



SANCTUARY NATURE FOUNDATION

Impact Report 2023-24





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"Every project outlined on these pages has been founded on the hope that *Homo sapiens*, the wise man, will live up to his name."





Bittu Sahgal

Founder,
Sanctuary Nature Foundation

Editor of *Sanctuary Asia*, India's first and largest circulating wildlife and ecology magazine (1981) and Founder-Editor of *Sanctuary Cub* (1984).

'HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS'

On December 1, 2023, as I stood on stage with nine exceptional men and women – the winners of the Sanctuary Wildlife Awards 2023, and heard the thunderous applause of an auditorium filled with sensitive, open-hearted supporters, I felt a sense of hope and optimism. In a dismal world, where wars are still being fought over territory and resources, these Earth heroes and Sanctuary's supporters were testimony to the fact that we are on this journey to protect our home together. This band of people, though a minority, that demonstrates a healthy respect for nature, has been trying to cajole, oppose and coerce the system to protect the ecological foundation of millions.

I am asked time and again how Sanctuary remains positive and hopeful. It's because more than half our time and energy is spent with our constituency – the young who are free from cynicism. Unlike our political leaders, they understand the magic process of homeostasis, which allows our planet to heal itself the way a cut, bruise or scrape does. They feed us hope and they will outlast us. That's why we support young people and work with them to put an end to destructive wars, including that Mother of all Wars – the one we have declared on Planet Earth... our only home. We have always believed that if we leave them a functioning planet, future generations *will* place the natural world on the pedestal it deserves. We have to believe that and work on that premise.

Sanctuary Asia magazine, launched way back in 1981 followed by *Sanctuary Cub* in 1984, continues to work relentlessly to inspire, create appreciation for nature, and present diverse voices on important conservation issues.

Kids for Tigers, the Sanctuary tiger programme, has been working with educationists for over two decades to nurture ecological intelligence and environmental protection ethics in their wards. These are not optional issues... they are survival imperatives. Standing shoulder to shoulder with us are our CSR partners – HT Parekh Foundation, Indusind Bank, Morningstar, and Bajaj Electricals and Paryavaran Mitra – who are committed to ensuring that we leave a better planet for our children. Our [GreenKarbon Programme](#), supported by Climate Trends, is working with several colleges to educate and empower young adults to work toward climate change action.

Sanctuary's [Mud on Boots](#) project, with the backing of donors, supports a diverse network of grassroots project leaders working 24x7 within their own communities across India.

Launched in 2015, Sanctuary's [COCOON Conservancy](#) project is a rewilding initiative linked to the Global Rewilding Alliance network of more than 130 organisations, seeking to rewild the Earth and stabilise the climate where restored wild lands and seas provide a secure future for people, nature and the planet.

We are strong and positive in our endeavours because of the unstinted backing of DSP Asset Management and the entire Godrej family, who ensure that our mission continues.

From our magazine to our projects – our shared goal remains the same. Fighting for basic rights to breathe clean air, drink clean water, eat healthy food, and build a sustainable society that is equitable toward all human and non-human denizens of our blue planet.

On the eve of the new year, we are presented with a choice. We could surf the path of development, using gateways and opportunities crafted and presented to us by nature. Or we could blast new avenues through the tangled web of life, in an attempt to constrain diversity and coerce nature to conform to our own image.

“If we leave them a functioning planet, future generations *will* place the natural world on the pedestal it deserves. We have to believe that and work on that premise.”



Paul Abraham

President, Hinduja Foundation

Paul Abraham was Chief Operating Officer (COO) of IndusInd Bank and has over 35 years of banking experience. President of the Hinduja Foundation and Chair, Advisory Board of the Sanctuary Nature Foundation, he also founded the museum initiative Sarmaya Arts Foundation.

I SEE HOPE

The world seems to have crossed over into the phase where predictions of the changes we didn't want to see are already starting to happen. Consistently high temperatures, disrupted rainfall patterns, earthquakes, landslides, zoonotic diseases, water shortages, lower agricultural productivity, degraded land and soil, etc. Yet there are hopeful signs all around. I see citizens and governments being galvanised into action. I see technology-led changes in transportation start to rollout. I see a slow but steady opposition to fossil fuels. I see insurance companies finally seeing the writing on the wall. I see political compulsions to preserve green spaces. I see an increasing understanding of the linkages between our daily actions of today and our children's future. I see many pockets foregoing the selfishness that drove us these past decades and taking decisive calls on curtailing greed and consumption. I am staying hopeful.

Paul Abraham

“I see political compulsions to preserve green spaces. I see an increasing understanding of the linkages between our daily actions of today and our children's future.”



Advisory Board Members

The Board Members of the Sanctuary Nature Foundation form the solid edifice upon which all our communication, outreach, research advocacy and project work thrive. They help connect the organisation's purpose to strategy.



Lord Nicholas Stern

Economist, Academic, Author and Climate Expert

I.G. Patel Professor of Economics and Government, London School of Economics; former President, British Academy; Chair, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change; and former Chief Economist, World Bank.

“Over the last 40 years, Sanctuary has not only inspired us to appreciate the world's natural wonders, it has also demonstrated that nature and natural capital are central to our well-being and our survival. Sanctuary has been a beacon of hope and of determination in the creation of a much better, more sustainable, and more resilient path of development. That future is still in our hands, but the urgency for action is now intense.”



Dia Mirza

Actor, Producer, UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador and UN Secretary-General Advocate for SDGs

A champion of nature, she spearheads the movement to reignite and strengthen the connection between man and nature and contribute to positive social change.

“Since 1980, the Sanctuary Nature Foundation has broadened our understanding of the interconnectedness between human well-being and biodiversity. The Foundation is working harder than ever to steer collective attention towards critically important issues and solutions. Their work makes us see how powerful ideas can be when they are communicated lucidly and translated into positive action. I feel honoured to be a part of their strengthened purpose and to be able to add my voice to theirs.”



Nikkhil Advani

Cofounder, Emmay Entertainment

An award-winning film producer, director, and screenwriter, he worked on India's first stereoscopic animation film 'Delhi Safari' (2006), about habitat loss in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. It won a National Award.

“My association with Bittu Sahgal and his relentless pursuit of a better, safer, more sustainable future for all has led to me being part of Sanctuary. Our work really has just begun.”



Tara Lal

Founder, Wild Blue Foundation

Tara Lal came to conservation science later in her career after years in art, architecture and design. She received her Masters of Science in conservation from Imperial College, London, where she is currently working on her Ph.D.

“Sanctuary has paved the way for connecting people to conservation in India. Projects like COCOON empower local communities to protect critical landscapes, which is the future of conservation practices.”

Advisory Board Members



Kartik N. Shukul

Advocate, Bombay High Court and Supreme Court of India

A commercial and constitutional lawyer by profession, he also dedicates his time to conservation litigation. He is part of a State Level Committee that deals with human-animal conflict and acts as a Special Public Prosecutor.

“The consistency with which SNF has championed the cause of conservation, is an inspiration for everyone working in this field. What is perhaps most remarkable, is that in this journey, SNF has rigorously promoted those on the field with its Mud on Boots Project, and at the same time, it keeps igniting young minds with its Kids for Tigers’ mission. I congratulate SNF for the amazing work they have done this year and I wish them the very best for all the crucial projects lined up for the coming year.”



Miel Sahgal

Writer, Editor

Miel has held various positions at Sanctuary over the past two decades, including Managing Editor of *Sanctuary Asia*. She was part of the founding team of Kids for Tigers, and spearheaded Sanctuary events, nature walks and workshops.

“Sanctuary has been an integral part of India’s conservation movement for over four decades. It’s exciting to see the organisation evolve as it galvanises yet another generation to work towards enhancing our collective future.”

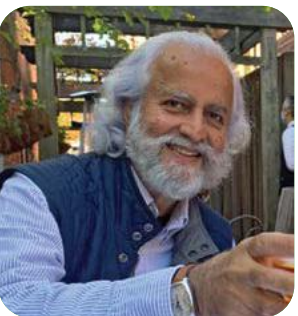


Norma Alvares

Advocate, Bombay High Court

An activist and campaigner on social and environmental issues of public concern, especially in her home state of Goa. In 2002, she was awarded the Padma Shri for her work towards the protection of animals and the environment.

“I am always impressed with the extent of preparatory work that goes into each project by Sanctuary and the professionalism with which it is assessed and evaluated from time to time.”



Indru Advani

Executive Member, Advisory Board, Sanctuary Nature Foundation

A Mechanical Engineer and Management Graduate, he has 46 years of Project, Marketing and Corporate experience. He retired as President and CEO of BAPL, an automotive components company.

“The year 2023 has been a ‘wake up call’ for the world at large, experiencing unprecedented high temperatures, flash floods, forest fires, et al. At Sanctuary, the team continues to work with enhanced vigour to pursue its mission of communicating to the present generation and to the next, the urgency to take action to preserve Nature.”

Advisory Board Members



Praveen Gupta

A former insurance CEO, he believes insurers have a critical and urgent role to play in nurturing our environment. He spends a lot of his time in writing and speaking about the unfolding climate and biodiversity crisis. Much of what he does can be tracked on www.thediversityblog.com/

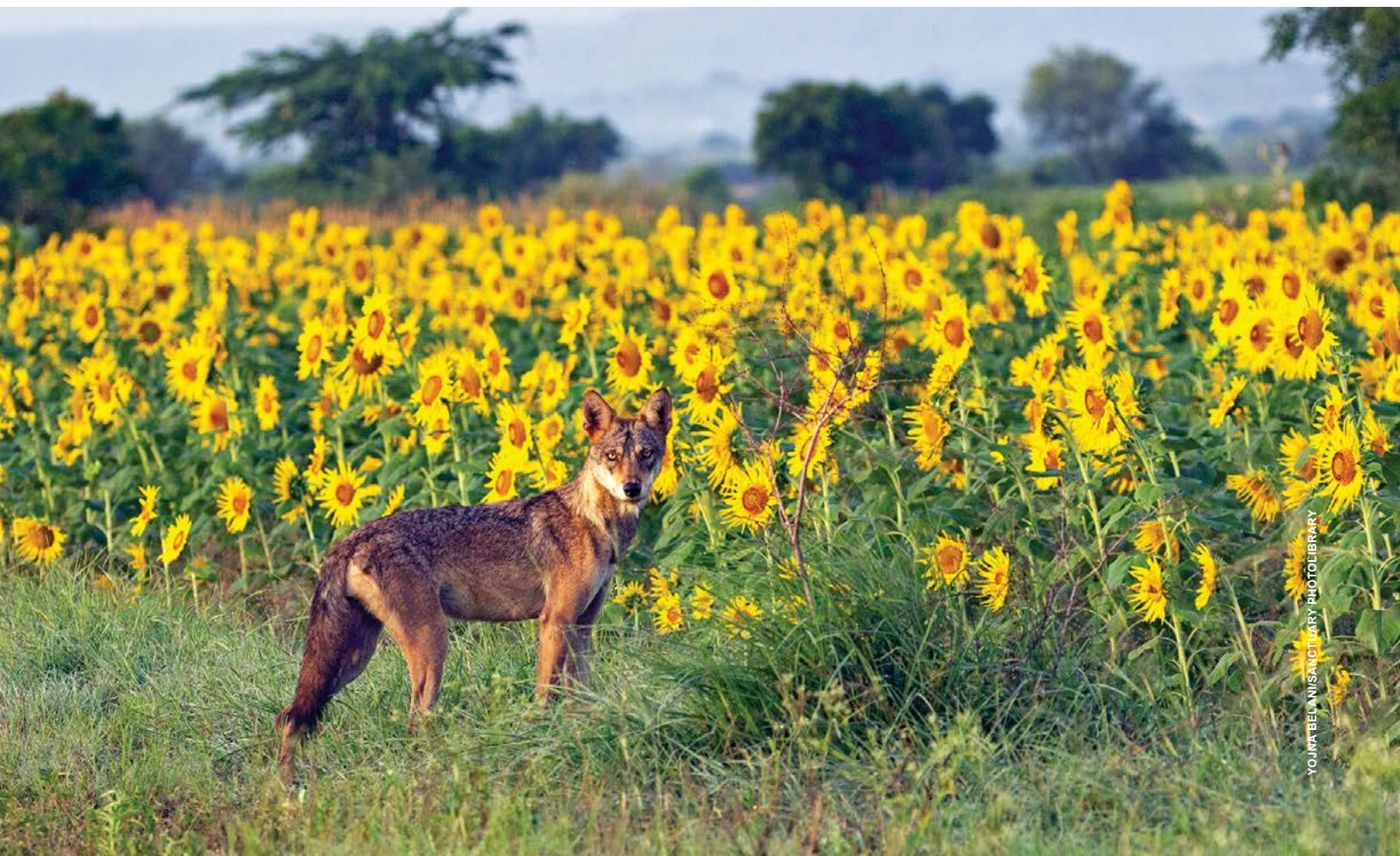
“With all the ongoing brutal onslaughts on Mother Nature, *Sanctuary Asia* has emerged as a metaphor for safe haven. When I think of Sanctuary, I am reminded of Noah's Ark.”



Cara Tejpal

Writer and Wildlife Conservationist. She was previously the head of conservation initiatives for Sanctuary Nature Foundation and a commissioning editor for *Sanctuary Asia* magazine.

“Beyond chronicling India's conservation and natural history for over four decades, Sanctuary unwaveringly champions the underdog. The commitment to supporting grassroots workers, movements and campaigns, often against tremendous odds, is invaluable and inspiring.”



SANCTUARY MORE THAN FOUR

Bittu Sahgal, inspired by the late Fateh Singh Rathore, published the first issue of *Sanctuary Asia* in October. India's first wildlife conservation magazine began as a quarterly and later became a bi-monthly in January/February 1990 ([more on page 16](#)).



1981

Sanctuary Cub published in January/February 1984. It aimed to inculcate an appreciation for nature among children and encourage them to protect our wild heritage ([more on page 16](#)).



1984

Sanctuary Films produced two wildlife conservation serials for Doordarshan, India's national television network.



Late 1980s

Sanctuary Features Syndication began to reach a wider audience through the syndication of articles on nature, wildlife, travel, health and conservation from renowned writers such as Ruskin Bond, Vijaya Venkat, Dilip D'Souza, Pritish Nandy, Ranjit Lal, and more.

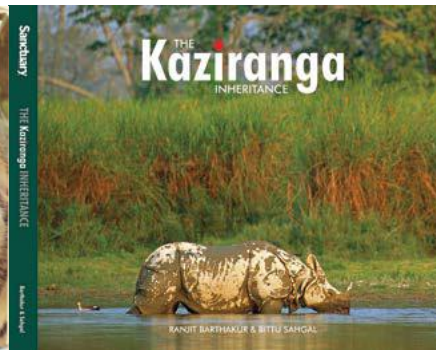
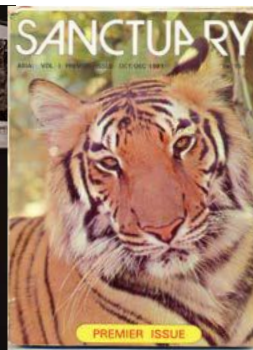


1989

Sanctuary Photo Library was set up as a repository of natural history images. It now has a fully computerised and expansive database of wildlife photographs.



1990



Community Owned Community Operated Nature (COCOON) Conservancies, a critical rewilding initiative, launched with the first project in Gothangaon village, Maharashtra ([more on page 44](#)).



2015

The first Sanctuary Debate was held in Royal Opera House, Mumbai. Hosted annually, these debates have brought stalwarts of the conservation world and students together in healthy discussion on wildlife policy.



2017

The Mud on Boots Project, a booster programme that supports 'mud-on-the-boots' conservationists in India over a two-year period, launched ([more on page 38](#)).



2017

A new website, with a user-friendly layout, digital magazine and more features to connect with our followers launched in October.



2019

Sanctuary partnered with WILD Foundation and the Government of Rajasthan to organise WILD11 in Jaipur, but this was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



2020

DECADES OF IMPACT 1981-2023

Sanctuary published *The Ecologist Asia*, an Indian edition of the U.K. journal *The Ecologist*, founded by Edward Goldsmith. *The Ecologist Asia*, whose co-editors were Bittu Sahgal, Vandana Shiva, Claude Alvares and Smitu Kothari, was dedicated to disseminating environmental and developmental news relevant to the region. It ran until 2003.



1993

Kids for Tigers, an educational outreach programme for schools was launched, and the world's largest 'Save the Tiger' scroll, as certified by the Limca Book of Records, was created ([more on page 24](#)).



1999

The first Sanctuary Wildlife Service and Photography Awards was held at NCPA, Mumbai ([more on page 54](#)).



2000

First coffee-table book *The Kaziranga Inheritance* launched. Since then, Sanctuary has published over 11 coffee-table books and nine guidebooks on varying landscapes ([more on page 16](#)).



2005

The Sanctuary Nature Foundation was established as a Section 8 Foundation.



2015



Sanctuary celebrated its 40th year anniversary with a special issue. The cover story was dedicated to looking at four decades in conservation, with a glimpse of the past and looking towards the future.



2021

Sanctuary helped conduct the first bird festival in Jammu and Kashmir in October 2022.



2022

New categories announced for the Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards ([see page 55](#)).



2023

The Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards 2023 was hosted by actor Zafar Karachiwala and graced by the charismatic Zeenat Aman, a keen supporter of environmental conservation issues. (December 1, 2023)





OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION



PUBLICATIONS

“Sanctuary has been a part of my household for as long as I can remember. Nature is one of the passions we share in our family and as a kid, I would often flip through the latest editions, admiring the beautiful compositions. I still find myself getting back to the cabinet that holds the editions we have to flip through and read (enjoying them even more now).”

Yajnaseni, Jamshedpur



The [Sanctuary Nature Foundation](#) (SNF)'s flagship magazine *Sanctuary Asia* has been in continuous publication since 1981 and remains India's leading and best-loved magazine in its genre.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic halted the release of the print edition in April 2020, the magazine is still released as a digital edition.

Sanctuary Asia's six issues in 2023 highlighted burning issues, celebrated successes, brought to light stories from the different corners of India's wild habitats, and highlighted people working dedicatedly to conserve the planet's

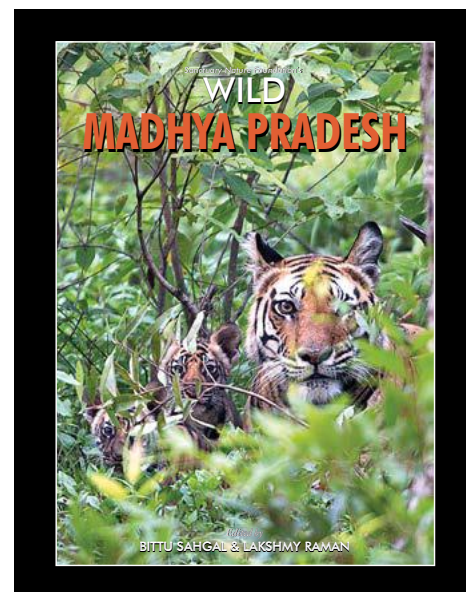
resources and make leaps in the science of conservation. In April 2023, *Sanctuary* published a special issue on [The Great Nicobar](#), addressing the threats to the biodiversity and people of the island in lieu of the upcoming mega project planned by the government ([see more on page 17](#)). In October 2023, we published another special issue, on the theme [Rewilding the Planet](#), addressing the move from theory to practice of this critical solution for protecting nature, and also the human face of rewilding ([see more on page 18](#)).

Sanctuary Cub, an edition for younger readers, has been inspiring generations of young naturalists ever since it was launched in 1984. This edition actively encourages its readership to contribute to the publication, creating a community of children who are passionate about learning and sharing their explorations of Earth. Children send in articles, book reviews, art, updates on their activities, and letters. In 2023, we added a new section on space to introduce interstellar concepts to children and have been receiving positive feedback on our constant effort to make the magazine interesting and relevant to our youth.

Read all the news and articles we covered in 2023 on www.sanctuarynaturefoundation.com.

COFFEE TABLE BOOKS

Sanctuary's key goal has always been to galvanise public attention to the amazing natural fecundity our country has been blessed with, and to highlight our need to secure this wild heritage. Toward this, we began producing large-format coffee table books and guidebooks on Protected Areas around the country. *Sanctuary's* core competence has always been its nature and wildlife writing, editing and photography. Our stringent production quality is an industry standard and our campaigns to protect wildlife bring on board both government and non-government supporters of wildlife conservation. In 2005, we produced our first coffee-table book *The Kaziranga Inheritance* to stimulate pride about the heritage of this crucial habitat in Assam, to make a strong visual statement, and spotlight its defenders. Following the tremendous success of the book, *Sanctuary* followed this with the *Inheritance* series, *Wild* series and multiple guidebooks. One of our forthcoming field guides includes one on the green spaces and wildlife of India's financial capital – Mumbai, and another on Ranthambhore.



