WILDLIFE & WE

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Wildlife & We Protection Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT

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Wildlife and We Protection Foundation

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Message to all from the Director

April 1973 marks a significant date for wild tigers. With only around 1,700 Bengal tigers alive in India that year, the country launched Project Tiger, an unprecedented endeavour to save its national symbol from extinction. Following India's 1972 ban on tiger hunting, which had decimated the species, Project Tiger set out to protect natural habitats and create a series of specially designated tiger reserves. Apart from the ecological services provided by the animal, the tiger also offers direct use such as attracting tourists, which provide incomes for local communities. The aesthetic, ethical and cultural value of tigers have also proved to be critical factors for saving tigers.

Tigers are a conservation dependent species. Major threats to tigers are poaching that is driven by an illegal international demand for tiger parts and products, depletion of tiger prey, and habitat loss due to the ever increasing demand for forested lands.

In 2006, the tiger population was estimated at 1,411 which was much lower than the earlier official estimates. This brought about major changes in tiger conservation policy, legislation, and management. Special stress was laid on village relocation from core/critical tiger habitats and enhancing protection by creating the Special Tiger Protection Force. Subsequently, these concerted actions resulted in an upward trend in the tiger population as documented by the 2010 population estimates of 1,706. Today, India is home to 52 such reserves, carved around existing national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, all part of India's vast Protected Areas Network, which comprises more than 860 sites. India's tiger counts, held every four years, are also integral to its conservation efforts. As of the last official All India Tiger Estimation, conducted in 2018, the country sheltered 2,967 wild tigers

Despite India's unparalleled progress, its native Bengal tigers are still endangered and continue to face countless threats, beginning with poaching (tigers are trapped and sold for their body parts), declines in their traditional prey, and human-wildlife conflicts (the animals are frequently retaliated against for killing livestock). Climate change is also a culprit: Forest fires, for example, jeopardize tigers' natural habitats and rising sea levels even threaten mangrove forests inhabited by a uniquely adapted tiger population living in the coastal Sundarbans region, shared by India and Bangladesh.

Tigers are also living beings like you and me, they also feel the pain, they also need their family. Please save tigers, stop their brutal killings. We must make an effort to save the tiger population in our country as well as in the world. No matter how big or small the effort is, each and every effort counts.

Dr. Shivaji Chavan

Director

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.

Our 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. '

About Us

Wildlife and We Protection Foundation was registered under The Companies Act 1956, section 25 as NGO on Date 27th May 2008. Our Approach has been Ecological Restoration, Institutions in Local Self – governance, Conservation and Livelihoods and Efforts at Landscape Level

Our Specialised Services Offered

Conservation Oriented Development Services

- Spatial Digital Planning and Management Support Systems for Protected Areas, Managed Forests, Wildlife Corridors and District and Other Specialised Planning Agencies
- Development of Interpretation Centres, Nature Trails and Environmental Awareness Material and Wetlands Centres.
- 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
- Capacity of Corporate Sector in Environmental Issues, CSR Investments, Environment Impact Assessment and Sustainability in Business (Collaboration University of Wales, Bangor, UK)

Our Domain of Activities related to Rural Integrated Planning

- Evolving, Planning, Developing and testing Models for Integrated Development with site specific perspective.

- Rural Integrated "Conservation- Oriented-Developmental Planning, development of Implementation Strategy and Monitoring Protocols.
- Aiming at Dependency-Reduction of Communities crucial for conservation of natural resources through the Public Private Community Partnerships(PPCP)

Planning, Development, Management, Implementation and Monitoring of CSR

- Conservation Oriented Planning in Education Sector- Education for Sustainable Development to promote Sustainable Living- An Initiative being Planned with the experts and consultants from Sweden.
- Technical Support in Infrastructural Planning and Location Based Services for Health and Infrastructural Development through development of Digital Planning and Management Support System.
- Capacity and Competency Building Programs for Planners, Managers, Implementers and Monitoring Agencies dealing in Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Capacity and Competency Building for Planning and Implementation Livelihood programs and their up-scaling to ensure Conservation Oriented Development.
- Providing Integrated Solutions for Conservation Oriented Development in various sectors, themes and disciplines of Environmental Conservation vis-à-vis Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Promotion and Facilitation of Public Private Community Partnerships

