

Annual Report 2010-11

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Corbett Foundation consists of a group of dedicated men and women who are committed to the conservation of wildlife and nature, and fulfilling the ambition that human beings and nature must live together in harmony.

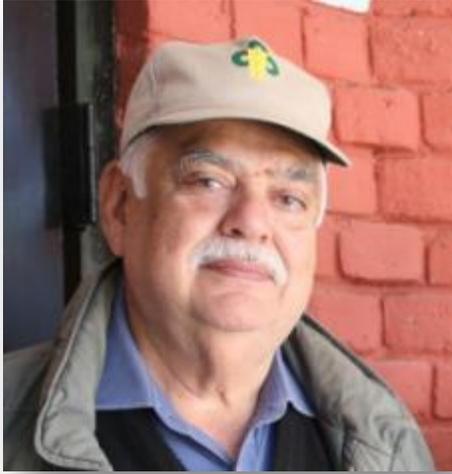


OUR ORGANISATION

Mr. Dilip D. Khatau established The Corbett Foundation, a non-profit non-governmental organisation, in 1994. The Corbett Foundation (TCF) is fully dedicated to the cause of wildlife conservation, environmental awareness, community outreach, tribal welfare and sustainable development. From a small beginning in 1994, TCF has over the years grown into one of the foremost NGOs in India in the field of wildlife conservation and working in Corbett, Kanha and Bandhavgarh tiger reserves and around the Greater Rann of Kutch.

The Corbett Foundation is registered under the Delhi Public Trust Act and Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. Donations to The Corbett Foundation are tax-exempt u/s 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Corbett - the name itself brings back memories of my childhood when as a young boy sitting quietly on a machan with my father, I eagerly awaited the sound of drums which would mean that the hakka had started. The next half-an-hour would tell what the jungle held. May be a sambar, may be a tiger, or may be nothing! But just the anticipation, the excitement of getting a fleeting glimpse of any animal was enough to make my hair stand on end.

In my case, the seeds of interest were sown early and the love for the wild flourished as the years went by. During my teens, having read all that Jim Corbett or Kenneth Anderson had to say about the jungles of India, I spent every holiday visiting the various forested areas of India.

There were very few sanctuaries in those days and hunting was a very popular sport. Gradually, I got interested in shooting and learnt jungle lore from Jamshed, the shikari who showed me my first tiger on foot; Deva, a tribal who taught me the art of snaring small game; Kuvera, the tracker from whom I learnt to skin an animal and many more - M.V. Bobjee, Jimmy Wankaner, R.K. Parlakimidi - all great hunters at that time, were my mentors and I owe them a lot for not only the knowledge they passed on but also for the days spent in their company in the jungles.

The passion for the outdoors and nature grew to an extent that I started avoiding going back to the city. Finally, it was in the summer of 1960 that with my two closest friends, Sam and Bhupi, I came to Corbett for the first time.

It was love at first sight. The old forest bungalow at Dhikala, on the banks of the Ramganga, was delightfully deserted. We stayed for a week and met no other visitors. We did not see a tiger, but that did not matter. The forests were beautiful and tranquil. Out of all the jungles I had been to, Corbett with its chauras, streams, riverine forests, sal trees and greenery was nature at its best! The vivid memories of those youthful carefree days will always remain.

I spent almost twenty years abroad in Africa and Southeast Asia, taking every opportunity to see wildlife and nature reserves in those places. On my return to India, I found a lot had changed. Gone were the forests I once roamed and with that were gone the animals I loved. Only small pockets of forests called reserves, sanctuaries and national parks. Project Tiger had been launched when everyone realized the state of wildlife had deteriorated all over India. Indiscriminate felling of trees and cutting of forests had left no sanctuary for the animals. Conflict between man and animal had

increased and of course, the animal had lost out on all counts. Human population had exploded!

I came back to Corbett in 1985. Much had changed but the jungles seemed preserved. A dam had been built in Kalagarh, many known areas were underwater, but the charm was still there. I again did not see a tiger but there were many more elephants around Dhikala, Bijrani, Malani and other places. Shooting blocks which were familiar to me were now included in the area of the Corbett National Park. The thick cover and abundance of the game convinced me that this was still an ideal tiger country.

By now I was completely converted into a conservationist, specially after seeing the success of game parks in Africa. I had given up shooting and the youthful desire had now to be put to an end. I had to put my knowledge and experience of nature, wildlife and forests to better use for posterity. What little was left had to be conserved and thus was The Corbett Foundation born.

It gives me immense pleasure in presenting this first formal Annual Report of The Corbett Foundation! Over the years, the Foundation has grown from a small office in Corbett to its offices in other areas like Kutch, Bandhavgarh and Kanha, with a branch to be started in Kaziranga soon. We have an extremely dedicated team of professionals in the fields of wildlife conservation, medicine, veterinary care and social work. The team works very hard to achieve the objectives of the Foundation.

I must take this opportunity in expressing my deepest gratitude to all the organisations and individuals for their generous support to the Foundation's programmes and activities. The Foundation plans to build and start a certified vocational training institute in Kanha for naturalists, local tribes and nature lovers. In addition, a Centre for Cattle Development will be in Kutch to offer a comprehensive solution for cattle development to the villagers.

The Foundation with its broad vision aspires to take up more such projects under its programme heads - wildlife conservation, environmental awareness, rural medical outreach programme, veterinary and cattle development and sustainable development. And I look forward to receiving support and encouragement from all of you in future as well.

Dilip Khatau

THE DILIP KHATAU GROUP

The Khatau Business House was among the pioneers of the textile industry in India way back in 1874 and cement industry in 1920. Being the leader in the manufacturing of various varieties of saris, the famous voile sari was at one time synonymous with the name “Khatau”.

As the scion of the 4th generation of the powerful Khatau Business House, Mr. Dilip D. Khatau was instrumental in venturing overseas to East Africa and South East Asia in 1964. Eventually, in 1990s, the Dilip Khatau Group further diversified extensively in India into the production of footwear, cement, power cables, chemicals and shipping. Since 1994, the Group concentrated on shipping, tourism and wildlife conservation. An ardent wildlife lover since his childhood, Mr. Khatau’s passion took him to many wilderness areas such as Corbett National Park in India. During his 15 years of stay in Kenya, and later in South East Asia, his passion for wildlife hunting turned to serious wildlife protection and nature conservation. He later became an active member of the East African Wildlife Society. He was highly impressed by the way wildlife tourism had proliferated and gained popularity in Africa which had not taken off in India then. He dreamt of similar ventures in India where tourists can enjoy being in the wild, and at the same time, relax in the luxury and comfort of home. He is also a member of the National Board for Wildlife, India.

In 1991, he started the Group’s first wildlife resort, Infinity Corbett Wilderness (formerly known as Tiger Tops Corbett Lodge), located along the banks of Kosi River at the fringe of Corbett National Park. This eco-friendly tourism project was first of its kind, and in recognition of this, the Government of India appointed Mr. Khatau on the Board of Uttar Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation. This property, tastefully designed and having one of the best locations for a wildlife resort in India, is the most sought after resort among the nature lovers in India and abroad.

With vast experience in both hospitality industry and wildlife conservation, the Group expanded its operations to the semi arid and unique landscape of Kutch, Gujarat. Thus, Infinity Rann of Kutch resort was established in 2008. The property with its elegant tented cottages is like an oasis in the desert! In October 2009, the group’s third resort, Infinity Bandhavgarh Wilderness, situated along the periphery of the famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, was opened. Infinity Bandhavgarh Wilderness is set amidst thick bamboo groves and natural vegetation. By the end of 2010, two more resorts will be added to the Group. They are located close to Kanha Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) and Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (Assam) and will be named as Infinity Kanha Wilderness and Infinity Kaziranga Wilderness, respectively. Conservation Corporation of India Pvt. Ltd. (CC IPL) was set up in 2009 as a holding company for the various resorts that the Group owns or will own in future.

The Corbett Foundation (TCF), established in 1994, is a testimony to Mr. Khatau's passion and heartfelt interest in the preservation of our natural heritage. With its mandate to preserve wildlife and nature with the involvement of the local communities, great work has been done at the grassroots-level work in and around Corbett and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves and also in Kutch. The Foundation's programmes are mainly in the areas of wildlife conservation, environmental awareness, community outreach, veterinary services, watershed management and sustainable eco-development.

In conclusion, CCIPL and TCF are actually two sides of the same coin – the former complements and provides synergy to the latter. CCIPL strongly believes that conservation can only be achieved by involving the local stakeholders, providing them with employment opportunities and finally to lead a sustainable and harmonious lifestyle with nature.

That's why we say – Conservation is our business!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Corbett Foundation is honoured to be associated and working under the able guidance and leadership of its Board of Trustees. The Board comprises of individuals with immense experience in the programmes and projects undertaken by TCF.

Mr. Dilip D. Khatau, Chairman
Chairman, Conservation Corporation of India

Mrs. Rina D. Khatau, Co-Chair
Executive Director, Conservation Corporation of India

Mr. B. K. Goswami, IAS (Retd.)
Ex-Secretary, Government of India

Dr. M. K. Ranjitsingh, IAS (Retd.)
Ex-Secretary, Government of India

Mr. Nirmal Ghosh
Former member of the steering Committee of Project Elephant and Thailand
Correspondent of The Straits Times

Mr. Sam Mistry
Director, Khatau International Ltd.

Mr. Sharad Sanghi
Chairman, Sanghi Brothers Ltd.

Mr. Akshobh Singh
Vice Chairman, Central Himalayan Environment Association and Ex-Member, WWF-
India, Uttar Pradesh State Committee

