

TIGER CONSERVATION

Tadoba Andhari Landscape

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ANNUAL REPORT

Supported By



T R A C T

TIGER RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION TRUST

Tigers beyond Boundaries

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Introduction

Increased dispersal of wildlife, specifically tigers and leopards from the core of Tadoba into the peripheral buffer forest has resulted in their regular presence near human dwellings, fields and villages. The buffer being a human dominated landscape has experienced negative interactions between people, livestock and wild animals.

A team of 4 local youth trained for field work monitor large carnivore presence in the buffer of Tadoba Andhari. They check for threats to habitat and wildlife, check and fight fire, monitor cattle kills by large carnivores and work closely with the forest field personnel.

Human – large carnivore cases in the landscape are monitored by this team, collating information of cases.

Activities:

Rewilding and Wildlife Conservancies –

Vegetation Plots: The way forward for wildlife conservation and managing conflict is to reduce biotic pressure on the forest habitat, increase green cover for wildlife and encourage farms to forest for ensuring participation of community in the fold of eco-tourism.

The barren farms can be rewilded by securing the land from grazing and the saplings from lopping. Most of these lands have seed banks and within the first monsoon, there is a burst of grass and saplings.

In order to study the re-generation of endemic species, 4 vegetation plots have been monitored in a wildlife conservancy and in the adjoining buffer forest, where the growth is monitored every season (4 months).

Some endemic saplings monitored in these plots include Paras, Temburi, Datkhuda, Saag, Godani, Kukadi, Datrangi, Hiwar, Neem, Chichwa, Kuda.

Pellet Plots: These plots are also monitored for pellet plots to measure the presence of wild herbivores in this area and the change in the same seasonally.

Pellets and droppings of Chital, Wild Boar, Barking Deer, Nilgai, Sambar, Hare, Langur, Goat, cattle, Porcupine have been monitored.

The varying rewilding on the conservancy land and the buffer forest will be showcased with this data, clearly indicating the need for protection from grazing and lopping of trees.

The data is being collated and will be analyzed shortly.



Patrols:

The team works with the forest field personnel in the buffer forests, addressing threats to the forest habitat and the wildlife.

The TRACT team patrol on foot along fire-lines, animal trails and water sources, meeting locals, addressing illegal logging of trees and other minor forest produce.



FIRE FIGHTING:



The TRACT team of 4 along with the fire watchers patrol different areas of the western buffer zone, along the periphery of more than 15 villages. They patrol on foot along sensitive areas and keep a check on any fire in the forest habitat. On spotting a fire incidence, they

inform the forest guard and recall the entire TRACT team to douse the fire immediately. The local primary response teams are also called if required.

THREAT	RESPONSE	AREA / LOCATION
Fire alert	Informed forest guard, TRACT team, PRT's, and community members present	Katwal pahadi, Simgaon pahadi, Nagpurbodi, Ghosari pahadi, Tamsibodi & Bhavgad pahadi
Fire dousing	Immediate actions taken by employed Fire Watchers, TRACT team and Forest Departmental fire watchers	Nearby villages as Wadala, Ghosari, Khutwanda, Kondhegaon & Mudholi



MONITORING LIVESTOCK LOSS:

The TRACT team monitors cattle kills in the buffer area, often patrolling the area for checking on the presence of large carnivore and further threats to livestock and people.

The team also assists the community with registration of compensation cases for their losses.

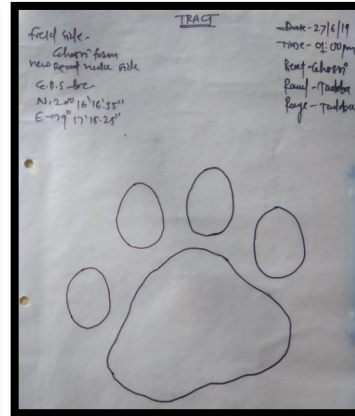
The team also deploys camera traps with the forest management if required. Data is shared with them to assist monitoring of the large carnivores.

THREAT	EVENTS	RESPONSE
Cattle kills	Kondhegaon 7 cattle killed by Tigress	Villagers alerted by TRACT team, made aware about animal presence/movement. People avoid the areas for safety.
	Bhavgad pahadi 3 calves killed by Tiger	
	Ghosri : 1 bull killed by Tiger	

MONITORING LARGE CARNIVORE PRESENCE:



Monitoring indirect signs of large carnivores. This information is shared with the local forest guard and the community to ensure safety to them.



ACTIVITY	FINDINGS	REACTION	OUTCOME
Foot patrols	Tiger signs	Large carnivore Presence identified. TRACT team inform Forest guard and villagers.	Conflict averted
	Leopard signs		
	Sloth bear		
Bamboo extraction	Nil	Awareness about presence and livelihood alternatives, few people are seen extracting bamboo.	Reduced biotic pressure
Tree felling		Forest Guard alerted	
Tree lopping		Forest guard alerted	Threat removed
Trespassers		Angry on TRACT team	
Snares	Nil		



ADDRESSING SPEEDING:

The team has monitored the speeding vehicles, primarily tourist vehicles in the buffer. The team has worked with the local forest management, for identifying zones sensitive to road kills. We have advocated use of barriers and speed breakers of some kind to address this speeding.

ROAD KILLS	NUMBERS	AREA
Small Indian Civet	1	Mudholi to Katwal Road
Wild Boar	1	Sitarampeth Bodi side
Jackal	1	Chandankheda
Mongoose	3	Katwal

SECURING HABITAT:

The TRACT team works very extensively through the months of early burning, the tendu and mahua season and the pinch summer period, both of these are prone to forest fire. We employ an additional team of 8 fire watchers in these 5 months, who patrol the area on foot, keeping a look out for any forest fire. This information is shared with the local forest guard and the team also works 24x7 dousing fires as required.



Maintaining Water Source:

Clearing suspended pollutants, plastic & other garbage from natural water sources & streams. The team also cleared plastic from forest habitat. Metal garbage collection units placed are cleared regularly

