



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



MISSION

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

VISION

A secure natural heritage of India

Front cover photograph: **Satyaki Naha**

Back cover photograph: **Madhumay Mallik/WTI**

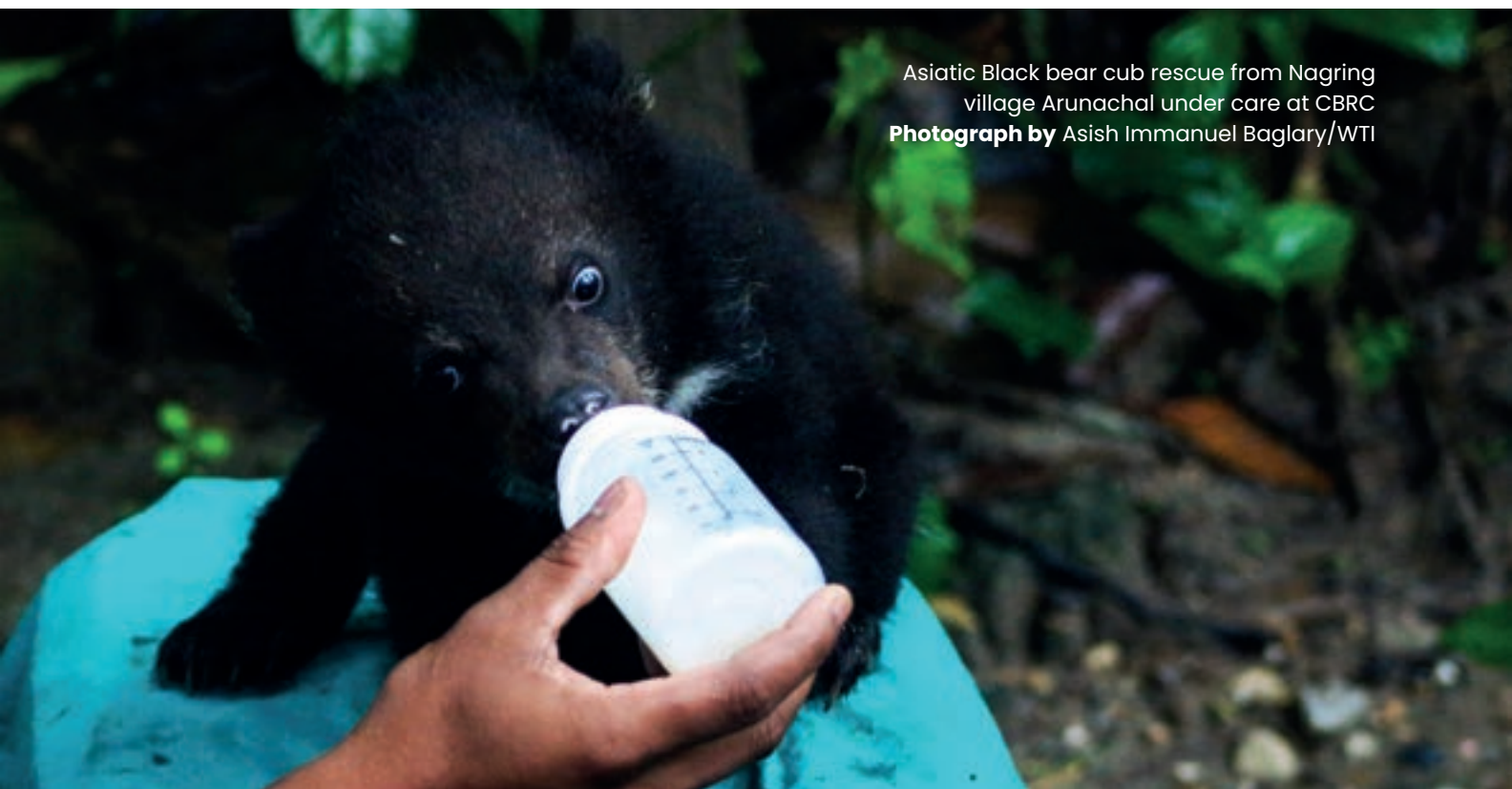
Layout and design: **Ranjeet Kumar Singh/WTI**



Whale Shark Conservation Cycle Rally at Kozhikode Beach
Photograph by Arun C

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC)** at Kaziranga National Park, Assam **completes 20 years** of providing emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation to indigenous wild animals in and around Assam. In this journey spanning two decades, CWRC handled over 7,400 animals in distress, 65% of which were sent back to the wild after proper care and treatment.
2. **Whale Shark rescues** by the Gujarat fishermen (sensitised through WTI's 'Whale Shark Conservation' project running in the state since 2004) **crossed 900 in 2022**.
3. The state of **Karnataka officially adopts HAWK** or 'Hostile Activity Watch Kernel' – a WTI-conceptualised technology-based system to monitor criminal networks and activities in real-time and provide actionable intel to enforcement officials to prevent possible wildlife crimes.
4. **813 sq. m. (320 reefs) added in 2022** to the artificial reef created off the Mithapur coast to assist the natural recruitment of corals.
5. **256 ha of forest land declared Village Reserve Forests (VRFs)** and set aside for conservation by the Garo community in Meghalaya.
6. National Highway Authority of India initiated the **construction of four wildlife underpasses across National Highway 6** in the forest patches between Sakoli and Deori in the Bhandara and Gondia districts of Maharashtra.
7. **Removed 541 snares** (traps commonly used to capture and hunt wild animals in India) during anti-snare walks covering 2,000 km across 16 Protected Areas.
8. **47 Rapid Action Projects sanctioned** to address wildlife conservation emergencies.
9. **Gajotsavam celebrates the Asian Elephant as India's National Heritage Animal** in God's own country, Kerala. Taking place alongside the Kochi Muziris Biennale, the event featured a month-long exhibition called "Aa Aana, which aimed at raising awareness about Elephants through art, culture, dance, music, film, literature, media, ecology and policy.



Asiatic Black bear cub rescue from Nagring village Arunachal under care at CBRC
Photograph by Asish Immanuel Baglary/WTI



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	01
WTI 9 Big Ideas	02
Key Projects	03
Media Highlights	26-27
Events	28-29
Awards and Recognitions	30
Tie-ups and collaborations	31
Balance Sheet	32
Partners	33
Board of Trustees	34

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2022-23 is an important year for the Wildlife Trust of India, as we are on the verge of successfully completing 25 years of our conservation journey. Since our inception in 1998, we have been tirelessly working towards our mission of protecting and conserving India's precious wildlife and its habitats. With immense dedication, our scope of work has expanded significantly, now encompassing nearly 50 projects across 23 states in India from the stunning Pir Panjal mountains in Kashmir to the lush mangrove forests of Kannur, Kerala.

Through our journey, we have encountered numerous conservation challenges, including the dire consequences of the illegal wildlife trade, which ranks as the fourth largest form of transnational organised crime in the world. Nevertheless, these challenges have only strengthened our resolve to safeguard our rich natural heritage.

With 9 Big Ideas forming our conservation strategies, WTI has made a substantial impact by protecting both keystone and lesser-known species, engaging communities in conservation efforts, mitigating human-wildlife conflict, conducting rescue-rehab-release of displaced wildlife, combatting the illegal wildlife trade, imparting knowledge, training and strengthening the capacity of frontline forest staff across the country and securing habitat for wildlife. This year, we extended our training programs to states such as Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.

The Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) in Assam celebrated a notable milestone, completing 20 years of providing emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation to indigenous wild animals. As a result of our community-based conservation efforts, over 900 Whale Sharks entangled in fishing nets were successfully rescued and released back into the sea by fishers in Gujarat.

In a significant effort to tackle wildlife trafficking, the state of Karnataka officially adopted HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel) – a technology-based system developed by WTI to monitor criminal networks and activities in real-time. Additionally, our team in collaboration with the Forest Department removed 541 snares during anti-snare walks across 16 Protected Areas. We also applaud the National Highway Authority of India for initiating the construction of four wildlife underpasses across National Highway 6 in Maharashtra.

