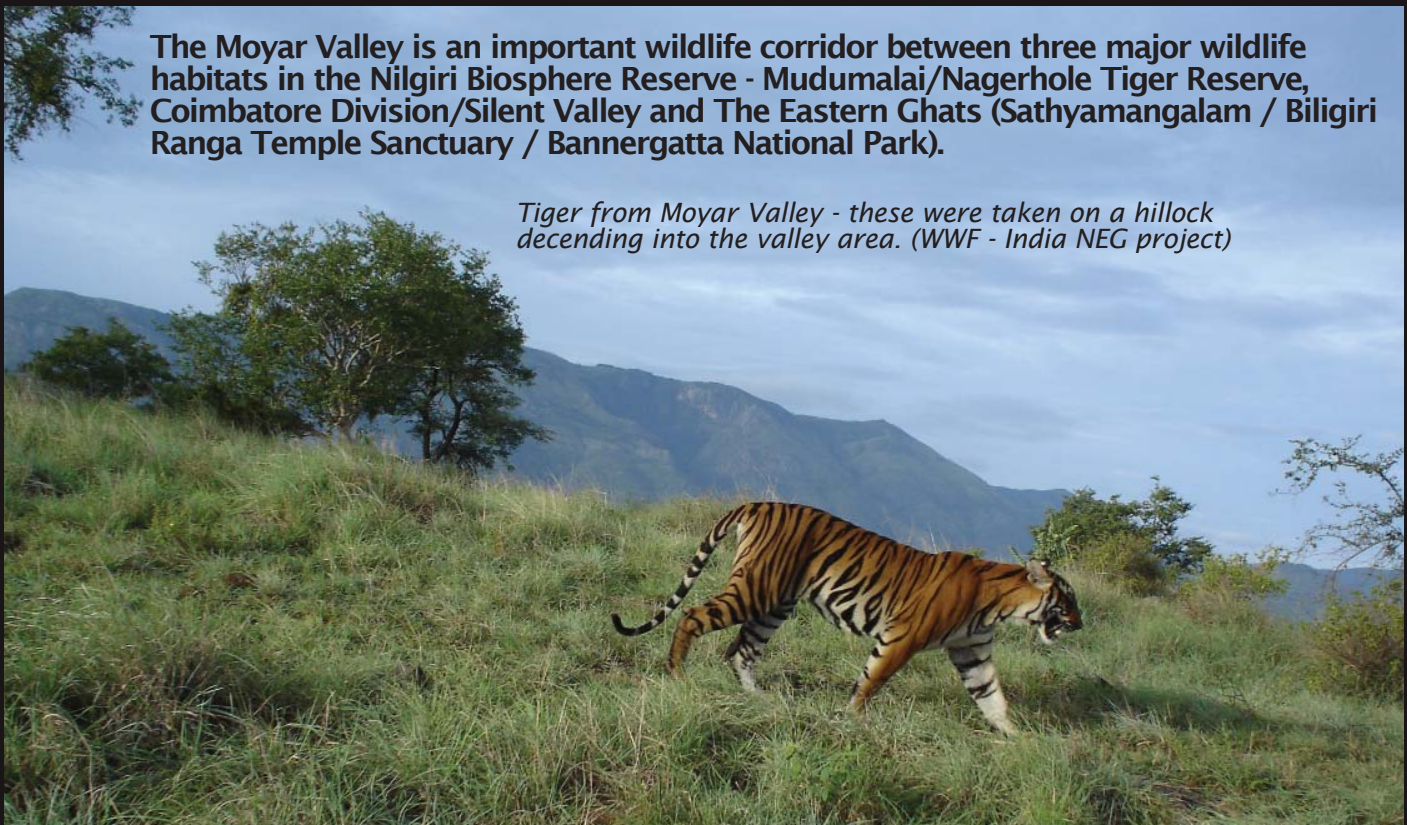
reputed print media, which definitely will help in promoting empathy for tigers. NDTV's and AIRCELL's save tiger campaigns are worth mentioning too, as they are exemplifying their role in Corporate Social Responsibility (Elkington's Triple Bottom Line concept in action?). All these will definitely improve the enforcement, which can give a breathing space to our Wild tigers. This will further help us in devising a strategy for interventions along the entire illegal tiger trade chain.

It is time for all of us to work hard in protecting not only the tiger habitat but also the tigers from being poached, other wise the majestic national animal- Tiger will be either confined to books or to Zoos or as Shera, the mascot. It's high time one should recognize that the Earth is green as there are carnivores around us, if we ignore it then the existence of mankind will be under severe peril.

Disclaimer: The information given in this article is not an exhaustive one; it's only an indicative one. I am not claiming that information given in this article is from my own investigations. I am just trying to ascertain how information, that is freely available, can be used by enforcers in knowing about criminals, their accomplices, modalities and finally in the control of wildlife crimes.