Our Capacity Building Programs for Forest Department

- Frontline Staff- Continuous Participatory Capacity Building Program Course (PPT)- Four One Week Courses over Two Years with a One Week Course every six months
- Course on Applications of Modern Tools and Technology in Natural Resource Planning, Management and Monitoring.(Three Days)
- One Day Crash Course for Middle Level Executives in Applications of Forensic Sciences in Wildlife Management
- One Day Course of Practical Aspects Implementation of Environmental Laws
- Two Days Capsule Course in Non-Timber Forest Produce Identification, Natural and Artificial Propagation, Maintenance, Value Addition and Development of Forward and Backward Linkages.

Five Week Course in Forest and Wildlife Management and allied issues and spaced out with intervening six month gap in which 'On-Job-Assignments' are allocated to Frontline Staff The Five One Week

Our Approach

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

Our Progress

- Learning Processes
- Mapping Community Efforts in Conservation
- Interaction on Policy
- Planning and Management of Natural Resources

Our Team

Director	
Dr. Shivaji Chavan (PhD Wildlife Sciences)	• International Masters in Geoinformatics from the International Institute of Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation (ITC) The Netherlands. • A Ph.D in Forestry in the discipline of Wildlife Science. • An academician, trainer and researcher in the Field of Forestry, Wildlife, Environment and Allied Disciplines. • As a forest officer, of the Maharashtra Forest Service he served the Forest Department of Maharashtra from 1986 to 2011 with intermittent deputations for trainings and assignments. • Prestigious tenures with the Wildlife Institute of India and the Directorate of Forest Education, while on deputation to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. • Recipient of the European Union's 'Erasmus Mundus' Visiting Scholar Fellowship for teaching the SUTROFOR and SUFONAM Courses at Bangor University, U.K. • Led the Tiger Conservation Program of the WWF India in the field, as a Senior Landscape Coordinator of the Central Indian Tiger Conservation Landscape (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh), while on a sabbatical from the Maharashtra Forest Department. • Expertise lies in Wildlife, Forests and Environmental Conservation, Environmental Economics, Policy and Planning, Applications of Modern Tools and Technology
Mr. Divyang Sinh Chauhan	• Past Rotary Club President of Rotary Club of Silvasa (Rotary International District- 3060). • Engineer by academics with a MBA (B.E. Mechanical Engineering) • Chairman of Mount Litera Zee School, Naroli, Dadra Nagar Haveli. • Recipient of 'Swarnim Ratna' of Dadra Nagar Haveli -Award, 2022, instituted by the Divya Bhaskar Group at the auspicious

Mr. Suresh Thorat MSc Botany	• Retd as Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Western • Region from the Indian Forest Service • Worked more than 34 years in Indian Forest Service • Headed all wings of the Forest Department during his tenure with the Forest Department • Headed the Mangrove Cell Mumbai which deals with mangrove protection and management • Strong experience in handling issues regarding Eco sensitive zones and private forest issues
Mr. Jarnail Singh Germania MSc Mathematics, AIFC Diploma in Forestry	• Retd Forest Officer from the Indian Forest Service • 33 years of experience in scientific forestry management • Served in capacity of Associate Professor, IGNFA, Dehradun, Principal SFS College, Dehradun, and DFE, GOI, Dehradun. • Last assignment was the Chief General Manager, FDCM Ltd, at Nagpur, in the rank of Additional PCCF, MS
Dr. Anjana Pant PhD (Cyanobacterial Response to Mercurials)	• Anjana has over 25 years of experience in biodiversity research, teaching, project management, capacity development and public outreach and awareness. She was associated with Freshwater and Wetlands Programme, WWF India as an Associate Director, until July 2014. She has also worked with a US Based GIS and IT company, Avineon India Technologies as Head GIS Projects. She is currently working with GIZ as a Technical Advisor for the River basin management and water conservation
Ms. Kirti Divyang Sinh Chauhan	• She is the past President of the Rotaract Club of Silvasa. • Recipient of the 'Swarnim Ratna' of Dadra Nagar Havel- Award, 2022, instituted by the Divya Bhaskar Group at the auspicious hands of the Mr. Devusinh Jesingbhai Chauhan, the Hon. Minster of State for Communications, Government of India. • Actively supports in various Conservation initiatives of the school and the organisation. • Director of the Mount Litera Zee School Naroli