As we approach 25 years of conservation excellence, we look back on our journey with pride and gratitude. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated WTI team members, without whom none of our achievements would have been possible. We also thank our donors, supporters, partner organisations, and stakeholders for standing by our side throughout this remarkable journey. Together, we can ensure a brighter and more sustainable future for India's wildlife and its habitats.

Vivek Menon
Founder and ED
Wildlife Trust of India

WTI 9 BIG IDEAS By 2030

WILD RESCUE

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

PROTECTED AREA RECOVERY

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

CONFLICT MITIGATION

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

ENFORCEMENT & LAW

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

WILD AID

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

WILD LANDS

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

SPECIES RECOVERY

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

NATURAL HERITAGE CAMPAIGNS

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

RIGHT OF PASSAGE

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

KEY PROJECTS

Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC)

The Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) in Assam, is a one-of-its-kind facility in India where orphaned and/or injured wild animals are hand raised, treated and rehabilitated. Following a period of acclimatisation and rehabilitation, these animals are reintegrated into their natural habitats. The facility is jointly run by WTI, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Assam Forest Department. CWRC is serviced by Mobile Veterinary Service Units (MVS) operating across the landscape with dedicated veterinarians and animal keepers.



Golden langur under treatment at CWRC

Photograph by **Samshul Ali/WTI**

539

ANIMALS HANDLED

80%

SUCCESSFULLY
SENT BACK TO
THE WILD



A black bear cub with a collar stands in a forest. The cub is looking to the left. The background is a lush green forest with many trees and plants. The ground is covered with rocks and fallen leaves.

04

Wild Asiatic black bear cubs – two males and two females, admitted to CBRC

05

INDIVIDUALS AWAITING RELEASE

CENTRE FOR BEAR REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION (CBRC)

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

Collared Asiatic black bear under rehabilitation at Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh
Photograph by Asish Immanuel Baglary/WTI



ERN Workshop at Jaipur

Photograph by Madhumay Mallik/WTI

EMERGENCY RELIEF NETWORK

ERN was conceptualised as a knowledge and skill exchange platform for experts as well as amateur rehabilitators and animal rescuers across India. Through this network, WTI works with committed and trained responders to help animals in distress during both natural or man-made disasters. In the reporting period, ERN members initiated active rescue responses during the floods in Andhra Pradesh and Assam.

Two-day training workshop on 'Avian Emergency Treatment' was organised in Jaipur for 35 participants from grassroots NGOs across Jaipur and Rajasthan.

Dr. Ushma Patel treating a black kite with kite string injuries.

Photograph by:
Madhumay Mallik/WTI





Chester Team visit to schools in the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve landscape
Photograph by Madhumay Mallik/WTI

TERAI TIGER PROJECT

The Terai Tiger Project was launched by the Wildlife Trust of India, in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department in 2009. The project framework included addressing human-big cat conflicts through rescue operations of the animals involved, as well as reducing such conflicts using a multi-pronged model that focused majorly on the development of integrative and participatory approaches towards conflict mitigation.



41 cases of human-big cat conflict in **TERAI, Uttar Pradesh**

32 **TIGERS** were provided with safe passage to return back to the wild

05 **CAPTURED FOR Release**

Camera trap photograph of a leopard in Nizampur, Uttar Pradesh

Photograph by WTI

SUNDARBANS TIGER PROJECT



5 km
**INSTALLATION
OF NYLON NET FENCING**

Installation of nylon net fencing in Sundarbans
Photograph by Samrat Paul/WTI

FORMATION OF **50** PRT UNITS

mobilised, trained and equipped
to facilitate human-wildlife
conflict mitigation and local
awareness

600 IMPROVED Cook Stoves

to reduce the local community's
dependence on forest
resources



alternative livelihood, including
goat rearing and poultry across
620 households

Rescued fishing cat in Sundarbans
Photograph by Samrat Paul/WTI





GHARIAL GANDAK RECOVERY PROJECT

Wildlife Trust of India's Gandak Gharial Recovery Project aims to recover the population and increase the occupancy of critically endangered Gharial in its distribution range.

Gharial hatchling release in the Gandak River
Photograph by Subrat K Behera/WTI

05

nesting sites of the 'Critically Endangered' Gharial were identified, monitored and protected

148 GHARIAL HATCHLINGS from three nests were released in the Gandak River



Adult Gharial rescued and released in the Gandak River
Photograph by Jitendra Gautam



WTI stall at the 2023 Bihar Diwas

AMPHIBIAN RECOVERY PROJECT

The project aims to recover populations of at least three 'Critically Endangered' amphibian species in the Munnar landscape of Western Ghats, one of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). The focus species under the project includes the Anaimalai Flying Frog (*Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus*), Resplendent shrub frog (*Raorchestes resplendens*), Meowing Night Frog (*Nyctibatrachus poocha*), Deccan Night Frog (*Nyctibatrachus deccanensis*) and Kadalar Swamp Frog (*Beddomixalus bijui*).



False Anaimalai flying frog (*R. pseudomalabaricus*) in Munnar
Photograph by Abhijith Vijay/WTI

02 ARTIFICIAL PONDS CREATED

at Windermere, Tall Trees and Blackberry tea estates to facilitate colonisation by targeted and other species



Artificial pond at Windermere tea estate

Photograph by Abhijith vijay/WTI

False Anaimalai flying frog (*R. pseudomalabaricus*) in Munnar

Photograph by Hadlee Renjith/WTI



Meowing Night Frog (*Nyctibatrachus poocha*) in Munnar

Photograph by Abhijith Vijay



WHITE WINGED DUCK RECOVERY PROJECT

The White Winged Duck Project aims to recover the population of WWD by working towards stabilising and finally increasing the number and sites of occurrence of the species in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Four individuals of the 'Endangered' and highly elusive White Winged Duck were sighted

during the project survey this year. The 'White Winged Duck Conservation Strategy Plan' was drafted by the team based on phase 1 surveys and the same has been submitted to the Assam Government.

04 Birds Sighted during Phase-1 Surveys

The 'White Winged Duck Conservation Strategy Plan' was drafted by the team based on Phase 1 surveys and the same has been submitted to the Assam Government.



White winged duck at Yachejolo Lake Namdhapa Tiger Reserve
Photograph by Aftab Ahmed/WTI

CENTRAL INDIA WILD BUFFALO RECOVERY PROJECT

The Central India Wild Buffalo Recovery Project aims to stabilise the wild buffalo population in Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh by implementing a number of ex situ and in situ interventions, including but not limited to monitoring of free-ranging wild buffaloes in the state, veterinary support to captive and free ranging individual and technical support to the conservation breeding programme.



Cattle vaccination drives in **18**

Villages across the Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary



Pisciculture support in **2** villages of Udanti



Wildlife Week celebration in Mainpur Town, USTR
Photograph by Dr. Rajendra Mishra/WTI



Herd of wild elephants in Keonjhar
Photograph by Rudra Mahapatra/WTI

RIGHT OF PASSAGE

WTI's Right of Passage project partners with the Government of India's Project Elephant, the forest departments of elephant range states, and various non-governmental organisations. This project aims to protect and secure elephant corridors, while simultaneously rehabilitating and enhancing the livelihoods of individuals impacted by conflicts in these corridor areas.

Equipment support and capacity building for

324

forest frontline staff

Conservation workshops for

700

STUDENTS AND

400 Community Members
across the country

POLICY WINS

- As a positive action for elephants, the Tamil Nadu government, conveyed to the Madras High Court its intention to pass necessary orders to shut down the illegal brick kilns that are allegedly functioning in the elephant corridors in the Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu. These corridors were recognised to be ecologically crucial for elephant movement in the Right of Passage: Edition 2, wherein such actions were proposed as conservation recommendations.
- Tamil Nadu's horticulture department is winding up its 122-year-old farm at Kallar in Mettupalayam, following an order by the Madras High Court, to facilitate the movement of wild animals through the crucial Kallar Corridor. This is another corridor whose importance has been highlighted time and again through the Right of Passage project.
- The Karnataka Forest Department issued a letter for the Deputy Commissioner of Kodagu district to increase the width of the fence of the Begur-Brahmagiri elephant corridor by 250 metres and to realign the corridor to provide safe passage to elephants. This was made possible through the lobbying efforts of our Green Corridor Champion (GCC), Mr. Col Muthanna and his team.