SANCTUARY PUBLICATIONS

Inheritance Series

Kaziranga	2005
Revised edition	2007
Bharatpur	2006
Corbett	2007
Sundarbans	2007
Bandhavgarh	2008
Periyar	2008
Tadoba	2015

Guide Books

Corbett	2009
Pench	2013
Kaziranga	2014
Achanakmar	2017
Barnawapara	2017
Bhoramdeo	2017
Kanger	2017
Tamor-Pingla-Samarkot-Guru Ghasidas	2017
Nameri	2018
Sundarban	2022

WILD Series

Maharashtra	2012
Revised edition	2015
Chhattisgarh	2017
Madhya Pradesh	2018

Other Coffee Table Books and Publications

Forever Stripes	2007
India Naturally	2008
Sankhala's India	2008
Lest We Forget	
PLAN B	2008
Mobilising to Save Civilisation (English & Hindi)	

SPECIAL ISSUE – THE GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND

THE GREAT NICOBAR

As plans for the mega-infrastructure project on the Great Nicobar Island gained momentum, *Sanctuary* decided to put together a repository of articles about the often-endangered biodiversity of the island. We collaborated with experts, campaigners, and long-time researchers of Great Nicobar Island to paint a holistic picture of everything that we as a country stand to lose if the project comes to fruition in its destructive form. Every article of the issue reflected a different aspect – details of the flawed project, the island's herpetological life, avians, marine life, bats, the resident tribes, first-hand experiences, the theatrics of its ecosystems, impact of climate change, and more.

This issue elaborated on the unscientific way in which this island is being auctioned off. It highlighted the need to come together to stand up to the threat this stunning island faces from the looming 'Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island' Project that includes a transshipment port to be constructed at Galathea Bay, a prime nesting site of giant leatherback turtles, an airport, a powerplant and a greenfield township. The issue also included a stunning cover illustration by artist Meena Subramaniam, and artwork by Swadha Pardeshi in our Sanctuary Papers section.

THE STORY OF GREAT NICOBAR'S MISADVENTURE

For the cover story, **Pankaj Sekhsaria** wrote about the unscientific way in which these biodiverse islands have been auctioned off to build an expensive transshipment port, which will destroy lakhs of trees and disrupt unique ecosystems in a seismically active zone.

READERS' COMMENTS

Sonali Vaidya

What a crazy decision! What kind of development is this? Humans are destroying the earth. Now they are going to the moon and Mars too!

Arjit

Nicobar has truly unique biodiversity. Sad that these unscientific development projects will further wreak havoc on pristine ecosystems.

M.K. Ranjitsinh

Sanctuary's Nicobar special issue was perhaps the most stellar defence of a crucial national natural heritage. I read the issue with great interest. I congratulate the writers and editors.

ISLANDS OF LIFE

Islands are also tiny laboratories for nature to 'experiment' on various species, resulting in high levels of species endemism. The Great Nicobar Island is no exception. The stunning photofeature spotlighted some of the endemic species and breathtaking landscapes from these Indian Ocean isles.

REMEMBERING PATAI TAKARU – THE BIG ISLAND

Dr. Manish Chandi spent two decades interacting with the *Shompen* and *Nicobarese* Indigenous communities of Great Nicobar Island. He took readers on a journey across India's southernmost island, introducing them to civilisations that will soon lose their only home as 'the big island' is set to change forever.

EXPLORING THE BATS OF NICOBAR

Bandana Aul Arora successfully documented 17 species in the Andaman group and 12 species in the Nicobar group. She elaborated on why, even if mitigation measures are taken against biodiversity loss, large scale projects on the islands will gravely threaten the survival of these winged mammals.

READER'S COMMENT

Rohit Chakravarty

Bandana's work in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was one of the main reasons why I could plan my Master's project in the Islands. So glad that she has written about her work and the Nicobars in April's *Sanctuary Asia*.

SAMBELONG MEMORIES: HERPING IN THE RAINFORESTS OF GREAT NICOBAR

The Sambelong Islands in the southern part of the Nicobar archipelago, are home to endemic species. Researcher and herpetologist **S. Harikrishnan** wrote of the varied herpetofauna – including a long lost skink – that we stand to lose if their ecosystems are degraded, or worse.



S. HARIKRISHNAN

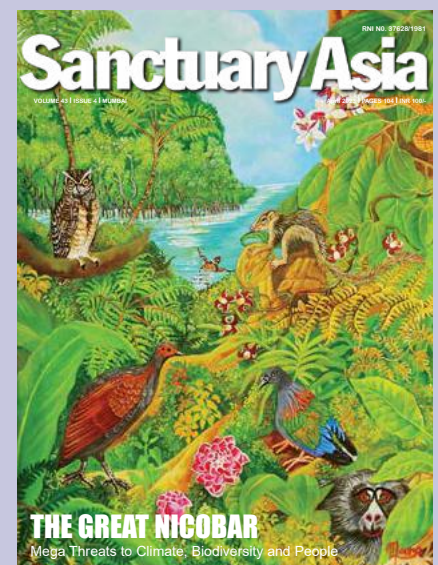
“A big thanks to the entire *Sanctuary* team for first having agreed to the idea, and then putting it together. I am hopeful (and confident) it will help in keeping Great Nicobar alive irrespective of the difficulties ahead.”

Pankaj Sekhsaria, Pune



GREAT NICOBAR ISSUE COVER

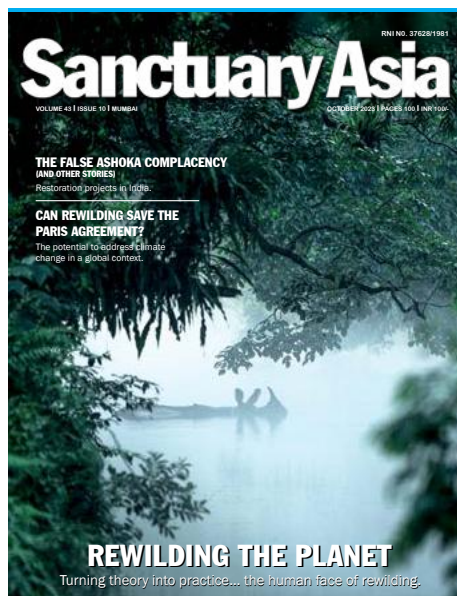
On the cover of this special issue we carried a gorgeous and vibrant illustration by Meena Subramaniam, a defiant celebration of the immense, uncapturable beauty and diversity of life on the Great Nicobar Island. In this stylised scene, creepers twist and lianas tumble into endemic plants, keeping company with the Nicobar treeshrew, the Nicobar Megapode and other irreplaceable species that a hastily approved, mega-infrastructure project is all set to soon obliterate.



SPECIAL ISSUE – REWILDING THE PLANET

“ Writing has always been an extension of learning for me, so it was a privilege to learn from and write about some of India’s most experienced ecological restoration practitioners and their projects. Wild habitats have been degraded and lost at an alarming rate and ecological restoration, done right, can help mitigate some of the mistakes of the past. (Of course, nothing will help if we continue making the same mistakes!) Readers who want to learn more should look at what the Global Rewilding Alliance is doing around the world. In India, the Ecological Restoration Alliance has a wealth of information on a number of fascinating restoration projects.”

Pranav Capila,
New Delhi



REWILDING THE PLANET

What is Rewilding? Does it mean letting nature heal? Does it mean restoring landscapes to the way they once were, before they were degraded? Or does it mean returning lost species to the wilds they once roamed? Rewilding, which includes ecological restoration efforts from the local to the global, offers us hope, and the possibility for more – more abundance, more beauty, and individual and collective benefits. Ensuring the continued functioning of natural ecosystem processes benefits humans and wildlife alike. The October 2023 issue of *Sanctuary Asia* spotlighted solutions to our climate crises, through the rewilding and the resurrection of carbon-sequestering natural forests, grasslands, wetlands, coasts, and corals. We collaborated with the **Global Rewilding Alliance** to bring together articles with the hope that more people would be inspired to follow this path to conservation. This issue of *Sanctuary Asia* brought together rewilding stories from across the globe, ranging from Chile to Australia, and from Nagaland to Kerala. The entire issue was made [available on the website](#), and also shared with GRA’s contact list.

The cover featured a greater one-horned rhinoceros and its home, which was once almost wiped out from Manas, highlighting the role of Project Tiger as one of the best examples of rewilding. The fascinating photofeature focussed on successful (and not-so-successful) rewilding attempts across India, from the pygmy hog to the desert roe deer. This issue also paid [tribute](#) to the late [Aditya ‘Dicky’ Singh](#), who spent decades restoring a patch of land in Ranthambhore.

READERS’ COMMENTS

Magnus Sylven, Sweden

Great cover image of the swimming Indian rhino. The campaign is such a great, well-written piece of text. This will become a flagship publication for the rewilding movement and will serve as an important reference.

Alister Scott, Director, Global Rewilding Alliance, Leadership Advisor

This beautiful special issue of *Sanctuary Asia* magazine – on rewilding – is well worth making yourself a cuppa and settling down for half an hour in a comfy chair. The magazine does such a good job of drawing people into the inspiring world of rewilding. Millions more reached, making every next step easier.

Global Rewilding Alliance

Our collaboration with *Sanctuary Asia* resulted in an issue that delves deeply on rewilding. Breathtaking photography, inspiring science, and rewilding success stories from Nagaland to Kerala in India, and Chile, Australia and more!

THE FALSE ASHOKA COMPLACENCY (AND OTHER STORIES)

Pranav Capila spotlighted rewilding and restoration projects in India that go beyond mere trees, writing about how these projects help restore damaged land to their original status in a geography ranging from Haryana to Kerala, and Gujarat to Nagaland.



THE REWILDERS

MEET OSWALD J. SCHMITZ

Professor at the Yale University School of the Environment, Schmitz studies the links between biodiversity and climate.

Lakshmy Raman spoke to him on ‘trophic



COURTESY OSWALD J. SCHMITZ

REWILDING AUSTRALIA

Tandi Spencer-Smith showcased a rewilding initiative from Eastern Australia.

CONSERVATION BEYOND AFRICAN BORDERS

Freddie Ugo wrote about the *Peace Parks Foundation*, which has worked to establish trans-boundary conservation areas in southern Africa.



PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION

rewilding' and its potential for restoring ecosystems and conserving biodiversity.

PHOTOFEATURE – THE 3 'R'S: RESTORING, REVIVING, REWILDING

Rewilding in India, though a nascent phenomenon, runs the gamut of species and landscapes, from carnivores to desert plants. The images of this photofeature presented some of the incredible efforts being made across India to restore biodiversity.

READER'S COMMENT

M. K. Ranjitsinh

I wish to compliment *Sanctuary Asia's* Editorial team for focusing on the very vital but hitherto overlooked aspect of rewilding, in the October issue. However, in the *The 3 'R's: Restoring, Reviving, Rewilding*, it is mentioned that the earliest known attempt of rewilding goes back to the 1930s, "when Maharawal Lakshman Singh attempted to reintroduce tigers to Durgapur in Bengal". Durgapur indeed is in Bengal, but the very successful reintroduction and rewilding, not just an attempt, was carried out by Maharawal Lakshman Singhji in Dungarpur State in South Rajasthan. The instance is derived from the chapter on Dungarpur in my book: *A Life With Wildlife*.

The same article mentions the very important effort made in bringing back the rhino to Manas. However, perhaps the even more significant and persistent efforts during the same period and earlier, is of successfully bringing back to Manas the pygmy hog and the Eastern barasingha. The pygmy hog breeding project, which started almost five decades ago in Guwahati with the support of the Durrell foundation, was carried out by very dedicated individuals with government help.

One of the very great shortcomings of our conservation movement is the

overemphasis on the charismatic mega mammals and the consequent neglect of the commonly called lesser known species, which I prefer to call Godfatherless Species, which are far more threatened and need far greater attention and support. One hopes *Sanctuary Asia* will do something to rectify this.

THE POWER OF REWILDING IN PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE

Vance Martin and **Tom Butler** discussed the principles of rewilding as laid down in the Global Charter for Rewilding the Earth.

REWILDING THE PLANET

Magnus Sylvén and **Karl Wagner** revealed how we can turn rewilding theory into practice, with a human face.

REWILDING EUROPE

Support for rewilding has never been greater, suggested **Daniel Allen**, as he highlighted initiatives bringing back the wild across the continent.



BRUNO D'AMICIS / REWILDING APENNINES

REWILDING IN CHILEAN PATAGONIA

Carolina Morgado wrote on large-scale rewilding and community partnerships in this sweeping, biodiverse region of South America.

MONA PATEL

"Happy to share my poster design on *Rewilding the Planet*, published in India's leading wildlife and conservation magazine *Sanctuary Asia* in the October 2023 Rewilding Special Issue. Honoured to be part of the *Sanctuary family*."



DIGITAL PRESENCE



A look at Sanctuary Asia December 2023



COVER STORY

The Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards

Carefully chosen men and women stand tall as India's Wildlife Defenders. Protecting habitats, nurturing young minds, involving communities in conservation, leading the charge against poaching, and patrolling our precious wilds, these individuals display incredible courage and fortitude as they fight to defend India's

wildlife and natural landscapes. Sanctuary honours them and shares their journeys to inspire and guide generations to come. Photo courtesy: Sujatha Choudhary [READ MORE](#)



PHOTO FEATURE

The Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards 2023

Feast your eyes on the stunning and artistic photographs that bring to life India's wilds, from the seemingly mundane to the stunningly rare. Presenting the incredible award-winning photographs of 2023 and the fascinating stories behind them. Photo: Chiranjay [READ MORE](#)



PEOPLE

Meet Dr. Erach Bharucha

A stalwart in the field of environmental education and conservation, he engages in a lively conversation with Shashik Gaidwad and Prachi Gaidwad about his trailblazing life and conservation work over the decades. Photo courtesy: Dr. Erach Bharucha [READ MORE](#)



IN THE FIELD

A Tryst with the White-winged Wood Duck

Having pioneered studies on the species, Dr. Anuradita Choudhary shares the story of how he went in search of the elusive state bird of Assam and successfully advocated for the protection of the species and its habitat. Photo: Soham Das/Sanctuary Photography [READ MORE](#)



OPINION

Teesta Flood & Dam Disaster

In early October 2023, a glacial lake outburst flood in North Sikkim caused havoc. Hearing the voices of the forest environmental governance process of hydropower projects on the Teesta. Photo: Barnali Huda [READ MORE](#)



IN THE FIELD

Sky Islands: A Personal Journey

The idea of 'Sky Islands' is helping us ponder the uniqueness of the tropical montane ecosystems. Ian Lockwood recalls his experiences in the Patern Hills Sky Islands. Photo: Ian Lockwood [READ MORE](#)



PEOPLE

Remembering Anne Wright

Rasa Kazmi commemorates the life of a conservation icon who influenced wildlife conservation in India through her courage and persistence, and her writings and lobbying for critical environment policies. Photo: Wright Family Collection [READ MORE](#)

In 2023, even as we worked in-person with educational institutions, corporates and other non-profits to spread the message of nature conservation, we also strengthened our digital presence and online engagement to magnify our reach across the world.

Sanctuary has continued to publish our magazine digitally every month on the dot, put out a monthly newsletter (launched in 2020) that is sent out to just under 15,000 recipients, who receive updates on our projects, publications, campaigns, events and more. We also collaborated with other organisations on subjects of interest to our audience, held our awards in person and later telecast it on social media. Let's dive a little deeper into our digital impact...

SOCIAL MEDIA

Since COVID-19 pushed us to embrace the conveniences and opportunities that come with the virtual world, our team has been working hard to better understand the

kind of messaging that would move people and interest them online. While there is so much more to do, Sanctuary's networks on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp and email reach out to over half a million citizens across the world. A look at our social media numbers:



@sanctuaryasiapage
@sanctuaryasiagroup
270 K followers



@SanctuaryAsia
32 K followers



@sanctuaryasia
135 K followers

Sanctuary Nature Foundation
10 K subscribers

NEWSLETTER 10 K recipients

COLLABORATIONS

This year marked the beginning of many successful partnerships with a diverse group of companies and organisations. In the digital sphere, these collaborations translated into Sanctuary's work reaching new audiences and engaging distinct demographics. Here's a look at our key partnerships:

SARMAYA ARTS FOUNDATION – #36DAYSOFTYPE

Sarmaya participates in a global design challenge every year to explore its digital archive of objects. This year, they collaborated with Sanctuary to take the audience on a virtual A-Z safari of India's natural diversity, showcasing birds, trees, reptiles, plants, big cats, and more through their collection of coins, Indian art, rare books, images, and engravings. Some species from the series were brought to life through stunning photographs and reportage from the vast archives of Sanctuary Asia magazine.

This digital exercise was later converted into a pop-up exhibit for the Kids for Tigers event at the NCPA in Mumbai. Sarmaya's team led the kids through the exhibit and distributed fun worksheets and stickers from the #36DaysOfType series.





Explore our newest
limited edition series

CALL of the WILD

THE
PLATED
PROJECT

× DIA
MIRZA

FOR

SANCTUARY NATURE FOUNDATION

100% FOR CHARITY

“It was a wholesome experience to witness the empathy children carry for the natural world, and their eagerness to learn is parallel to none. It might not be an exaggeration to say that there is still hope for us, as a species.”

- Team Sarmaya

PLATED PROJECT X DIA MIRZA – CALL OF THE WILD

The Plated Project collaborated with Sanctuary's Advisory Board Member and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador Dia Mirza, to celebrate the initiatives of the Sanctuary Nature Foundation through the power of art. Seven incredible artists were commissioned to create a collection of beautiful art pieces that interpreted the spirit of Sanctuary and explored critical ecological issues facing humanity. Each piece raised an important question: is this the kind of world we want to leave for our children?

The limited-edition collection is available for purchase, and 100 per cent of the profits are donated to the Sanctuary Nature Foundation.

LOOPIFY – PROJECT TIGER HAMPER

Loopify is India's largest #PlasticFree gifting store. They launched the Project Tiger Hamper in collaboration with the Sanctuary Nature Foundation. Each item in this carefully curated gift hamper was 100 per cent plastic-free. This partnership raised awareness about the impact of plastic pollution on India's wildlife and also to reduce the amount of plastic that ends

up in landfills. Loopify pledged to donate five per cent of its sales to Sanctuary, supporting vital conservation work for the tigers in Sundarban.

By providing plastic-free gifting alternatives for corporations/individuals and partnering with environmental organisations, Loopify and The Plated Project serve as models for how businesses can reduce their environmental footprint, promote sustainability, and support conservation.

ANIMAL PLANET INDIA

Sanctuary collaborated with Animal Planet for the Kids for Tigers Fest in Mumbai and the annual Sanctuary Wildlife Awards 2023. During these events, we displayed a collection of stunning natural history moments sourced from their TV division, which left the audience in awe and wonder. Animal Planet's social media presence, with over two million followers, helped to boost news coverage and expand Sanctuary's social network.

