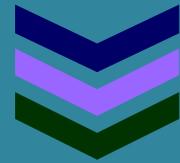




# Wildlife and We Protection Foundation

Annual Report 2015-16



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*Nature is ever at work building  
and pulling down, creating and  
destroying, keeping everything  
whirling and flowing, allowing  
no rest but in rhythmical  
motion, chasing everything in  
endless song out of one beautiful  
form into another*

## **Background of the Organisation**

### **Vision**

‘A better tomorrow for all by’ Striving for Harmony amongst Environment and People by promoting Integrated Solutions to ‘Conservation Oriented Development’

### **Goal**

Forest, Wildlife and Environmental Managers as technocrats making optimum use of the available technology for immediate and long term measures for conservation.

### **Objectives**

- To protect and conserve the wildlife in India and in other part of world by bringing awareness amongst the people by holding programmes, conferences, seminars for better coexistence with humans.
- To provide legal, social, environmental and any and all sort of consultation for protection, conservation, awareness and well-being of wildlife in India.
- To provide schemes for Animal Life Insurance, Animal Health Care and for the purpose run educational institutions, schools, colleges, hospitals.
- 

### **Our Organisation**

Wildlife and we protection foundation is registered under The Companies Act 1956, section 25 as NGO on Date 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

### **Experience**

- Hi tech management plans for Protected Areas
- Camera Trap Monitoring
- Ecotourism
- Development of Nature/ Environment/ Wildlife-Interpretation Facilities ( Hardware and Software both)
- Environment Education Programs
- Forest Right Settlement Programs / Seminars
- Development of Digital Planning and Management Support Systems for Resource Managers

### **Our Specialised Services**

- Spatial Digital Planning and Management Support Systems for Protected Areas, Managed Forests, Corridors and District and Other Specialised Planning Agencies

- Development of Interpretation Centers, Nature Trails and Environmental Awareness Material
- Conducting Specialised Environmental Studies
- Ecosystem Assessments (Local, Regional, State and National)
- Conducting Environment Impact Assessment Studies
- Facilitation and Consultation related to Government Environmental Clearance for Developmental Projects based on sound scientific footing of ‘Conservation Oriented Development.
- Hardware and Software Planning for Sustainable Ecotourism/ Rural Tourism and Tourism in general
- Promotion of ‘ Green Buildings’ through Low Cost Interventions.
- Spatial Digital Planning and Management Support Systems for Disaster Mitigation and Emergency Management.
- Facilitation in Implementation of Forest Rights Act
- Capacity Building Programs in Applications of Modern Tools and Technology in Resource Management and ‘Conservation Oriented Infrastructural Development’, Wildlife Crime Prevention, Wildlife Health, Wildlife Forensics, Wildlife Rescue Operations, Field Based Studies.
- Drafting of ‘Conservation Plans’ and Technical Inputs in Working Plans
- Conduction of Floral and Faunal Surveys
- Research in Environmental Issues, Natural Resource Management and Social Geography
- Advice in Wild Animal Human Conflict and Rescue Operations

### **Approach**

- Ecological Restoration
- Institutions in Local Self – governance
- Conservation and Livelihoods
- Efforts at Landscape Level
- Promote Conservation Oriented Development

### **Progress**

- Learning Processes
- Mapping Community Efforts in Conservation
- Interaction on Policy
- Planning and Management of Natural Resources
- Scientific Reports and Publications
- Gaining experience to work with clients from Development Organisations

## Major Focus

Major Focus of this year's activities was on Biodiversity Conservation in Forested Landscape

### Project 1: Inventory of Floral and Faunal Elements of Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary

It is an accepted fact that the knowledge of the floristic and faunal composition of any place is an essential prerequisite for the study of various ecosystems and for preservation and conservation of natural resources. This necessitates a worker in the taxonomic field to assess and evaluate from time to time the biodiversity elements of the region. At Tansa, the inventory was carried out to ascertain the plant species present in the given area and to locate the RET species present in the Sanctuary. This will enable the management to take effective steps to provide protection to species of conservational concern.

Tansa wildlife sanctuary is located in the Wada, Shahapur and Mokhada Talukas in Thane district of Maharashtra. The Sanctuary area lies within  $73^{\circ} 9' 45''\text{E}$  to  $73^{\circ} 24' 30''\text{E}$  and  $19^{\circ} 25'30''\text{N}$  to  $19^{\circ} 46' 45''\text{N}$  and covers an area of around 320 sq. km. The Sanctuary comprises forests covering the catchment area of three rivers namely Tansa, Vaitrana, and Gargai. A meager area on the eastern fringes drains into Bhatsa River. The sanctuary gets its name from the major river Tansa.