Wild elephants crossing a highway
Photograph by Kunal Chakraborty

GCCs are local organisations/individuals at grassroots working to protect elephant corridors in collaboration with WTI.

Herd of wild elephants in Wayanad landscape
Photograph by Prashant CN





Torch distribution in Sadiya Forest Range, Tinsukia WLS, Assam
 Photograph by Dindi Padi/WTI

D'ERING DIBRU SAIKHOWA ELEPHANT LINK PROJECT

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

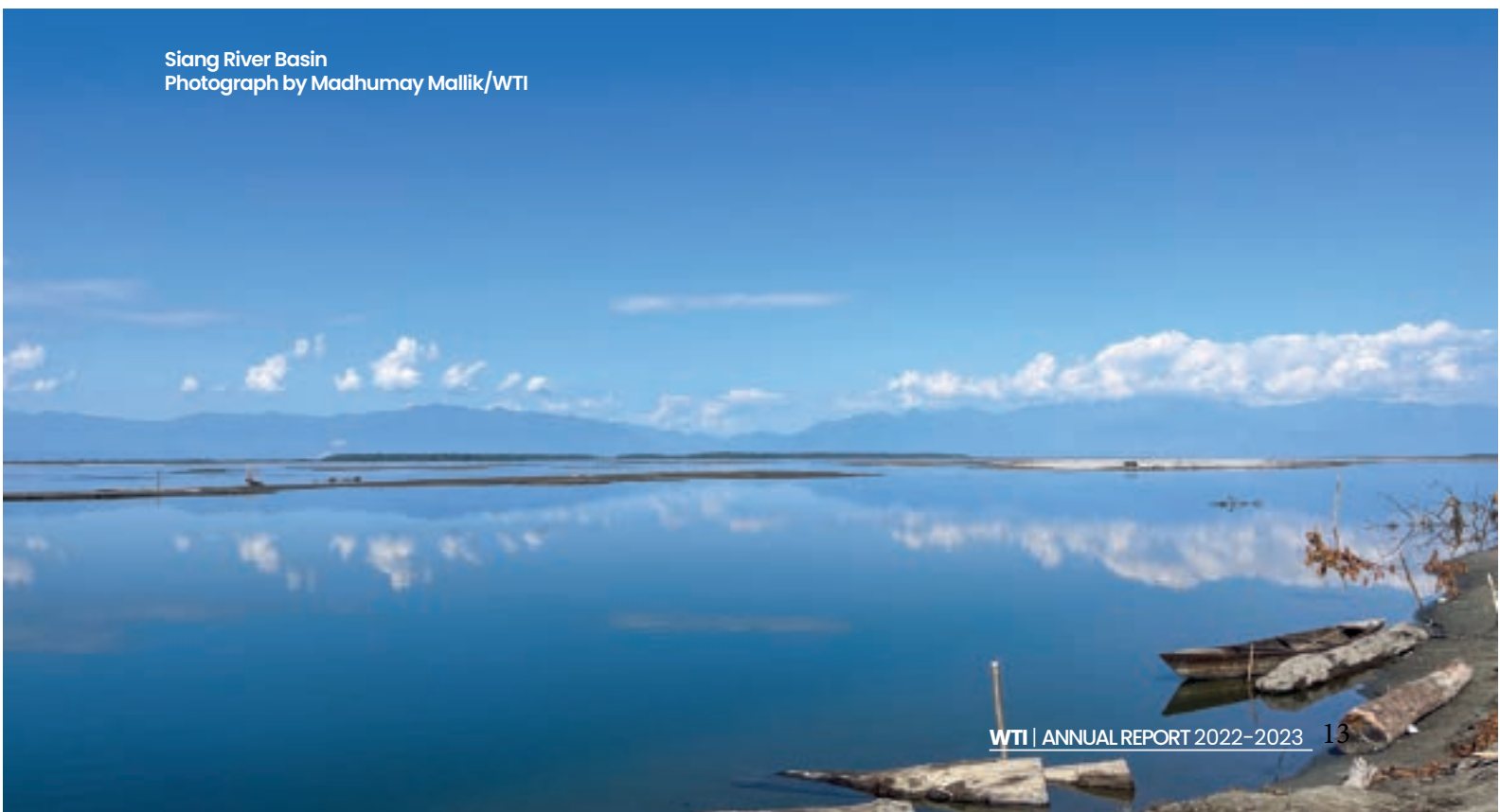
**Approx. 20
 hectares
 RESTORED**

44,382
 saplings planted



Sapling plantation along the grasslands of Siang Basin
 Photograph by Madhumay Mallik/WTI

Siang River Basin
 Photograph by Madhumay Mallik/WTI





Painting competition in Ramharsh Intermediate College, Nichlaul
Photograph by WTI

SARUS HABITAT SECUREMENT PROJECT

The Sarus Habitat Securement Project works to monitor and protect sarus crane nests located in important wetland areas for the Sarus crane as well as on local croplands.

101
 sarus nests monitored

SARUS CONGREGATION SITE SURVEY

involving Sarus Protection Committees, Wetland Management Committees and the local grassroots NGO partners reveals a total of 2,538 Sarus Cranes across 10 districts

GUJARAT WHALE SHARK RECOVERY

The Whale Shark Conservation Project attempts to generate baseline data on the whale shark to aid its long-term conservation in India.

Highlights: 29 whale sharks that were accidentally entangled in fishing nets were

rescued and released back in the Arabian Sea by the fishing community.. This brings the total number of whale shark rescues conducted by Gujarat fishermen to 902. Data on whale sharks is being generated through satellite tagging and tracking; photo documentation and identification (whale shark photographs are being contributed to the ECOCEAN database); and genetic analysis.



Whale Shark in Indian Ocean
Photograph by Charan Kr. Paidi/WTI

Dr. B.C. Chowdhury addressing International Whale Shark Day celebrations
Photograph by WTI



29
 whale sharks rescued

This brings the total number of accidentally caught whale sharks released back in the ocean by Gujarat fishermen to 902



Tagging a whale shark
Photograph by WTI

256 HECTARES of forest land has been declared Village Reserve Forests (VRFs)

Taking the total area secured as VRF in Garo Hills, Meghalaya to around 4,300 ha

GARO GREEN SPINE PROJECT

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



Wangala Festival, 2022
Photograph by Dindi Padi/WTI

MITHAPUR CORAL REEF RECOVERY PROJECT

The project seeks to develop and implement appropriate strategies for the conservation of the Mithapur Reef, situated 12 kilometres south of the Gulf of Kachchh in Gujarat.

Moon coral in Mithapur Reef
Photograph by Madhumay Mallik/WTI

813 sq.m. were added in 2022 to the artificial reef area created off the Mithapur coast

1500+

mangrove saplings and nearly 200 Pandanus saplings were planted across four locations in Northern Kerala, covering an area of 2 acres.



Mangrove sapling plantation in Kannur
Photograph by Vimal Vilasini/WTI

KANNUR KANDAL PROJECT

The Kannur Kandal Project – ‘kandal’ being the Malayalam word for mangroves – aims to ensure the survival of existing mangroves and increase the acreage of such coastal wetlands across Kannur, potentially making it a prototype for other coastal districts in Kerala and the rest of the country.

Mangrove of Kannur

Photograph by Jayesh Padichal



0.92

acres of mangroves added to the secured area for restoration



Translocated elephants in Manas National Park
Photograph by Subhamoy B

GREATER MANAS RECOVERY PROJECT

The Greater Manas Recovery Project concentrates its effort and resources within a 2,150 sq km landscape known as the 'Greater Manas Landscape' comprising – the Manas National Park (500 sq km), First Addition to Manas NP (350 sq km), adjoining contiguous forest habitat of Manas (Part), Chirang and Ripu Reserve Forest (approx. 605 sq km) to the west of Manas NP, and the recently added Raimona National Park (700 sq km) in Assam.