AUTHOR FOCUS

We continued to see a rising shift in social media trends, from images to short-content videos increasing our engagement. Sanctuary invited authors to submit videos of their work that we then shared on our varied social media handles. This enabled writers to showcase

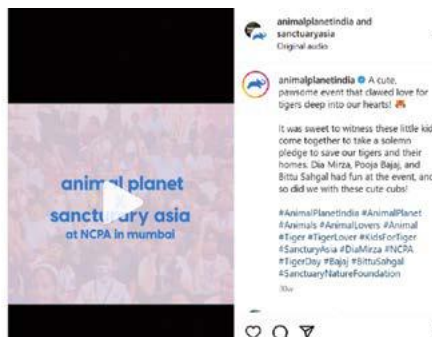
their enriching time in the field and gave them a platform to build their network by engaging with our followers directly. Our Rewilding issue made waves at COP28, and rightfully so as the only solution to our climate crises is to partner with nature. Sanctuary's October 2023 special issue in collaboration with the Global Rewilding Alliance was a reader favourite this year! Their fantastic team brought several articles to life through beautifully edited short-format videos with succinct summaries. This wild series of videos highlighted the principles of rewilding, regeneration efforts in East Australia, and local community empowerment in Chile. Sanctuary's founder-editor, Bittu Sahgal even voiced the first video in the series on why rewilding is turning the tide. Check these out here:

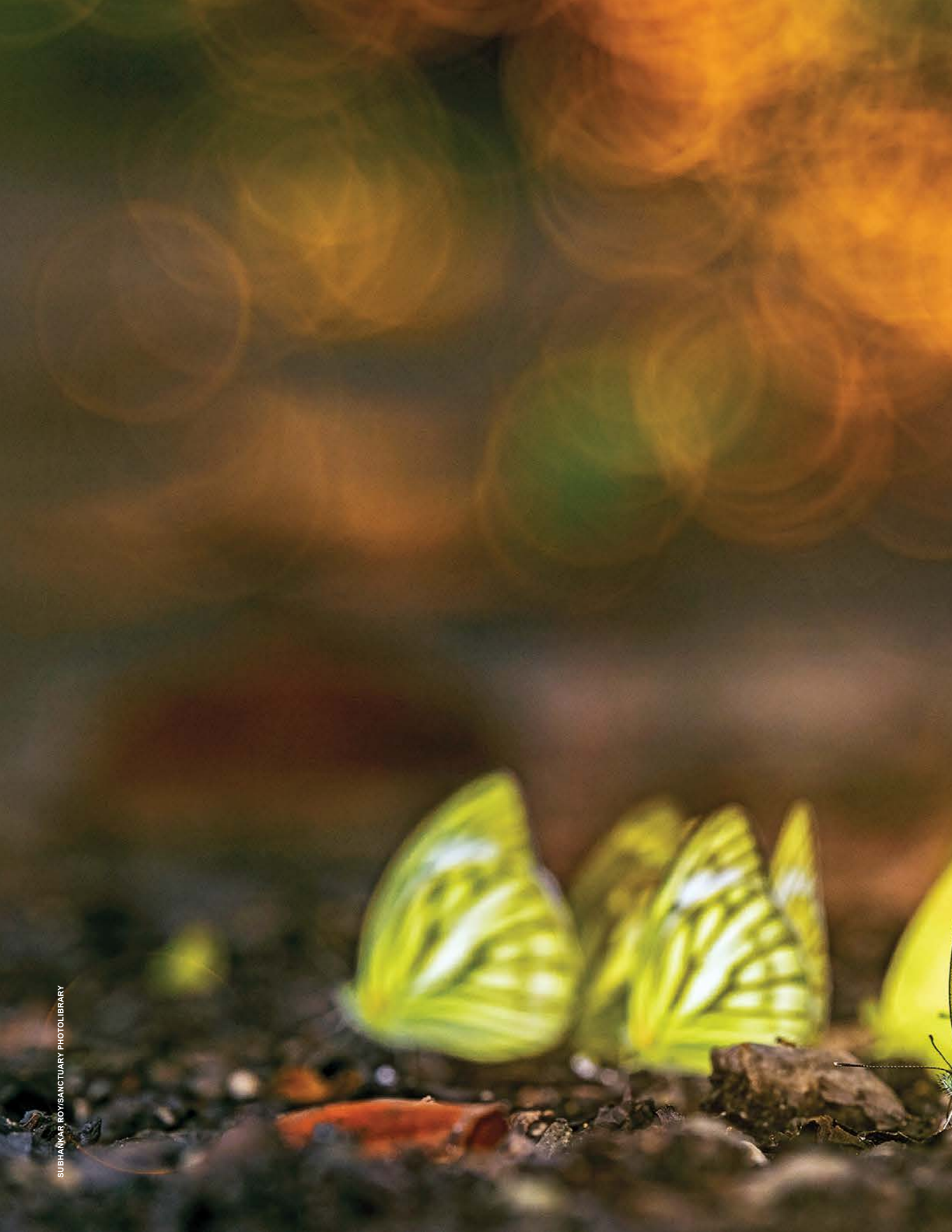
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CxyKYjXqbUU/>
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cz81QG4K4xD/>

TAKE ACTION

In every issue, *Sanctuary Cub* aims to inculcate in children an urgency to #TakeAction and the need to create a positive change in a society that gives little thought to its rapidly depleting biodiversity. We also share these campaigns with our audience on social media, with the steps to address a myriad of these issues, enabling the young and old to make a difference.

Our campaign on the amendments made to the Forest Conservation Act, along with a summary of the state of events (provided by the Amche Mollem campaign) sparked wide public objection. Preserving our forests is crucial for preventing further climate change, conserving biodiversity, and ensuring water security. A lot of readers aligned themselves with the magazine and other conservationists and believed in protecting our natural heritage before it is lost forever.





PROJECTS





24
years since
inception

39
cities
across India

800
schools
reached

1 million+
children and
teachers impacted

PROJECT: KIDS FOR TIGERS

1999-Present

In 1999, Sanctuary launched [Kids for Tigers](#), an environmental education programme whose core purpose is to introduce children to nature in a gentle and reassuring manner. It snowballed into one of India's largest mass movements to save the tiger, inspiring millions of children in schools across India. At the centre of our mission lies the need to communicate the rationale for conservation to children, using the tiger as a metaphor for all of nature. Despite the myriad problems that grip India's wilderness, we communicate to

kids the brighter side of things; that nature is resilient and self-repairing, that the tiger will spring back to safe numbers if we offer it seclusion and protection. We highlight the connection between biodiversity, forests and water, and explain how forests help us fight climate change. All this is done via carefully created fun activities and lessons. We are determined not only to leave a better planet for our children but also better children for our planet! To read more about the programme and for details on how to become a part of it, head to our [website](#).

“Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads,” Henry David Thoreau rightly said. We experienced this at the Kids for Tigers' nature trail in Hyderabad. Looking forward to more such activities in the future with more students.”

Nageen. M.,
Teacher at Glendale Academy,
Hyderabad



“ I had an incredible time at the Anant Bajaj Paryavaran Mitra-Kids for Tigers event! The highlight was being present as a voice to PETA’s animatronics elephant, ‘Ellie’. We were captivated by the stunning photo exhibition showcasing Sarmaya and Sanctuary’s diverse art and wild animal collection. Animal Planet also provided fantastic content to educate the children. It was an excellent opportunity to engage with the most energising members of our country, our Kids for Tigers! ”

– Dia Mirza, Mumbai

KIDS FOR TIGERS ACTIVITIES

There are no dull moments with Kids for Tigers! Kids make a lot of positive noise through tree planting drives, rallies, fests and more. Our coordinators help our Kids for Tigers students and point teachers from across India’s cities organise exciting activities that help discover secrets about our exceptional natural treasures, including the one that symbolises it all, our very own tiger!

Here’s what happens when a school joins the Kids for Tigers network.

Stage 1: Registration of schools and introduction to the programme.

Stage 2: Teachers’ Training Workshop for educators.

Stage 3: Audio-Visual shows linking tigers with climate change.

Stage 4: Nature Trails – to impart to students an affinity and commitment to the environmental imperative.

Stage 5: Petition drives, tiger parades and rallies, creative art competitions, fests, Wildlife Week events, and information-rich notice boards and school projects.

Stage 6: Regional/National Camp.

Stage 7: Conclusion, feedback, gifts/certificates to teachers and/or principals, trophies to schools and a road map for the next year.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

This year has been exciting for the Kids for Tigers programme, with several wildly successful events conducted with thousands of visitors joining us to celebrate conservation and saving the tiger. Between nature trails, art sessions and environmental campaigns, the project has been able to widen its reach and deepen its impact among our youth.

KIDS FOR TIGERS SUPPORTED BY ANANT BAJAJ PARYAVARAN MITRA AND BAJAJ ELECTRICALS FOUNDATION

The second year of Kids for Tigers Mumbai has been a tremendous success. It commenced with the Kids for Tigers’ Festival at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), drawing over 1,500 participants, including students, teachers, parents, and distinguished dignitaries. This vibrant start was followed by the Teachers’ Environmental Leadership Workshop, engaging Audio-Visual shows, enlightening nature trails, and the impactful Save the Tiger event at the Conservation Education Centre in Goregaon.

MUMBAI TIGER FEST: FEBRUARY 17, 2023

The much-awaited annual interschool Kids for Tigers’ Festival was held at the Maharashtra Nature Park, with 650 students from 17 schools in attendance! The programme’s theme for 2022-23, *Only One Earth*, was highlighted through a series of events ranging from art installations, a wildlife-themed fancy dress competition, music from waste, natural rangoli, and face painting.

KIDS FOR TIGERS ANNUAL CAMP: MARCH 26-28, 2023

Ten students from Mumbai schools, with their teachers, were selected to attend a camp at the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. Here students interacted with naturalists, Forest Department officials, nature guides and, most importantly, other village children. Through fun experiences and real on-ground learning, the Tiger Ambassadors experienced the value of Ranthambhore’s semi-arid landscape. They also went on guided forest exploratory rides with experts and attended lively, interactive lectures on how species

and habitats interacted. The lucky kids also visited Sawai Madhopur’s Natural History Museum. The entire group paid homage to the late [Fateh Singh Rathore](#) at a memorial at his home, which is often visited by tigers! Fateh Kaka literally created the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve from scratch and also inspired Bittu Sahgal to launch *Sanctuary Asia* and *Sanctuary Cub* magazines in the 1980s! “The Kids for Tigers’ Camp in Ranthambhore was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. What came as a pleasant surprise was the immense knowledge and compassion that the participating students had of and for the environment,” said Shruti Waghela, Teacher, Rishi Valmiki Eco School, Goregaon.

TIGER FEST AT NCPA: JULY 15, 2023

The Kids for Tigers’ Fest, held on July 15, 2023, at Mumbai’s National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), was a roaring success. The event brought together nature enthusiasts, wildlife lovers, and art aficionados of all ages, igniting a passion for tiger conservation. Activities included a nature trail, poster making, face painting, leaf art workshop, nature photography workshop, and

RIGHT Bittu Sahgal and Dia Mirza at the ‘Save the Tiger’ event at the NCPA, Mumbai. Over 1,500 children, teachers and parents attended the event and were inspired to work to protect nature.



a theatre workshop. An animatronic elephant, Ellie, voiced by Dia Mirza, conveyed the importance of kindness to animals. Schools created stunning art installations, and a fancy dress segment celebrated the tiger's habitat. A photo exhibition and wildlife games added to the excitement. A screening of the movie *Delhi Safari* at the Tata Theatre left the audience spellbound, and a whimsical rain dance session marked a joyful finale. The event left attendees with a deep commitment to protecting these majestic creatures and their habitats, setting the stage for a conservation movement.

TEACHERS' ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP:

AUGUST 18, 2023

The Teachers' Environmental Leadership Workshop held at the BNHS Conservation Education Centre in Mumbai, marked a significant advancement in environmental education. Its goal was to nurture students' curiosity and love for nature. The event brought together 50 educators from over 30 Mumbai schools, recognising their pivotal role in fostering environmentally conscious future leaders.

FIRST NATURE TRAIL AT MAHARASHTRA NATURE PARK:

AUGUST 26, 2023

The first Kids for Tigers' nature trail of the year was held at the Maharashtra Nature Park, and involved 119 students and 43 parents and teachers. The Maharashtra Nature Park in Mumbai stands as a testament to urban conservation, established in 1984 by Dr. Salim Ali and Dr. A. D. Sawant, transforming a former dumping ground into a flourishing 37-acre oasis. It hosts diverse plant species, native trees, shrubs, and medicinal herbs, providing a habitat for over 200 bird species. Ponds and wetlands support aquatic life, contributing to its ecological significance.

Despite heavy rain, participants demonstrated unwavering commitment to environmental awareness, nurturing biodiversity appreciation and environmental responsibility. Dr. Parvish Pandya, Consultant Director of Science and Conservation, Sanctuary Nature Foundation, enriched the educational experience with insights into the park's conservation importance. The event underscored dedication to environmental education and conservation, even in challenging weather conditions, and expressed gratitude to Maharashtra Nature Park's staff and volunteers for helping to successfully organise this nature trail. All participants received participation certificates.

SAVE THE TIGER EVENT – QUIZ COMPETITION AND JUST A MINUTE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

Kids for Tigers organised a 'Save the Tiger' event for registered school students. The event included two competitions: an Eco-Quiz and a JAM Extempore Competition. Dr. Parvish Pandya was the JAM judge and Eco Quiz Master. Narendra Muthe, Range Forest Officer of Sanjay Gandhi National Park, was the chief guest, inspiring students to explore conservation careers.

NATURE TRAIL AT BNHS NATURE RESERVE:

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

Kids for Tigers conducted its second nature trail at the Conservation Education Centre (CEC), a 33-acre forest within the BNHS Nature Reserve, embodying urban-nature harmony. Situated between the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Film City, it symbolises BNHS' century-long dedication to conservation. This lush ground mirrors the national park's ecosystem, even hosting elusive wild leopards. The nature trail engaged young minds in groups led by naturalists, unravelling Mumbai's biodiversity. Participants explored avian, insect, and

“Gratitude to Kids for Tigers' Hyderabad Coordinators for orchestrating such wonderful and insightful sessions. Let us share awareness among students and the community to protect forests, fostering harmony with all living organisms. The nature trail, a captivating journey, unveiled biodiversity conservation corridors, showcasing the substantial economic importance of plants in our daily lives. The intricate interdependence of plants and animals in forests maintains the delicate balance of the food chain, safeguarding life on earth. This experience serves as a catalyst for introspection, leading us to pledge our commitment to preserving nature. Heartfelt thanks for involving us in these noble activities.”

- Vanitha, teacher at The Shriram Universal School, Hyderabad.

reptilian worlds and visited the butterfly garden, discovering over 150 butterfly species. The trail welcomed 93 students and 15 teachers and parents from eight schools, fostering a deep connection with nature. The nature trail exemplifies education's power to nurture environmental love and commitment to preservation. Participants received guidebooks on Pench and certificates.

AUDIO-VISUAL (AV) SHOWS

One of our key methods through which Kids for Tigers engages with students is through Audio-Visual Shows. Every year, a new slideshow featuring stunning wildlife images is developed with a unique theme. The theme for the year 2023-24 is 'Project Tiger – The Next 50 Years'. Thanks to the generous support of the Anant Bajaj Paryavaran Mitra and Bajaj Electricals CSR, we were able to organise multiple slideshow presentations in Mumbai, catering to students from diverse backgrounds and various age groups.



LEFT Nature trails are popular with students and adults, and trails in Mumbai at the Maharashtra Nature Park and the BNHS' Conservation Education Centre saw an overwhelming response.



TOP: A Tiger Ambassador and her teacher planted mangrove saplings (*kankra*) as a promise to protect the Sundarban Tiger Reserve.

MIDDLE: Being in nature creates a sense of peace and happiness in children. Suchandra Kundu, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Kolkata, guides kids during a birdwatching session in the Sundarban Tiger Reserve.

ABOVE: Ten underprivileged children, part of the 'Sobuj Mon'. The children were gifted a Kids for Tigers' branded hamper that contained a set of drawing-books, a colour box, a book with photos of city birds, and a refreshment box.

KIDS FOR TIGERS SUPPORTED BY THE H.T. PAREKH FOUNDATION

The programme, being run in 50 schools in Kolkata, has been working to create awareness amongst school children for tiger and wildlife conservation. The Sanctuary team has been able to undertake this work with the support of the H.T. Parekh Foundation. Sanctuary's local partners are [Suchandra and Joydip Kundu](#), of the [Society of Heritage and Ecological Researches \(SHER\)](#), with whom we have had a two-decade long association.

KOLKATA KIDS FOR TIGERS' REGIONAL CAMP: JANUARY 9-11, 2023

A leopard cat makes its kill, a kingfisher feeds on its prey, a Plaintive Cuckoo digs out an insect, small-clawed otters fish in brackish waters... A few young kids, chosen to be tomorrow's environmental leaders, witnessed all these sightings and more within a span of three days at the Kids for Tigers' Regional Camp in the Sundarban Tiger Reserve! With the eight lucky students were eight teachers from different city schools, who awoke to the calls of kingfishers, saw basking saltwater crocodiles and kept a sharp eye out for the elusive tiger. The camp proved to be an effective platform for our youngsters to experience a magical mangrove ecosystem. Guided by naturalist Nityananda Choukidar, the participants quietly learned how the mangrove forest helped to temper the worst impacts of climate change – a crucial ecological service for the megalopolis of distant Kolkata. Kids for Tigers' local coordinator, young conservation-campaigner Manish Sarkar, is helping

young people in the Sundarban to absorb a greater understanding of human-wildlife coexistence, that has been passed down the generations to local communities. The young campers and their teachers learned about tidal dynamics, and interacted with those who share physical space with tigers. To introduce the city-dwellers to the Sundarban ecosystem, the iconic folk play *Bonobibi Paala* was staged. The camp was concluded at the Bagh Bon Centre at Pakhiralay.

ART FOR THE WILD: FEBRUARY 21-23, 2023

To strengthen the relationship between people and nature 'Art for the Wild', an exhibition of children's paintings and sketches, was held at Gallery Gold in South Kolkata. The objective of the three-day exhibition was to stimulate creativity and spread awareness on the need for wildlife and nature conservation. With the support of the H T Parekh Foundation, we were able to hire a popular art gallery where 255 artworks, drawn by Kids for Tigers' 'vanar sena' adolescents (shortlisted from over 1,000 artworks created by children ranging from eight to 16 years) were exhibited.



ABOVE Tiger Ambassadors from Kids for Tigers, Kolkata, accompanied by their teachers and forest officials, proudly show off their certificates.

KIDS FOR TIGERS SUPPORTED BY INDUSIND BANK

Apart from Mumbai, Kolkata and Sundarban, Kids for Tigers has been launched in six other cities – Bengaluru, Nagpur, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Panna and Delhi, with the support of IndusInd Bank. The Bank supports and designs sustainable CSR programmes, that primarily empower and benefit marginalised and weaker sections of society, high-risk and high-stressed communities. Their guidance principals include strong commitment to bring about grassroots level change in our country as they support projects that promote environmental education among children.

Under the initiative, Kids for Tigers is working closely with underprivileged schools that lack the infrastructure and funds to focus on environmental topics with students. We believe that all young people have the legitimacy to ask for a better world. To do this they must learn about our natural world and understand its value, and how all this is linked to our health, food and water security and the economy.

THE RATIONALE

- To bring awareness about the tiger-forest-climate change-people relationship among school students.
- To create leaders for wildlife and nature conservation who will be known as Kids for Tigers – Tiger Ambassadors. These ambassadors will feel passionately for the tiger and be ready to spearhead a massive effort to protect them.
- To mitigate the effects of human-wildlife conflict through knowledge and environmental awareness.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE THUS FAR?

Registrations: As against a commitment of 75 schools, Sanctuary has registered 180 schools across six cities, many of them whose

medium of education is vernacular. The total number of schools are as follows: 30 in Bengaluru, 20 in Coimbatore, 25 in Delhi, 36 in Nagpur, 21 in Hyderabad and 48 in Panna.

AUDIO-VISUAL SHOWS BY KIDS FOR TIGERS ALUMNI: JUNE 2023

Our proudest moment is when students become teachers! Students of Class VIII, Rupanshi Arora, Maithilee Shukla, Ashi Bansal and Kyra Bhasin; Class IX student Vedant Vishwaroop, Class X students Naman Sonpar and Myra Vohra, Class XI students Anushri Khanduri, Samarth Sampath, Saanvi Prakash and Avni Ojha and Class XII student Vrishti Joshi from The Shriram Millennium School in Noida visited the *Nai Disha Free Education Society School*, for less privileged children, and interacted with them on the importance of biodiversity and environmental protection and how an improved environment was a fundamental right for them and their families. At its heart, Kids for Tigers seeks to empower children to take forward the message of environmental sustainability.

GLOBAL TIGER DAY CELEBRATION BENGALURU: JULY 28, 2023

In Bengaluru, the Global Tiger Day celebration saw 400 school children and 55 educators from 12 Kids for Tigers schools join in celebration dedicated to global tiger conservation. Distinguished guests, including conservation biologist [Dr. Raghu Chundawat](#), Sanctuary Nature Foundation Founder [Bittu Sahgal](#), and Wilderness Foundation Global President [Vance Martin](#), together with several notable local personalities. The event featured spirited skits, original songs, and dynamic dance performances, creating a collective

mission to raise awareness about tiger conservation. The active involvement of school children from different institutions showcased their commitment. The proceedings included insightful addresses by Ulhas Anand, naturalist and invocations by Janak Academy students. Meaningful skits highlighted tiger threats, original songs emphasised conservation, and energetic dance performances celebrated these majestic creatures. Colourful face painting using non-toxic materials added to the creative atmosphere.

NAGPUR: JULY 29, 2023

Kids for Tigers arranged a Global Tiger Day celebration at VR Mall Nagpur, where students, their families and well-known wildlife enthusiasts interacted with tomorrow's citizens. The educational programme was designed to promote tiger conservation awareness, and featured distinguished guests including Chief Guest Sanjay Agarwal, the Joint Income Tax Commissioner for Nagpur. Activities included a colourful Fancy Dress parade for children studying in Classes Three, Four and Five. Children from classes Six to Eight were asked to design nature conservation posters and many also took part in the face painting activity with some children serving as the 'canvas' for other children who were the artists. Such creativity is designed to inject fun into learning and clearly underscored the participant's passion for tiger conservation. The event drew much attention from the local community, with many young people volunteering to protecting wildlife. As many as 330 students from 29 schools participated, with pride and showcased their work for the benefit of other students, parents, teachers, and many visitors to the VR Nagpur Mall, whose collaboration and logistical support proved to be invaluable. The Kids for Tigers' Global Tiger Day initiative was well received and Sanctuary has received requests from schools and local conservationists to turn this into an annual effort to win public support for the protection of Nagpur's precious surroundings, which its citizens proudly acclaim as the Tiger Capital of India.



RIGHT Conservation expert Vance Martin spoke to children at the event for Global Tiger Day in Bengaluru. Kids participated in several activities such as face painting, nature skit, poster design and more, at the event.

TEACHERS' ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

BENGALURU: JULY 19, 2023

The Kids for Tigers Teachers' Environmental Leadership Workshop at the Indian Institute of World Culture in Bengaluru, saw 32 teachers from 23 registered schools participating. The workshop was designed to enhance teachers' understanding of contemporary environmental concepts, encourage leadership skills, and extend environmental education beyond classrooms. The day began with a nature trail at Krishna Rao Park, where many educationists said the discussions threw up ideas on how to bring such experiences into school curricula. Teachers received kits with a specially designed Teachers' Environmental Leadership Manual incorporating local and global issues revolving around the connections between the loss of biodiversity and the resultant impact on our climate crisis and the need to inject sustainability into the psyche of students. K.S. Nataraj, Retired Vice Principal at National College, Jayanagar, graced the proceedings as the Chief Guest, and inaugurated the workshop. The event featured an interactive

session led by Ulhas Anand, where teachers shared environmental project experiences. Certificate distribution concluded the workshop, with positive feedback on the Kids for Tigers' Audio-Visual Show. The programme empowered educators to be environmental leaders, fostering positive change and aligning with the overarching mission of wildlife conservation and sustainability education.