The Project was allotted to us by the Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Thane, Forest Department of Maharashtra

The scope of the project is to estimate the population sizes of various species of organisms using the quadrat method for an inventory of floral and faunal elements and to record the RET species in the sanctuary.

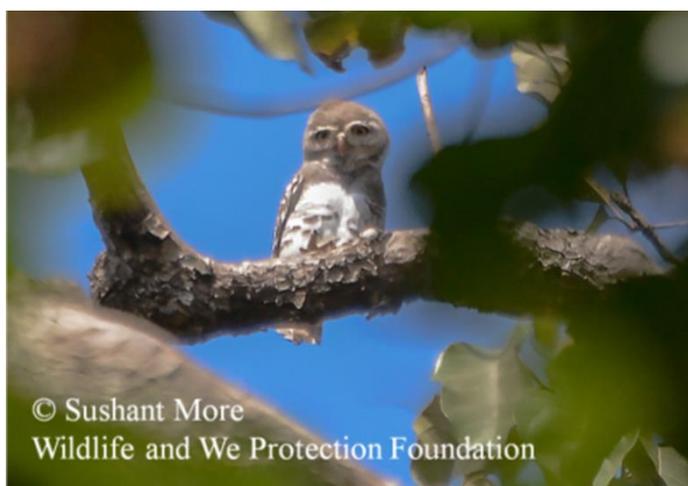
The purpose of the project is to acquire the data on species of conservation concern and to incorporate the findings of the project into management prescriptions for better management of such species.

The findings of the project are as follows:

1. **Total Belt Transacts:** 33

2. **Flora**

- Total no of Plant Species: 335



- Family: 87
- Rare: 1
- Endemic: 2
- Vulnerable: 4 species
- Lower Risk: 8 species



### 3. Butterfly

- Total no of Butterfly Species: 46
- Family: 6

### 4. Birds

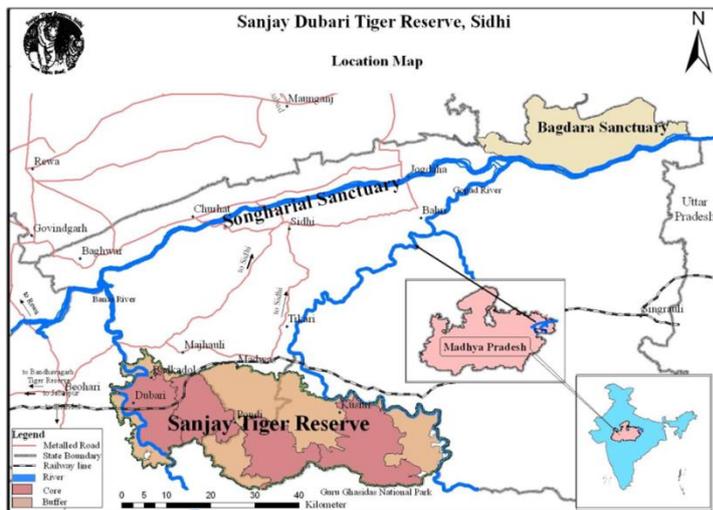
- Total no of Birds Species: 127
- Family: 52
- Critically Endangered: 1

The most important finding of this project was re-discovery of the Forest Owlet.

**Project Status:** Completed May, 2015

## Project 2- Development of Tiger Conservation Plan for Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

The task of developing the Tiger Conservation Plan was allotted to the organisation by the CCF and Field Director, Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve in February 2015. A team visited the Reserve in February for about a week during which essential information about the park was collected from the field as well as the field office thus the task of developing the TCP was initiated.



Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve spread over an area 1674.511 sq. km. consists of Sanjay National Park, Dubri Sanctuary and buffer areas taken from Sidhi and Shahdol districts. It is situated on the north-eastern part of the state of MP and is bordered by Guru Ghasidas National Park in south, of which it was a part before formation of Chhattisgarh in the year 2000. It is part of Bandhavgarh-Sanjay-Guru

Ghasidas-Palamau landscape and has been identified as one of the potential tiger meta-population landscapes which are currently in need of conservation inputs. The terrain of Dubri sanctuary is almost plain while that of Sanjay National Park is hilly. Various perennial rivers flow through the reserve viz. Gopad, Banas, Mawai, Mohan, Kodmar, Umrari *etc.* Rivers Gopad and Banas flow into the river Son to form Son gharial Sanctuary which is one of the five places in the world where the critically endangered gharials are breeding in the wild.