The Moyar Valley is an important wildlife corridor between three major wildlife habitats in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve - Mudumalai/Nagerhole Tiger Reserve, Coimbatore Division/Silent Valley and The Eastern Ghats (Sathyamangalam / Biligiri Ranga Temple Sanctuary / Bannerhatta National Park).

Tiger from Moyar Valley - these were taken on a hillock descending into the valley area. (WWF - India NEG project)



Progress of Village Relocation from the SATPURA TIGER RESERVE

Dr. D. S. Srivastava / Dr. Samir Kumar Sinha / Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar



The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India constituted committees to monitor the progress of relocation of villages from the core / critical areas in Tiger Reserves vide Office Memorandum F.NO. 15-63/2008-NTCA, dated 23rd April 2010. The committees were given the task of monitoring on the following Terms of Reference;

A. Actual progress on field implementation / relocation of families vis-avis the Wild Life Protection (Act) 1972 and the advisories /guidelines issued in this regard from the NTCA.

B. Shortfalls / complaints from

the relocated people, if any.

C. Suggestions for improvement.

The team was given the task to monitor the progress in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh states. For this, the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh was visited by the team from 19-21 July, 2010.

The Reserve has received funds to relocate two forest villages; Bori and Sakot. Bori village has been rehabilitated near Semri Harchand in May 2009, but process for relocation of Sakot has been started recently. Relocation of Bori village has secured 280 ha forest land in the Reserve. The New Bori village has been established on a

forest land.

Villagers of Bori, majority from the Gond tribe, have availed Option II of the relocation package i.e. 'rehabilitation of the village by forest department'. Under the package 118 eligible families were identified for rehabilitation by the Collector. A five member committee of the villagers was elected by the villagers. Layout of the village was decided by a 10 member committee. Total budget for relocation of the village is Rs. 11.80 crores, out of which Rs. 2.95 crore has been allocated for house construction and incentives for relocation. Each eligible family was given Rs. 2 lakh for house construction. A lady sociologist



was involved for facilitation. The villagers have constructed houses themselves as per their need and choice.

House construction work is completed. Sufficient number of bore-well has been provided for clean potable water. Every eligible family has been provided with 2 hectare agriculture land for which common irrigation facility has been provided. Villagers have already harvested one crop. District Agriculture Department, Forest Department and a local NGO helped the villagers practicing improved agriculture. LPG cylinder with a stove and electricity connection has been provided to all households. Community solar power is also being provided. All line departments have rendered due support to the new village.

The villagers raised some issues / complaints which should be taken care of in future relocation projects. There was no personal complaint of any villager. The issues brought before us were; a long time gap between proposal sent to NTCA by the Forest Department (after decision of Gram Sabha on voluntarily relocation) and availability of funds, shortage of funds as a result of increase in number of eligible families due to a time lag between the proposal sent to the

NTCA and availability of funds, and conflicts and clashes with the host village over sharing of natural resources. The villagers also pointed out a case of land dispute in the rehabilitated area; the matter is in the court.

The team put forward following key recommendations and suggestion;