PANNA: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Kids for Tigers' reach extends to the oft-neglected smaller towns as well, with villages around the Panna Tiger Reserve being a new addition to the rapidly growing Kids for Tigers' family. Here a Teachers' Environmental Leadership Workshop was organised by the NGO **Baavan** under the Kids for Tigers Programme on September 15 in the historic town of Khajuraho, in Madhya Pradesh. Clearly thirsty for such knowledge, a total of 36 teachers from as many schools participated in the workshop and requested Sanctuary to organise more such interactions, which they said would help their students to be a part of the larger national wildlife conservation mission.

COIMBATORE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

The Kids for Tigers Teachers' Environmental Leadership workshop at Samskara Academy, engaged 21 teachers from 11 schools. The workshop aimed to empower educators as environmental leaders and advocates for conservation. Activities included registration and kit distribution, featuring a Kids for Tigers' kit with a Teachers' Manual, pen, and notepad. Brinda Dorairaj and Llewellyn Xavier led the opening session, marked by a prayer song and memento presentation. Speakers included Brinda Dorairaj; Mohammed Saleem, Coordinator, Kids for Tigers, Coimbatore; Sakithiya, Kids for Tigers Ambassador 2022-23; and Llewellyn Xavier. The workshop also involved a productive group discussion for brainstorming ideas on promoting Environmental Education creatively. The workshop successfully equipped teachers with knowledge and tools for effective environmental leadership, fostering a commitment to carry the message to their respective institutions.

DELHI: SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

The Delhi Teachers' Workshop, held at Springdales School, Pusa Road, was a pivotal event in the ongoing initiative to empower educators and students as environmental leaders. Facilitated by Gaurav Barhadiya, Assistant Professor at Delhi University, and coordinated by Neerajj Mittra, the workshop spanned four hours, encouraging educators from various institutions to delve into their roles in environmental leadership. Participants engaged in constructive

discussions, identifying challenges within their schools' environmental programmes and brainstorming innovative solutions. A notable highlight was the enthusiastic involvement of teachers from Delhi government schools, signalling a significant achievement in Kids for Tigers' collaboration with the Director of Education, Delhi. This partnership emphasises the organisation's dedication to expanding the reach and impact of environmental education in the region. The workshop witnessed remarkable dedication and enthusiasm from Kids for Tigers' teachers, showcasing their passion for environmental education and a keen interest in Kids for Tigers' initiatives. The diverse representation of 20 schools from Delhi enriched discussions, offering a comprehensive perspective on the challenges and opportunities in the realm of environmental education.

NAGPUR: AUGUST 26, 2023

Kids for Tigers hosted the Teachers' Environmental Leadership Workshop at Sevasadan Saksham School in Nagpur, attracting 58 teachers from 27 registered schools. The workshop aimed to empower teachers with enhanced environmental insight, practical integration strategies, a commitment to extend environmental education beyond classrooms, and leadership cultivation for sustainability. The day began with a well-organised registration, followed by a symbolic lamp lighting and tree planting ceremony. Distinguished speakers, including Biswajit Majumdar, Sanjay Nafdey, Tejinder Singh Rawal, Atul Devkar, and Deepali Devkar, shared insights. Guests received copies of Sanctuary's Coffee Table Book. A guidebook was also presented to Pushpa Bhaiya Rathi. The event concluded with a certificate distribution, group photo, and a celebratory lunch, fostering camaraderie among all the participants.

HYDERABAD: AUGUST 23, 2023

The Teachers' Environmental Leadership Workshop convened at NASR Girls School, with 17 teachers from registered Kids for Tigers' schools in attendance. Each teacher received a comprehensive kit, promoting sustainability. The workshop began with a tribute to NASR Schools' founder. Chief Guest B. Srinivas IFS highlighted wildlife conservation's pivotal role, delving into legislation and conservation initiatives. Tiger Ambassadors shared impactful nature trail and camp experiences, emphasising the connection with nature. Participation certificates were awarded, recognising teachers' dedication. An engaging Audio-Visual presentation captivated participants. The workshop's success was attributed to NASR Girls School's support, with a special thanks to Principal Mohiuddin Mohammed for coordination and assistance.



SANCTUARY NATURE FOUNDATION



SANCTUARY NATURE FOUNDATION

ABOVE Neerajj Mittra, Kids for Tigers Coordinator, Delhi, actively interacts with teachers, fostering insightful discussions during the workshop.

TOP Proud teachers pose with their certificates, showcasing their dedication and achievements post the enriching workshop.

NATURE TRAILS

PANNA: OCTOBER 28, 2023

The forests of the Panna Tiger Reserve, known for its mosaic of dry deciduous forests and jewel-green Ken river, which is sadly under threat from the Ken-Betwa river linking project, was the location for a Kids for Tigers' nature trail on October 28, 2023. The trail at the [Bear Valley Camp](#) attracted 54 students from 27 schools, along with seven teachers and parents. The day commenced with a warm welcome, registration, and a nutritious breakfast, followed by an overview of the annual programme schedule. Guided by Salil Dalvi, naturalist and wildlife photographer, the trail turned out to be great fun, even as the children discovered the joys of forest exploration and how animals find food and water sources.

Along the forest trail the kids picked up birding tips and learnt about the diverse avian life including Indian Rollers, endangered vultures and several other species. Post-trail, the students engaged in a lively painting and feedback session. Fourteen-year-old Khushboo Patel said about her first jungle visit: *"Humein nature trail mein sabse adhik vaha ka jungle aur vaha ghumne aur vaha ki vyavastha pasand aai,"* ("Along the nature trail, what I enjoyed most was the mood of the forest; and also the arrangements made for us."). Ashik Khurana enjoyed the art session and 13-year old Menshi loved sitting quietly by the riverbank, wishing the trail had been longer! The children were rapt as experienced wildlife experts spoke to them about wildlife conservation, camera trapping, and why saving the tiger would improve their lives.

BENGALURU: NOVEMBER 18, 2023

The Kids for Tigers' nature trail in Bengaluru was held at the Lalbagh Botanical Gardens, which brought together 35 students from 14 schools, guided by naturalists including Ulhas P. Anand and T. S. Srinivas. Field notes and guidebooks were distributed to the students. Divided into groups, students engaged in activities such as identifying butterflies, ants, leaf shapes, and trees. Students made notes of their observations in their field notes. The trail featured insightful discussions on Lalbagh's history, bird identification, unique aspects of various trees and its origin. Participants observed Asian Koel, Brahminy Kite, Spotted Owlets and sunbirds, learned about traditional camphor production, and marvelled at landmarks such as the oldest sapota tree, and Bengaluru's tallest tree. The day concluded with snacks, a quiz, and students expressing their trail experiences.

COIMBATORE: DECEMBER 10, 2023

The December 10, 2023, nature trail at Boluvampatti Forest in Coimbatore began with uncertain weather and rain, yet the event proceeded, with the steadfast participants

gathering at Gandhipuram, led by resource persons Boominathan, Selva Ganesh, and forest guard Vijay Kumar. Divided into three groups, led by experts, the participants explored the forest, encountering wildlife. A break featured fresh oranges. The journey extended to a water purification plant for Siruvani river water, globally renowned for its sweetness. A visit to Singampatti, a tribal settlement, allowed interaction with the tribal chief, offering insights into their lifestyle. The day concluded with a group photo and a satisfying lunch, blending nature appreciation, conservation insights, and community interaction in an educational exploration.

HYDERABAD: DECEMBER 13, 2023

On December 13, 2023, the nature trail unfolded at the Telangana Forest Academy, Dulapally, nestled in a 75 to 100-acre forest. This scenic location provided an immersive backdrop for the academy's "Children and Forest Education" programme, aiming to foster nature, wildlife, and conservation awareness among children. Guided by Forest Range Officer Rammohan Rao, the children received a captivating discourse on wildlife, emphasising the importance of all living things to humanity and the planet. Dr. Dharma Chandra Kumar, a Ph.D. in Medicinal Plants provided insights into the significance and uses of various plant and tree species. Covering approximately 3.5 km., the trail unveiled the beauty and information held by the forest. Post-trek, participants gathered for a refreshing lunch, leaving with memories and a newfound appreciation for the forest's remarkable trees and rich biodiversity.

NAGPUR: DECEMBER 20, 2023

A nature trail was conducted at the Gorewada Biodiversity Park on December 20, 2023. Conservationist Tejinder Singh Rawal and Kids for Tigers' Nagpur Coordinator Ekta Bhaiya led the students and teachers on the trail, where they spotted many different water birds including the Common Coot, Red-crested Pochard, and cormorants. A Class Eight student of School of Scholars Wanadongri, Adityawardhan Sable, said "It wasn't any normal day when I had to go to school – this time, we didn't learn from books, but learned a most important lesson, which is adaptability from nature itself. I would like to come again and again to see such beautiful treasures of nature."

DELHI: DECEMBER 26, 2023

A Kids for Tigers' Nature Trail took place in Delhi on December 26, 2023, at the Kamla Nehru Biodiversity Park and was led by Dr. Ashwani Kumar Singh, the scientist-in-charge, and Aditya Singh Chauhan of Kamla Nehru Biodiversity Park. This event aimed to cultivate environmental awareness, appreciation for biodiversity, and a sense of responsibility toward wildlife conservation among the younger generation. The trail

witnessed enthusiastic participation from 75 students representing 15 schools, along with 30 teachers. Dr. Ashwani and Aditya Kumar conducted informative sessions during the trail, offering valuable insights into the local biodiversity, flora, and fauna in Kamla Nehru Biodiversity Park. The nature trail left a positive impact on the participants, fostering a deeper connection with the environment. Many students expressed newfound appreciation for the beauty and importance of nature.

WHAT IS OUR NEXT STEP/PLAN?

Over the next three months, we have scheduled the activities in all the above cities and both teachers and potential Tiger Ambassadors are working to make the remaining activities meaningful and impactful in both vernacular and English medium schools.

1. A fun-with-learning Tiger Fest in all the cities
2. An Annual Camp for teachers and students at a nearby national park, sanctuary or tiger reserve

This year, Kids for Tigers will be encouraging children from across India, living hundreds of kilometres from each other to exchange purpose with other young people by participating in national integration through a nature conservation initiative that has proved to be extremely successful over the decades.

For instance, in Bengaluru, students who went out on nature trails at the famous Lalbagh Botanical Gardens, in the company of Naturalist-Coordination Ullas and Srinivas will be encouraged to exchange communications with the Kids for Tigers' children of Panna, Coimbatore, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Nagpur. In all the above cities, plus many more, carefully chosen naturalists conduct similar nature walks for urban and rural budding conservationists who learn about butterflies, leaf shapes, the role of pollinators, seed dispersers, soil organisms, carnivores, and the forests that support them.

Inevitably they are also engaged with the history and biogeography of the areas through which they walk and the vital importance of setting aside both urban and rural areas for wild nature to flourish. Along the way children get to touch the bark of ancient trees, which we explain need to be respected as 'senior citizens' that have witnessed history, while offering fruit, shade and shelter to all manner of lifeforms, including humans.

SANCTUARY NATURE FOUNDATION



ABOVE United by nature's beauty! A group photo seals the bonds forged during an unforgettable nature trail expedition.

RANTHAMBHORE COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT MORNINGSTAR (CSR)



SANCTUARY NATURE FOUNDATION

WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME? SAWAI MADHOPUR/RANTHAMBHORE: A CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Sanctuary's relationship with Ranthambhore goes back four decades. Over the last four years, Morningstar has enabled Sanctuary to expand and improve our community contact with women and children in over 64 villages and 143 schools surrounding the tiger reserve.

The primary objective of Project Tiger was to restore forest water sources to save the tiger. This objective has become the centre point for the UNFCCC in its battle to deal with the climate crisis today. Towards this end, we are winning the support of the villagers to use biodiversity regeneration to revive lakes and rivers such as the Banas, upon which all agriculture is dependent.

We also work with the families, forest guards and rangers of Ranthambhore, most of whom come from the villages around the park.



SANCTUARY NATURE FOUNDATION

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

- To raise awareness about the tiger-forest-water-climate change-people relationship among school children and villagers who live near the periphery of the park.
- To link the benefits of these programmes with nature protection.
- To mitigate human-animal conflict and reduce the pressure on forest resources.
- To improve the relationship between communities living around tiger reserves and the Forest Department.
- To increase the skill sets of Moghiyas and village youth, thus giving them alternative livelihood opportunities through our skill development programme.
- To create community leaders for the conservation of wildlife.
- To uphold economic, systematic, cultural, artistic and environmental values while encouraging ecological protection.
- To develop alternative eco-tourism opportunities for local communities.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

Our project site at Ranthambhore has remained busy throughout the year. Several clean-up drives, day and night film screenings, safaris, art-for-conservation drawing competitions, wildlife photo-exhibitions and more were organised. With temperatures soaring in Rajasthan in the

summer, water baths were made available for birds with the help of local community volunteers. The local community has also been engaged in various discussions and interactive sessions with [Govardhan Meena](#), the Kids for Tigers' Sawai Madhopur Coordinator, to increase awareness about wildlife and conservation issues. Various wildlife rescue operations were also conducted throughout the year and the rescued animals were released safely back to the forest after a thorough medical check-up.

SESSIONS ON WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS HAVE:

- Increased appreciation and respect for the forest and its wildlife.
- Enhanced the environmental attitudes, values and knowledge amongst the local communities.
- Helped in building skills that prepare individuals and communities to collaboratively undertake positive environmental action to protect the wilderness around them.
- Enabled students and villagers to apply knowledge to solve problems related to wildlife conservation and management.
- Allowed students to better understand how wildlife conservation and management relates to the economy and environment, both currently and in the future.

COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT EFFORTS

Over the past two years, our concerted efforts have focused on enhancing computer literacy among the youth of Ranthambhore, paving the way for their job readiness and offering alternative livelihood opportunities. Two computer centres, established in Kotalpura and Ranwal villages in Sawai Madhopur, Ranthambhore, through collaboration between Morningstar and the Sanctuary Nature Foundation, have been instrumental in making a positive impact on the lives of local youth. These centres serve as dedicated spaces for learning and practising computer and IT skills. Repeat assessments conducted at the Kotalpura centre, the inaugural establishment, reveal a noticeable improvement in the average marks achieved by students.

Furthermore, these centres play a crucial role in promoting gender equality by providing girls and women with equal access to educational opportunities.

ABOVE: Educator's Insight: A dedicated teacher captivates students' attention during the wildlife poster exhibition in Sawai Madhopur, turning the event into an engaging and informative experience.

MIDDLE: Captivating Conservation: The Kids for Tigers Audio-Visual Show takes centre stage in a school in Sawai Madhopur, enlightening young minds on the importance of tiger conservation.

TOP: Sapling Serenity: In the quiet act of plantation, nature whispers promises of a better future, one sapling at a time.

Acquiring computer skills enhances youth employability, boosts academic performance, and opens avenues for higher education. Our focus includes women's involvement; during the pandemic, they crafted masks, fostering community engagement. These skills offer hope for additional income.

In the past two years, we've elevated computer literacy in Ranthambhore's youth through Morningstar and the Sanctuary Nature Foundation's collaboration. Kotalpura and Ranwal centres show improved student performance, especially benefiting girls (25 out of 40 in Kotalpura, 47 out of 75 in Ranwal). RS-CIT exams saw a 76 per cent pass rate.

These initiatives empower youth and women, broadening future prospects and contributing to socio-economic development in the region.

Our local coordinator Govardhan Meena is a relentless warrior, who has been undertaking several activities including book distribution for students, clean-up drives with student volunteers, drawing, quiz and essay competitions on wildlife themes, film screenings on Ranthambhore and conservation issues, nature trails, night film screenings, poster exhibitions, and rallies. Additionally, he takes students on safaris into the tiger reserve and on museum visits. He also aids with wildlife rescue operations.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN 2023?

Throughout the year, our conservation and community engagement efforts in Ranthambhore have been both diverse and impactful. With a primary focus on establishing a profound connection between the local community and the abundant biodiversity of Ranthambhore, our initiatives have spanned across various domains.

We successfully installed five bird baths, distributed 12 books, organised 10 clean-up drives, conducted 18 community interactions, and hosted 42 drawing competitions and four essay writing competitions. Additionally, we screened 37 films and facilitated five nature trails, eight night film screenings for villagers, six *Nukkad Natak*s, 17 plantation drives, 26 poster exhibitions, eight quiz competitions, one rally, and 14 safaris in the Ranthambhore National Park.

These endeavours aimed to nurture a profound appreciation for tigers and biodiversity, actively involving the community in environmental conservation efforts. From educational competitions to immersive experiences such as safaris and nature trails, the diverse array of events contributed to building a harmonious relationship between the local community and the rich

ecosystem of Ranthambhore. The success of these initiatives underscores our unwavering commitment to fostering environmental awareness and promoting sustainable coexistence.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION: JUNE 5, 2023

Sanctuary Nature Foundation, along with Morningstar India and the Ranthambhore Forest Department, marked World Environment Day on June 5, 2023, with engaging activities under the Kids for Tigers programme in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve area. A vibrant art competition was organised for rural students, encouraging wildlife conservation through powerful paintings. Thirty-four enthusiastic students from classes six to eight participated in the competition, creating impactful artworks with messages advocating wildlife conservation. The day also saw efforts to combat plastic pollution. Under the guidance of the Chief Conservator of Forests, students and Kids for Tigers' volunteers joined hands to collect plastic waste and other rubbish in the Sita Mata forest area. This endeavour resulted in the successful collection of approximately 150 kg. of plastic waste. Mamta Sahu, a sociologist with the Ranthambhore Tiger Project, addressed the participants and emphasised the importance of safeguarding waterbodies, forests, and wildlife. Her motivating words left a lasting impact on all present. Working towards women empowerment, the Kids for Tigers programme organised a visit to the Dastkar Handicraft Centre for women from the Tilak Nagar village. Twenty women were motivated by the creative products showcased at the centre and were encouraged by Ujjwala, the centre's manager, to join them. Thirteen women have enrolled for employment now, reflecting the success of the visit in empowering rural women via new skills and economic opportunities. Overall, these initiatives demonstrated the significance of engaging young minds in environmental conservation and promoting traditional Indian handicrafts for sustainable alternative livelihoods.

WILDLIFE WEEK EVENTS: OCTOBER 2-8, 2023

To highlight the significance of Wildlife Week, Govardhan Meena, the Kids for Tigers' Coordinator in Sawai Madhopur, conducted various activities in collaboration with the Forest Department, Sanctuary Nature Foundation, and Morningstar. The festivities kicked off with an exciting tiger safari in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve,

where 80 students experienced the beauty of the tiger reserve and its wild denizens. The students also engaged in a cleanup drive at Jogi Mahal Gate, collecting plastic bags, tobacco pouches, plastic bottles, and other debris. A drawing competition was organised with the theme '*Bagh Bachao, Bharat Bachao*', to convey the importance of wildlife conservation. A visit to the Rajiv Gandhi Museum in Ramsinghpura on October 7 rounded off an exciting Wildlife Week!

WHAT IS OUR NEXT STEP/PLAN?

We believe that the programme will:

1. Enhance Youth Employability:

The programme's computer classes contribute to improving the skill sets of local youth, making them more job-ready and expanding their employment prospects.

2. Empower Adults with Traditional Knowledge:

Through the programme, adults gain confidence in utilising their traditional knowledge of the forest and animals, fostering a sense of responsibility and active participation in wildlife protection efforts.

3. Increase Awareness of Conservation's Socio-Economic Impact:

The programme imparts knowledge about how wildlife conservation and management intersect with the economy and environment, fostering a holistic understanding of these interconnected aspects.

4. Livelihood Generation for Locals:

By actively engaging in the programme, the local community in Ranthambhore benefits from livelihood opportunities, offering sustainable economic alternatives and contributing to the overall socio-economic development of the region.

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ABOVE Hands-On Conservation: Enthusiastic participants join forces for a clean-up drive in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, working together to preserve the pristine beauty of this cherished wildlife habitat.

PROJECT: SUNDARBAN

– BAGH SANKALP AND BAGH BACHAO INITIATIVE

H.T. PAREKH FOUNDATION (CSR)



Collared Kingfisher

WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME?

With climate change affecting the Sundarban – the world's largest delta – its inhabitants, both humans and animals, face survival threats each year. Be it cyclones, human-animal conflict, unsustainable fishing, poaching and more; these problems can only be addressed with education and awareness. Sanctuary Nature Foundation has been effective in fighting these and many other issues on the ground through our local collaborators. The 'Bagh Sankalp – Pledge for Sundarban' and *Bagh Bachao* programme intends to expand the education of school kids and communities in the Sundarban, to ensure their survival along with the protection of this unique ecosystem and its wildlife. The project includes education and awareness activities for kids in Sundarban as well as for students in the nearest metro of Kolkata. Along with it, community empowerment programmes related to education, capacity building and livelihood skills will be initiated.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

- To build strong relationships with schools through teachers and principals and gain their support in empowering a new generation of informed Indians to recognise the umbilicus between protecting the Sundarban ecosystems, the quality of their own lives and their socio-economic security.