Mr. Darius E. Udawadia
Solicitor, Udawadia & Udeshi, Mumbai

Mr. Gautam Mangalagiri
Managing Partner, Husain Gautam Associates

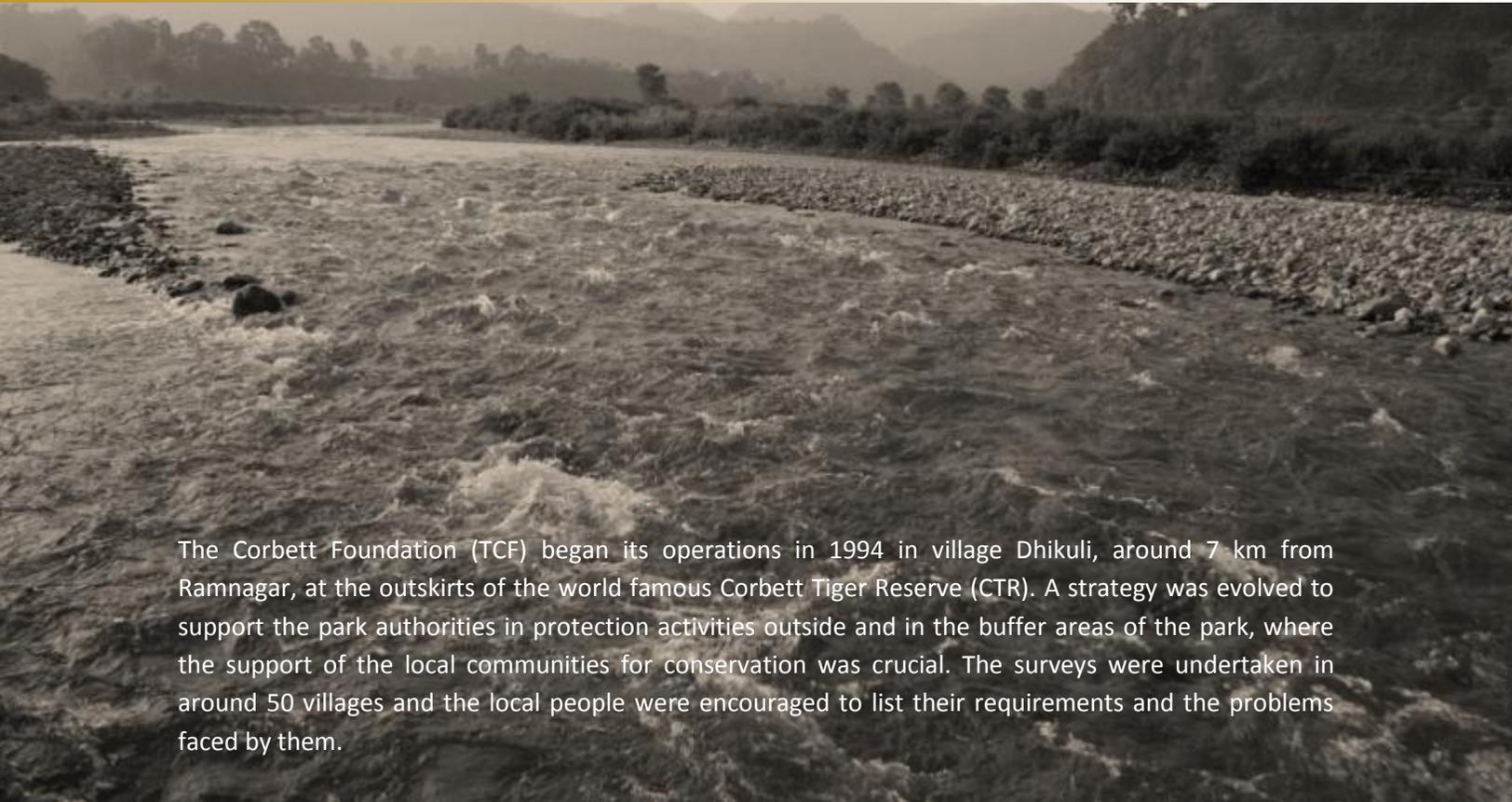
Mr. Laxmikumar N. Goculdas
Director, Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co. Ltd.

Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda
President, WWF-India & Member, Cat Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission,
IUCN

OBJECTIVES

- 
- A large, striped spider is shown on its web, positioned on the left side of the page. The spider has a long, cylindrical body with dark and light stripes, and very long, thin legs. The web is a complex, spiral pattern of fine threads. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric, with a grid-like pattern of light-colored lines.
- To preserve, protect and conserve the unique ecosystems of Corbett country in the foothills of the Himalaya in the Kumaon and Garhwal hills of Uttarakhand.
 - To restore the natural harmony between human beings and the surrounding flora and fauna in the natural environment.
 - To restore the ancient simple culture of the hill folks of Kumaon and Garhwal regions, and the Baiga and Gond tribes of Central India.
 - To preserve and restore the places which Jim Corbett visited and lived in.
 - To create awareness of the importance of preservation of the Corbett country for posterity and to appreciate the co-existence of man and animals in their natural environment.
 - Financing wildlife research projects that are totally result-oriented.
 - Focusing the State and Central governments' attention on specific conservation issues.
 - Raising funds to support the above objectives.
 - To preserve, conserve, protect and restore the unique ecosystems and to do all other activities as mentioned above, anywhere in India and abroad.

CORBETT



The Corbett Foundation (TCF) began its operations in 1994 in village Dhikuli, around 7 km from Ramnagar, at the outskirts of the world famous Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR). A strategy was evolved to support the park authorities in protection activities outside and in the buffer areas of the park, where the support of the local communities for conservation was crucial. The surveys were undertaken in around 50 villages and the local people were encouraged to list their requirements and the problems faced by them.

The three major issues identified by TCF team were - damage to the livestock of the villagers by tigers and leopards, crop raising by wild herbivores like elephants, deer and wild boars and the lack of medical facilities for the villagers. With sufficient data in hand and an extremely dedicated team, TCF initiated work in 50 villages around CTR. CTR being a vast area of around 1288 sq km, the need was felt to reach out to more number of villages in the North Zone (NZ) of the park. Thus, TCF started its operations in around 50 villages situated in the NZ as well. An important aspect to win over the trust of the local people was to providing them with basic primary health care facilities. To start with, TCF provided a small medical kit to each village along with a Hindi version of a useful book called 'Where There Is No Doctor'. This programme is dealt with greater details in the subsequent sections of this report. Subsequently, in 2009, TCF set up another office in village Rathuadhab, along the northern periphery of CTR near Kanda.

With a strong presence in the South Zone (Dhikuli) and North Zone (Rathuadhab) of CTR, TCF focuses its work on the following broad aspects:

- Wildlife Research and Conservation**
- Environmental Awareness**
- Rural Medical Outreach**

WILDLIFE RESEARCH & CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

1. Interim Relief Scheme

The Corbett Tiger Reserve, located in the foothills of the Himalayas, acts as a significant conservation unit under the Project Tiger Scheme of the Government of India for the conservation of tiger. There are about 250 villages and 25 *Gujjar* tribe settlements located in and around the buffer zone of the Corbett Tiger Reserve and adjoining forest divisions. The major conflict between park authorities and the people in this area originates from loss of livestock to wild predators and crop damage from wild herbivores. The problem of human-wildlife conflict is the most challenging threat for the conservation of tigers in this human dominated landscape. Although the forest department has a policy for compensation, the low rates and the complicated procedure involved in claiming the same often dissuades the locals from claiming compensation. In these circumstances, as recorded in various parts of the country, locals often retaliate by poisoning the carcasses of the livestock kills in order to get rid of the carnivore feeding on the carcass. To avoid such possibilities, TCF launched the 'Cattle Compensation Scheme' (eventually renamed as Interim Relief Scheme) in 1995 and since then the programme has been running successfully in the buffer zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve and its adjoining forest divisions. WWF-India has been a partner in this scheme since 1997.



The Forest Department gives monetary compensation for the cattle killed in the buffer zone but there are procedural delays in disbursement. Interim Relief Scheme (IRS) provides on-the-spot monetary help to the affected villagers. The villagers inform TCF offices in Dhikuli and Rathuadhab about any cattle kill in the area. TCF team, consisting of an inspector, tracker and driver, then does an on-the-spot inspection within 24-36 hours. The team assesses parameters like whether the kill was done by a tiger or a leopard, the age of the animal killed, the GPS location, etc. After the team is convinced about

the genuineness of the kill, it pays the applicable interim relief amount to the villager. TCF gives an incentive of Rs. 100 to the informant if a kill case is reported to its office within 24 hours. Information about this scheme has spread to the entire CTR villages and reporting of the cattle kills is nearly 100%. TCF is running this scheme since October 1997 in association with WWF-India's Tiger Conservation Programme, which has extended funding support for payment of the Interim Relief disbursed by TCF.



During the last fiscal year 2010-11, The Corbett Foundation team inspected 964 cases of livestock depredation by tigers and leopards in and around the Corbett Tiger Reserve (Table 1). TCF paid interim relief to all affected persons and an expenditure of Rs. 1,686,813/- was incurred to carry out the Interim Relief Scheme. The number of livestock depredation varies seasonally (figure 1 & 2). There were more incidents of livestock depredation during monsoon season i.e. July (116), August (145), September (137) and October (102) than other months. Fewer incidents of livestock depredation were recorded in the months of February (38) and January (48).

Table 1: Details of Livestock depredation by tiger & leopard during 2010-11

Month	South Zone				North Zone				Total	Expenditure
	Tiger		Leopard		Tiger		Leopard			
	Kill	Injury	Kill	Injury	Kill	Injury	Kill	Injury		
Apr	28	4	9	1	0	0	23	0	65	96,292
May	28	1	8	1	0	0	14	0	52	80,785
Jun	23	5	8	0	0	0	25	0	61	111596
Jul	77	17	11	0	1	0	10	0	116	192995
Aug	103	19	9	0	0	0	14	0	145	240220
Sep	94	16	6	3	1	0	17	0	137	237990
Oct	69	13	4	1	1	0	14	0	102	160545
Nov	43	5	8	0	3	0	18	0	77	159665
Dec	41	2	8	0	2	0	20	0	73	157150
Jan	31	2	2	0	0	0	13	0	48	82373
Feb	26	0	4	1	0	0	7	0	38	69431
Mar	31	3	10	0	0	0	6	0	50	97771
Total	594	87	87	7	8	0	181		964	1,686,813

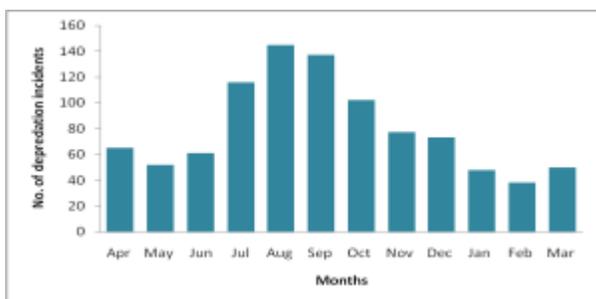


Fig. 1: Monthly variation in cattle depredation in and around CTR

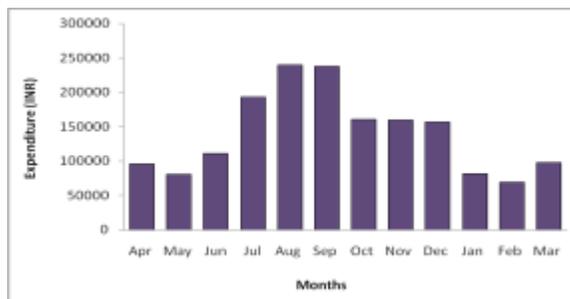


Fig. 2: Monthly variation in expenditure in disbursement of Interim Relief Scheme in and around CTR

2. Human-Wildlife Conflict in the Buffer Zone of CTR

Human-wildlife conflict is a serious threat to the conservation of endangered species like tigers and contributes to a large extent for the disappearance of these great cats from a larger part of its former range. Since its inception, TCF has been working to reduce conflict between tigers and human beings. The people, who have suffered livestock depredation by tigers and leopards, tend to develop a negative approach towards the conservation of these big cats. To reduce this negative attitude amongst the villagers, TCF initiated the Interim Relief Scheme. In this process TCF started analysing the reasons for livestock attacks by tigers and leopards, as livestock are not the natural prey base of these felines. To further analyse the problem, TCF, in collaboration with the Aligarh Muslim University, started a research project on Human-Wildlife Conflict which was launched in September 2002. The first phase of this study was funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and it was completed in October 2003.