National Coordinator	
Dr. Nudrat Zawar Sayed (PhD Conservation of Forest Trees)	• Fifteen years of Experience in working on various issues pertaining to environment and wildlife Forest, Wildlife and Environmental Conservation • Experience of working on various issues related to mangroves • Experience of working on Regional Plans for Eco-sensitive Zones of Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani as well as Matheran • Academician, and Researcher in the Field of Environment and allied Field • Expertise in Plantation • Invited faculty at Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan's Narrondas Manordass Institute of Science, Bhavan's College, Andheri for Biodiversity, Wildlife Conservation and Management
Regional Coordinators	
Mr. Umesh Dhotekar BSc Forestry	• Retd RFO, has served the Maharashtra Forest Department for 31 years. • Worked closely with local villagers and spearheaded formation of 55 JFMCs and EDCs. • Cracked various wildlife crime cases (around 60) of Schedule-I wild animals as an Investigating Officer putting the offenders behind the bar in Chandrapur and Nagpur Districts. • Developed Modern Nurseries for forestry avenue and teak and bamboo species and created the Avenue Plantations
Field and Capacity Building Executives	
Mr. Ishtayaque Patel BSc Zoology	• Expert in various activities related to wildlife • Conducted various capacity workshops
Mr. Reza Husain Sayed MSc Biodiversity Conservation and Wildlife Management	• Carried out various activities related to wildlife • Conducted various capacity workshops for Forest Staff

Office Manager	
Ms. Rafat Zawar Sayed	• Has 19 years of experience in working as a Manager with various organisation
Advisers and Consultants	
Dr. Suhas Kumar, Adviser, (PhD Environment & Ecology)	• Retired as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Environment & Forest, Narmada Valley Development Authority • Worked more than 31 years in Indian Forest Service • Wildlife Management, Ecotourism Planning, Participatory Forest Management, Interpretation & Conservation Education, Management Planning for Protected Areas. Wildlife Rescue, Forensic and Health. • Was instrumental in bringing in and initiated the idea for creating a state board for Biodiversity Conservation • Spearheaded establishment of vulture breeding centre in the state
Dr. R.K Pandey	• 32 years of experience in various disciplines of State Forest Research Institute and Wildlife in forest department in Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. • Accredited as an EIA Coordinator for sector 1. Mining of minerals including open cast/ underground mining and sector 3. River valley, hydel, drainage and irrigation projects. • Also been accredited as Functional Area Expert (FAE) in Ecology and Biodiversity (EB) by QCI/NABET, New Delhi • Has completed 65 Sponsored projects as Project Leader • Has 80 Research Papers to his credit
Mr Ajay Pillarisett	• Retired as Divisional Forest Officer in 2013. • Major postings were in Wildlife wing. • Awarded medal for meritorious service in Melghat Project tiger by Ministry of Environment and Forest govt. of India 1993. • Awarded Kailash Sankhla wildlife fellowship in the year 1998 for study of human mauling cases and sloth bear ecology.

Mr. Avinish Chauhan	• Excellence in sculptors, Graphic Designing and other Design Services • Designing of Conservation Parks, Science Cities, Interactive Communication Media in Conservation Education, Interpretation Centres and Nature Trails
Mr. Vikramdhar Diwan	• Social Advocacy
Dr. Shaun Russell, University of Wales, Bangor, U.K	• Natural Resources Conservation, • Ecotourism • International Capacity Building • EIA
Dr. Fredric Landy, University of Paris, France	• Social Geography, • Sustainable and Conservation Oriented Development
Dr. Charlie Falzon	• Environment and Social Issues, • Protected Area Management, • Environmental Evaluation Expert
Dr. Leif Östman, Director of the Institute for Research in Education and Sustainable Development (IRESD), Sweden.	• Specialist in Education for Sustainable Development
Dr. Shitij Mehta, Environmental Sciences Research Institute, USA	• Technology Development and Applications- • Product Specialist
Dr. Rahul Rakshit, Project Manager, Holmes Clark University, Worcester,Massachusetts	• GIS project management, Lab setup, • QA/QC GIS troubleshooting, • Training, • Image interpretation