Soon after the first trip the basic draft was drawn up. The draft was extensively discussed with the Field Director during our second trip in March 2015. The outcome of the discussions was incorporated into the TCP to strengthen it further. The draft was finalised in the last trip in June 2015 and the plan was submitted to the Field Director for further process of submission to Chief Wildlife Warden of Madhya Pradesh and NTCA. The suggestion of the Wildlife Warden was incorporated into the plan and was it was completed in December. The plan is pending approval of NTCA.

**Work Started- April, 2015**

**Work Ended- December, 2015**

### **Project 3- Development of Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas**

The Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra floated a tender for development of two MPCAs at two project areas admeasuring 200 ha. each at \_Bharoal - Sakwar comptt. No. 136 and Kuha comptt No. 1107 falling under the jurisdiction of Forest Project Division, Thane F. D. C. M. Limited. The organisation competed for the tender and was successful in acquiring it.

#### **Main Objectives of the Study**

To establish *in-situ* Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas and Develop a Strategic Conservation Plan

#### **Sub-Objectives**

1. To conduct vegetational surveys using GPS (Global Positioning System) through various observation techniques in GIS Domain
2. To evaluate medicinal plant of AYUSH & RET (Rare, Endangered and Threatened) species on the basis of species composition, species density and plant morphology.
3. To identify floral 'hotspots' (areas rich in species) and 'coldspots' (areas poor in species) of medicinal RET & AYUSH species
4. To inventorize plants with reference to species richness with special emphasis on medicinal and economic value, RET and endemic species status

5. To Inventorize species of local use valued as ethno-medico resources
6. To identify of ecologically disturbed areas through disturbance gradient analysis.
7. Development of strategies for In-Situ Conservation of RET & Medicinal Plants
8. To inventorize Avifuna, Butterflies and other faunal attributes.
9. Mapping of the attributes which are spatially map- able.

**Sub-Objectives ancillary to the above mentioned Objective**

1. To prepare Micro plan Protocol as a project learning
2. To promote ex-situ conservation and multiplication
3. To propose sites of seed banks, arboreta and Mist Propagation facility.
3. To promote education and awareness towards Medicinal Plants Conservation.
4. To facilitate technique of re-introducing Medicinal Plants in other adjacent areas where they are absent but were formerly present.
5. To create means of livelihoods for the local communities through conservation know-how.

**Project Area:**

Two project areas admeasuring 200 ha. each at \_Bharoal - Sakwar comptt. No. 136 and Kuha comptt No. 1107 falling under the jurisdiction of Forest Project Division, Thane F. D. C. M.Limited

**i. Mandavi**

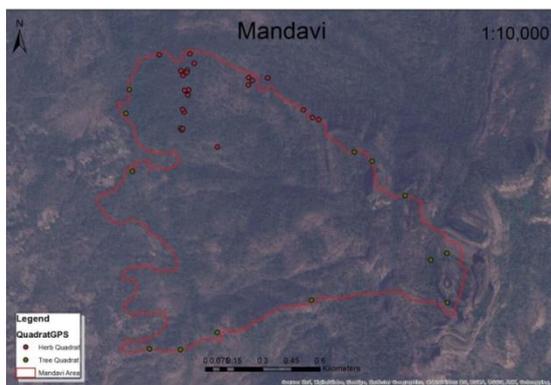
Bharoal - Sakwar comptt no. 136

**Village:** Bhungipada (20 houses) & Kelichyapada (15 houses) were 2 small villages, which were about 600-700 meters away from the survey plot. Both the villages have cows (approx. 30) & goats (25-30) which were seen grazing in the survey plot.

**Harvesting:** Locals collected herbs & wild fruits for their use.

**Forest type:** Mixed deciduous forest

**Slope aspect:** 20 to 30 slope facing towards west



## ii. Shirsad

Kuha comptt No. 1107

**Village:** Kuhagaon, Tepachyapada, Kajupada & Sagwadi were 4 small villages, which were about 600-700 meters away from the survey plot. All 4 villages have cows (approx. 40) & goats (30-40) which were seen grazing in the survey plot.

**Harvesting:** Locals collected herbs & wild fruits for their use.

**Forest type:** Mixed deciduous forest

**Slope aspect:** 20 to 30 slope facing towards east



Though the project was allotted in March 2015, the study was initiated in June. Belt transect was used for plants survey, checklist survey was used for butterflies and distance sampling survey was used for birds. The first interim report was submitted in September. 88 species of plants, 17 species of butterflies and 52 species of birds were recorded at Mandavi. 90 species of plants, 18 species of butterflies and 32 species of birds were recorded at Shirsad. The second interim report was submitted in November. 196 species of plants, 21 species of butterflies and 59 species of birds were recorded at Mandavi. 183 species of plants, 21 species of butterflies and 33 species of birds were recorded at Shirsad.