The second phase of the Human-Wildlife Conflict research project supported by Forever Tigers was completed by the end of 2007. The second phase involved the estimation of tiger density in the buffer zone of the Corbett Tiger Reserve through the camera trapping method and validation of some data collected during the first phase. The results of the study indicated healthy population of tigers in the buffer zone of the CTR with an average tiger density of 13.75 tigers per 100 sq km. The study also indicated that the major factor behind livestock depredation by tigers and leopards is the lack of proper care of livestock and indiscipline among the villagers in letting the cattle out for grazing in the forest area without a proper escort.

Injuries to human beings by wild animals like tigers, leopards, elephants and bears, sometimes leading to deaths, add to the human-wildlife conflict and often aggravate the situation at the grassroots level. TCF treats the problem at par with conflicts arising out of livestock depredation and has been responding to reports of such accidents with promptness providing immediate effective assistance for medical treatment of the injured and providing financial assistance for the primary treatment up to Rs.1 Lakh.

Human mauling & killing by wild animals



During the fiscal year (2010-11), three incidents of human mauling and 7 incidents of killing were recorded in and around the Corbett Tiger Reserve (Table 2). TCF paid a total of Rs. 4,812/- as interim relief for medical treatment in the 3 injury cases. A total amount of Rs 250,000/- was given as compensation to the families of five individuals who had been killed by tiger.

Table 2: Details of human depredation by wild animals (2010-11)

Month	Person Injured	Person Killed	Species Involved	Interim Relief	Village	Forest Division
June 2010	1	0	Leopard	2812	Gularghatti Khatta	TWFD
June 2010	1	0	Leopard	1000	Parba	RFD
July 2010	0	1	Elephant		Laldhang	CTR
Nov 2010	0	1	Tiger	50,000	Sunderkhal	CTR
Nov 2010	0	1	Tiger	50,000	Chukam	RFD
Dec 2010	0	1	Tiger	50,000	Sunderkhal	CTR
Jan 2011	0	1	Tiger	50,000	Garjia	CTR
Jan 2011	0	1	Tiger	50,000	Sunderkhal	RFD
Mar 2011	1	0	Tiger	1000	Tera	RFD
Mar 2011	0	1	Tiger		Sunderkhal	CTR

*RFD= Ramnagar Forest Division, TWFD= Terai West Forest Division, CTR= Corbett Tiger Reserve

3. Mahseer Conservation Programme

Mahseer, also known as the “tiger of the waters”, are the most important game and food fishes of India. However, Mahseer populations are getting rapidly decimated by the large scale destruction of their natural habitat, and are thereby categorized as threatened fishes in India (National Commission on Agriculture, 1976). Most of the species of Mahseer have been categorized as ‘Endangered’ or ‘Threatened’ in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Despite legal protection to the species, the enforcement mechanism is not

effective enough to stop its exploitation through destructive illegal methods like poisoning, dynamiting and electrocution, which not only affect long term survival of the fish but the concerned aquatic eco-systems too.

TCF has been protecting the Mahseer in River Kosi, mainly in a natural pool near Infinity Resorts, for the past eight years with support of E-Pac International, UK. Our vigilant team of *Mahseer Mitra* (known as Friends of Mahseer), guard the Mahseer round the clock in the stretch of one kilometer near the Infinity resorts and prevent the use of explosives, bleaching powder, gill nets and electricity to kill these species. As a result of the dedicated efforts of these *Mahseer Mitra*, the small protected pool that used to be in front of Infinity Resorts had the highest known density of Mahseer anywhere in the river stretch between Kumeria and Kosi Barrage. However, tumultuous rainfall in September 2010 caused devastating flooding of River Kosi, changing the entire course of the river. As a consequence, several of the natural Mahseer pools including the one below Infinity Resorts got destroyed. TCF team carried out a survey and identified ten new sites where the Mahseer conservation initiatives could be implemented. *Mahseer Mitras* were also posted for patrolling duties at one of the new site which is in front and downstream of Shergaon village, near Infinity Resorts.



A survey conducted by TCF in 2010 revealed that the construction of the barrage on River Kosi at Ramnagar was one of the major reasons behind the local decline in the Mahseer population. During monsoon (between July and September), the gates of the barrage are frequently opened and closed, depending upon the storage capacity of the barrage. When these gates are opened, several fish fingerlings flow down with the water. Once the gates are closed, these fingerlings cannot go back upstream and are trapped in the small pockets of water. These fingerlings are either picked up by locals or die as the water dries up. After analysis of the problem, TCF in collaboration with the Ramnagar Forest

Division and local fisherman community decided to carry out upstream trans-location of fingerlings of Mahseer in order to ensure viable population of Mahseer in Kosi. This activity also provided alternate source of livelihood to the fisherman community during non-fishing season. The fingerlings were caught with the help of specified nets and collected in a mesh cage set up in the water. After collection, they were transferred to small cages open from top and transported for release into pools upstream of the barrage in the stretch between Ramnagar to Garjia temple. Approximately 10,000 fingerlings were trans-located in October 2010. TCF will take up fingerling trans-location as an annual activity after the culmination of monsoon season.



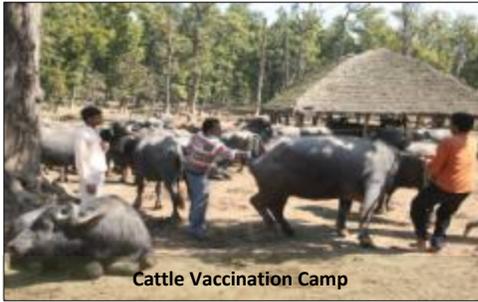
Kosi River stretch showing location of Mahseer Conservation Programme



Kosi River stretch showing change in river course after the flood

4. Cattle Vaccination Camps

Heavy rainfall often increases the risk of foot & mouth disease in livestock. As the cattle belonging to local communities graze in the forests in and around the buffer zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve, there are chances of transmission of this disease from livestock to wild animals. TCF in collaboration with the Veterinary



Cattle Vaccination Camp

Department of Ramnagar organized a vaccination drive to vaccinate the livestock of local communities to prevent the spread of disease in September-October 2010. The vaccination camps were organized in Chukam, Mohan, Sunderkhal, Ringora, Aamdanda, Maldhan, Belghatti Gujjar Khatta and Phanto Gujjar Khatta villages. Under the

programme, approximately 6,000 cattle were vaccinated against foot & mouth disease.

Training Programme on “Best Animal Husbandry Practices” for Gujjars



Training Programme for Gujjars

TCF, in collaboration with Animal Husbandry Department of Ramnagar and the Terai West Forest Division, organized a training programme on “Best Animal Husbandry Practices” for *Gujjars* settled below the Tumariya Dam on 28th of February, 2011. This *Gujjar* settlement has 15 households with a total cattle population of over 1000. The Foundation team had a detailed discussion with the participants about

stall feeding and its benefits, adoption of rotational grazing patterns to allow regeneration of adjoining forest, and formation of Self Help Groups to enable the Gujjars to be free of the middleman so that they are empowered to bargain for better price of milk, as at present they are dependent on middlemen for loans, and thus are bound to sell their milk to them. This was followed by a session by Dr. Rajeev from Animal Husbandry Department on the following topics: better livestock management practices for improving milk production, improving the quality of feed of the cattle, breed improvement of the cattle, and advantages of building business linkages with the Dairy Board. In the

concluding session, the D.F.O. of Terai West Forest Division appreciated the programme and its relevance in decreasing the pressure on forest resources. He requested The Corbett Foundation to organize similar activities in other *Gujjar* settlements also.

In the second half of the programme, about 1000 cattle were vaccinated for foot-and-mouth disease, and about 150 cattle were provided with medicines for stomach worms and liver flukes. Medicines to improve milk production were also distributed among the Gujjars. The programme was concluded with the screening of two awareness movies “Saving the Tiger” and “Vanishing Vultures”, the latter throwing light on the plight of India’s vulture population due to the use of the banned drug Diclofenac. This movie was especially relevant as a sizeable population of vultures exist near the Tumariya *Gujjar* settlement.

5. Waterfowl Census

Corbett Tiger Reserve is listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International



in the A1 category. With the onset of winter, several migratory waterfowl start arriving at the water bodies in and around the Corbett Tiger Reserve. TCF has been carrying out waterfowl census at three reservoirs near CTR viz. Tumariya, Haripura and Baur for the last nine years. This data is shared with Bombay Natural History Society and Wetlands International as part of the Asian Waterfowl Census. Earlier the census was conducted only once a year, but since 2009-10 it is being conducted on a fortnightly basis from the time

migratory species start arriving till they start leaving around March. This year (2010-11), the first waterfowl census was conducted on 1st November 2010 and the last census was conducted on 31st March 2011. All three sites were monitored nine times in total.

It was observed that migratory birds started arriving at all three sites a little late this year in comparison to the previous years. TCF team observed a total of 66 species of birds. Maximum species were recorded at Tumariya reservoir with 58 species. This was followed by Haripura Reservoir with 50 species and Baur with 34 species. The five most common species recorded at Tumariya Reservoir were Common Coot, Tufted Pochard,

Great-crested Grebe, Gadwall and Common Pochard. A sizeable population of Ruddy Shelduck was also observed in the reservoir. The five most common species recorded at Haripura Reservoir were Common Coot, Red-crested Pochard, Gadwall, Common Pochard and Tufted Pochard. The five most common species recorded at Baur Reservoir were Tufted Pochard, Common Coot, Great-crested Grebe, Red-crested Pochard and Gadwall. Two other commonly recorded species at Haripura included Northern Pintail and Ferruginous Pochard.

TCF recorded a pair of Sarus Crane in the agricultural fields next to Tumariya Reservoir. A flock of Bar-headed Geese were also found wintering at Tumariya from December to January. Other interesting avifauna recorded at the above-mentioned reservoir included Greylag Goose, Painted Stork, Greater Painted Snipe, and Western Marsh Harrier. Baillon's Crake, which only has individual records mentioned from the area, was observed at Tumariya in February. A few interesting species that were recorded in Haripura Reservoir were Northern Lapwing, which is a winter visitor, Lesser Whistling Duck, and Greylag Goose, another winter visitor. Grey-headed Lapwing and Lesser Adjutant Stork were two species our team recorded, which only had individual records from the area. White-tailed Lapwing, which only has individual records from the area, was observed by our team in Baur Reservoir.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

The Corbett Foundation organizes workshops and meetings from time to time to create awareness among common people and to discuss major issues with major stakeholders. During the year 2010-2011, TCF organised the following workshops and meetings in CTR.

Teachers Training Workshop



Teachers Training Workshop in progress

Teachers play a crucial role in creating responsible and educated future generations. Thus their involvement in conservation of our natural resources is highly essential to achieve sustainable development of the country in the long run. Keeping this in mind, two workshops were organized for the teachers of the government schools in Kotabagh and Ramnagar blocks with a basic objective of providing authentic knowledge to the

teachers on local, national and global wildlife conservation and environmental issues so that they could share this knowledge with the students of their schools. Fifty teachers at the Block Resource Center, Kotabagh and 81 teachers at the Block Resource Center, Ramnagar benefited from these workshops.