07

new Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) formed in villages of Manas Tiger Reserve and the newly declared Raimona National Park

ZERO poaching of rhinos in Assam in 2022 for the first time since 1977. **WTI** has played a significant part in the achievement through its **comprehensive**, multi-faceted project – the **Greater Manas** Recovery – operational in **Assam since 2003** and CWRC.

Markhor census survey in Hirpora NP
Photograph by Sameer Khazir/WTI





Measuring horseshoe crabs in Sundarbans
Photograph by Dr. Punyashloke Bhadury

RAPID ACTION PROJECT (RAP)

Rapid Action Projects (RAPs) address wildlife threats that require an immediate, short-term response. Through RAPs, WTI collaborates with grassroots organisations/individuals, government agencies and community stakeholders – to identify and resolve potential threats to wildlife at an early stage. We extend financial and logistical support as well as technical expertise to proponents with proven credibility. To date, WTI has successfully operated 677 RAPs across 25 states and 3 Union Territories.

47 RAPS SACTIONED

We supported several interventions spanning species including forest owlets, house sparrows, king cobras, striped hyenas, pangolins, spotted deer and vultures.



White-rumped vulture released as part of RAP in ,Manas NP
Photograph by Bishal Kashyap



Equipping fire watchers in Wayanad, Kerala
Photograph by WTI



Equipment handover to fire prevention squad of Warayal
Photograph by WTI

EX-GRATIA SUPPORT

WTI's Supplementary Accident Assurance is the only NGO-run Pan-India scheme that covers frontline forest staff under an ex-gratia support of up to INR 1,00,000/- in case of death on duty. A partial amount is granted in case of injury. Forest Departments of 23 states have joined this scheme so far covering over 20,000 frontline forest personnel. Over 150 families have benefitted in the last 15 years.

This year, 17 cases were approved for ex-gratia support from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha, Karnataka, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttarakhand amounting to INR 12,50,000/-



Forest guards patrolling in Manas NP, Assam
Photograph by Subhamoy B



Workshop on Anti-snare walks by WTI at Wayanad
Photograph by Mahesh P

PAN-INDIA ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

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

28 enforcement operations were conducted including 16 across 8 Indian states and 12 in countries like Malawi, Cameroon and Indonesia.

Anti Snare Walks (ASW):

Karnataka -

54 snares recovered from **944 km** of walk

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar -

114 snares from **1085.78** km of walk

PRT (Primary Response Team) trainings:

Karnataka - **119** PRT members were trained

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar -

127 members were trained

Legal workshops:

Karnataka - **774** frontline forest staff trained

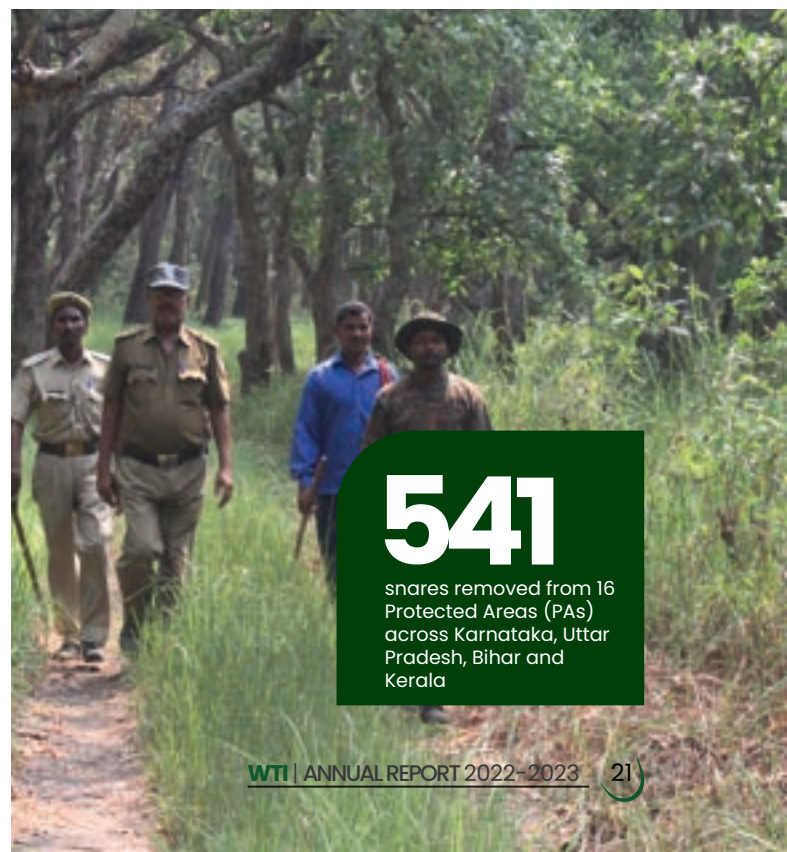
UP and Bihar - **790** frontline forest staff trained

Workshop wildlife article identification training (WAIT), Van Rakshak Program (VRP) and ASW:

Karnataka - **248** frontline forest staff through Van Rakshak Program (VRP)

UP and Bihar - **127** (VRP), **191** (WAIT), **661** (ASW)

ANTI-SNARE WALKS



541

snares removed from 16 Protected Areas (PAs) across Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Kerala

Cyber HAWK

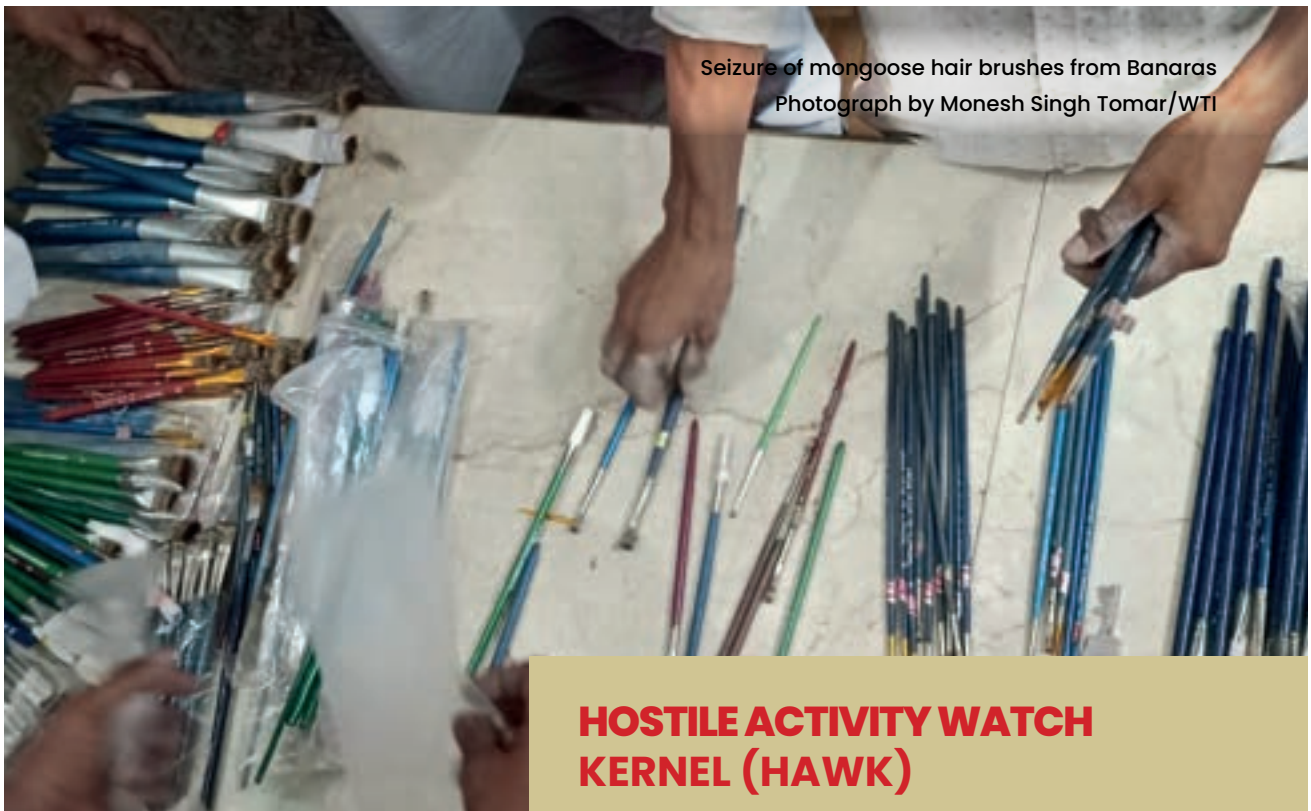
43

cyber spotter volunteers added to the network

Cyber HAWK reported 24 instances of online wildlife trade in tiger parts, monitor lizards, snakes, star tortoises, slow loris, pangolins and parakeets.