- To create a core group of young 'Tiger Ambassadors' who feel passionately for the tiger and are ready to spearhead a massive effort to protect them.
- To empower women and children from communities in Sundarban with knowledge and skills to lead more secure and sustainable lives.
- To train youth to earn a living from nature-based livelihood alternatives, which will simultaneously reduce anthropogenic pressure on the environment and help protect nature and biodiversity.
- To mitigate the effects of human-wildlife conflict through knowledge and awareness.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our partners Suchandra and Joydip Kundu of SHER (Society of Heritage and Ecological Researches) continued wildlife-related film screenings and Audio-Visual shows in one of India's most remote wildlife areas, the Sundarban Tiger Reserve and Biosphere to connect and educate local communities with their wild surrounds, to enable them to know more about the connection between biodiversity conservation and its positive impact on the climate crisis the Sundarban ecosystem!

BELOW Dr. Parvish Pandya encouraged participants at the Nature Guide Training Programme to improve communication skills and knowledge of the wild, and approach their job with humility, kindness, and a sense of humour.





SKILLSHARE PROGRAMME: MANGROVES

A skillshare programme was held in Mumbai between November 26-28, 2023 by Sanctuary Nature Foundation and Suchandra and Joydip Kundu of SHER. The programme commenced with an introductory session with Dr. Parvish Pandya, which set the tone for the days to follow. Dr. Pandya eloquently outlined the schedule, emphasising the blend of practical experiences and academic interactions designed to enrich the Kundus' understanding of biodiversity management and conservation.

On November 27, a visit to The Livelihood Creation Centre at Marambaldapa, Virar, was conducted. Interacting with the individuals who benefitted from livelihood creation projects was both humbling and inspiring. The local communities and the Kundus shared their respective stories of empowerment and environmental stewardship, illustrating the tangible impact of sustainable development initiatives. This was followed by a boat safari. The programme also involved an interaction with students of Bhavan's College, Mumbai, in which the students were introduced to the intricate and diverse ecosystem of the Sundarban by the Kundus, who also spoke about their extensive work in the region. A visit to the Coastal Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Centre in Airoli was conducted on November 28, 2023. Meeting staff and other officials of the Mangrove Foundation was rewarding. The skillsharing initiative fostered a valuable cross-cultural dialogue, paving the way for the development of holistic strategies to protect and nurture these coastal marine critical habitats.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

We have been able to achieve the trust and support of the local communities along with support from the Forest Department. Communities dependent on the forest or involved in traditional methods of fishing, crab collection, prawn collection, and honey collection are willing to take up alternative livelihood options and not depend on forest resources as they understand the threats involved in doing so.

WHAT IS OUR NEXT STEP/PLAN?

The long-term success of this intervention will be ensured by the consistent efforts that will continue next year too. Here's a glimpse into the nature of some of the activities that we plan for the future in several villages:

- Launch of *Bagh Bachao* boats
- Health-watch for women
- Plastic collection drive
- Student visits to anti-poaching floating protection camps
- Eco Day celebrations (World Water Day, Endemic Bird Day celebration, Biological Diversity Day, World Turtle Day, World Environment Day, World Day to combat desertification and drought, State Forestry Week, Snake Day, Global Tiger Day and many more)
- Children's team for *Bagh Bachao* at a tribal village
- Interaction with fishing communities
- Medical check-up camp for locals
- Bengali New Year Day celebration
- Collection of garbage by school kids
- Distribution of aromatic paddy seeds
- Mangrove plantation
- Rally with kids and biodiversity quiz
- Awareness meet on organic farming
- More Nature Guide Training Programmes



ABOVE Dr. Parvish Pandya led the Nature Trail during the boat ride to observe flamingoes and provided interesting information on the similarities and differences between the mangrove forests of Mumbai and Sundarban.

MIDDLE Local communities are the backbone of any conservation project and it is vital to understand their issues while creating awareness about the link between their food, water and climate security, and forest conservation. Sanctuary's *BaghSankalp* Audio-Visual Show conducted on December 29, 2023 was well received by residents of the Uttarpally FPC area in the Sundarban.

TOP Amar Deshpande, Senior Manager of Wetland Management and Sustainability at Godrej India, highlighted the ecosystem services provided by mangroves.

TOP LEFT The visiting naturalists were taken to the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Centre in Airoli.



KIDS FOR TIGERS IN KANHA TIGER RESERVE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CORBETT FOUNDATION

BOTTOM Kids from the Shasakiya Middle School, Sarasdol, were taken on an exciting nature walk as part of the Kids for Tigers programme activities conducted by TCF.

BELOW and FACING PAGE BOTTOM Children hold aloft their drawings of tigers at the Shasakiya Middle School, Bakiguda, near the Kanha Tiger Reserve

The Corbett Foundation (TCF) designed the Kids for Tigers programme in the Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR) in a manner that rural kids living near the Reserve can maximise their learning. Twenty schools situated around the periphery of KTR were selected for this programme, which consisted of an introductory presentation provided by Sanctuary, and efforts were made to keep it interactive. The presentation was about tigers and other biodiversity, threats to their existence and

conservation interventions, and what kids can do to facilitate such interventions. A mini-interactive presentation was made by TCF-Kanha team as well, where the wildlife of Kanha and their habitats was discussed. A documentary on tiger conservation was also played for the kids. To conclude the programme, several activities were planned and implemented such as wall painting, colouring, face painting, craft making, multiple choice questions, and a nature walk in a nearby trail in KTR.

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At the Kids for Tigers' programme, designed in collaboration with The Corbett Foundation, activities included wall painting, colouring, face painting and craft making.



PROJECT: MUD ON BOOTS

(2017-Present)

The Mud on Boots Project (conceived by Cara Tejpal) is Sanctuary's unique booster programme designed to recognise and support grassroots conservationists across India. The Project supports individuals whose conservation leadership potential and/or contributions to biodiversity conservation are overlooked because of a lack of affiliations, educational qualifications, language barriers, and other mainstream opportunities. Over two years, Project Leaders receive a monetary grant and strategic support from the Sanctuary Nature Foundation. Such support can include field trips, expert input, publicity, communications about their work, and more! Since its inception in 2017, the Mud on Boots

Project has supported over 34 grassroots conservationists from 15 different states and one Union Territory in India.

Beyond this, the Mud on Boots Project extends solidarity and resources to grassroots organisations and lends our voice to pro-environment campaigns. Over the years, we have stocked rural libraries, sponsored apprenticeship programmes, enabled native nurseries, organised field trips, designed workshops, lobbied for conservation causes and also raised medical aid for frontline forest staff. We keep our support flexible and bureaucracy to a minimum. To read about the work of our present and alumni Project Leaders, go to our [website](#).

“Through the Mud on Boots Project, I got to meet many new people and developed new skills. My constant interaction with the Mud on Boots team and opportunities to deliver online presentations regarding my work have helped me gain confidence.”

– Vishal Ahuja
(Mud on Boots Project Leader,
2020-2023)



In April 2023, Project Coordinator Neyi Jamoh travelled to Koynardih village (Jharkhand) and spent four days conversing, roaming sal forests and rock-hopping along Rahru river with Project Leaders Chamru Bediya and Sahebram Bediya. She was humbled to learn from the duo that the grants received from the Project have enabled them in focussing wholeheartedly on their conservation-oriented efforts without having to worry about making ends meet, at least for the two year Mud on Boots fellowship term.



ON THIS PAGE (BOX) In July 2023, Project Coordinator Neyi Jamoh travelled to Koynardih, Jharkhand and spent time on field with Project Leaders Chamru Bediya and Sahebram Bediya.

FACING PAGE TOP Neyi and Project Leaders Chamru Bediya, Sahebram Bediya, Manoj Gogoi and Saddam Husain attended a nature education workshop at Pakke Tiger Reserve organised by NCF-India.

FACING PAGE BOTTOM Project Leader Saddam Husain routinely organises nature walks and celebrations for students of Gujjar Basti, Haridwar (Uttarakhand) to encourage their appreciation of nature.

“I have had the privilege of working with [Mud on Boots Project Leaders] Chamru and Sahebram for the past four years through the Ekastha Foundation. I am so proud to see them grow as community leaders, wildlife filmmakers and conservationists. The Mud on Boots fellowship has had a profound impact on Chamru and Saheb: in the last year, I have seen them grow more confident and develop remarkable leadership skills. They have taken the initiative to conduct nature classes, mobilise communities for sustainable livelihood programmes and foster environment conservation in the region. On behalf of the Ekastha Foundation, I am thankful for this collaboration and look forward to supporting community-led conservation in Jharkhand for years to come.”

Rishabh Lohia,
Founder, [Ekastha Foundation](#).



The members of Asukhomi Community Reserve Management Committee (ACRMC), Asukhomi village, Zunheboto district (Nagaland) were delighted to win the Nagaland SDG Action Awards for Environment Sustainability-2023. On October 17, 2023, they were felicitated by the Planning Department, Government of Nagaland, for their positive conservation-oriented impacts on the local community. In May 2022, the conservation-minded members of ACRMC had guided people of Asukhomi village to voluntarily surrender their guns and hunting weapons at a public meeting, which was organised by the village council.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

- In January 2023, Project Leaders Jesu Das safely captured 18 wild mahseer by cast netting technique, 11 of which were confirmed as humpback mahseers. Since then he has been contributing to the monitoring and study of this critically endangered fish by conducting water testing protocols, and maintaining daily feeding routines at the Humpback Mahseer Repository (Bheemeshwari). In September 2023, Das shared his [experiences](#) gained while working to revive the humpback mahseer in the Cauvery with Amulya B. of [Village Square](#).
- During the Sarus Crane breeding season of 2023, Project Leaders Kanhaiyalal Udapure and Shashank Ladekar located 13 Sarus nests and monitored them, ensuring safe hatching and eventual fledging of the young ones in Maharashtra's Gondia district and Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh. Once the nest monitoring work was completed, they helped farmers file for monetary compensation for crop losses suffered by setting aside parcels of rice fields so as not to disturb the Cranes.
- Mud on Boots Project Leaders Chamru Bediya and Sahebram Bediya are documenting the biodiversity around their home village Koynardih in Ranchi district, Jharkhand. As part of this exercise, in February 2023, Sahebram photographed a Plumbeous Water Redstart, which earned him recognition as the first photographer to report the bird from Jharkhand on [eBird](#). In a short two months' time (September and October), they also led five nature trails for 238 students and 21 teachers, and generated about Rs. 55,000 directly benefiting 26 members of the local community! They are now figuring out the specifics of creating and running a "Village Responsible Tourism Committee" based on the ethos of equitable sharing of profit and responsibilities founded on the long-term goal of nature conservation in the region.
- In Haridwar, Uttarakhand, Project Leader Saddam Husain, with support from friends

at Mae (local NGO), started a nature-guide training programme to encourage youth to take-up conservation-related jobs. This first-of-their-kind training was attended by 23 interested youth who hailed from seven villages around Rajaji National Park and Jhimil Jheel Conservation Reserve. Saddam and his team mates shared various aspects of bird identification and monitoring, methods of bird data collection, and basic butterfly identification among other skills. They also invited members of the local community who have become economically stable thanks to green jobs to share their experiences with the participants.

- Project Leader Vishal Ahuja is working on long-term habitat restoration in Chamba Valley with the goal of conserving the region's threatened wildlife (flora and fauna) for fostering human-wildlife coexistence. With a generous donation of five lakh rupees from the [Astral Foundation](#), Vishal leased an area of 752 sq. m. at Dugli village, Rathiyar Panchayat, Chamba. Since January of 2023, over 1,600 seeds and cuttings of seven native trees have been successfully grown by Vishal and his team at the nursery.
- On November 1 and 2, 2023, the Mud on Boots Project and Canopy Collective (Tezpur) conducted a workshop titled 'Embracing the values of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Nature Conservation' for Mud on Boots Project Leaders and other grassroots conservationists in northeast India. This workshop, which was co-designed by Mud on Boots Project Coordinator Neyi Jamoh; Krishnapriya Tamma, Faculty, [Azim Premji University](#), Bengaluru; Manisha Kumari, Independent Researcher; Yamini Srikanth, M.Sc. student at [NCBS](#), Bengaluru; and Nandini Velho, Field Biologist and Project Lead, The Canopy Collective; aimed to encourage participants to become emotionally intelligent conservationists who are able to embrace the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion when doing conservation.

On August 28, 2023, the Mud on Boots Project team organised an online session, where Project Leaders Manoj Gogoi, Saddam Husain Lodha, Chamru Bediya and Sahebram Bediya presented their ongoing nature education works to NCF-India's Vena Kapur, Head, Nature Classrooms Project, and Priyanka Prakash.

This session was aimed at helping Project Leaders streamline their ongoing nature education modules. As a follow-up to this endeavour, all four Project Leaders along with Project Coordinator Neyi Jamoh attended a five-day Nature Education Workshop at the Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh between October 27 and 31, 2023. This creative and immersive workshop was conducted by Pranav Trivedi, Sangeeta Trivedi, Saniya Chaplod, and Tajik Tachang of [NCF-India](#).

With support from the Mud on Boots Project and in collaboration with the [Coexistence Project](#) and [Voice for Asian Elephant Society](#), Project Leader Amir Kumar Chhetri (2020-2022) spearheaded a conservation project of installing solar-powered fences around his home – Panijhora forest village, West Bengal. Green Hub (Tezpur) document Amir’s journey through a short film titled “It Takes a Village”. This movie was launched as part of the #LookEast Campaign.

LOOKING AHEAD

After the successful two days DEI workshop, the Mud on Boots team is now gearing up to utilize the grant amount of 5 lakhs rupees that was raised for the purpose during the #LookEast Campaign. In 2024, we want to organize more DEI workshops. We also plan on working towards creating a workbook/ activity book for use by grassroots conservationists,

teachers, researchers, etc. as an introduction to the values and importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in nature conservation.

We at the Sanctuary Nature Foundation have huge respect for those whose boots are muddy from the hard work and toil that wildlife conservation in the field demands. The Mud on Boots Project is our ongoing salute to such individuals.

In December 2023, Sanctuary Nature Foundation’s Mud on Boots Project and Dusty Foot Foundation’s Green Hub were brought together by a crowdfunding campaign, which was designed and led by Cara Tejpal (Founder of the Mud on Boots Project and a member, Advisory Board of Sanctuary Nature Foundation) to support four grassroots conservation initiatives in northeast India. In September 2023, Cara mentored 20-odd applicants hailing from across Northeast India, who were pitching their innovative community and conservation proposals for the [GreenHub Small Grants Program](#). Engaging with the participants inspired her to raise financial support for a few invaluable projects that could not make it to the final selection list.

In a mere 14 days, the #LookEast Campaign raised over 20 lakh rupees! The funds will soon be disbursed to enable Nabajyoti Das, Devajit Moran and Trinayan Gogoi, and Yangchin Musabi and Manisha Kumari respectively for human-elephant conflict mitigation in Udalguri, Assam, wildlife rescue and community engagement around Dehing Patkai, Assam and creating a children’s storybook based on Indigenous, eco-feminist stories from Arunachal Pradesh. A sum of five lakh rupees will be used by the Mud on Boots Project to jointly host DEI workshops with Canopy Collective (a sister organisation of Green Hub) for grassroots conservationists from across all of India.

COURTESY KANHAIYALAL UDAPURE



COURTESY SAHEBRAM BEDIYA



TOP A pair of Sarus cranes in a paddy field in Gondia district, Maharashtra.

BOTTOM A swarm of spot swordtails photographed by Project Leaders Sahebram Bediya at Jonha falls, Jharkhand.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

The new batch held its introductory session on February 5, 2023 where students and professors interacted with Sanctuary mentors Dr. Parvish Pandya and Saurabh Sawant. Prachi Galange presented an overview of the programme, with details of what to expect in the months ahead. A detailed questionnaire survey is filled by participants before and after every session taken in the past year. Last year the participants engaged in five different activities including two nature trails, two workshops and an interaction with a social entrepreneur. Students have interacted with conservationists such as Dr. Anish Andheria, Dia Mirza, Roopesh Rai and in house mentors Dr. Parvish Pandya and Saurabh Sawant extensively through this programme.



ABOVE Dr. Anish Andheria held the participants in rapt attention as he spoke about climate change, conservation and the impact on people. Before the talk the students were led on a nature trail at Shilonda by Dr. Pandya and Saurabh Sawant.

PROJECT: SEEK SANCTUARY — COLLEGE CONTACT PROGRAMME 2023

The Sanctuary Nature Foundation and Climate Trends, implemented a college programme in the financial year 2022-23 to inform and engage students to prepare them to take charge as enlightened leaders, working towards repairing the damage done by their elders to the biosphere. This in our view accomplishes the task of intergenerational justice and also ensures that they are assured of a more secure future.

OBJECTIVE

- To impart knowledge and awareness of our umbilicus with the biosphere, at

the tri-junction of climate, biodiversity and economics. We seek to inspire young persons to act to protect our biosphere and get them ready to become spokespersons for tomorrow. Our overarching objective is to provide transformative experiences for the youth of India to prepare them, internally, to make more informed, effective and sustainable decisions, inside and outside campuses.

GREENKARBON PROGRAMME REPORT 2023-24

HIGHLIGHTS:

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW:

- Developed by the Sanctuary Nature Foundation in collaboration with Climate Trends.
- Aims to impart nature education, emphasising the interconnection between climate, biodiversity, and economics.
- Goal is to nurture future advocates for sustainable development.

PARTICIPATING COLLEGES:

Collaboration with colleges in Mumbai, viz. Maharshi Dayanand College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Kishinchand Chellaram College, HSNL University, Wilson College, St. Xavier's College, Bhavan's College Autonomous, SIES College of Arts, Science, and Commerce, Podar College, Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, RD & SH National & SWA Science College, D. G. Ruparel College of Arts, Science and Commerce, H.R. College of Commerce and Economics, Mithibai College of Arts and Chauhan Institute of Science.

PARTICIPANT SELECTION:

- Invited five students and two mentors from each college for the three-year programme.
- Initial survey with 28 questions assessed students' perspectives on climate change.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- 90.7 per cent believe climate change is caused by human activities.
- 44.2 per cent learned about anthropogenic climate change in school, 25.6 per cent in college.

- 97.7 per cent heard of global warming, 18.6 per cent heard of SDGs and IPCC reports.
- 95.3 per cent are aware of the difference between global warming and climate change.
- 72.1 per cent believe climate change and global warming can be stopped.

AWARENESS AND CONCERNS:

- 83.7 per cent chose reducing carbon emissions as the top action to halt global warming.
- 76.7 per cent believe humans will be severely impacted by climate change.
- 83.7 per cent feel climate change will severely impact wildlife.
- 46.5 per cent believe climate change could lead to human extinction.

CONSERVATION PRACTICES:

- 90 per cent voted for global warming and 76.7 per cent for conserving biodiversity as key topics taught in colleges.
- 83.7 per cent chose waste segregation/composting as a preferred practice for saving water.
- 93 per cent follow practices like turning off lights and fans when not in use.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES:

- Five programmes conducted, including nature trails, climate education documentation, and sessions on climate change and tiger population.
- Interaction with cyclist Roopesh Rai, who travels to promote green initiatives and plant trees.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

- 54.8 per cent participants showed a satisfactory response to the activities of the programme.

SANCTUARY PHOTOLIBRARY

SANCTUARY PHOTOLIBRARY

- Programme aimed at not just education but also inspiration for positive change.
- Participants expressed commitment to becoming stewards of the natural environment and advocates for sustainable development.

GOALS:

- To engage and expand our audience, crucial to the task of *Planet (Resource) Management, PRM*.
- To catalyse, inform, motivate, mentor and offer young women and men, to confidently speak their minds, based on science, economics and ethics.
- To bring the issue of Earth's climate crisis upfront and centrestage, where young people can discuss, ideate, engage and innovate.
- To encourage young people to be involved in the transition from carbon to non-carbon energy.
- To serve as a hub for programmes that encourage free-thinking college communities to assume responsibility in creating a more just, sustainable and resilient society.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

Our first session was held on February 5, 2023 at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. An early morning nature trail at Shilonda, led by Sanctuary Nature Foundation's Dr. Parvish Pandya and Saurabh Sawant, introduced students to the rich biodiversity and ecosystem services of the park. This was followed by a talk on biodiversity and climate change by the President of the [Wildlife Conservation Trust](#) Dr. Anish Andheria, after which students discussed the impact of climate change on biodiversity, its far-reaching effects on a largely agrarian country like India, and on marginal communities. It was a thoroughly engaging and enlightening first session.

The second session was a talk on Media Documentation for Climate Education, at Ruia College. This was conducted by Saurabh Sawant, who gave examples of using techniques such as photography, videography, and storytelling to engage audiences about climate change. He shared real-world examples and emphasised the role of impactful media content in climate education. The session included an interactive component to help students understand the necessary skills.