Forest Fire Prevention Workshop



Forest Fire Prevention Workshop in progress

Every year, thousands of hectares of valuable forests and wildlife are destroyed in the incidences of forest fire in India due to human negligence. Therefore, to combat with the problem of forest fires, cooperation and participation of local communities is necessary. But most of the local communities are unaware about the causes of forest fire. Therefore, TCF organized a couple of one-day Forest Fire Prevention Workshops

in the north and south zone of CTR in the months of February and March,

respectively. The main objective to conduct these workshops was to sensitize local villagers about the causes and hazards of forest fires on the habitat and biodiversity, and its harmful impact on human health.

In North Zone, 50 people including the villagers and the representatives from the forest department participated in the workshop. During the discussion, greater coordination and sharing of information between villagers and forest officials was suggested to combat forest fires in the area.

The workshop in South Zone was attended by 90 participants including village representatives and the representatives from the forest divisions of Terai West and Ramnagar, and Corbett Tiger Reserve, members of the Fire Control Unit of Uttarakhand Police and members of the Eco-development Committee. The workshops facilitated better coordination and cooperation between the forest department and the local communities.

KIDS FOR TIGER PROGRAMME



An awareness rally on World Earth Day

The 'Kids for Tiger' programme was launched by Sanctuary Asia in the year 2000 as an environment education and awareness programme for schools across India. The programme aims to bring out the vital connection between the survival of the tiger and the ecological security of the Indian subcontinent. 'Kids for Tigers' seeks to increase awareness among the children about India's

biodiversity and sensitize them to the fact that saving tigers and their forests will also secure our water supply and help save ourselves. TCF partners with Sanctuary Asia for this programme at the outskirts of Corbett Tiger Reserve with of more than 25 schools covering around 6,600 students participating in the below mentioned activities:



Rally during the Tiger Fest



Face painting competition during the Tiger Fest



Kids for Tigers workshop in a school



Students at their school stalls

Inter-School Tiger Festival: Inter-School Tiger Festival was organized on 22nd April to celebrate the World Earth Day with active participation of 200 students and teachers. The programme commenced with a rally to spread awareness among the local public and tourists about the importance of tiger conservation. The students participated in the various competitions like Face-painting, Essay-writing, Poster-making and Environmental Skit apart from putting up stalls on biodiversity conservation. The Tiger Fest concluded with an eco-friendly Fancy Dress and cultural programmes on environment and biodiversity presented by the students.

Signature Campaign: A Signature Campaign for 'Saving the Tiger' was conducted in 25 schools around Corbett Tiger Reserve in the month of August. More than 6,000 signatures were collected and presented to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for taking necessary action for tiger conservation in the State.

Presentation on Tiger in Schools: During the month of September, The Corbett Foundation interacted with more than 1200 students from 24 schools of Ramnagar and Kotabagh about the importance of tigers, forests, water and climate change. Two students from each school were selected to take part in the Wildlife Quiz that was organized by The Corbett Foundation during the Wildlife Week in October.

Nature Walks: In the month of January and

February, TCF conducted nature walks in the forest areas adjacent to the Corbett Tiger Reserve. Selected students from 23 schools took part in the nature walks that dealt in detail about the local flora and fauna and conservation. Out of these, five students were selected for a regional nature camp on the basis of their performance, knowledge and interest in nature and wildlife.

Regional Nature Camp: A two-day regional nature camp was organized in the last week of February for five students who were selected during the nature walks conducted earlier. The students were involved in nature interpretation, bird-watching and flora identification. The students visited the Himalayan Botanical Garden to learn about various rare plant species that are found in Himalayan region. The students highlighted the problem of deaths of wild animals in road accidents due to high speed vehicles through the medium of environmental skit.

Out of all students, Pankaj Kumar from Government Higher Secondary School, Kunkhet was selected to take part in the National Camp of Kids for Tigers in Pench Tiger Reserve, where selected students from other parts of the country would also participate. The Great Mission Public School from Ramnagar was selected for the award of 'Best School' in Ramnagar area under the Kids for Tiger Programme due to its sustained and dedicated participation in all environmental activities organised by The Corbett Foundation.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Corbett Foundation's Anniversary: The Corbett Foundation celebrated its 16th anniversary in April 2010. On this occasion, various events were organized.



A. Multi-stakeholder Meeting: A multi-stakeholder meeting was organized and attended by villagers, teachers, forest officials, NGOs, print and electronic media, the Trustees of The Corbett Foundation. During the meeting, the several issues related to the conservation of tigers and protection of the Corbett landscape were discussed.



B. Book Release: The Corbett Foundation in collaboration with Natraj Publishers, Dehradun published Hindi translation of Jim Corbett's book "Temple tiger and more man-eaters of Kumaon" and "Kumaon ke khaufnak aadamkhor" written by Thakur Dutt Joshi.

C. TCF Awards: In continuation to previous years, The Corbett Foundation presented awards to selected villagers, media persons and forest personnel for showing commendable dedication towards conservation of wildlife.



Consultation on the Challenges of Tiger Conservation

D. Consultation on the Challenges of Tiger Conservation in Corbett Landscape:

A Consultation on the Challenges of Tiger Conservation in Corbett Landscape was organized in which over 50 delegates from the forest department of the Corbett Tiger Reserve and the surrounding forest divisions; leading NGOs like WWF – India, TRAFFIC India and Wildlife Trust of India; media persons

and The Corbett Foundation Trustees and staff participated. The key points that were discussed and highlighted during the consultations were:

1. The part of CTR which falls in Uttar Pradesh is highly sensitive and needs special attention from the conservation point of view.
2. The Tiger Task Force with effective anti-poaching mechanism should be formed immediately and deployed in the Corbett Landscape.
3. Ensure complete protection of critical wildlife corridors that connect Corbett Tiger Reserve to other territorial forest divisions.
4. Strong community awareness and sustainable development programmes to be implemented involving the stake-holders to mitigate man-animal conflict.
5. Ensure effective control measures to prevent forest-fires.
6. Need to strengthen adjoining territorial divisions for the protection of tigers in these areas as tigers have high movement in these areas.
7. Eco-friendly norms for all the hotels and resorts in the vicinity of Corbett Tiger Reserve to minimize the negative effects of tourism activity on wildlife.



Wildlife Week Rally



Poster Competition



Quiz Competition in progress



Poster Competition

Wildlife Week Celebrations: The first week of October is celebrated as the Wildlife Week in India. The Corbett Foundation celebrated wildlife week by organising various events to create and raise awareness about wildlife among the students and villagers living in the vicinity of Corbett Tiger Reserve.

1. A Poster Competition on “Rich Biodiversity and Prosperous Human Life” was organized for over 60 students from 10 schools of Ramnagar.
2. A Display on best use of waste material was conducted to sensitise students about reuse and recycling of waste and wise use of available resources.
3. A Wildlife Quiz Competition was organized wherein 46 students from 23 schools participated. The first round comprised of a written round followed by the final quiz that was organized in six rounds. First round was of wildlife in mythology, followed by current events, science, environmental days and wildlife in Corbett Tiger Reserve round, respectively. The team members of winning team were awarded with a scholarship of Rs. 1200/- per year for five years.
4. Wildlife Awareness Rally: A wildlife awareness rally was organized on the fifth day of wildlife week to sensitize the locals and tourists about the importance of forests and wildlife conservation. About 400 participants from various local groups like Bagh Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, Resort Owners, Nature Guides participated in the rally along with schools and the Forest Department personnel.

5. Wildlife Movie Shows in villages: Wildlife movie shows were organized at night in different villages throughout the wildlife week in which movies of wild

animals were shown to sensitize the local village community about the wildlife issues.

OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS:

1. Awareness Programme at NSS camp: The Corbett Foundation organized an awareness programme for National Service Scheme girls of PNG College, Ramnagar in December to sensitize the participants about wildlife and environmental issues with special emphasis on saving the tiger. The programme was attended by over 120 students and their teachers.



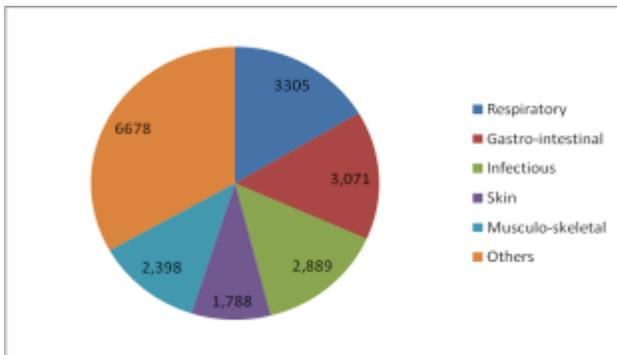
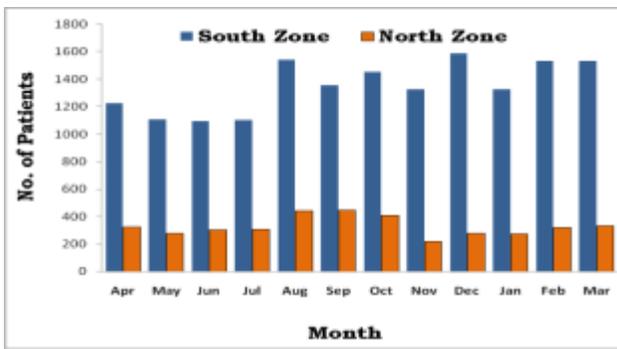
2. Excursions to Dhikala for local schoolchildren: On the occasion the Platinum Jubilee of Corbett Tiger Reserve, The Corbett Foundation in collaboration with the Corbett Tiger Reserve organized one day excursions for students to Dhikala Tourist Zone to experience wildlife closely and learn about the Corbett Tiger Reserve. About 600 students from 35 schools benefited with this programme.

3. Painting Competition in Schools of North Zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve: The Corbett Foundation organized painting competition in two schools in North Zone of the Corbett Tiger Reserve to generate awareness among students about wildlife and forest conservation through the medium of creativity of paintings. Around 40 students from both the schools participated enthusiastically in the competition.



4. Celebration of Environmental Days: The Corbett Foundation organised awareness and participatory programmes for students and communities on World Environment Day, Harela Festival, Jim Corbett's birthday, Internal Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer, Bird-watching Day and World Wetlands Day.

RURAL MEDICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME



The Corbett Foundation launched its Rural Medical Outreach Programme in 1995 in the Corbett landscape. Under this programme there is provision for OPDs and mobile health camps. Villagers from more than 120 villages in both the North and South Zone of the Corbett Tiger Reserve are being benefitted from this scheme. In this fiscal year 2010-11, a total of 780 camps and 600 OPDs were organized. Additionally, five special camps were also conducted. A total of 20, 129 patients were treated by The Corbett Foundation in 2010-11. In addition to this, the medical division is also running a Tuberculosis

Eradication Programme, under which 15 T.B. patients have been treated in 2010-11.

The majority of patients were recorded with respiratory disease (3305), followed by gastro-intestinal disease (3071), infectious diseases (2889), musculo-skeletal disease (2398), and skin diseases (1788).

Health Awareness Programme



Since January 2011, the medical division of The Corbett Foundation also started a new programme on health awareness in schools located in the Corbett landscape. The objective of this programme was to generate awareness on health-related issues among local school children. The broad topics of the health awareness sessions that have been covered

till date are health & hygiene, health & nutrition, and health & the environment. This programme was conducted in four schools, and the response from the locals has been very positive.