924

Enforcement officers, including Forest Department, Police Department and Sashastra Seema Bal trained.



Seizure of mongoose hair brushes from Banaras
Photograph by Monesh Singh Tomar/WTI

HOSTILE ACTIVITY WATCH KERNEL (HAWK)

HAWK or 'Hostile Activity Watch Kernel' is a WTI-conceptualised, effective and real-time intelligence gathering system to curb poaching incidents and illegal wildlife trade. It is a technology-based solution to monitor criminal networks, criminal activities and associated incidents, thereby providing actionable intelligence to the enforcement officials to undertake preventive measures against a possible crime. After Kerala became the first state to officially adopt HAWK last year, the **Karnataka Forest Department has also officially adopted the system for deployment in eight forest divisions of the state.** The team is currently working with the IT cell of the Karnataka Forest Department to customise HAWK as per state requirements.



WHALE SHARK CONSERVATION ALONG KARNATAKA AND KERALA

Launched in 2022, the project aims to address the threats to Whale sharks such as accidental entanglement and extensive coastal pollution.



21 sensitisation events including cycle and bike rallies were conducted in 9 districts of Kerala and 3 districts of Karnataka.

15,000
community members
directly engaged with

Whale Shark Campaign cycle rally in Kozhikode Beach, Kerala
Photograph by Arun C



Whale Shark Campaign launch in Mangalore, Karnataka
Photograph by Madhumay Mallik/WTI

A whale shark being put back
in the ocean after getting
accidentally beached in
Poonthura, Trivandrum
Photograph by
Charan K Paidi/WTI



GAJOTSAVAM

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), supported by Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) celebrated the Asian elephant in God's own country- Kerala, through a multidisciplinary campaign, Gajotsavam.

30,000

people reached through a month-long celebration of Asian elephants through creative arts, media discussions, seminars and workshops.

Bala Gaja, Gajotsavam, Kerala
Photograph by Sreenanth K

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Good News

Two friends from Odisha on mission to save striped hyenas

Aurobindo Samal and his friend Swarup Fulfontal are on a mission to save the striped hyenas in Astaranga struggling for survival, writes Subhasree Mahantara



[Screenshot] Aurobindo and Swarup sensitizing villagers on protection of hyenas in Astaranga. A striped hyena seen in Sabana | Express

Bhubaneswar

Updated on: 14 Oct 2022, 6:51 am - 3 min read

BHUBANESWAR: On the brink of disappearance, the elusive striped hyenas in Astaranga range of Puri are getting a new lease of life, thanks to friends duo Aurobindo Samal and Swarup Fulfontal. The duo is working on conservation of this small carnivore species, struggling for survival due to shrinking habitat, scarcity of food and lack of adequate measures for its protection from humans.

Ground-truthing of elephant corridors begins in Tamil Nadu

Exercise aims at identifying threats to corridors, says official

June 16, 2022 11:23 pm | Updated 11:23 pm IST - COIMBATORE



WILSON THOMAS

COMMENTS SHARE

READ LATER



Praja P. Panda during her visit to elephant corridors. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

As part of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)'s efforts to identify and protect elephant corridors across India, a senior official from the Project Elephant Division of the Ministry has started a 'ground-truthing' exercise in Tamil Nadu.

Good News

Captured leopard released in Namdapha

July 1, 2022



[Bengali Ajum]

HEAD, 30 June The female leopard that had been captured on 24 June from Birmura in Changlang district was released inside the Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve here on Thursday.

The authorities of the Namdapha National Park, along with forest officials under the Jangrapur SPD, aided by the district administration and locals, had captured the leopard after much difficulty. In the process, however, the leopard had sustained injuries.

After being handed over to the authorities of the Namdapha National Park, the injured leopard was treated by a wildlife veterinarian from the Wildlife Trust of India.

Speaking to this daily, an official of the Namdapha National Park said that, after the veterinarian was satisfied that the leopard was fit to be released in the wild, Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve Field Director Adak Paron, along with the forest staff safely released the animal inside the park on Thursday.

The leopard was treated at the mini-camp in the Namdapha National Park.

"There were wounds on the foreleg and neck. The animal almost recovered in seven days and was released deep inside the park in the wild as it was found fit to be released," the official added.

Wildlife Trust of India hands-over Field Gears to Wildlife Protection Dept

All the necessary equipment provided to support the ongoing wildlife conservation activities

Pratima 01:00:00 on Wednesday, November 16, 2022



Wildlife Trust of India on Wednesday handed over the necessary field gear including laser, camera traps, traps, lights and more to Department of Wildlife Protection & South Assam Region under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner (D) Pratima, the West Assam Region.

It is important to mention here that these necessary field gear would be used for the benefit of the district wildlife in Assam and the adjacent forest areas.

While following up on the previous approach, the WTI had that people should be made aware and to come out of their forest or dependent there to be sustainable areas.

We will keep regarding training and awareness to the WTI programmes is also necessary in order to support Dept in helping needed between Assam and Wildlife Dept for their on-going job.

International Whale Shark Day: Wildlife Trust of India launches campaign to sensitise fishers along southwest coast

Wildlife Trust of India on Wednesday launched a campaign to sensitise fishers along the southwest coast

Pratima 01:00:00 on Wednesday, November 16, 2022



Wildlife Trust of India on Wednesday launched a campaign to sensitise fishers along the southwest coast. The campaign is being launched in the form of a poster and a video. The poster and video are being distributed to fishers along the southwest coast.

The campaign is being launched in the form of a poster and a video. The poster and video are being distributed to fishers along the southwest coast. The campaign is being launched in the form of a poster and a video. The poster and video are being distributed to fishers along the southwest coast.

148 newly hatched gharials released into Gandak river

Pratima 01:00:00 on Wednesday, July 3, 2022.

148 PTS SHARE 11 10 10 10

New For You



148 newly hatched gharials released into Gandak river



Why Supreme Court struck down CAA



How Gujarat 'Bharatpur' is making Kutch...



148 newly hatched gharials released into Gandak river

WTI: At least 148 baby gharials (fish-eating crocodiles), hatched in a protected area along the Gandak in Bagaha, were released into the river by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) with the support of villagers and local fishermen on Saturday. The Gandak river, which flows into [Bihar](#) from Nepal, has proved to be a haven for critically endangered reptiles.

WTI's book on wild buffalo released

Monday, 20 December 2021 | Staff Reporter | WNTI

★★★★★

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday released a Wildlife Trust of India book on the state's animal Wild Water Buffalo.

The Chief Minister released the book, back from the brink, during the Chhattisgarh State Board for Wildlife meeting here.

Yuvk Menon, founder and Executive Director of Wildlife Trust of India, said India is home to more than 80 percent of the globally endangered wild buffalo (Bubalus asotus).

In Chhattisgarh, the number of forest buffaloes has reduced to less than 30. For the last 17 years, WTI has been working with the Chhattisgarh Forest Department to conserve and promote forest buffaloes.

The book gives a detailed description on various aspects of the project.