On August 12, 2023, a session on 'Climate Change and its Impact on the Tiger Population and Habitats' in SIES College was conducted by Dr. Parvish Pandya. This was followed by a nature trail at the Conservation Education

Centre (CEC) BNHS, Goregaon, led by Dr. Pandya and Prachi Galange on August 13, 2023. During the trail, the participants saw several species of insects, butterflies, monsoon flora, and learned about their role in ecosystem services.

On September 9, 2023, cyclist Roopesh Rai interacted with students and well-known actor and sustainability warrior Dia Mirza, at Bhavan's College, Andheri. Rai is travelling across India and has covered 6,350 km. of rural India so far. Overall, he aims to cover 12,000 km. of rural India, and in the process, plant banyan and/or peepal trees and appoint a dozen rural youth as green champs (Prakriti Prahari) in 120 village councils, that he will touch upon along his journey.

THE PATH AHEAD

This programme aims to not only educate but also deeply inspire the participating students. We believe that by providing them a holistic understanding of the intricate connections between climate, biodiversity, and economics, we can ignite a profound passion for positive change.

Our series of engaging activities and discussions have kindled a sense of purpose and a commitment in the students to become stewards of the environment and advocates for sustainable development. We want these students to be more than just passive learners; we envision them as active ambassadors for the cause.

As they progress through the three-year programme, these students will undergo transformative experiences, gaining a heightened understanding of the pressing issues facing our planet. The next generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers in the field of climate change solutions are being moulded by this programme.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

This skill share programme seeks to empower students. The plan for 2024-2025 is as follows:

- **College Contact:** A total of 15 colleges, pan-India were shortlisted in the first phase, of which 12 were chosen for participation in the programme.
- **Lecture Series:** These will be focused on climate awareness and will include an orientation webinar, plus skill share webinars to enable participants to interact with experienced environmental communicators and domain experts including (proposed) Lord Nicholas Stern, Paul Abraham, Vance Martin, Pavan Sukhdev, David Quammen,

Jo Puri, Vandana Shiva, Navroz Dubash, Aditya Agarwal, Anish Andheria, Dia Mirza, Raj Phukan, [Shloka Nath](#), in coordination with Aarti Khosla.

- **College Debates:** Students from 12 colleges will participate in debates spanning a year. A month-long mentoring programme will be conducted to develop ideas and articulation to create a constituency of young people that are aware and proactive with 15 debates on various propositions that discuss climate change.
- **Institutional Climate Position Paper:** The Carbon Transition – This inter-collegiate competition will encourage students to unite and to think laterally, critically and articulately. Students will be asked to write papers, which their teachers will shortlist for submission. Each college will combine the best ideas and will be asked to present and defend a single paper to represent their institution's chosen strategy for the carbon transition.
- **Calculating individual, family and institutional carbon footprints:** This will show students how carbon calculations are estimated, carbon footprints are evaluated and lead to Sanctuary-moderated brainstorming, indoors and in the field, for proposed on-ground solutions
- **Institutional Energy Audits:** Students will be guided on how to perform energy audits in collaboration with their faculty and to come up with realistic solutions to lower the carbon impact of their own colleges/institutions.
- **Workshops & Webinars** on sustainable living, energy awareness, rooftop gardening, composting and waste management.
- **Short Film Production:** 'Reclaiming our Climate Future'. These will be short (under five minute) video communications on how young people can influence climate action. This might include campaigns, documentation of campus activities as listed above, duly edited, to showcase how common purpose can be forged through multiple individual and scaled up efforts with measurable impacts.
- **Local field visits** to rewilded sites to understand the impact of biodiversity restoration and the collateral benefits that flow to communities. These sessions will focus on natural history, biodiversity and climate science.

PROJECT: COCOON CONSERVANCIES

2015

“Sanctuary Nature Foundation’s *Community Owned Community Operated Nature (COCOON)* Conservancies are designed as self-supporting, diverse rewilding programmes that help sequester and store carbon, create sustainable, dignified livelihoods, and enhance biodiversity as measurable, collateral benefits.”

MISSION

To collaborate with communities living adjacent to wildernesses in India to create sustainable, dignified livelihoods, with enhanced biodiversity being a collateral benefit.

VISION

To demonstrate to planners, politicians, and village youth that the quality of life of the people of the Indian subcontinent has everything to do with restoring health to the biodiversity of its ecosystems without which no human aspirations have any hope of success.

VALUES

COCOON Conservancies focus on solutions that are both ecologically and economically practical.

Preliminary work for Sanctuary’s COCOON Conservancies started in 2014 by way of the blueprint, consultations, rationale and strategy. The Conservancies are at the core of our purpose – to demonstrate how rewilding can help moderate climatic extremes, while delivering social and environmental paybacks. The Sanctuary Nature Foundation has successfully rewilded 105 acres of marginal farmland at Gothangaon village, south of Nagpur, next to the tiger forests of the Umred Pauni-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary. Both biological and social proof of concept were achieved, however, we faltered on the legal and financial proof of concept. For all future projects this valuable learning is being factored in. We have exited the Gothangaon project, but are monitoring its progress and look forward to justice being delivered to the families whose lands have been rewilded.

The following are current sites Sanctuary is working on:

1. In Assam we will be working with [Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awardee, Raj Phukan](#), [Indigenous People’s Climate Justice Forum](#), Sanctuary Young Naturalist 2022 winner [Munmuni Payeng](#) and her father [Jadev Payeng](#) on the Molai Cocoon Conservancy.
2. A 27-acre coffee plantation outside the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve.
3. The Panna Cocoon Conservancy, in Madhya Pradesh.
4. The Forsyth Cocoon Conservancy, Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.

The above locations were chosen from over 15 potential locations and are at various stages of progress. All are designed as site-specific projects that will deliver sustainable, dignified livelihoods, with enhanced biodiversity being a measurable, collateral benefit. Our partners include Forsyth Lodge – Satpura (Aditi Mody), and Sarai at Toria – Panna (Dr. Raghu Chundawat and Joanna Van Gruisen). All three are local collaborators who share our vision. Work has already begun with these proposed conservancies, where Sanctuary is in the process of documenting the biodiversity to serve as baseline data. All the above locations have already achieved biological proof of concept and our task in the next three years will be to scale these and other Cocoon Conservancies in the pipeline in ways that can make it possible for them to generate enough revenue, so that the financial inputs can benefit the communities, who we believe will turn into protectors of the biodiversity that helps enhance their quality of life, reduce human-animal negative interactions and offer dignified and rewarding sustainable livelihoods.

THE DARA COCOON CONSERVANCY

At the Dara Conservation Reserve, adjacent to the Dachigam National Park, the beneficiaries are not landowners and though Sanctuary is no longer supporting our partners Wildlife Conservation Fund financially, we are monitoring the process and expect local communities to protect and regenerate biodiversity from internal conviction. We hope to get back to financial support for the communities for the second stage of the rewilding exercise by the financial year 2024-25 to turn them into protectors and ambassadors for rewilding outside the Protected Areas next to which they live.

THE PANNA COCOON CONSERVANCY

In Madhya Pradesh, the Sanctuary Nature Foundation’s Baavan (Bagh Aap Aur Van) Trust has moved to the next level. In a section of a wildlife corridor of the Panna Tiger Reserve, the two villages identified by Dr. Raghunandan Chundawat, Banke and Ghirauli, will see us conduct a series of meetings and consultations as to how farming and livestock rearing can be undertaken in ways that reduce crop damage. By engaging with the youth of these villages we hope to bring land-dependent communities up to scratch on the fact that



Sloth Bear

their choice of crop varieties may need to be such that the vagaries of climate are taken into account. Though the villages are away from the entrance gates, we expect that over the next few years the rewilding exercises being carried out, largely thanks to the reduction in biomass extraction on account of reduced dependence on forest produce, will turn Banke and Ghirauli into first rate sites for nature walks and birdwatching. This follows from our belief that rewilding will help a section of tourists visiting the Panna Tiger Reserve, and also those who flock to see the temple complex at Khajuraho, by offering authentic, intimate ecotourism experiences. Additionally, we are in touch with potential donors to finance basic community upliftment investments in the improvement of school infrastructures, community health, and more ecologically sustainable animal husbandry practices such as stall feeding. We are also working to offer specific vocational/skill-based training for youth by starting employment-oriented courses in Sanctuary Computer Centres where teachers will train participants in computer and online skills and also hold English classes to improve their vocational employability.

We plan to work with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department to help communities to earn livelihoods as naturalists by conducting visitors through rewilding trails within the 50 sq. km. Reserved Forest zone next to their villages. Here villagers currently enjoy rights to harvest wood, grass and sundry forest produce. By creating alternate livelihoods of their choice that earn them more, we can also give women more time to engage in normal community welfare activities.

From past experience we believe that significant rewilding impacts should be measurable by the year 2028, across the 50 sq. km. of land we have identified. Much of the biodiversity will flow from wild species from Panna because we will be offering them

safe refuge and sustenance.

The site for the development of a community-cum-conservation centre that had been identified will begin to be worked on and we intend this facility to become one that encourages women and children to rise to their own potential to the advantage of the entire community. Our local collaborators in Panna are [Dr. Raghu Chundawat](#) and [Joanna Van Gruisen](#) of the Sarai at Toria and their [Baavan Trust](#).

THE SATPURA COCOON CONSERVANCY

The Satpura Tiger Reserve is probably one of India's most potential tiger recovery habitats. It is also perfectly suited for sustainable tourism, but has still not drawn the attention of visitors from across the world. Very few organisations working on community upliftment are active here, largely because almost all the villages that used to live within the park area have chosen to move out as a result of the generous resettlement packages, including land for land and money for every adult member of every family. The Gond and Korku tribal communities that used to live here for aeons used to eke out a living by cultivating small pieces of leased agricultural land. Other communities, largely marginal farmers, found their existence difficult because younger members of their families were not any longer keen on farming in adverse circumstances, which included climatic vagaries and crop damage from wild animals that have multiplied as a result of the excellent protection afforded to the forest by the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and the officers and ground staff of the Satpura Tiger Reserve.

There are nevertheless many settlements living on the periphery of this, one of India's finest tiger reserves. Sanctuary's strategy continues to be to consult with communities, while working for their upliftment from

COCOON Conservancies serve to act as effective buffers to absorb the biodiversity that spills over from protected core areas, thus reducing human-animal conflict. By locating such conservancies in corridors, the objectives of widening and refreshing the gene pool is also met. The landholding will continue to be in the hands of the community but would serve as biodiverse nature refuges capable of offering communities assured livelihoods and economic security in an era of climate change.

tourism and other options, based on skill development, ecotourism, hospitality training and handicraft creation. This would reduce their dependence on farming, but we encourage them NOT to sell their lands, which we believe will deliver them better social and financial gains through rewilding of their holdings.

As we have seen across India, such parcels of land would strengthen the connecting corridors between Territorial and Forest Divisions. Tourism in such rewilded areas have begun to offer visitors more organic and enriching experiences, and in due course this will almost certainly result in direct benefits for communities that would earn revenues directly from visitation by those who seek more than mere vehicle rides through forested tracts. Many of the lodges that have already come up have rewilded significantly large holdings that were once used for marginal farming. Sanctuary intends now to create facilities at some sites to serve as Community-cum-Conservation Centres. These are intended to benefit villagers, as well as scientists, researchers, and organisations working for community development. For more information on these and other conservancy possibilities, please reach out to parvish@sanctuaryasia.com.

Our Approach: SHORT TERM

- Community collaborations Socioeconomic and Biodiversity
- Rapid Baseline Biodiversity Assessments
- Building and Tripartite Agreement between Sanctuary Nature Foundation, Community and Local partners
- Media Documentation
- [Rewilding initiatives, in](#)

[collaboration with the](#) Global Rewilding Alliance (GRA)

- Skill Training and Capacity Building

MEDIUM TERM

- Socioeconomic and Biodiversity Documentation,
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Setting up COCOON Conservancy Research Station
- Conservation Information Centre
- Continued Capacity Building

for alternative and sustainable livelihood sources

- Eco-tourism initiatives
- Healthcare and sanitation

LONG TERM

- Monitoring and Evaluation Exchange programme between COCOON Conservancy's local stakeholders
- Securing large area and corridors under COCOON Conservancies



IMPACT STORIES



ARTICLES THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

The Sanctuary Nature Foundation believes that whether it's legacy, or a battle, or a campaign – it doesn't begin and end with any one person. It's a long-distance relay... a marathon relay. And that is what we have been doing for more than four decades. Our stories, campaigns and projects raise public

awareness about issues as wide-ranging as species loss, human rights, economic stability, food security, water security, health security... Our goal is to bring people together so we do not work in silos. Here are some stories that we wanted to highlight. As Sanctuary Nature Foundation's founder, Bittu Sahgal says:

“Sanctuary magazine was launched way back in 1981. The team works relentlessly to bring out an issue every month. The magazine continues to inspire, create appreciation for nature, and present diverse voices on important conservation issues.”



SALONI TIRODKAR

JUHU'S WINGED NEIGHBOURS SANCTUARY CUB, JANUARY 2023

Birds are a huge part of author **Saloni Tirodkar's** life. Since 2002, she has documented and recorded over 60 bird species in Juhu. During the pandemic, her love for avians sparked a lockdown project – a birding guide for her neighbourhood! The article was later used as inspiration for one of the creations of *The Plated Project*, which presented a beautiful piece of a quiet urban scenario of two women and birds.

AUTHOR COMMENTS

Saloni Tirodkar Photography The best early birthday gift by @sanctuaryasia! After days, months and years of living, breathing and dreaming wildlife, my story's finally out!

READER'S COMMENTS ON THE JANUARY 2023 COVER

Pintu Shirshat, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra

To see this as the cover image is a moment of pride for me and many others who are from remote villages. To me, this image by Arjun Haarith represents the rich diversity of the southern Konkan belt. My request to you as an organisation working on nature conservation is to focus on the highly biodiverse, eco-sensitive natural heritage of the #Konkan belt, which is currently under threat from several red category industries being proposed by the authorities. This area urgently needs to be further studied, and the findings presented to the world, in order to save this unique natural heritage for future generations.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM SANCTUARY ASIA, FEBRUARY 2023

Technology has given us the ability to so damage elephant habitats such that not just the pachyderms, but even human existence has been threatened by our poor planet management. This has resulted in conflicts, because elephants are intelligent, social animals that in some ways mirror the behaviour of human societies. In this Photo Essay, we scratched the surface of the problems we humans have caused across India, for the largest land mammals on Earth.

READERS' COMMENTS

@gdsingleton The elephant family on the bridge! How horrifying that trains aren't required to lower their speeds, or wait for them to cross! So many preventable deaths!

@indresh.sachdeva Humans have sadly always abused animals and kept them in captivity for their greed, self-interests, entertainment and to get rich – whether domesticated or wild.

Dhiraj Mirajkar Bet that majestic creature is being made to beg for two-legged animals. Needs to be confiscated and sent to an elephant rescue place.

@amitkackrot It's horrible. Only if we could save them. Otherwise we will only have Lord Ganesha's statue left as a symbol of the elephant.



ARJUN MAHATA

TAKE ACTION – MUMBAI'S AIR QUALITY SANCTUARY CUB, MARCH 2023

Mumbai's air quality is a health hazard for the city's over 27 million inhabitants.



PUBLIC DOMAIN/WEBISHEK

READERS' COMMENTS

Rishika Kothari, Indore Yes! Fourteen years ago I developed an allergy to dust, thanks to Mumbai!

Vamshi Krishna Why is there a sudden rise in pollution? We have the sea and it absorbs so much polluted air, yet if we have bad air quality, then it's really, really bad.

GREAT NICOBAR NEEDS US NOW CAMPAIGN, APRIL 2023

A Rs. 72,000 crore 'development' project on Great Nicobar Island threatens to destroy 244 sq. km. of forests. **Ishika Ramakrishna** urged readers to speak up for Great Nicobar, listing actions to support living beings that call this island home.



SOHAM DIXIT

READERS' COMMENTS

Meena Subramaniam We will collectively be responsible for this carnage and we deserve what's coming. What goes won't come back.

Mitali Saha There needs to be a way to do both things in tandem. Places of strategic importance cannot be left vulnerable. Development should not be discouraged. NGOs can work with the government to delineate eco sensitive areas.

Girish Varma The government doesn't care, but people's power definitely plays a big role in stalling/shelving projects. A project this massive though will need a big effort.

the_dragonfly_mural Wondering how it is about 'strategic importance'. They're building a power plant, and an international airport there. We need neither there. As regards protecting the island... do we really need commercial airports, new towns and highways? When they're done with 'infrastructure' building, sadly, there will be not much left to 'protect'. I hope everyone who cares about other humans and nature sees that.

Abhishek Mohan Trees and ecosystems take years (sometimes centuries) to form, and in the process they sequester carbon dioxide and release the oxygen that you and I breathe. But destruction takes next to no time. In a tropical country like India afforestation at an alternative ecozone is not the solution. Such large-scale development, involving the loss of a million trees on a small island in an era of climate change amounts to digging our own grave.

Iqbal Syed Was the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) document given the green signal without even visiting and exploring the site, as has often been done all these years? The sham of compensatory afforestation is akin to eating rusty nails to deal with an iron deficiency.

TAKE ACTION – SAVE PUNE'S HILLS SANCTUARY CUB, MAY 2023

The Vetal Tekdi (hill) is a cluster of rolling hills in the heart of Pune city with dense vegetation, which attracts many resident and migratory birds, and an aquifer that holds groundwater. But the Vetal Tekdi may be destroyed by three flawed infrastructure projects – two tunnels, the Balbharati Paud Phata Road-surface road, and the HCMTR-elevated road that have been planned by the Pune Municipal Corporation. The Vetal Tekdi Bachav Kruti Samiti (Save Vetal Tekdi Task Force) has been campaigning to stop these projects and protect the hills. We stand

with Pune's citizens campaigning to get these flawed construction plans cancelled.

Arun Patwardhan, Pune We too will help to keep the flame burning. It's not just these hills. Even rivulets and its ecosystem are getting destroyed. The Mula Mutha river campaign was initiated by my sister-in-law there who actively joined the group in saving these near Aundh. I hope these treasures make the place worthy to live otherwise Pune too is heading towards a shit hole of a construction-prone scenario. Sad to see its deterioration in the past 10 years.

Chintan Sheth, Bengaluru Support and love for Vetal Tekdi, Pune, and its people!



DR. ANISH ANDHERIA

COVER STORY – TIGER CONSERVATION: THE ROAD AHEAD SANCTUARY ASIA, JUNE 2023

Fifty years after its inception, Project Tiger still has bragging rights as one of the world's most successful conservation and rewilding programmes. Even as the populations of *Panthera tigris* declined in most of the world's 13 tiger range countries, India managed to set aside relatively large forested lands to protect the striped predator. **Dr. Anish Andheria**, President and CEO, Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), while hopeful that the tiger will persist in India, believes that there are several issues we must address to ensure the striped cat's future in our country.

READERS' COMMENTS

Anand Madabhushi, Hyderabad The *Sanctuary Asia* June 2023 Cover Story is the perfect introduction to schools in the Kids for Tigers' network whose teachers should know about Project Tiger, tiger reserves, tiger population dynamics, how and why villages have chosen to move out of tiger reserves and more. Simply put, it serves as a virtual textbook for teachers, students and all those interested in keeping natural India safe.

Anil Ghelani Superb message by Anish Andheria. Important to learn from the past and plan strategies for the future. I especially like the point about taking care of frontline forest staff.

Ganesh Rajgopal Absolutely enthralled by the June issue. Thank you so much. Keep up the wonderful work.



STEVE WINTER

TIGERLAND

With Project Tiger completing 50 years, the rise in tiger numbers is a testament to the importance of the big cat to India. As a flagship and umbrella species, the tiger has become an iconic ambassador of its habitat, and is responsible for the revival of several other species. Despite its shortcomings, Project Tiger is proof positive of nature's ability to recover and maintain its own balance. We looked at half a century of Project Tiger and its far-reaching impact on wildlife conservation in India, through images.

READERS' COMMENTS

Sanjay Deshpande Creating more spaces i.e. forests is the only way to make the tiger population survive. But in a country where billions of humans are living in slums, who cares for tigers, is the problem!

Soumadip Sinharoy Extremely insightful writing plus great images.

Bula Chakravarty Agbo, BEM As long as these hunts are a result of a natural state of balance and not as a result of human interference. But I never knew that the tigers are fewer in numbers compared to leopards.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS SPEAK: THE JOURNEY AHEAD

Does wildlife conservation photography merely pay lip-service to nature conservation? *Sanctuary* spoke to seven photographers – Anish Andheria, Sushmitha Reddy, Steve Winters, Kalyan Varma, Tasneem Khan, Dhritiman Mukherjee, and Nayan Khanolkar – about their thoughts on emerging trends, and the importance of wildlife photography today.



DHRITIMAN MUKHERJEE

CAMPAIGN – KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The Environment Ministry's PARIVESH portal is crucial to all who seek information on environmental clearances granted to potentially damaging projects. Aligning the portal with the RTI Act, however, makes such information harder for citizens to access. **Shatakshi Gawade** made the case for the PARIVESH portal to be freed up and restored to its previous status.