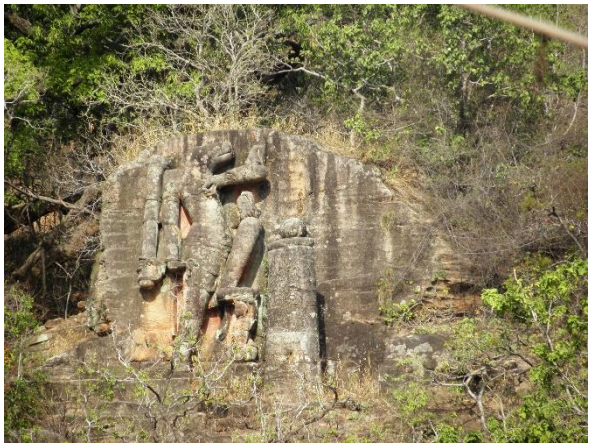
Mr. Sund, Per Juhani PhD in science and technology education,	• Specialist in Education for Sustainable Development

Projects executed in this financial year

Project 1: Tiger Conservation Plan for Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

The organisation undertook the task of developing the Core, Adjoining Areas and Security Plan of the Tiger Conservation Plan for Pench Tiger Reserve – Madhya Pradesh. The plan was completed and submitted to the Field Director. Pench Tiger Reserve comprises the Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park, the Pench Mowgli Sanctuary and a buffer. The Tiger Reserve nestles in the Southern Slopes of the Satpura ranges of Central India. The river Pench, which splits the National Park into two, forms the lifeline of the Park. To the south of the tiger reserve lies the Pench Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra, the first inter-state project tiger area of the country. Pench Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh is contiguous with Pench Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra and is also connected to Kanha Tiger Reserve through the forests of Seoni, Balaghat and Mandla districts. Along the eastern boundary of the reserve, around 10 km stretch of the national highway, NH44 connecting Nagpur and Jabalpur acts as a barrier for habitat connectivity with Kanha Tiger Reserve. The area of Kanha-Pench corridor spread over 3145.65 sq.km in which 2532.39 sq. km is forest area and rest 613.26 sq. km are revenue land, is one of the most crucial forest corridors in the central Indian landscape that act as a refuge for dispersing tigers and several other animals

Project 2: Tiger Conservation Plan for Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh



The organisation undertook the task of upgrading the Tiger Conservation Plan for Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve – Madhya Pradesh. The plan was upgraded and submitted to the Field Director.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve forms part of the Central Indian Highlands. It is located between the Vindhyan and the eastern flanks the of Satpura hill ranges. It falls mostly in Umaria (80%) Katni (10%) and Shahdol (10%) districts of Madhya Pradesh. The Reserve lies between 23^0 27' 00" to 23^0 59' 50" North latitude and 80^0 43' 15" to 81^0 15' 45" East longitude. The reserve is largely surrounded by Umaria Forest. A short stretch of Katni Forest is located in the west and North Shahdol forest on the North-East along the Son River. There are several roads criss-crossing the reserve. State Highway No. 11 connecting Umaria and Rewa breaks the continuity of the Reserve (ref. Map 1.1). The highway stretches from Khitauli to Tala range and bisects the Panpatha Sanctuary. Another road passing through Parasi, Khitauli and Barhi divides the Khitauli range. The western part of this range is in the form of a strip; whose width at places becomes narrow by 3 to 4 km. This strip further extends beyond Umrar River. The Protected Area comprises of two conservation units viz. the Bandhavgarh National Park having an area of 452.666 sq. km (including 12.66 sq. km of Revenue patches) and Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary having an area of 264.235 sq. km. Both the units are under the unified administration of Tiger Reserve

We were just emerging out of the COVID 19 pandemic hence the activity of the organisation was low. It was extremely difficult to conduct field visits. This is the reason why only two projects were executed during this year