Flood Relief for affected villagers



The heavy rains in September 2010 caused havoc in the villages around the Corbett Tiger Reserve and Ramnagar Forest Division. The villages like Kunkhet, Mohan, Chukum, Sunderkhal, Amdanda and many villages of north zone suffered heavy damage in terms of property loss. Several people lost their lands and dwelling. In view of the urgency to provide humanitarian aid, TCF undertook the following flood relief work in the south and north zone of CTR:



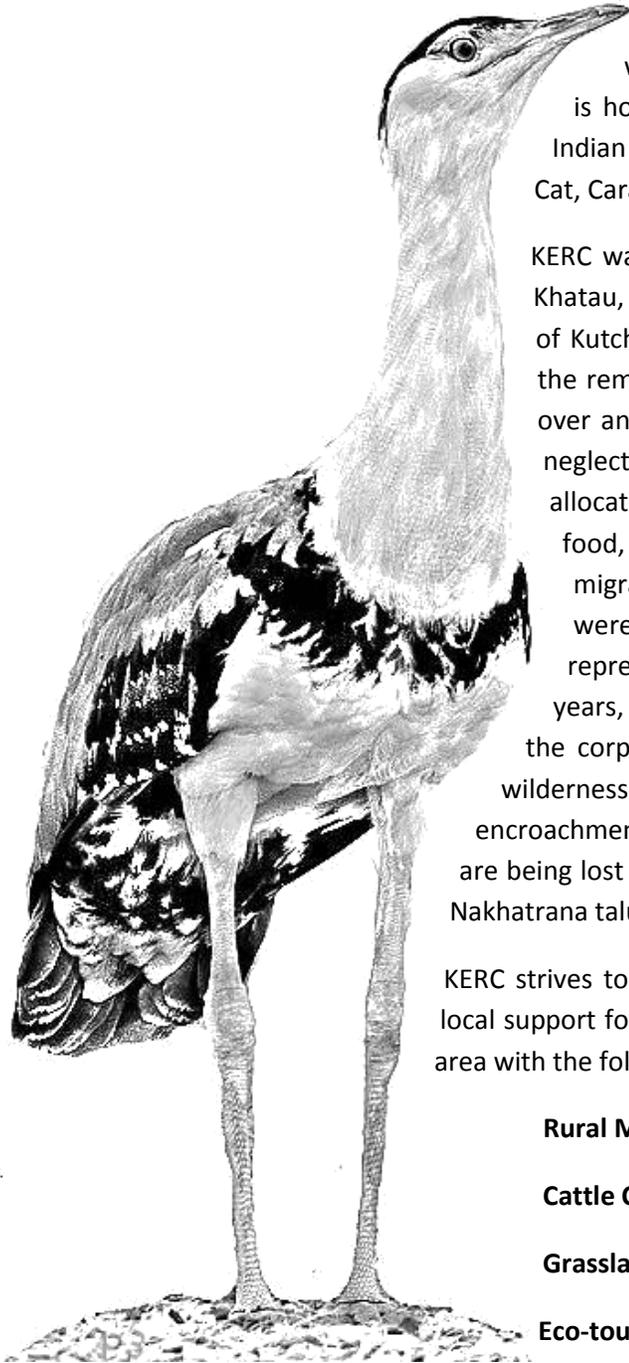
- Distribution of clothes to the flood affected families in Sunderkhal village
- Distribution of utensils, tin sheets and blankets to the flood affected families in Amdanda, Chukum, Mohan, and Sunderkhal villages

- Compensation for the loss of livestock, cattle sheds and agriculture land
- Special Medical Camps were organised for villagers of the flood-affected areas.

- Cattle vaccination camps at Chukum, Mohan, Sunderkhal and Amdanda villages.



TCF team after the distribution of flood relief to the affected villagers



Kutch Ecological Research Centre (KERC), a division of The Corbett Foundation, was started in 1999 to preserve the fragile eco-system and wildlife of Kutch with active involvement of the local communities. Kutch is home to a number of endangered species like the Great Indian Bustard, Lesser Florican, Chinkara, Desert Fox, Desert Cat, Caracal, Indian Wolf and a wide variety of migratory birds.

KERC was established in Tera, the ancestral village of Mr. Dilip Khatau, Chairman of TCF, in Abdasa taluka of Kutch. The district of Kutch is divided into nine talukas, of which Abdasa is one of the remote coastal talukas. It has a total of 151 villages spread over an area of 2400 sq km. Until recently, the area had been neglected in terms of development of basic infrastructure and allocation of the state resources. Lack of clean drinking water, food, fodder and steady sources of income resulted in people migrating away from home. Health and education services were limited to small townships and are still very poorly represented in the rural areas. However, in the past couple of years, the government opened the gates of development for the corporate sector. This has changed the face of Kutch with wilderness areas being lost to rapid development and encroachment. Natural grasslands that harbour Kutch's unique fauna are being lost at a massive scale. KERC also established its presence in Nakhatrana taluka.

KERC strives to reverse the tides of destruction and actively mobilises local support for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems of the area with the following programmes:

Rural Medical Outreach Programme

Cattle Care and Breed Improvement Programme

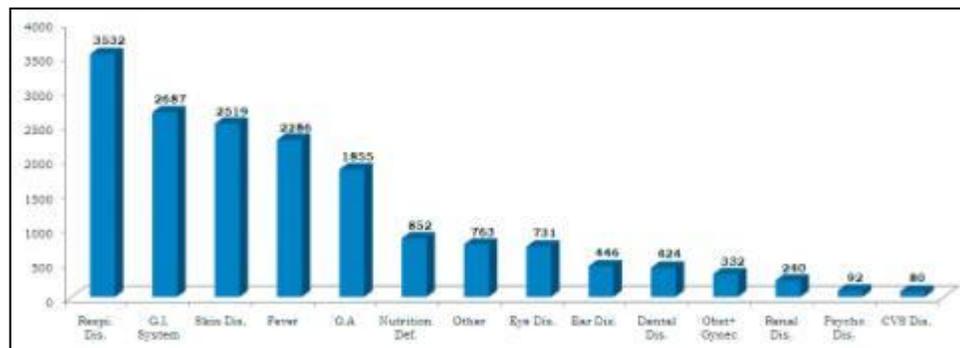
Grasslands Project

Eco-tourism and Birding in Kutch

Wildlife Awareness and Conservation

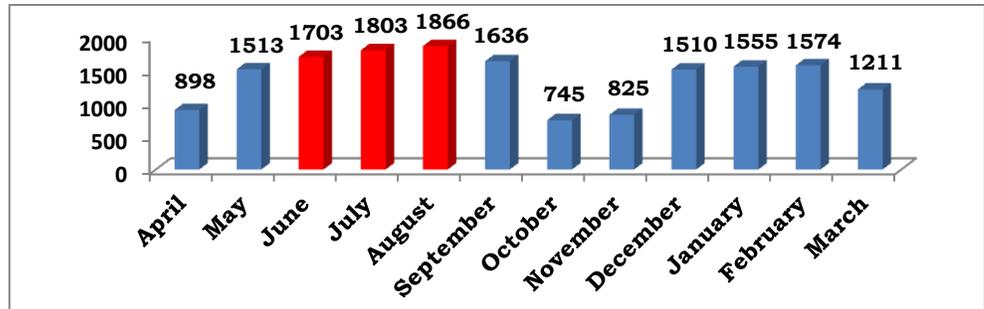
RURAL MEDICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Rural Medical Outreach Programme (RMOP) has been successfully implemented in over 50 villages in Abdasa and 40 villages in Nakhatrana talukas of Kutch. Mobile medical units headed by qualified doctors visit the villages in Abdasa and Nakhatrana every week. A fixed schedule is maintained for the benefit of the villagers. Since 2003, more than 54000 patients have taken the benefit of this scheme. KERC also encourages the villagers to take part in specially organised medical camps that are free of charge for the villagers. KERC also organise several awareness programmes on personal hygiene, clean village



and clean environment. There are many villages which have been neglected by the Government schemes owing to their small sized population; hence they are still underdeveloped in the case of basic health-care facilities.

In 2010-2011, KERC observed a total of 16,839 patients. Conditions like extreme cold (1.5°C) and extreme heat (45°C) and sudden change in the atmosphere due to storm like 'Phet' or heavy rainfall (700mm) have lead the people of Kutch towards such health related problems.



The maximum numbers of patients have been observed during the monsoon season i.e. between June to August.

KERC observed 3532 patients suffering from respiratory problems. The reason behind such rise in a peculiar problem could be the rapid increase in the industrialization in the region. The industrial development brings with it problems like increased transportation, increase in accidents, spreading of addictions like smoking, alcohol consumption, etc. In remote villages having low literacy level, youth get attracted towards industrial labour jobs where they get addicted to various things. Rapid industrial development due to setting up of cement, mining and stone crushing industries pollutes the air in the vicinity resulting in the increase of respiratory problems.

Gastro intestinal Problems were the second highest with a total of 2687 patients treated during this year. Almost 28% of the total patients examined were suffering from diarrhea. The scarcity of the clean potable drinking water is the main reason behind this problem. With the increased amount of annual rainfall, most of the villages have got their own village pond where rain water can be collected and used throughout the year. These village ponds get polluted as villagers use these to bathe their cattle and wash their clothes. The same water is then used for drinking purpose.

Moreover to the diseases mentioned above, a total of 2519 patients suffering from various skin diseases were observed. Unhygienic conditions prevalent at villages, unavailability of clean water for bathing, could be the reasons behind such diseases. In remote villages people avoid such problems until it becomes too serious and unbearable. Scabies and Pyoderma are such problems that could be easily cured by proper care and treatment. Out of the total 2286 cases

of fever examined, 86% suffered from the viral, 11% due to Malaria and 3% of other types of fever. Of the 852 cases of Nutrition deficiencies, 47% were suffering from Anemia, 35% from Vitamin deficiency and 18% from other nutritional deficiencies.

CATTLE CARE AND BREED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME



KERC Livestock Inspectors treating the cattle



KERC Livestock Inspectors treating the cattle



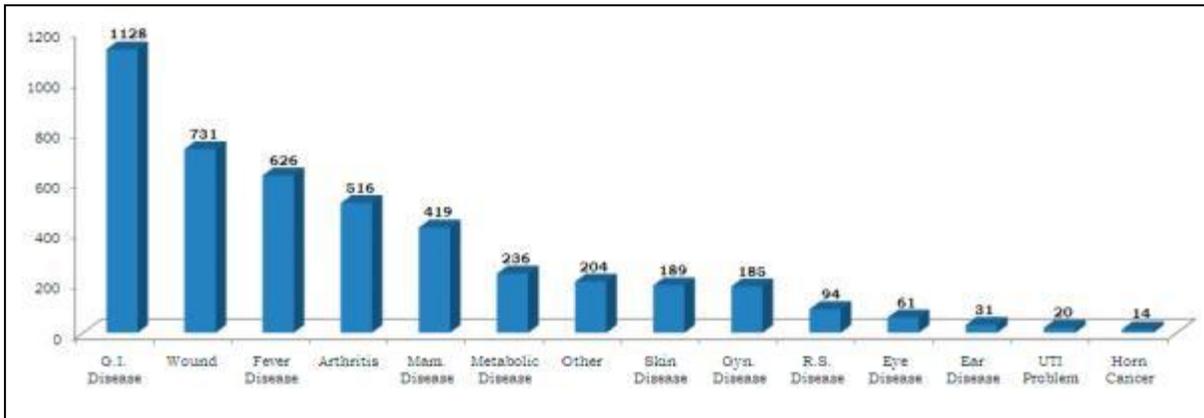
KERC Livestock Inspectors treating the cattle

KERC has taken the first step in the field of Cattle Care and Breed Improvement Programme in Abdasa & Nakhatrana taluka, by covering more than 160 villages. Being the largest district of the state and naturally protected at its 3 sides by the sea and the Greater and the Little Rann (deserts), Kutch has one of the best upland consisting huge belts of grassland and large population of cattle owned by people.