TAKE ACTION – CHANGES TO THE FOREST CONSERVATION ACT SANCTUARY CUB, JULY 2023

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA) is a law in India that aims to protect the forests of the country by preventing deforestation, preserving flora and fauna, minimising the loss of biodiversity, and safeguarding forests by preventing their conversion into agricultural lands, or for any other commercial purposes. However, changes to the Forest Conservation Act may widen the scope of deforestation.



READERS' COMMENTS

Iq The FCA Amendment Bill will dispossess Adivasis and forest dwelling communities whose land rights were recognised under the Forest Rights Act and PESA, as FCA overrides those provisions and the gram sabha.

Amit Daweti Where we are seeing more and more nations trying to protect their rainforests and green areas, India decides to do the opposite. Bravo to whoever proposed this, and those who have approved it, congratulations, you are ruining your nation.

Kaushik Biswas Who cares about animals if they don't vote? And do you know how much we can earn by selling trees and lands to industries? Our bank balance is far more important than ecosystems.

COVER STORY – OF LESSER- KNOWN STRIPES AMONG TANGLED ROOTS SANCTUARY ASIA, AUGUST 2023

Wetlands are among the richest ecosystems on the planet, providing refuge

to a diversity of lifeforms. Fishing cats are intricately linked to these habitats. But the challenges of conducting a population estimation of fishing cats in the difficult Sundarban ecosystem are immense. Researcher **Tiasa Adhya** and forest officer **Justin Jones** wrote about the difficulties and triumphs of the first fishing cat population estimation in West Bengal, and the vital need to safeguard the species' future.



ARPAN SAHASANCTUARY PHOTO LIBRARY

AUTHOR'S COMMENT

Tiasa Adhya, Kolkata Sanctuary Asia provided me a platform to speak about the fishing cat when no one else knew and no one else did. I shall forever be grateful to this great voice for nature that has, through the years, managed to advocate for nature, attract young minds and provided a stage for spokespersons such as I. It was an honour to write a cover story on fishing cats in this issue and I must admit I thoroughly enjoyed writing it – the article did flow out of me – but more than that, my heart and mind wanted to team up with Sanctuary Asia. Thank you for giving the fishing cat this lovely and unique opportunity.



SUSHMITHA REDDY/SANCTUARY PHOTO LIBRARY

TAKE ACTION – I BRAKE FOR SNAKES CAMPAIGN SANCTUARY CUB, SEPTEMBER 2023

The need to save snakes from a disturbing and avoidable death has prompted herpetologist and wildlife photographer **Nirmal Kulkarni** to initiate the 'I BRAKE FOR SNAKES' campaign in Goa. Stickers have been launched that carry the tagline of the campaign, promising proactive involvement in saving snakes. We received heartfelt letters and comments about the plight of snakes after this Campaign was shared in Sanctuary Cub in September 2023.

READERS' COMMENTS

Dyan Noel, 15 years, Mangalore, Karnataka During my vacations, after my morning tuition, I go in search of reptiles, amphibians and birds. One morning my tuition mate and I were looking for critters when we saw a boy riding his bicycle over a snake and smiling after doing this. I could not blame a boy of that age as it is clearly put into his head that snakes are bad! This campaign is great as each step we take leaves some impact in changing our society.

Rohan Joshi and Ramesh Vagadiya There is heavy vehicular traffic in and around Gir, Gujarat owing to the large number of tourists to see the Asiatic lions. As snakes are cold-blooded creatures, they are attracted to warm roads on cool mornings and evenings, leading to roadkill. A survey was conducted from August 2021 to November 2023 to inspect the area outside Gir, from Dhari to Bhadar village on the road leading to Junagadh. Many snakes such as banded racer, bronzeback tree snake, buff-striped keelback, common krait, common sand boa, Indian cobra, Indian egg-eating snake and Russell's viper, were observed to have lost their life under vehicles. Such accidents can be avoided and such ecosystems can be protected by driving on roads passing around forests like Gir, especially during monsoons and during morning and evening hours, taking care not to damage the ecosystems. Let's make people more aware and work together in this campaign to save snakes!

Cyrus Jalnawala Great initiative. We need to do our bit as humans too. Besides, snakes play a significant role in the food chain – only humans can save the snakes.

PHYTOFOCUS – PLANTING PIONEERS SANCTUARY ASIA, OCTOBER 2023

For the Rewilding issue, **Soham Kacker** wrote about the complex world of native and non-native species, and their role in land restoration and revival.



PUBLIC DOMAIN/DINESH VALKE

AUTHOR'S COMMENTS

In the 1970s, the founders of the international township of Auroville were faced with the challenge of rewilding the barren expanse of land on which the community was founded. Native species of forest trees planted into the red laterite soil withered under the harsh peninsular sun. Surprisingly, a species of Acacia from Australia – the earleaf wattle – took root and flourished.

The earleaf Acacia aka *Acacia auriculiformis* fulfilled the role of a pioneer species – helping to ameliorate the harsh conditions and make them suitable for a generation of native plants to eventually thrive. In this instance, it wasn't planting native that was the solution – so can foreign species aid the restoration of indigenous landscapes? For the special rewilding issue of @sanctuaryasia, I wanted to write about understanding ecological succession to aid in habitat restoration.

DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT TIGERS?

SANCTUARY CUB, NOVEMBER 2023

Shiraz Aga, all of 14, wrote and illustrated a spectacular piece for *Cub* this year, sharing her deep concern for the state of tigers. Her art and her words moved us beyond measure.

READER'S COMMENT

Anand Madabhushi, Hyderabad Shiraz Aga's illustrations and text are awe inspiring. I have been thinking of tigers for a few decades now. Like so many wildlife lovers do. Like so many who have been working for conservation of wildlife and its collateral benefits to mankind do. Like so many children associated with Kids for Tigers are doing.

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD WINNING PHOTO OF INDIAN WOLVES

SANCTUARY ASIA, DECEMBER 2023 COVER

The highly endangered Indian grey wolves are elusive and mysterious, which makes this year's award-winning playful image shot by photographer Siddhartha Ghosh in Kumbhargaoon, Maharashtra, rare and exciting.

Samarth Jain The enigmatic Indian grey wolves feature on the cover of the renowned *Sanctuary Asia* magazine, could this be a start to giving significance to lesser-known endangered species? If yes, nothing better!

Lauren Hennelly Woo, Indian wolves on the front cover!



SANCTUARY WILDLIFE AWARDS 2023

COVER STORY

Taej Mundkur Congratulations to all the awardees of the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards 2023. Great to see so many heroes, young and older being recognised for their dedication and hard work.

While these are the winners, there must be many more deserving ones who were screened in the process – congratulations to them too.

Mitali Vale Congratulations to all the award winners, I salute their dedicated and passionate service.

Carter Cleanup Big congratulations! And thank you for being guardians of the planet.



Sudhama accepting the Wildlife Service Award from Shekhar Bajaj

The Goal: Support the Sanctuary Nature Foundation so that we continue to bring you stories that educate and usher change. Our stories focus on

- Working with key partners, field biologists, scientists, photographers, writers, corporates, government agencies and local communities across India to create awareness about our biodiversity and the impact of degradation of habitats and decline of wildlife.
 - Upliftment of communities and generation of alternative livelihood opportunities.
 - Recognising grassroots conservationists each of whom are contributing steadfastly to biodiversity conservation and community engagement in distinct and measurable ways.
 - Working with government agencies, social media giants and advertisers to highlight key conservation threats.
 - Communicating the consequences of climate change.
 - Mobilising communities and decision makers.
 - Actions required to slow down the pace of species extinction and to protect our wild spaces.
- Crowdfunding and soliciting funds is vital to our existence. We require your support. [Donate now.](#)



EVENTS





The Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards 2023:

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR: SIDDHARTHA GHOSH – *Wild Wolf Dance*



The Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards 2023:

SECOND PRIZE: CHITRAL JAYATILAKE – *Lunging for Life*

THE SANCTUARY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2023

One of the most important pillars of *Sanctuary* magazine is the excellent wildlife and conservation images shared by talented photographers from across India, that bring our articles to life. For this purpose, the Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards were constituted more than two decades ago. Sanctuary was the first to initiate wildlife photography awards in India, and every year we receive stunning wildlife and heartbreaking conservation images. We are witness to the camera becoming a vital tool for conservation, helping record rare natural history moments, capturing conservation issues and proof of climate change. Each year we receive thousands of images from almost every state of India, from remote habitats, of species ranging from a few millimetres in size to animals, which are so threatened that only a handful survive. We have become record keepers of rare natural history moments, that researchers have spent years in the field to study, and of increasing human-wildlife interactions when forest animals are forced to adapt to urban environments and minuscule insects, which discerning nature lovers bring to the notice of the larger public.

This year, the Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards introduced four new categories. While the main theme of the awards, as always, was the overarching umbrella of 'The Call of the Wild', we added the Young Photographer of the Year, Landscape and Ecosystem, Drone photography, and Art in Nature. The idea was to widen the horizon and scope to give photographers more space to explore.

In the year 2023, the in-person ceremony once again celebrated our Wildlife Service and Photography Award winners.

On the evening of December 1, 2023, the Sanctuary Wildlife Service and Photography Awards, sponsored by DSP Mutual Fund, co-sponsored by Godrej Industries and supported by CSR Partners Morningstar India, IndusInd Bank, HT Parekh Foundation and Bajaj Electricals was presented at the iconic National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai. This year, the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards and

the Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards were presented together, with the acclaimed theatre and film actor Zafar Karachiwala playing host to an audience of over a thousand [Sanctuary Nature Foundation](#) supporters. This year's awards were also graced by the ethereal Zeenat Aman, who has been a keen supporter of environmental conservation issues. In her soothing reading of the poem 'The Summer Day' by Mary Oliver, she asked all those gathered at the ceremony a fundamental question... "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

The awards ceremony included a photo exhibition, musical performances by Susmit Bose and Sahir Doshi, and a presentation of the winning images with brief natural history descriptions. Bittu Sahgal announced the winning images, and invited the first prize winner on stage.

Over 2,000 entries were received, which were shortlisted and winners selected by a world-class jury:

- Dr. Anish Andheria, conservation biologist, wildlife photographer and President, Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Nayan Khanolkar, educationist, conservation biologist and wildlife photographer
- Steve Winter, globally celebrated National Geographic conservation photographer
- Dr. Parvish Pandya, Consultant Director, science, natural history and photography, Sanctuary Nature Foundation
- Saurabh Sawant, Consultant Head, Projects, Sanctuary Nature Foundation
- Lakshmy Raman, Executive Editor, Sanctuary Nature Foundation
- Bittu Sahgal, Founder and Editor, Sanctuary Nature Foundation



The Sanctuary Wildlife Awards 2023 would not have been possible without the ardent support of our principal sponsors over the past two decades – Hemendra Kothari, Chairman and Aditi Kothari Desai, Vice Chairperson & Director on the Board, DSP Asset Managers Pvt. Ltd. We are also grateful to be co-sponsored and supported by Nadir Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director, Godrej Industries.

Sponsor:



Co-sponsor:



CSR Initiatives Supported By:



Wildlife Partner:



The Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards 2023:

JOINT THIRD PRIZE: ANJAN MUKHERJEE – *Battle of the Unicorns*



The Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards 2023:

**THE EDITOR'S AND VALMIK THAPAR'S CHOICE
TO HONOUR THE LATE ADITYA SINGH
OF RANTHAMBHORE:**

SANKHESH DEDHIA – *The Unusual Hunt*



FIRST PRIZE went to Siddhartha Ghosh for his image *'Wild Wolf Dance'*. The Indian grey wolf is a fierce hunter, an intelligent canid and an extremely loyal pack hunter. Though human development is rapidly shrinking their territories, *Canis lupus pallipes* remains one of the top predators of grassland habitats. Their genius and wile, honed by evolution, enables them to travel through landscapes, while avoiding humans. They are elusive and mysterious, which makes this image of their comic playfulness both rare and exciting! For capturing this unique natural history moment of raw energy of the endangered Indian grey wolf in Kumbhargaoon, Maharashtra, Siddhartha Ghosh was declared the Sanctuary Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2023.

SECOND PRIZE went to Chitral Jayatilake for his image *'Lunging for Life'*.

Unaware of the danger lurking below the surface of a commonly shared resource, a herd of chital were quenching their thirst. Then, in a heart-stopping moment captured by the photographer, the placid surface erupted as the waiting mugger crocodile launched its attack. All the chital managed to spring out of harm's way, escaping the bone-crunching jaws of death. For this image showcasing the explosive burst of action and the dance between life and death in the Yala National Park, Sri Lanka, Chitral Jayatilake was awarded the Second Prize.

JOINT THIRD PRIZE went to Jeswin Kingsly for his image, *'Winner Takes All'*. Sloth

bears *Melursus ursinus* and leopards *Panthera pardus* make for formidable opponents. Even though their dietary preferences are starkly different – these bears are primarily omnivorous and the rosetted cat is a carnivore – confrontations could erupt when they suddenly cross paths or while competing for resources, or space. With its daunting size and sharp claws, this sloth bear in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, clearly outweighed the leopard for first access to water. Discretion being the better part of valour, only after the bear's departure did the cat quench its thirst. For this unique portrait of an interspecies encounter depicting the sloth bear's towering stature and the leopard's lithe challenge, Jeswin Kingsly was jointly awarded the Third Prize.

JOINT THIRD PRIZE went to Anjan Mukherjee for his image, *'Battle of the Unicorns'*. Greater one-horned rhinoceroses *Rhinoceros unicornis*, despite body weights of close to 2.7 tonnes, are agile and can run as fast as 40 kmph. In a battle between two males in Kaziranga's swampy grassland, one of the armoured beasts seemed to be the clear winner. Just then, the retreating rhino charged, nearly lifting the other male off the ground. For this powerful image framing the face-off between these incredibly powerful pachyderms, and capturing the raw, unforgiving nature of life, Anjan Mukherjee was jointly awarded the Third Prize.

“We were watching mugger crocodiles ambushing deer during a drought, when this monster of a croc sprang into action, but missed the agile deer by a whisker.”

– Chitral Jayatilake

“Dicky knew and I know he must be smiling smugly. Couldn't be prouder of Nyra Dicky Singh. Our heartbeat is a champion and such a trooper.”

– Poonam Singh,
Nyra's mother

CATEGORY: YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER

FIRST PRIZE: Swastika Mukherjee – Circle of Life – Dzongu, Sikkim

JOINT SECOND PRIZE: Nyra Dicky Singh – Will Fly for Food – Ranthambhore, Rajasthan

JOINT SECOND PRIZE: Arnav Deshpande – Curves of the Night – Matheran, Maharashtra

THIRD PRIZE: Arko Saha – A Beautiful Bouquet – Rishop village, West Bengal

CATEGORY: LANDSCAPE AND ECOSYSTEM

FIRST PRIZE: Krishnakant Mathuria – Battle of Scales and Feathers – Mangalajodi, Odisha

SECOND PRIZE: Hira Punjabi – Ethereal – Hokkaido, Japan

THIRD PRIZE: Sushmitha Reddy – Catching the Wave – Rushikulya beach, Odisha

CATEGORY: DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PRIZE: Rukhiya Mohammed – The Invasion of the Ecosystem Snatchers – Andhra Pradesh

SECOND PRIZE: Lalith Ekanayake – Waste(lands) – Eastern Province, Sri Lanka

THIRD PRIZE: Dhanuparan – At an Impasse – Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu

CATEGORY: ART IN NATURE

FIRST PRIZE: Arnab Debnath – Eye in the Sky – Coochbehar, West Bengal

SECOND PRIZE: Dr. Devendra H. Chauhan – Echo in the Dark – Baroda, Gujarat

THIRD PRIZE: Agniswar Ghoshal – Breathtaking Silhouette – Guskara, West Bengal

THE EDITOR'S AND VALMIK THAPAR'S CHOICE TO HONOUR THE LATE ADITYA SINGH OF RANTHAMBHORE:

Sankhesh Dedhia – The Unusual Hunt – Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

To see all the images:

www.sanctuarynaturefoundation.org

All of us at the Sanctuary Nature Foundation are gratified to see the evolution of wildlife photography into a strong conservation tool. This is one area where technology has been genuinely put to good use. We have been fighting to protect species and wildernesses for four decades, and we are delighted that our annual much-awaited event could be conducted this year too at the NCPA, where we could meet and interact with each other. We were also delighted to spotlight some exceptional people at the event. We owe our loyal, strong and purposeful constituency a huge debt of gratitude for being the wind under our sails.



LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

DR. ERACH BHARUCHA, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR, CONSERVATIONIST, PHOTOGRAPHER, SURGEON

"It's very difficult for a professor who speaks for hours to be dumbfounded, as I am today. It's a very special day of my life. The first article that I wrote for a magazine was at *Sanctuary*. There are people who I interacted with from my very early days, who have made me what I am today. Thank you very much for giving me this award."

GREEN TEACHER AWARD

SUCHANDRA AND JOYDIP KUNDU, CONSERVATION CAMPAIGNERS, TEACHERS, NATURE WORSHIPPERS, WILDLIFE DEFENDERS

"On December 1, 2023 we stood on the stage at NCPA in Mumbai, humbled by the honour bestowed upon us. While our achievements may not seem monumental, we owe our gratitude to the Sanctuary Nature Foundation for igniting our drive to contribute more. The Sanctuary Nature Foundation Award is not just a recognition of past achievements but also a catalyst for future endeavours."



THE SANCTUARY WILDLIFE AWARDS 2023

Instituted in the year 2000, the Sanctuary Wildlife Awards honours the several exceptional men, women and children, who are working to protect our wildernesses. Individuals from varied fields are considered through nominations – forest officers, entrepreneurs, artists, economists, students, writers, filmmakers... the common thread is their commitment to nature and wildlife conservation.

Recipients of the Awards have subsequently had their work recognised widely by the conservation community and found access to aid for their ongoing projects in the form of support or funding. Each year, we invite nominations and entries from the Sanctuary network – readers, supporters, writers, naturalists and photographers – looking for the best and brightest in India's biodiversity conservation canvas. Winners are selected as the recipients of one of four prestigious titles.

Lifetime Service Award: To honour protectors of wild habitats who have been in action for decades, inspiring millions, sparking

movements, unearthing natural history knowledge, building conservation strategies, shaping communities... Award: Rs. 1,50,000.

Green Teacher Award: To honour skilled educators who challenge norms and inspire youth to connect with the wild and join the conservation community as informed, concerned individuals. Award: Rs. 50,000.

Wildlife Service Award: To honour inspired wildlifers, forest employees, researchers, villagers... anyone currently involved with in-situ nature conservation who have displayed extraordinary courage, dedication and determination and set high personal standards for others to follow. Award: Rs. 50,000.

Young Naturalist Award: To honour driven youth leaders who set an example for their peers and older generations alike, through their thirst for knowledge and conservation entrepreneurship... motivated by hopes of their own future on planet Earth. Award: Rs. 25,000.



SANCTUARY PHOTO LIBRARY



TESTIMONIALS:

"It takes us months to hone in on people whose lives are governed by their love, dedication and determination to protect wild species and habitats. And each year all of us at Sanctuary feel totally humbled by the unassuming nature of our awardees. Most of the individuals are either little known, some totally unknown beyond their own areas of work. But make no mistake. They are patriots of the highest order. They are biosphere defenders, the ones building the foundations upon which all other human initiatives, including our economy, water and food security, health and happiness, rest."

– Bittu Sahgal, Founder, Sanctuary Nature Foundation

"The DSP Group has supported the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards for over two decades because we believe that a healthy biosphere is our collective responsibility. We admire and salute these wildlife defenders who are helping to counter the impact of our climate crisis and improve the quality of life of millions of Indians and helping us build a stronger, more sustainable and vibrant economy. Their work should be celebrated and spread far and wide as they are the true keepers of our threatened planet."

– Hemendra Kothari, Chairman, DSP Asset Managers Pvt. Ltd.

"The Godrej Group has been at the forefront of environmental and social efforts for several decades and we understand that nature is the foundation on which all human endeavours stand. We are delighted to continue supporting the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards that honour the invisible people who live to nurture and protect the natural heritage upon which all our futures depend. In our view, by protecting our natural resources we can build a stronger, sustainable future, while strengthening India's long-term economic health."

– Nadir Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director, Godrej Industries.

"It was awesome! The event stands out and brings all community partners together."

– Perpetual Mathias, Morningstar

"Thank you for introducing these unsung heroes and heroines. It's these unassuming people who are keeping this planet still liveable and alive with their dedication."

– Shukla Lal



WILDLIFE SERVICE AWARD

Kedar Girish Gore WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR, STRATEGIST FOR NATURE

"I am extremely humbled and delighted to receive the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award 2023. I am grateful to Bittu Sahgal who inspired me as a child and who continues to inspire millions of people across the globe and to the Sanctuary Nature Foundation team, DSP Mutual Fund and the Godrej group for conferring this honour. This will keep encouraging me to contribute my bit to the cause of nature conservation to the best of my abilities."

YOUNG NATURALIST AWARD

Aswathi Asokan NATURE EDUCATOR, NATURALIST, COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNER

"Thank you Sanctuary for honouring me with this award. I'm very grateful to all the people who have been part of my journey, inspired me and motivated me to do whatever I do. This acknowledgement of my work is not only recognition of me, but also recognition of all the youngsters of my generation who choose to take this path and do something wonderful. I am inspired by them everyday."