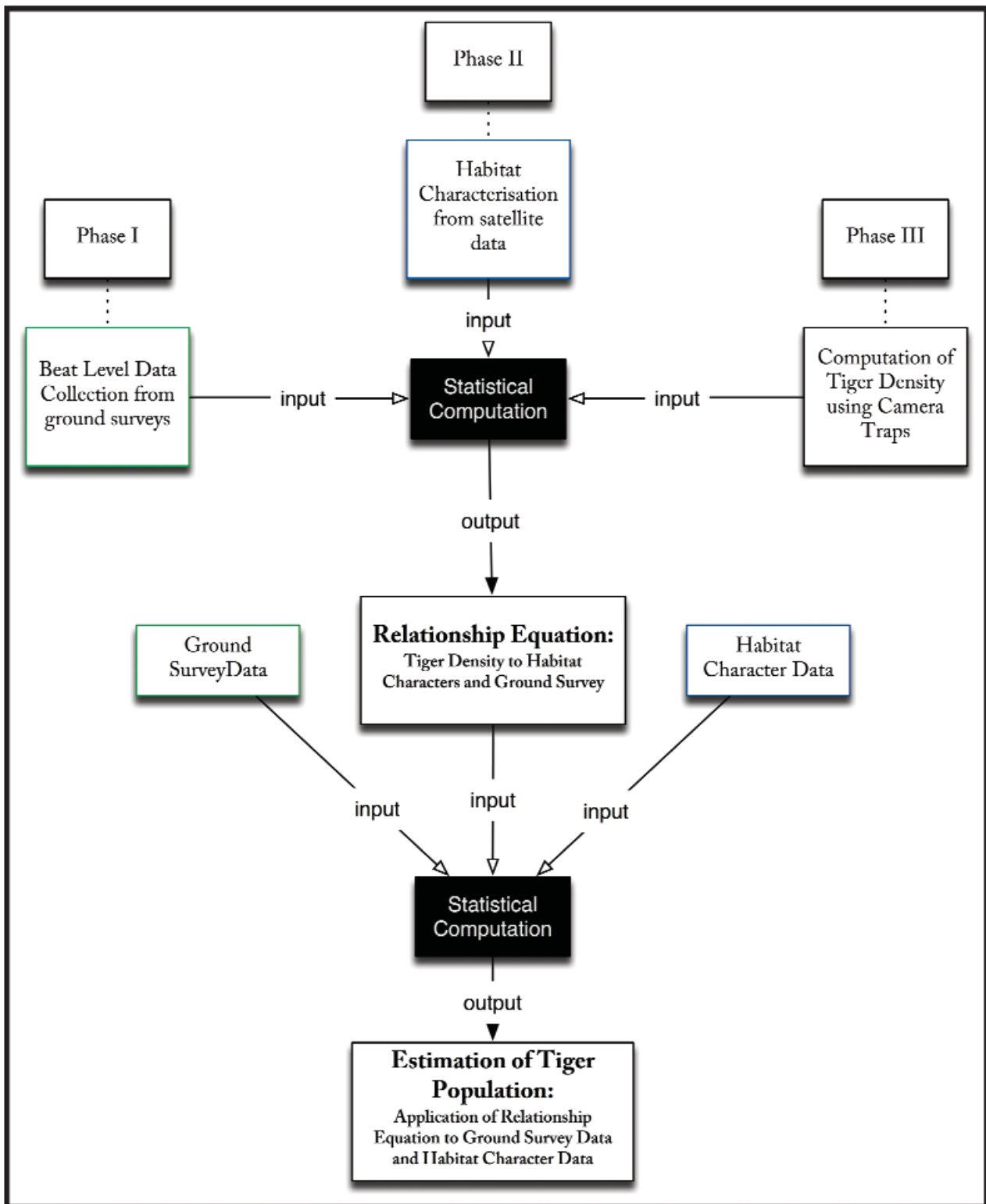
1. The Forest Department should project the number of eligible families down the years (there should be 2-3 cut off dates for the next few years with estimated funds required) and mention it in the proposal to NTCA, so that NTCA could assess the actual number while allocating then funds.
2. The money against right settlement of the villagers should also be given to them after identifying and extinguishing the forest rights.
3. The villagers require handholding at least for next five year. A handholding mechanism should be developed by involving reputed NGOs and there should be separate budgetary provision for this.
4. Key personnel of the Forest Department, who have been involved in relocation of a village and making positive impacts, should not be transferred.
5. There should be provisions to reduce dependency of villagers

for grazing on the adjoining forest area. Community cattle shed with provisions of stall feeding and promotion of power tillers in agriculture could be some good options.

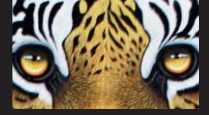
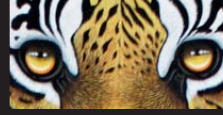
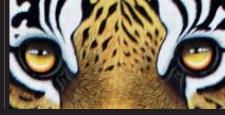
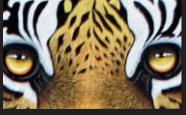
6. Before a village is rehabilitated to a new place, Gram - Sabha of the host village should be taken into confidence to avoid conflicts with the new settlers.

7. Scientific studies on ecological succession and habitat use by wildlife in the vacated area of the tiger reserve and socio-economic changes in the rehabilitated community should be undertaken to assess overall impact of relocation and rehabilitation on the tiger reserve as well as the villagers.

The committee feels that the rehabilitation of Bori village by the Forest Department has observed several good practices; participation of the villagers in the entire process of planning and reconstructing the New Bori village, and maintaining transparency in decision making are some of them. Forest officials have properly facilitated the involvement of line department for all necessary provisions. The villagers are satisfied with the facilities created. Economic upliftment of the villagers is measurable and visible.



This procedure involves rigorous statistical analyses and is far more accurate than earlier methods. It is conducted in three phases and involves ground surveys, analyses of satellite data and camera traps.



THE THREE PHASES OF
THE TIGER ESTIMATION
PROCEDURE

PHASE I:

Ground survey data at the beat level was collected by field personnel in a standardised protocol after training.

PHASE II:

Statistical and satellite data were analysed by the Wildlife Institute of India in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

PHASE III:

The camera trapping procedure was conducted by research biologists

This data is a crucial component of Project Tiger and is used to:

- a) Measure the present status of tiger populations across the 17 tiger States in the country.
- b) Develop effective strategies to strengthen future tiger conservation programs.

DUE TO SIGNIFICANT ERRORS IN THE EARLIER PUGMARK COUNTING METHOD, ITS RESULTS ARE CONSIDERED FLAWED, AND CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH THE RESULTS FROM THIS ADVANCED PROCEDURE.