He said there were only six wild buffaloes left in the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve sanctuary including one female. The report chronicles 11 years of conservation work with the endangered buffalo.

Dr. Rajendra Mishra, Deputy Director and Central Zone Head, Wildlife Trust of India, said there were a maximum of 11 forest buffaloes in Udanti-Sanctuary during the project period.

The Forest Department succeeded in shifting two buffaloes (a male and a female) from Manas National Park in Assam to Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary in 2010.

He said the forest buffaloes of Udanti share haplotypes with the wild buffaloes of Assam and Maharashtra. This can be used to increase the population of wild buffaloes in Udanti.

He raised concerns over the dwindling forest and grassland cover in the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve which he warned could pose a serious threat to the survival of wild buffaloes.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

HWK — India's First Centralized Wildlife Crime Management System Launched

The Wildlife Trust of India has launched Wildlife Crime Management System (HWK) — a wildlife crime management system that will help in reducing & deterring the poacher and hunt crime and help restore the wildlife and the environment by providing timely response to poaching & illegal wildlife trade.



Galop Connection

Heartwarming Video Of Fishermen Saving Whale Shark Is The Perfect Diwali Gift For Internet

The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is grabbing headlines with their Save the Whale Shark Campaign, dedicated towards rescuing entangled whale sharks caught in nets. Recently, a beautiful sight was captured on camera as fishermen in Marthandapuram, Thiruvananthapuram, successfully worked together and released a massive 30 foot whale shark from a fishing net. The positive incident occurred late work in Kerala and fishermen acted quickly to safely release the distressed animal back into the sea. Interestingly, just a week prior to the incident, WTI had organized an event, where they trained local fishermen to escape such large sea creatures.



Kaziranga wildlife rehab centre completes 20 years

The centre has handled 7,397 animals in distress, 65% of which were sent back to the wild after proper care and treatment

August 28, 2022 11:27 am | Updated 01:27 pm IST - GUWAHATI

THE HINDU BUREAU

COMMENTS SHARE

READ LATER



Elephants at CWRC near Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. Photo: Special Arrangement

Thiruvananthapuram

കാസിയം ഏറ്റവും വലിയ അമ്പു; തിമിഹിഗിയം സാമ്പിളിങ്ങ് ഉപകരണങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ച്

27 October 2022, 09:04 PM IST

3 min read

Read Share More



കാസിയം ഏറ്റവും വലിയ അമ്പു; തിമിഹിഗിയം സാമ്പിളിങ്ങ് ഉപകരണങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ച്

കാസിയം ഏറ്റവും വലിയ അമ്പു; തിമിഹിഗിയം സാമ്പിളിങ്ങ് ഉപകരണങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ച്

Bright spots in backyard: Now India's neighbours do their bit to up tiger count

India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Nepal hold 95% of world's tigers, says new IUCN report

INDIA NEWS

28 Oct 2022 10:48:10



India has always been noted for its efforts at conserving tigers. Now, it seems to be the hero of its smaller neighbours, Bangladesh, Nepal and Nepal. They are joining well at conserving tigers, say a section of experts. This, even as a new report by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said such Asia accounted for 95 per cent of the global tiger population.

In fact, the IUCN report highlighted that tiger populations were rebounding in south Asia. "Representing 95 per cent of the global tiger population, South Asia's tigers are gaining numbers, particularly in India and Nepal, from where new population estimates are expected every day," said

The experts (IUCN) spoke to, particularly lauded Bangladesh and Nepal for their efforts.

"Bangladesh is doing well in tiger conservation. Efforts there have seen happy techniques from the Wildlife Trust of India and are now carrying out their work of monitoring tiger populations in the Bangladesh portion of the Sundarbans," Krishna Kumar, former landscape coordinator (Sunderbans) Tiger Conservation Project, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), said.

Wildlife's Tiger Conservation workshop concludes

INDIA NEWS BHARAT PUNJAB - FEBRUARY 26, 2021, 02:18 AM

INDIA NEWS BHARAT - FEBRUARY 26, 2021, 10:12 AM



Working to work together for the greater good of wildlife conservation, Wildlife's two-day Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation workshop came to its closure on Saturday at Columbia Centre in the capital.

The two-day workshop, an inclusive collaboration between Wildlife and the Bangladesh Forest Department, Wildlife Trust of India, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka University, Jagadish University, and National University of Science and Technology, turned into a rendezvous with the enthusiastic participation of a large number of expert wildlife researchers, students and students.

Continuing the successful and effective series of sessions, the second day of the exclusive workshop began with the Basics of Radio-telemetry for monitoring wildlife session which was conducted by Dr. Raju Khatun from 10 am to 12:45 pm, followed by the two other sessions - Sampling densities using distance sampling from 1:00-3:30 pm and Use of Mark-recapture for generating estimates from 3:30 am to 5:00 pm.

A group activity session was then conducted for the participants, from 12:00 pm to 1 pm by Dr. Kamalika Bhattacharyya along with Dr. Raju Khatun. She said, two virtual sessions were held following the lunch break: Identifying and conserving the patterns of diversity using field survey 2020 by Dr. Indu Kishor Hazari and Human-tiger interactions by Dr. Madhu Nayak (from India). The later session completed another

CUT STRINGS NOT WINGS!

WITNESS BY: **UTTARADIA SURESH**

Animals over the span of 100 and conservation, they have kept and internet reports on people through the opportunities they provide for participation, skills development and volunteering, not least Bangladesh's effort of a Mukta (freedom) festival of new-own on Saturday.

The flying has always been part of the subcontinent's birds and flowers India. However, with a rising number of birds in the air and a disruption over competitive edge in bird-fighting, what was once to be a celebration of nature's vibrant has transformed into business and killing grounds for their local and migratory bird populations.

The increasing usage of glass-ceramic, especially semi-transparent (Gloss) made (the string) composed of monofilament yarn with an elastic layer of broken glass bonded over it, has exacerbated the situation. Birds cannot see the tiny string while flying, and thousands of them become entangled and are mangled or killed each year during the event. After the bird flying is done, coils of the string are sold and are being sold from town and villages, giving a boost to both birds and humans.

Over the last few years, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has been collaborating with government institutions and local NGOs to end this issue. This year's Mukta festival therefore included a common awareness campaign in conjunction with the traditional organization (Buddha) to educate people to end annual (tiger) about the long-term impact of bird-fighting, particularly with (Buddha) status, of bird populations in the area.

EVENTS

Third Asian Elephant Range States Meeting

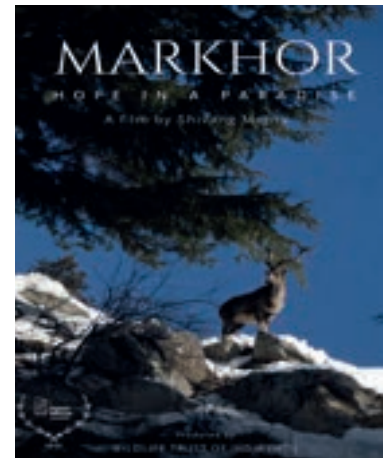
The third Asian Elephant Range States Meeting (AsERSM) was held in Nepal on April 27, 2022. The conclave's primary objective was to address the challenges faced by Asian Elephants and find effective solutions for them. The three-day meet also aimed to strengthen government networking among countries with Asian elephant habitats. Delegates from 13 elephant range states of Asia were in attendance and the conclave was inaugurated by Mr. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Environment, Nepal followed by a keynote address from Vivek



Menon, Founder & Executive Director, Wildlife Trust of India and Chair of the IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group.

Markhor – Hope in a Paradise (Film release)

On the 3rd of October 2022, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu and Kashmir commemorated their long-standing and successful partnership. The event was hosted in Gandhi Bhawan at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar, as a part of the Wildlife Week celebrations. Wildlife Trust of India took the opportunity to release a documentary film "Markhor – Hope in a Paradise", directed by Shivang Mehta. The film aimed at showcasing WTI's dedicated efforts towards markhor conservation in the region along with some compelling visuals of the remote parts of the Kazinag National Park and Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary.