THE 2023 WINNERS

On December 1, 2023, the Sanctuary Nature Foundation, sponsored by DSP Mutual Fund and co-sponsored by Godrej Industries presented the Sanctuary Wildlife Awards 2023 at the iconic National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai.

Instituted in the year 2000, the [Sanctuary Wildlife Awards](#) have highlighted the work of India's courageous green warriors – forest officers, naturalists, communicators, artists and teachers. These visionaries have been fighting a quiet battle to not only protect wild India but also to sow the seeds to nurture communities that are willing to work toward a healthy planet. Their lifelong dedication is an inspiration to all of us.

This year, the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards and the Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards were presented together, with the acclaimed theatre and film actor Zafar Karachiwala playing host to an audience of over a thousand Sanctuary Nature Foundation supporters. This year's Awards were also graced by the ethereal Zeenat Aman, who has been a keen supporter of environmental conservation issues.

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD:

Dr. Erach Bharucha *Environmental educator, conservationist, photographer, surgeon*
As the Director of [BVIIEER](#), Dr. Erach Bharucha has nurtured thousands of students and teachers who are now practitioners in the field of environmental conservation. He has also worked to highlight the connection between good environmental practices and human health. With over five decades of wildlife conservation under his belt, Dr. Bharucha continues to leave an imprint on people, institutions, policies, India's landscape, and all our hearts.

YOUNG NATURALIST AWARD:

Aswathi Asokan *Nature educator, naturalist, community campaigner*
Aswathi Asokan is a dedicated nature educator, researcher, conservationist, accomplished Carnatic vocalist and veena player. Currently pursuing a Master's in Wildlife Conservation Action, where she is researching the invasive Charu mussel *Mytella strigata* and its impact on local fisherfolk and coastal biodiversity, she is increasingly involved in urban wildlife documentation and outreach.

GREEN TEACHER AWARD:

Suchandra and Joydip Kundu *Conservation campaigners, teachers, nature worshippers, wildlife defenders*

Wildlife conservationist Joydip is a Member of the West Bengal State Board for Wildlife and Suchandra is the Honorary Wildlife Warden of Kolkata. Both are Founder Members of [SHER](#) (Society of Heritage and Ecological Researches), an organisation begun in 2011, which is devoted to mitigation of human-wildlife conflict through multi-faced activities in the Sundarban and other wildlife areas of southwest Bengal. For over two decades, they have been sensitising forest-fringe children to become tomorrow's defenders of the natural legacy that they belong to.

WILDLIFE SERVICE AWARDS:

Kedar Girish Gore *Wildlife conservationist, environmental educator, strategist for nature*
Kedar Gore is the Director of [The Corbett Foundation](#) (TCF). A hands-on and passionate conservationist, he has worked tirelessly against destructive mining and hydropower projects, conducted uncounted nature education programmes, and guides efforts towards the conservation of less recognised ecosystems such as the grasslands of Kutchh.

Hans Dalal *Sound engineer and producer, conservationist and filmmaker*

Having given up city life to settle on the periphery of the tiger forests of Tadoba, Hans Dalal works tirelessly to improve the lot of local communities and create linkages between them and the Maharashtra Forest Department. His wildlife documentaries not only capture the sheer beauty of India's forests but also tell compelling stories on those working to protect them.

Ritesh Sarothiya *Deputy Conservator of Forests, jurist, anti-poaching crusader*
An Indian Forest Service officer and Deputy Conservator of Forests in the Madhya Pradesh cadre, Ritesh Sarothiya is the Regional Deputy Director of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) in New Delhi. His team's many adventures take place in near anonymity, but could well be justice and enforcement headlines in themselves, from apprehending poachers to busting a syndicate of turtle smugglers. Responsible for the deployment of super sniffers (dog squads) in all the tiger reserves of MP, Sarothiya has dedicated his life to the protection of some of the most biodiverse, tiger-rich forests in the country.

Seema Meena *Assistant Forester, defender, advocate for wildlife*

Seema Meena is an Assistant Forester working to protect the miracle that is the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. Posted in the core area, together with

TESTIMONIALS:

"It is amazing how you source these amazing preservers of wildlife."

– Manju Sampat

"Loved the new categories."

Congratulations to the winners and glad that drone photography has been added as a category."

– Indranil Basu

"Loved all the winning images but the

'Wild Wolf Dance' was the most exciting."

Congratulations to all the photographers."

– The Tiger Haven Society

"Congratulations to all the awardees of the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards 2023. Great to see so many heroes, young and older, being recognised for their dedication and hard work. While these are the winners, there must be many more deserving ones who were screened in the process – congratulations to them too."

– Taej Mundkur

"I am pleased to have personally met with four awardees, had a drink with Joydip and Suchandra Kundu and enjoyed birding with Sudha and tasted her fantastic food! Kedar was a colleague at [The Corbett Foundation/Infinity](#)."

– A.B. Aparna

"I feel that anyone who sees and judges young Nyra's photography of the skittering frog will be amazed and feel proud of her achievement. Well done, our young champion, keep it up."

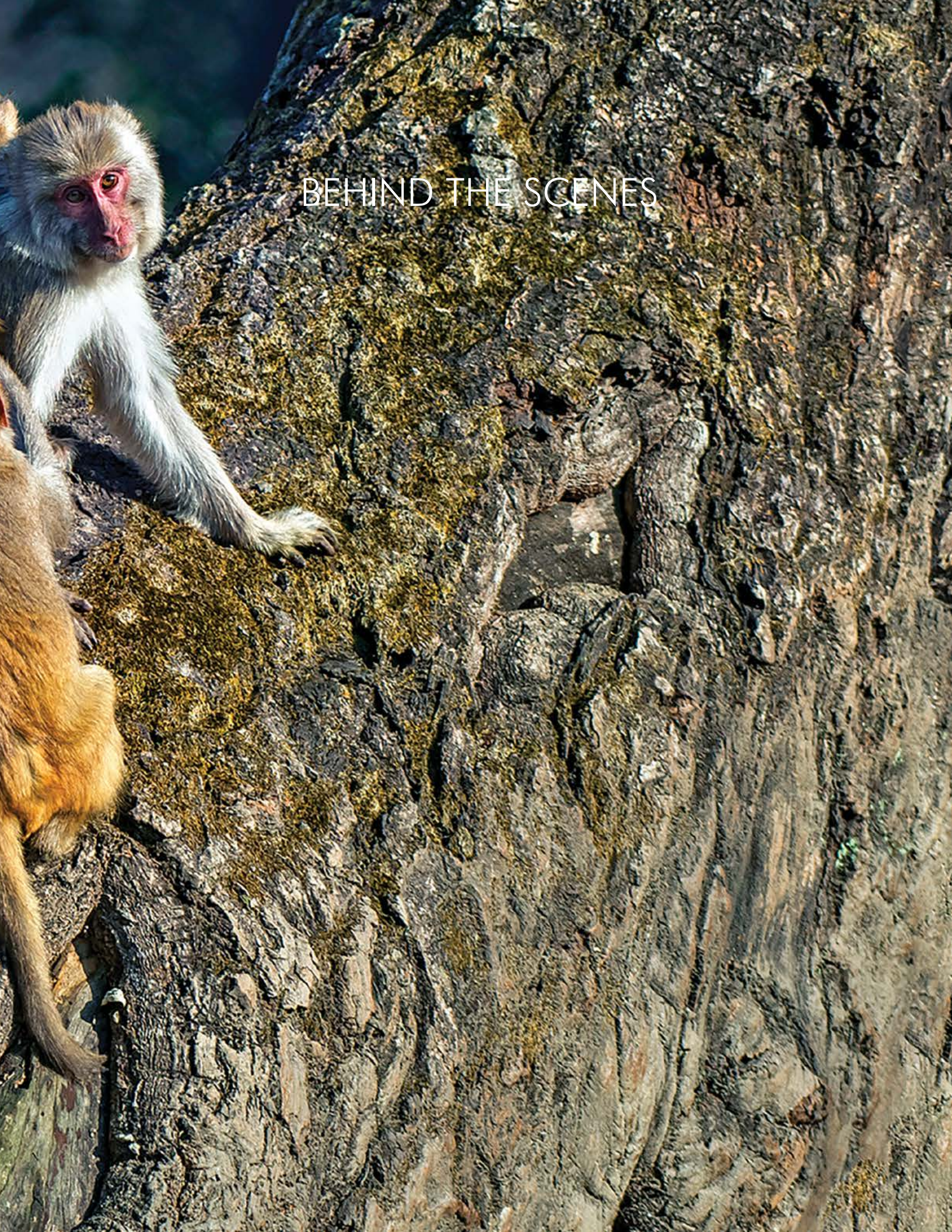
– Naresh Bahadur Singh

her frontline staff, she walks the forest to monitor the wild species in her charge, including tigers. Along with being a part of several operations that resulted in poachers being apprehended and taken to court, she is also an inspiration for all the young girls and women she meets in the villages in her neighbourhood.

Sudha Chandran *Nature guide, birder, homestay owner, climate warrior*

Sudha Chandran, also known as the 'Lady Guide of Thattekad', is a birder, nature guide, and homestay owner who has been hosting ornithologists and birders at her little homestay in Thattekad, Kerala for years now. Rattling off the names of local birds, each day Sudhamma spends anywhere from eight to 12 hours guiding visitors through Thattekad's wonderland. Her journey from being a tea shop owner to being a bird expert is a shining example of community-led conservation.





BEHIND THE SCENES

Sanctuary

NATURE FOUNDATION

MEET THE TEAM

The **EDITORIAL & DESIGN** team rolls out communications for the Foundation and maintains our web presence, engaging with our readers and supporters through impact reports, newsletters, social media, guidebooks, coffee-table books and of course, the two magazine editions, *Sanctuary Asia* and *Sanctuary Cub*.

BITTU SAHGAL



Editor, *Sanctuary Asia*.

LAKSHMY RAMAN



Executive Editor

TARA SAHGAL



Editor-in-Chief,
Sanctuary Cub

SHATAKSHI GAWADE



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Our in-house **NATURAL HISTORY** experts ensure our on-ground efforts and events run smoothly, maintain our world class Photo Library and engage with the extended conservation community to organise project collaborations.

DR. PARVISH PANDYA



Consultant Director, Science
and Conservation

PRACHI GALANGE



Senior Consultant Photo
Editor & Naturalist

SAURABH SAWANT



Consultant, Projects &
Natural History

Our ongoing **PROJECTS** Kids for Tigers and Mud on Boots are making an impact on thousands of men, women and children through environmental education, and funding and support for grassroots conservation work.

NEYI JAMOH



Project Coordinator,
Mud on Boots

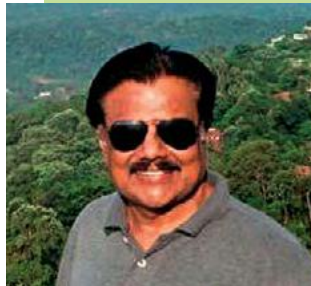
AMANDEEP KAUR BAMRAH



National Coordinator,
Kids for Tigers

CORPORATE & ACCOUNTS attend to all business-related inquiries, from advertising and magazine circulation, to managing donor relationships and finances, and looking out for funding opportunities.

SHASHI KUMAR



Director, Advertising &
Marketing

NISHITA KANOJIA



Senior Manager, Client Servicing
& Fundraising

P. BHASKAR



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VINA SONU



Head, Accounts

OFFICE ASSISTANTS ensure our day-to-day operations run smoothly across all teams.

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23. Sunita Struck
24. Vijay Ramnath
25. Vinay Sureshkumar Majithia
26. Nandita Damani
- COMPANY, ORGINASATIONS**
27. Laxman Kumar Birla Charitable Trust
28. Astral Foundation

29. Bajaj Electricals Foundation
30. Canopy Projects Limited
31. HT Parekh Foundation
32. Devkunj Trust
33. Hermes Hospitality LLP
34. Indusind Bank Ltd.
35. Bright Brother Ltd.
36. Realest Builders & Services Private Limited
37. V.V.& Smt.K.V.Mariwala Charity
38. Morningstar India Pvt. Ltd.
39. DSP Investment Managers Pvt Ltd.
40. Climate Trends LLP
41. Earth Day Network India

Sanctuary Nature Foundation is a Section 8 Company registered under the *Company Act*, 2013. It is also registered under Section 12A of the *Income Tax Act*, 1961, with registration number U74120MH2015NPL270033 (Mumbai). [Donations](#) can be made by cheque, or bank transfer and are eligible for tax deduction under section 80G of the *Income Tax Act*. The Foundation is also registered with Niti Aayog with the unique ID number MH/2018/0186537.

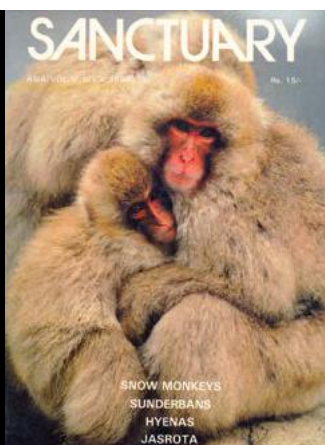






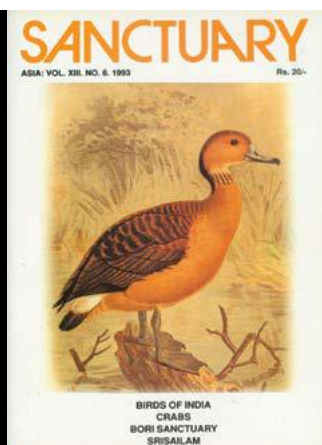
Oct/Dec 1982

The Lions of Gir
An Andaman Experience
The Man-Eating Syndrome
The Frogs



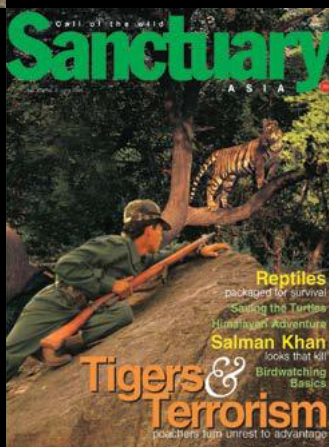
Sept/Oct 1985

Snow Monkeys
Sunderbans
Hyenas
Jasrota



December 2001

The Year That Was
Ladakh Mountain Lakes
Floricans: Dudhwa's Jewels
Angkor Wat



June 1999

Tigers & Terrorism
Reptiles: Packaged for Survival
Saving the Turtles
Himalayan Adventure



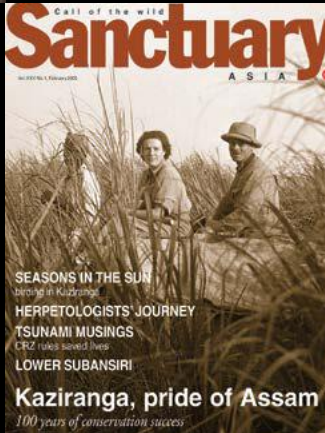
August 1999

Vote *Do Jungle Lo*
Forest Forts
Poison Eaters
Goa's Green Gold



December 2004

India's Earth Heroes
Turtles: Threatened Reptiles
Zangskar: Snow Leopard Country
Satpuras: India's Tiger Haven



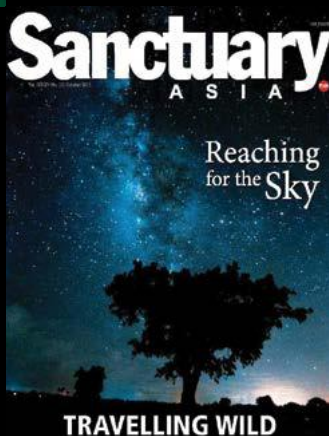
February 2005

Kaziranga, Pride of Assam
Seasons in the Sun
Herpetologists' Journey
Tsunami Musings



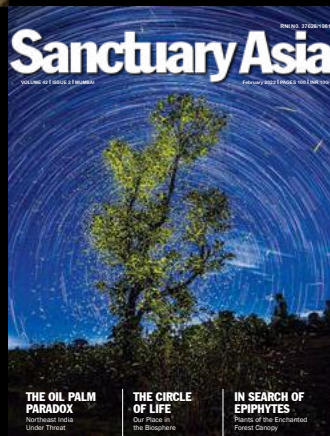
December 2022

Meet Dr. Vibhu Prakash
COP27: An Update
Haiderpur
Cheetahs Return to India



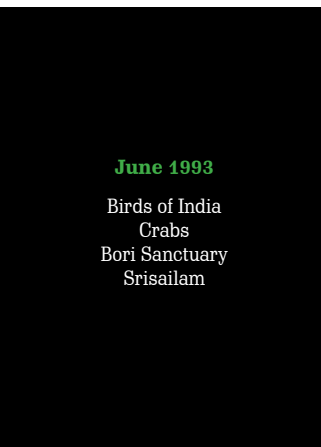
October 2015

Travelling Wild
Reaching for the Sky
Bird-Eat-Bird World
Searching for Arcadia



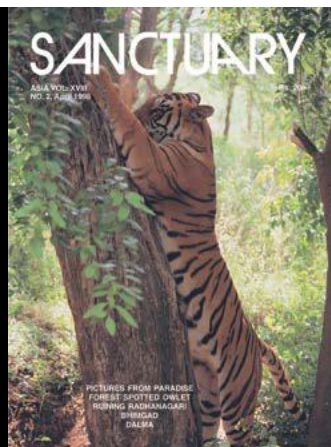
October 2022

The Oil Palm Paradox
THE Circle of Life
In Search of Epiphytes
Coal Mines in Hasdeo Aranya



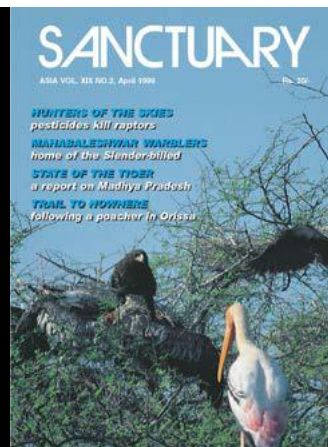
June 1993

Birds of India
Crabs
Bori Sanctuary
Srisaillam



April 1998

Pictures from Paradise
Forest Spotted Owllet
Bhimgad
Dalma



April 1999

Hunters of the Skies
Mahabaleshwar Warblers
State of the Tiger
Trail to Nowhere



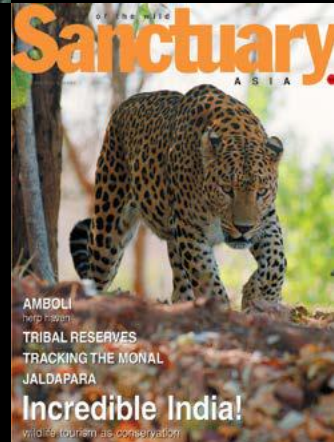
August 2002

India's Wild Heart
Tawang: Himalayan Haven
Wild Buffalo
Pichavaram: Forest by the Sea



August 2004

Incredible India!
Tribal Reserves
Tracking the Monal
Jaldapara



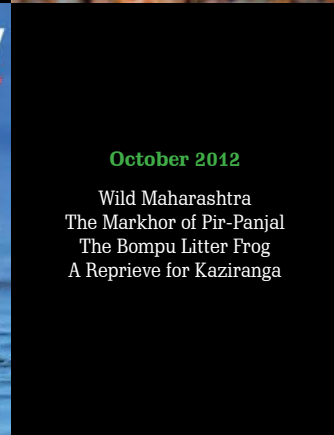
October 2008

Wildlife Tourism, Bane or Boon?
Go Get Wet
Sariska Must Not Die
Bushmeat Hunting



December 2010

Green Visionaries
Expedition Talle Valley
The Garo Hills
Making of 'The Wild Meat Trail'



October 2012

Wild Maharashtra
The Markhor of Pir-Panjal
The Bompur Litter Frog
A Reprieve for Kaziranga



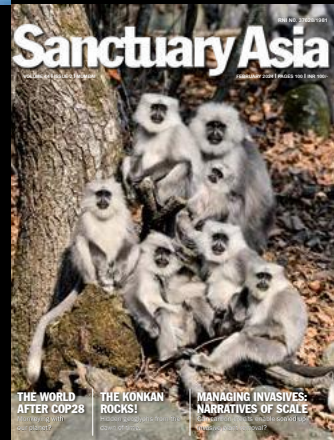
December 2023

The Sanctuary Wildlife Awards 2023
Birding in the Borneo Rainforest
Anne Wright
In Search of the Clouded Leopard



February 2024

The World After COP28
Managing Invasives:
Narratives of Scale
The Konkani Rocks!





Corporate Office:

Sanctuary Nature Foundation, Maker Chambers V, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021.

Mailing Address:

No. 146, Sanctuary Asia, Pragati Industrial Estate, N.M. Joshi Marg,
Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DONATIONS OR OUR PROGRAMMES? CONTACT US AT:

Advertising and Business: nishita@sanctuaryasia.com

Subscriptions: subscriptions@sanctuaryasia.com

Editorial: editorial@sanctuaryasia.com

Kids for Tigers: amandeep@sanctuaryasia.com

COCOON Conservancies: parvish@sanctuaryasia.com

Mud on Boots: neyi@sanctuaryasia.com

Other inquiries: admin@sanctuaryasia.com

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