KERC has started three veterinary routes, two in Abdasa & one in Nakhatrana talukas. Skilled Livestock Inspectors (LI) are working at the grassroots level to keep the cattle population healthy. Our LIs treat the cattle at the door-step of villagers. KERC works with minimal facilities but it tries to treat the animals at the first stage of illness. This is important as in such remote villages people try to neglect or avoid the problem until an irreparable damage is done. Time and again the villagers have expressed their gratitude for the services provided by KERC.

KERC treated a total of 4454 cattle during the year and out of these 1128 were suffering from Gastro

Intestinal problems. KERC has observed that the local villagers are habituated in feeding the cattle with 'Bhunsu', partially grind wheat which looks like a mixture



of flour and half crushed wheat. People feed it in dry form which causes problems in the GI tract. Our teams are trying to teach people to feed it after boiling it for few hours in water. Even mixing of hay with it will help reduce the problem of indigestion. Moreover, unavailability of clean drinking water also causes many bacterial diseases to the livestock leading to GI problems.



Wounds are the second highest problems were observed during the year with 731 animals treated. Kutch has its own unique custom of sending animals with a shepherd for grazing in natural grasslands. In the field, while crossing boundaries or jumping over bushes, cattle get injured. Unhygienic conditions prevalent at villages leads such injuries towards the development of septic wounds and in extreme cases the development of maggots inside the

wound. The habits of people to keep the animals under open sky in all the three seasons causes various problems to the animals. Especially during the monsoon, animals suffer from the wounds in their hooves due to the unhygienic conditions around.

A total of 626 animals suffering from different febrile conditions and 516 animals suffering from arthritis were observed during this year. Regular long

walks in undulating terrain in search of food, exposure to extremely scorching heat, availability of limited food, and unattended prolonged lameness lead to arthritis.

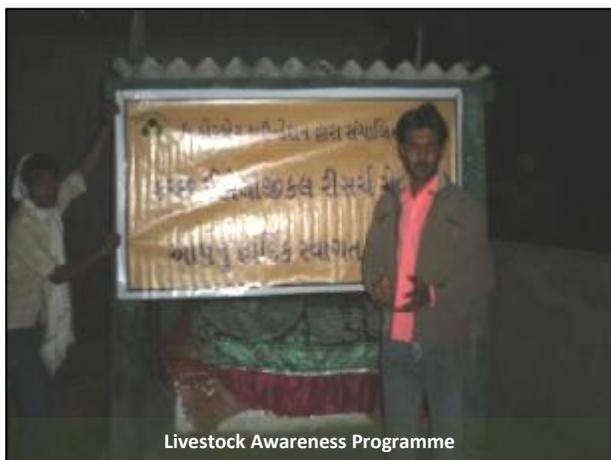


Mastitis was one of the major problems with the cattle of this region. A wide spectrum of bacteria is responsible for this condition. Presence of ecto-parasites like ticks on the udder and injury to the udder lead the bacteria into the mammary gland which may cause mastitis. Even unhygienic shelter for the cattle also attracts

many parasites and therefore regular cleaning of the shelter/cattle shed and necessary cleaning of individual animal is a must to avoid such problems.

Local villagers are completely unaware about the requirement of nutrients for better health of their cattle. They neglect the symptoms of Nutrition Deficiency shown by cattle which causes a fall in their productivity. People do not care about the calcium supply to the cattle that has recently delivered a calf predisposing the lactating cattle to milk fever. Total 236 animals suffering from metabolic problems were promptly treated during the year.

Our veterinary teams are spreading awareness by explaining the villagers the facts and requirements of adequate housing, feeding and care of their animals. We are also showing them the chances of rise in the final milk yield if they cared for their animals properly.



Livestock Awareness Programme



Livestock Awareness Programme

Participation in Banni Pashumela

KERC participated in the 4th Banni Pashumela, which is the biggest event of its kind in Kutch, where thousands of cattle owners gather with their best livestock



Livestock Awareness Programme during Banni Pashumela

for buying & selling purpose and to participate in various competitions. The main objectives of the association are conservation and improvement of Banni Buffalo breed and its recognition as distinct breed of the nation.

KERC spreads awareness on various diseases and problems related to cattle. Our team of livestock inspectors interacted with villagers

and displayed posters showing the problems and solutions of various diseases, importance of hygiene in cattle rearing, details and specialties of various breeds of cows and buffalos, and preventive measures to protect the animals from various diseases.

WILDLIFE AWARENESS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



Steppe Eagle found injured in Bhanana

Wildlife Rescue Work

In the month of April, KERC rescued a Steppe Eagle from the grassland of Bhanana village. The bird was found lying on the ground owing to some injury in wing and was dehydrated. We rescued the eagle and brought it to KERC



Steppe Eagle under treatment in KERC

office. A proper examination revealed a fracture close to the carpal joint. The bird was fed and looked after by our team for a few days. Once the bird recovered from dehydration and gathered strength, we shifted it to Shakkhar Bag Zoo in Junagadh for further treatment in association with the local forest department.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Awareness Programme at *Chhari Dhandh*

School Children Camp

In winter season, few groups of school students from Mumbai visited Kutch to experience the eco-tourism programme facilitated by KERC. The students visited famous places like *Banni* grassland, *Chhari-Dhandh* wetland,



School awareness programme at Aral

Kiro hill etc. During such excursions, KERC's wildlife team interacted with the students about the unique ecology and flora & fauna of Kutch.

The students also visited the fossil park to understand the evolutionary development of Kutch district.

Some Important Visitors at KERC



One of the interviews during the film shoot

During November, Ms. Dawn Tan, famous writer and film maker from Singapore visited Kutch with Mr. Todd C Wilkinson, a famous photographer from USA. They were working together to publish a book and documentary film on 'Existing Social Entrepreneurship Work in Kutch & Gujarat'.

The film will carry interviews of important personalities and unique self-sustainable desert ecology of Kutch. The film will also highlight the world Heritage Site of *Dholavira* famous for its Harappan civilization remains. This book and film will be an exemplary work on Kutch. KERC facilitated the visit of the author and the film crew.



Mr. Godrej and Mr. Mariwala in Kutch

KERC was visited by well known personalities throughout the year to understand and experience the biodiversity, ecosystem, culture and natural history of Kutch. Mr. Jamshyed Godrej, Mr. Kishore Mariwala along with their friends sailed from Mumbai to Kutch via Diu in four days. Mr. Diinesh Kumble a well known wildlife photographer from India has visited KERC during his visit to Gujarat. Mr. Kumble has written few famous books like *The Dream Safari – a pictorial journey to African Wildlife*. During his visit to KERC, he was working on a book which is shortly going to be released by Gujarat Government called 'Gujarat's Vibrant Wildlife – a pictorial journey' which covers most of the Protected Areas of the State. Dr. John Marrold, conservation scientist from Royal Society for Protection of Birds and Mr. Dave Showler, an ecologist



Mr. Diinesh Kumble in Kutch

from UK visited KERC to explore and understand the unique ecology of this region.



Global Birdwatchers' Conference

Participation of KERC in Global Birdwatchers' Conference 2010

KERC participated in the first Global Bird Watchers' Conference 2010 held at Jamnagar from 25th to 27th November.

After the conference, Mr. Ian Harrison, Secretary of the Europe Ornithological Society and Mr. Myles Lamont, Avian Manager in the Hancock Wildlife Research Centre visited KERC to see the activities carried out by the Centre and to understand the unique ecology of this landscape. They did many bird-watching trails with the KERC team during their visit and have sighted variety of avian species.



Renowned Ornithologists at Kutch

Achievement of KERC wildlife team

Mr. Devesh Gadhvi won the Second Prize in the Sanctuary Asia-RBS Wildlife Photography Awards 2010 for his image 'Handsome Gladiators' showing the territorial fight between two Black Francolins.



Mr. Devesh Gadhvi at the Sanctuary Awards function



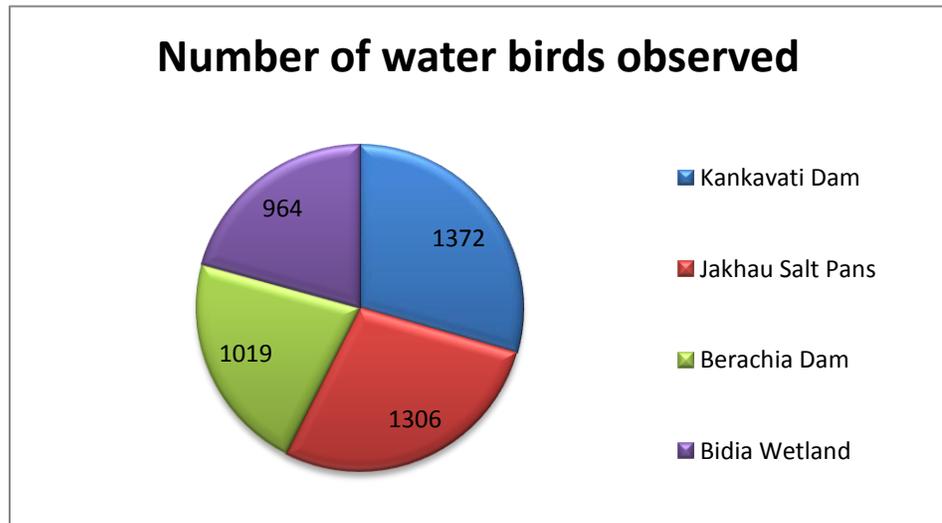
II Prize: Sanctuary-RBS Wildlife Photography Awards