Training of Trainers (ToT), 2022

The ToT brought together 40 odd potential trainers from across the country with expertise on wildlife crime prevention, wildlife law enforcement, forest management and human-wildlife conflict management. Using a variety of methods they were trained to plan, conduct and evaluate trainings effectively, meant to have long lasting implications.



11th Meeting of Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) Meet

The 11th AsESG meeting was held in India among members of the IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group, Government officials of the Asian Elephant Range countries and other conservation organisations to identify priorities and challenges at a country and Range level and ways to address them and also to devise best practices for the conservation of elephants in wild and in captivity.





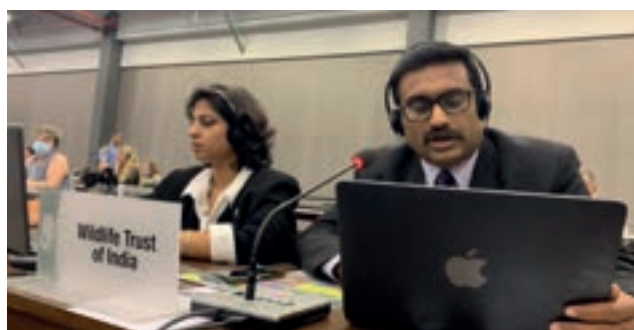
Photograph: Madhumay Mallik/WTI

Conservation Partner's Meet, 2023

Wildlife Trust of India organized its first-ever Conservation Partners Meet 2023, a two-day event aimed at capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange among conservationists around India. The event brought together 69 participants from 16 states across India, who collectively represented 49 organisations working on varied projects under four partnership alliances: Green Corridor Champions, Rapid Action Project, Emergency Relief Network, and Cyber Spotters. Among the participants, 28 in The Green Corridor Champions made up 28 of the attendees, representing 15 organizations from 7 states.

“Bovine from the Brink” – WTI’s conservation report on wild buffaloes in Central India released

The Conservation Action Report (CAR) on Central India Wild Buffalo Recovery Project was launched at the Chhattisgarh State Wildlife Board meeting by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Bhupesh Baghel, along with Hon’ble Minister (Transport, Forest, Housing & Environment), Shri Mohammad Akbar, in the presence of Chief Secretary Shri Amitabh Jain; Additional Chief Secretary Shri Subrat Sahu; Principal Secretary (Forest) Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua; PCCF & HoFF Shri Sanjay Shukla; PCCF (WL) Shri P.V. Narsinga Rao, Wildlife board members and several senior forest officials.



WTI at CITES CoP19

A four-member team from WTI was part of the Indian delegation for the meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-19) which was held in Panama City in November 2022.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Chhattisgarh State Biodiversity Award

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra, WTI's Regional facilitator for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh received the State Biodiversity Award in Chhattisgarh from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Bhupesh Baghel during the International

Biodiversity Day event in the state capital on 22nd May 2022.



Dr. Rajendra Mishra receiving the State Biodiversity Award from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Bhupesh Baghel

Vivek Menon, WTI Founder and ED was elected fellow of the Linnean Society of London - the world's oldest active society devoted to natural history.

Bodoland Green Awards

Dr. Daoharu Baro, WTI's veterinarian with the Greater Manas Recovery Project received the "Bodoland Green Award" from the Bodoland Territorial Council, on World Environment Day, 2022. The award was also conferred to Mr. Tiken Chandra Ray, who leads the Baba Bondhu team as a community mobiliser towards mitigating human-wildlife conflict in the Greater Manas landscape.



Top: WTI's veterinarian, Dr. Daoharu Baro, receiving the award from the Hon'ble Chief of BTC Shri Pramod Boro

Below: Shri. Tiken Chandra Ray, from the Baba Bandhu community receiving the award

Certificate of Appreciation

WTI was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation Indian Army's 70th BN, Sashastra Seema Bal, Lakhimpur-Kheri-II (UP) for the community awareness work on human-wildlife conflict mitigation camp at Bardiya, Katarniaghat, Uttar Pradesh.

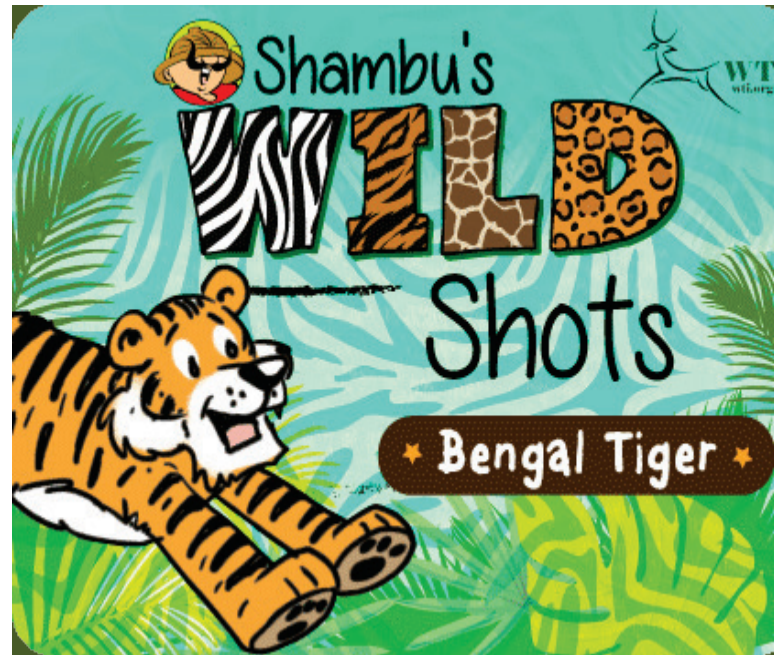
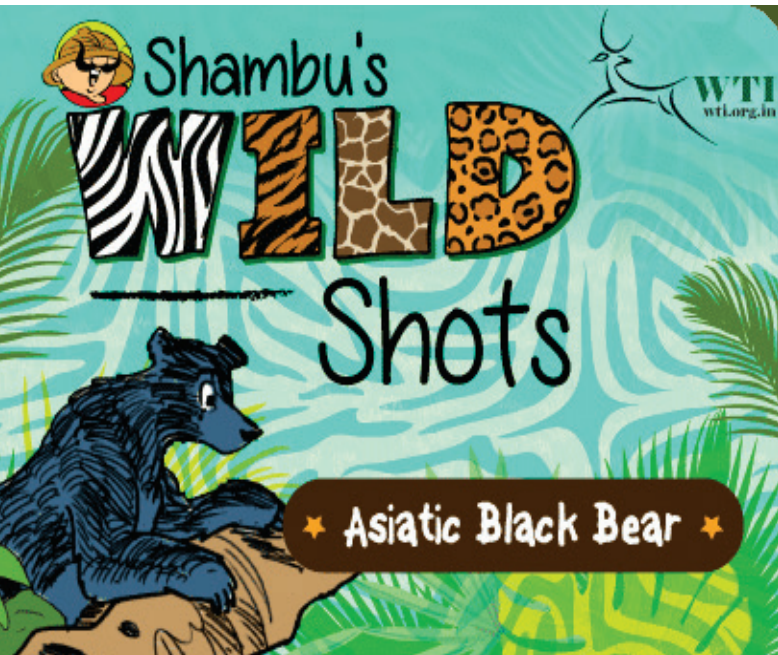


WTI was awarded with Certificate of appreciation by the Forest Department, Government of Manipur for the distinguished services of a mass awareness campaign for the protection conservation of Amur Falcon in the State.



WTI was awarded a certificate by the Karnataka Forest Department in recognition of its efforts in developing a unique software— a wildlife crime centralised database management system called HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel) to manage all aspects of forest and wildlife crime-related information.

TIE-UPS AND COLLABORATIONS



Tinkle Comics

A tie-up with Amar Chitra Katha Private Limited for 12 comic strips based on WTI projects.