**The project is ongoing**

### **Project 4: Bioparks in Maharashtra-**

The Social Forestry Wing of the Forest Department came up with the idea of developing Bioparks for generation of awareness amongst masses and for educating students sustainably. These have been taken up and established in the fond memories of the Late Mr. Uttamrao Patil. They were supposed to be developed in Nagpur, Wardha, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli. The Wildlife and We Protection Foundation in collaboration with 'Chromosomes' developed the conceptual layouts which were further transformed on ground measurements. Later the work is being executed departmentally. Our involvement is for developing Conceptual

Layout and ensuring that it gets transformed to the ground as desired. Architects have been involved for measurements and layout.



Figure 1 Designed by Chromosomes in collaboration with Wildlife and We under the jurisdiction of Deputy Director, Social Forestry, Nagpur



Figure 2 Biopark Conceptual Design by Chromosomes in collaboration with Wildlife and We at Chimur, Chandrapur

### Layout Plan of Eco- Park, Chandrapur



Figure 3 Conceptual Layout of Biopark in Chandrapur by Chromosomes in collaboration with Wildlife and We

### Layout Plan of Eco- Park, Karanja



Figure 4 Conceptual Layout of a Biopark by Chromosomes in collaboration with Wildlife and We at Karnajia, Wardha (Deputy Director, Social Forestry, Wardha)



Figure 5 Conceptual Layout of Wardha MIDC Biopark by Chromosomes in collaboration with Wildlife at We at Wardha (Deputy Director, Social Forestry, Wardha)

### Six Principles of Interpretation

The Six Principles of Interpretation have been used for development of various 'Concepts of Interpretation'

- What is seen must relate to the visitor's experience or personality
- Information is not the same as interpretation
- Interpretation is an art
- Interpretation aims to provoke rather than instruct
- Interpretation works in themes
- On-site educational programmes for children are not the same as interpretation.

*(Tilden, 1957)*

### Promotion of Modern Tools and Technology

The Forest Department mainly and other organisations dealing in various kinds of natural resources are being encouraged by WNW to adopt Modern Tools and Technology namely-

- Remote Sensing
- Geographical Information Systems

- Global Positioning System
- Radar Data

The use of these technologies is being demonstrated to the resource departments in the field of planning, execution and monitoring measures of various resources and projects

### **Social Forestry and Ecotourism**

It is suggested that the Social Forestry should develop the Bioparks so that they become knowledge centres of Ecotourism

Eco-tourism is more than a catch phrase for nature loving travel and recreation. Eco-tourism is consecrated for preserving and sustaining the diversity of the worlds natural and cultural environments. It accommodates and entertains visitors in a way that is minimally intrusive or destructive to the environment and sustains & supports the native cultures in the locations it is operating in. Responsibility of both travellers and service providers is the genuine meaning for eco-tourism. Eco-tourism also endeavours to encourage and support the diversity of local economies for which the tourism-related income is important. With support from tourists, local services and producers can compete with larger, foreign companies and local families can support themselves. Besides all these, the revenue produced from tourism helps and encourages governments to fund conservation projects and training programs. Saving the environment around you and preserving the natural luxuries and forest life, that's what eco-tourism is all about. Whether it's about a nature camp or organizing trekking trips towards the unspoilt and inaccessible regions, one should always keep in mind not to create any mishap or disturbance in the life cycle of nature. Eco-tourism focuses on local cultures, wilderness adventures, volunteering, personal growth and learning new ways to live on our vulnerable planet. It is typically defined as travel to destinations where the flora, fauna, and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Responsible Eco-tourism includes programs that minimize the adverse effects of traditional tourism on the natural environment, and enhance the cultural integrity of local people. Therefore, in addition to evaluating environmental and cultural factors, initiatives by hospitality providers to promote recycling, energy efficiency, water reuse, and the creation of economic opportunities for local communities are an integral part of Eco-tourism. Historical, biological and cultural conservation, preservation, sustainable development etc. are some of the fields closely related to Eco-Tourism. Many professionals have been involved in formulating and developing eco-tourism policies. They come from the fields of Geographic Information Systems, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Photography, Marine Biology

The design were made and submitted to the Social Forestry Department, Nagpur