Special Mention: Sanctuary-RBS Wildlife Photography Awards

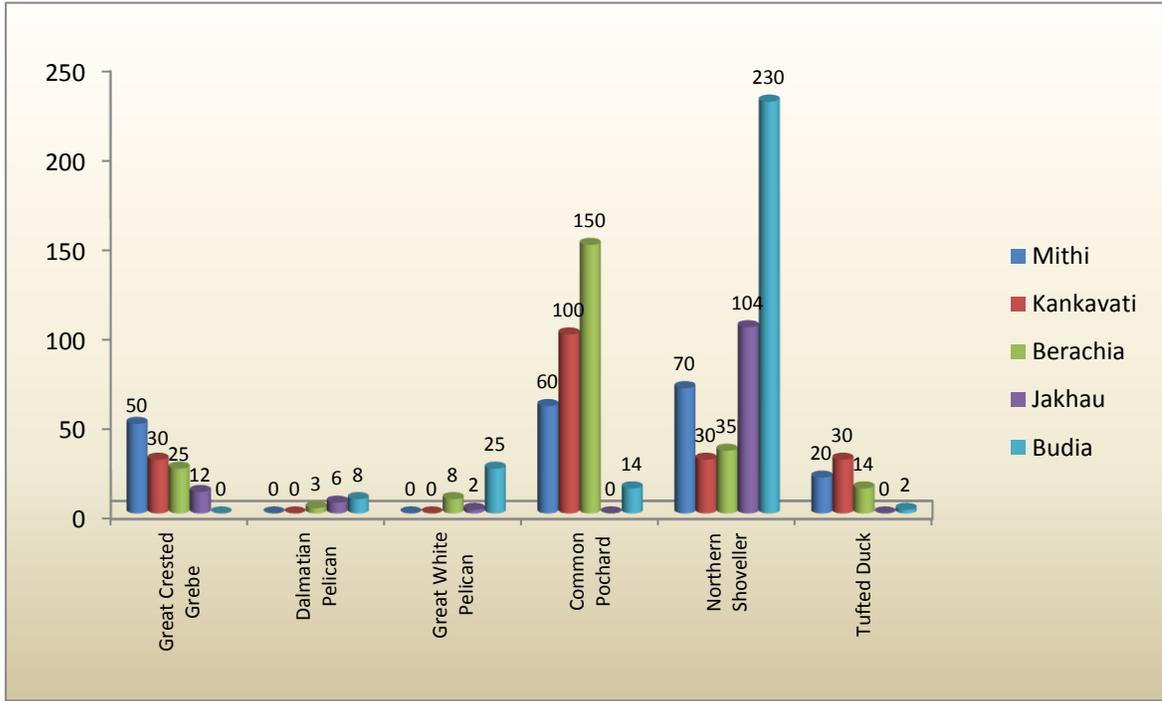
Asian Water Bird Census – 2011 (AWC-2011)

KERC participated in the AWC during January and February and covered five major wetlands – Kankavati Dam, Jakhau Salt Pans, Berachia Dam, BUdia Wetland and Mithi Dam. A total of 5563 birds from 35 families were recorded. Below mentioned graph reveals the numbers of birds were highest in Kankavati Dam, followed by Jakhau Salt pans, Berachia Dam, Budia village wetland and lastly the Mitthi Dam in descending order, respectively.



Although a bigger site, lesser number of birds were seen at Jakhau Salt Pans than the Kankavati Dam. There could be many reasons behind this difference such as the anthropogenic disturbances at the salt pans, low availability of freshwater resulting in lesser numbers of ducks, drying of salt pans, etc. Mithi Dam and Budia wetland were the smallest in area and the water level at Mithi Dam was a bit deep than is needed by most ducks. Moreover, rapidly growing reeds & shrub lands are also the responsible factors behind the low bird numbers here. Being the biggest site, Jakhau Salt Pans had maximum number of birds, especially the waders. Budia is one of the smallest wetlands yet it had second highest number of bird numbers. Budia is quite close to salt pans hence one can see freshwater as well as coastal avifauna here. Berachia Dam is surrounded by agricultural farms and thus disturbed due to the noise generated by water pumps.

Given below is a graphical representation of popularly seen water birds of the area and their numbers seen during the census at each of the locations.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1. Rainwater Harvesting Project



Water scarcity in Jatvandh village



Water scarcity in Jatvandh village

Kutch district, though known as an area facing scarcity of water at an interval of every 3 years, harbours more than 95 rivers in the district. Most of these rivers are seasonal and the water dries up a month or two after the monsoon.

Jatvandh village in Abdasa taluka is also located on the bank of a seasonal river called Chhapari. Total

human population of this village is just about 165 but total number of livestock thriving in this village is more than 600. Being a small village, it has been neglected in terms of development. The villagers faced scarcity drinking water for themselves and their livestock. Realising the hardships that the people of Jatvandh had to go through to fetch clean drinking water, KERC decided to help the people of

Jatvandh by building a small check-dam over river Chhapari which would help in accumulating the rainwater that could be used by the villagers till the next monsoon. In return, the villagers have set aside a 4-acre plot of land near the check-dam for wilderness preservation and plantation of indigenous plant species.

Objectives of the project

KERC implemented this project in a sustainable way with the following objectives:

- Creation of a freshwater reservoir by deepening of the existing wetland and building a new embankment to increase its water-holding capacity.
- Removal of the invasive plant species like *Prosopis juliflora* from the surrounding area.
- Plantation of indigenous species of plants in the vicinity of the wetland/check-dam.

Overview of the project site

COLOUR CODE	
Area for plantation	Existing check dam
Waste wear canal	New check dam
Mount for birds	Inflow of rain water



Outcome of the project

The water storage capacity of the wetland was increased from 0.2869 million cubic feet to 0.4988 million cubic feet. In addition to this increased capacity of old water body, the new embankment created also stores water to around 0.3178 million cubic feet. Thus the total water holding capacity has increased to 0.8166 million cubic feet.

2. Establishment of Bulk Milk Chilling Unit

Kutch Ecological Research Centre has pioneered a major role in the areas of livestock veterinary care and cattle development in around 160 villages of Abdasa and Nakhatrana talukas of Kutch. Kutch being primarily an area of grasslands, the local villagers and nomads are mainly pastoralists owning large herds of cattle. KERC has been actively providing veterinary services to over 3000 livestock from these 160 villages in a year.

To provide a direct market link for the livestock owners, KERC facilitated a 10000-lit capacity Bulk Milk Chilling (BMC) plant in Kanakpar village. This proved a boon to the villagers of the vicinity as they could sell the milk obtained from cattle at a better rate and by travelling less distance. Due to the success of this venture, KERC funded the setting up of another BMC unit in Tera village in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board. This BMC unit too has the capacity to collect and store 10,000 lit of milk per day. The project has benefitted several cattle owners of the Tera and nearby villages as they get a ready market and a better rate for the milk obtained from their cattle.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



The Corbett Foundation works in 31 villages in and around Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. Inhabitants of many of these villages depend on the forest resources for their income and daily energy needs. Their dependence and close proximity to the reserve puts them at the risk of man-animal conflict. While TCF kept a watch on the conflict between the villagers and large mammals like tigers, leopards and sloth bears, it focused its attention

towards the commonly occurring man-animal conflicts like snake bites. A preliminary survey conducted by TCF revealed that on an average 50 snake bites were recorded from 14 villages every month, and as a result a number of snakes were killed in retaliation by the villagers. To deal with this issue, TCF introduced a 24X7 Snake Rescue Helpline in April 2010 and simultaneously organized snake awareness programmes for the villagers. The villagers were educated about the various species of snakes, how to identify between commonly occurring venomous and non venomous snakes, importance of snakes in the ecosystem and their role in controlling the rodents. The villagers were requested to call on the Snake Rescue Helpline on sighting any snake, or for that matter any reptile. This programme helped to reduce the fear about snakes from the minds of the villagers, and thus bringing down the number of snake bites recorded from 50-60 per month in 2009 to 10-12 per month in 2010. TCF also successfully rescued more than 100 snakes of different species from the villages and successfully released them in the wilderness areas of BTR in consultation with the local forest department.

Assessment of Herpetofauna

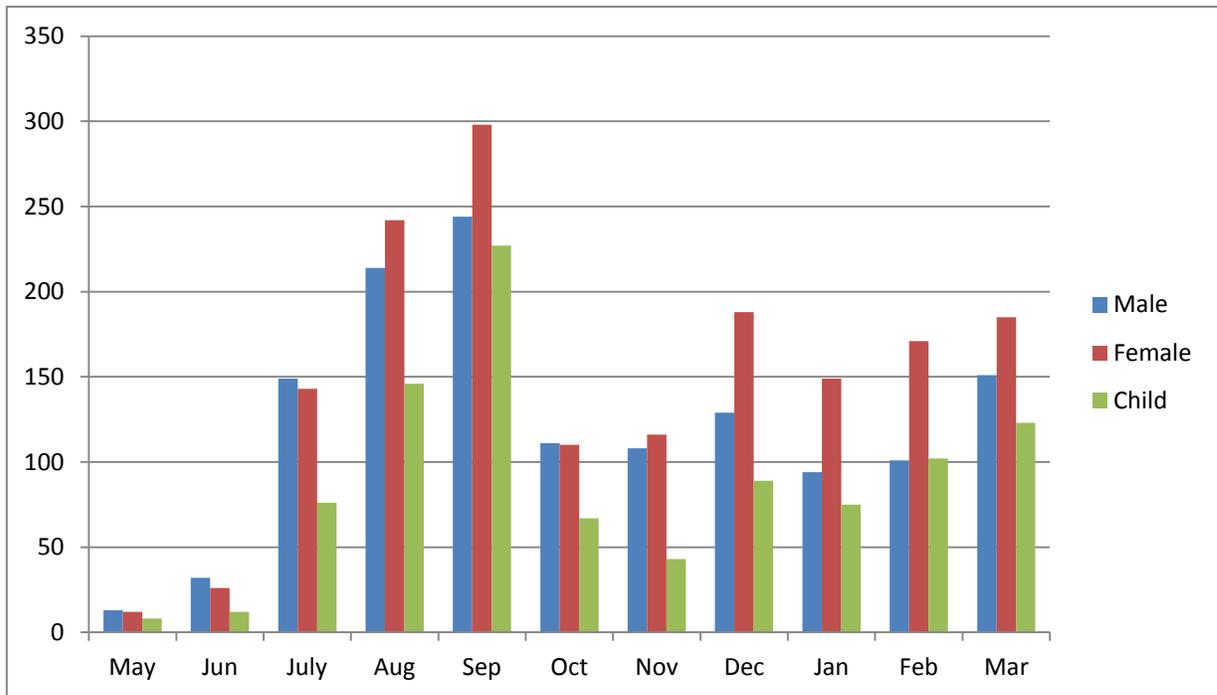
The Corbett Foundation conducted preliminary surveys during the monsoon to record the various species of herpetofauna around Bandhavgarh. The 3-month survey revealed nine species of frogs and 21 species of snakes, including the



Forsten's Cat Snake (*Boiga forsteni*) and Montane Trinket Snake (*Coelognathus helena monticollaris*) which were recorded for the first time from penninsular India. The data collected will be utilised to spread awareness about these species in the area and TCF will prepare educational resource material for awareness purpose.

RURAL MEDICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Corbett Foundation extended its Rural Medical Outreach Programmes in 31 villages in and around BTR in May 2010 with an objective to provide primary healthcare and medical services to the villagers living in the fringes of Bandhavgarh. A mobile medical unit headed by our doctor, compounder and driver provided medical assistance to 3954 patients - 1346 males, 1640 females and 968 children in 2010-2011.





RMOP Camp in progress

During the examination of patients in 2010-2011, it was found that maximum patients of fever (700) were encountered, followed by patients with gastrointestinal problems (691) and patients suffering from general problems like headache, body ache and weakness (663).