Campaign with MASH (Josh App) for World Earth Day and Global Tiger Day

Wildlife Trust of India and Mash collaborated on an initiative aimed at raising environmental awareness on the occasion of World Earth Day and Global Tiger Day. Their focus was on educating and inspiring the youth in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities through the medium of performance arts to encourage a sense of care, empathy and love for our planet, urging the people to take action in addressing climate change.



College collaborations

College collaborations with the Rotaract Club of NM College for a catchphrase competition and a partnership with Earthlings (The Wildlife Society of Hindustan College) for a documentary screening in their annual event, GAIA' 23



BALANCE SHEET

WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

Balance Sheet as on 31 March, 2023

AS ON 31.3.22 AMOUNT (Rs.)	FUNDS & LIABILITIES	AS ON 31.3.23 AMOUNT (Rs.)	AS ON 31.3.22 AMOUNT (Rs.)	ASSETS	AS ON 31.3.23 AMOUNT (Rs.)
1,15,48,042	CORPUS FUND Opening Balance 1,15,48,042 Add : Addition during the year 30,00,000	1,45,48,042	12,97,81,941	FIXED ASSETS (Schedule " C ")	13,36,08,361
1,15,48,042				CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES (Schedule " A ")	
12,97,81,941	CAPITAL FUND Opening Balance 12,97,81,941 Add : Addition during the year (Schedule C) 1,03,88,458 Add : Transfer from General Reserve 11,27,843 Add : Transfer from Communications & Development 1,49,152	14,14,47,394	2,77,900	CURRENT ASSETS : Cash in hand 2,68,422 Tax Collected at Source -	2,68,422
12,97,81,941	Less : Sale/ Loss during the year 9,25,339 Less : Depreciation 69,13,695	14,14,47,394	12,495	Bank balance 2,21,16,057 Fixed Deposits 31,70,98,823 Accrued Interest 1,65,94,542 Closing Stock (Social Enterprise) 2,92,068 Tax Deducted at Source 28,69,279	2,21,16,057 31,70,98,823 1,65,94,542 2,92,068 28,69,279
12,97,81,941	GENERAL RESERVE (Schedule " B ") Opening Balance 8,57,65,037 Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure 19,50,712	13,36,08,361	95,70,499	LOANS & ADVANCES	
7,15,91,957	Less : Amount Transferred to other project funds (As per Schedule B) 8,28,353		33,38,28,789	Security Deposits 34,52,678 Advances (3,88,234)	34,52,678 (3,88,234)
1,48,12,588	Less : Amount Transferred to Capital Fund (As per Schedule B) 11,27,843		99,22,768		
8,64,04,545		8,57,65,037	2,84,769		
42,299		8,57,65,037	38,30,687		
5,97,209		8,57,65,037			
8,57,65,037		8,57,65,037			
25,99,94,256 (17,133)	UNUTILISED FUNDS (Schedule " B ") Project Fund 25,74,55,594 Social Enterprise Fund (95,291)	25,74,55,594 (95,291)			
80,82,133	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS (Schedule " D ") Sundry Amounts Payable 46,35,737	46,35,737			
49,51,54,276	TOTAL	49,59,11,997	49,51,54,276	TOTAL	49,59,11,997

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

FOR KOSHI & GEORGE
Chartered Accountants
(Reg. No. 003926N)

G. Koshi
GEORGE KOSHI
Partner
M.No.82961



FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

(CHIEF OF MANAGEMENT & CFO)

SATHYAN APPADA VEETIL
Chief of Management & CFO
WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

RAHUL KAUL
Chief Executive Officer
WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA



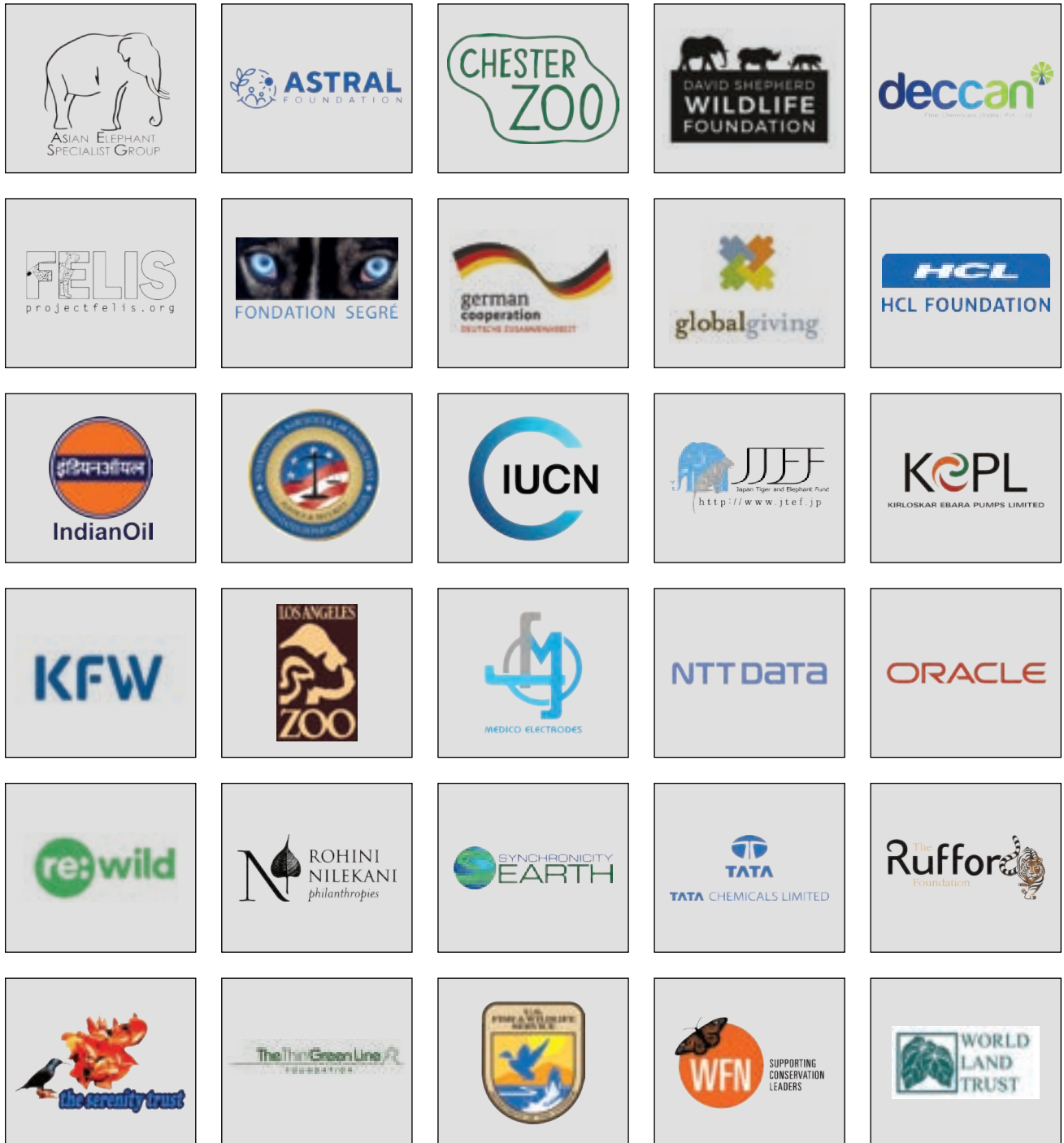
New Delhi
29-08-2023
UDIN: 23082961BGPTDE1344

PARTNERS

Institutional Partner



Wildlife Trust of India is grateful to all the individuals, governments, charities and corporates for their support over the past 12 months.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Prasad Menon
Chairman



Vivek Menon
Founder, Trustee and
Executive Director



Tara Gandhi
Founder, Trustee and
Vice Chair



Dr. Raman Sukumar
Trustee



Elias George
Trustee



G V Prasad
Trustee



Prof. B C Chowdhury
Trustee



Punit Lalbhai
Trustee



Kaushik Baruah
Trustee



Mahesh Rangarajan
Trustee



Mrinal Pande
Trustee



F-13, Sector 8
National Capital Region (NCR)
Noida 201301
India