WILDLIFE AWARENESS

The Corbett Foundation worked with around 25 schools in the vicinity of Tala in Bandhavgarh. A number of awareness activities like painting competitions, quiz competitions, nature walks and snake awareness programmes were organised in 2010-2011.



Wildlife Awareness Programme

TCF organised painting competitions for school students regularly with wildlife themes. Such activities are a fun way to engage with the students and build their interest in wildlife. School children of various age groups are also taken for walks on nature trails and explained the concept of web of life and food chains. On many occasions, the art competitions were held after these nature trails so that the students can portray their observations of the forests based on firsthand experience.



Wildlife Awareness Programme

The Corbett Foundation held quizzes for school children on wildlife and environmental themes. A Wildlife Quiz Competition was held in month of February for kids containing 25 questions related to Bandhavgarh National Park. This helped the students to understand several facts about the local wildlife. Health Quiz competition was organized by TCF in month of January to give stress on health and hygiene, nutrition and diet etc.

Questionnaire was prepared and the students who scored good marks were felicitated with prizes and certificates of appreciation.

Snake awareness programmes



The Corbett Foundation conducted snake awareness programmes for school children with the intention of making them aware about the local snakes found in Bandhavgarh. These programmes played a crucial role of familiarising the children about the different types of snakes seen in and around Bandhavgarh, their role in ecosystem and reducing the man-animal conflict. Emphasis was given on clarifying the myths and misconceptions in people's mind regarding snakes.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Solar Lanterns Project: 'Lighting up a Billion Lives'



The Corbett Foundation pioneered the Solar Lanterns Project in Bandhavgarh. In collaboration with TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), The Corbett Foundation installed the first Solar Lanterns Charging Station at village Rakhi in April 2010. Village Rakhi is situated close to the core area of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and is not provided with grid electricity. As a result, the locals depended on fossil-fuel based lamps

at night for the purpose of generating light. The locals spent around Rs. 120 on oil / kerosene every month, and in addition to it the lamp produced a lot of harmful smoke. To ensure a better, healthy and environment-friendly lifestyle for the villagers of Rakhi, TCF provided the solar lanterns.



Solar Lantern distribution at the hands of Mr. C. K. Patil

Sixty solar-powered lanterns were distributed to the Baiga tribes and other local communities in the village as the first phase of the project. In the second phase, 30 more lanterns were distributed thus taking the total solar lanterns number to 90, thus covering all households and lighting up entire Rakhi village. The Solar lanterns give a backup of 8-10 hours in one charge. The Solar Lanterns have been very

beneficial to the tribal populations as now their children can study in the evening, women can cook and serve in the light of solar lamps and because these lamps are light weight and portable they can be even carried to their fields, and are being used in keeping vigilance on wild animals that destroy crops and can cause heavy damage and losses to the locals. TCF collects one rupee per day from each household as a nominal rent for using the lanterns. The amount thus collected is maintained in a separate bank account opened for each village that is operated by the villagers. This fund is utilised for maintenance and upkeep of the lanterns and the charging station. The project was inaugurated at the hands of Mr. C. K. Patil (IFS), Director of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.



Solar Lantern distribution at the hands of Mr. C. K. Patil

The Corbett Foundation facilitated the setting up of another solar charging station funded by TERI in village Kacchuwa. This village is situated on the park boundary and consists of around 400 households, out of which only 80 households (20%) have been provided with electricity, while the rest are forced to use the fossil-fuel based lamps. In its first phase, solar lanterns were provided to 120 households of

Kacchuwa village. The remaining 200 households will be taken up as second phase of the project.

Blanket Distribution

The Corbett Foundation distributed blankets to all the households in Rakhi village. The winters in Bandhavgarh are quite severe, with temperatures dropping to below 0°C at times. The locals suffered from cold and cough, pain and swelling in the bones and even frost bites in some cases. The locals can't afford to purchase blankets and therefore depend mostly on the burning firewood during the season to keep them warm. As per the socio-economic



survey conducted by The Corbett Foundation in Rakhi, on an average one head load of wood (weighing 26-30 kg) is used every day in one house. The locals collect wood everyday and all the collection is done from surrounding forests. Hence, to curtail this practice of collecting firewood for burning and to provide an alternative to keep warm during cold weather conditions, TCF distributed good quality blankets

to the villagers. Post-blanket distribution, TCF conducted a survey among the villagers to assess the reduction in firewood collection. The data collected showed that earlier 52% of the population was burning 26-30 kg of firewood per day but after receiving blankets there was a reduction of 5 kg of firewood per day, thus indicating that blankets were serving as good alternatives for keeping the villagers warm. Thus over a period of two winter months, around 500 kg of firewood per day was collected less from the forests.

KANHA



The Corbett Foundation expanded its gamut of activities to the famous Kanha Tiger Reserve situated in Madhya Pradesh in May 2010. TCF Kanha office was set up out of a small house in village Baherakhar near the buffer zone of Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR). TCF Kanha was established with the objective of spreading its conservation, awareness and community outreach programmes to Kanha. TCF identified 31 villages in the buffer zone of KTR where the Foundation's work has begun. In 2010-

11, TCF in Kanha focused on Rural Medical Outreach Programme and Wildlife Awareness.

TCF Kanha is based out of the village Baherakhar situated in the Birsa Block of Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh. This is no ordinary region; not only is it a protected forest and a backward area but it is also a declared naxalite area. The problem of naxalism coupled with the protected nature of the forest means that there are no roads, infrastructure or public facilities of any kind in the villages near the KTR, especially the part of the park that falls in Balaghat district. Communities living here are mostly tribal – with majority being Baiga and Gond still following their ancient traditions and culture.



TCF works in the villages marked on the Google Earth image of Kanha

Baiga and Gond tribals have been living here for generations and sharing this habitat with the wild animals. Having lived with the wildlife throughout their



A Baiga woman

life, no one knows and understands wildlife and animal habits better than these tribals. The inherent knowledge of these people about forests and wildlife has often been misused by poaching gangs and timber mafias. Wildlife conservation and living with the animals is part of the culture of these tribes. However, with the declaration of Kanha as a national park and tiger reserve, most of these tribal villages have been shifted or face displacement from the tiger reserve. They feel alienated and this phase is very vulnerable.

Due to the lack of basic education and alternate sources of livelihoods, these tribals can be lured into activities that are detrimental to forests and wildlife.

TCF realises the importance of creating an environment where tribals continue to co-exist along with the wildlife and also become the saviours of wildlife as they have been traditionally. This can only be possible by providing them with basic mainstream facilities like education, alternate sources of livelihoods and a healthy life so that they lead their environmentally sustainable lifestyle as before.

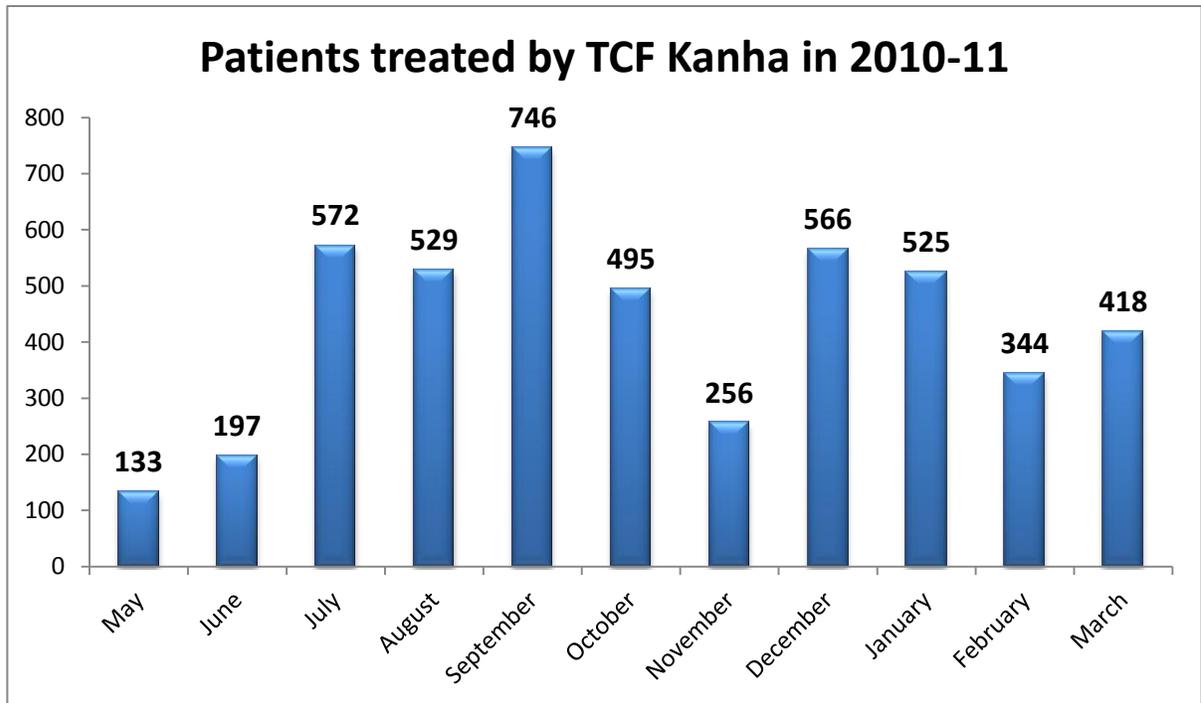
RURAL MEDICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME



RMOP camp in progress in a village

TCF reaches out to more than 5000 people of these 31 villages and has established a strong base and goodwill among the local villagers and tribes of Kanha. TCF medical unit, headed by a qualified doctor, visits each of the 31 villages every week and provides primary healthcare and medicines to the villagers. These villages are in remote areas and have practically no access to government health services or schemes. Therefore, this initiative by TCF is highly appreciated in the area. TCF also

conducts regular health awareness programmes in schools. The children are given interactive talks and are involved in competitions.



Health Awareness

TCF Kanha carried out programmes to generate awareness about birth control as well as prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases like HIV/AIDS, gonorrhoea, etc. This type of activity would enable the local tribes to have a better and healthy quality of life. TCF team distributed condoms and emergency contraceptive pills received from the Government District Hospital at Balaghat from time to time.



Health Awareness Programme at a village

HIV / AIDS Awareness Programme at a village

Competition in Schools

TCF Kanha organized a health and hygiene related competition in schools in the month of December 2010. The competition motto was *Aarogya Jeevan* (A Healthy Life). Around 400 children from 6 schools participated in this

competition. The competition was for students of 6th to 8th standards. The winners received prizes and certificates from TCF.



Awareness programme "Aarogya Jeevan"

WILDLIFE AWARENESS

TCF in Kanha is engaged in imparting awareness to the tribal communities of the region. Regular meetings are held with the villages to ensure that they understand the fragility of the ecosystem that they live in. There have been wall painting drives, school competitions, etc. as part of our Wildlife Awareness Programme.



Wildlife Awareness Programmes

Uniform Donation

The Corbett Foundation facilitated uniform donation to the students of a school in Bandhatola, a fully Baiga tribal village on the occasion of Independence Day.

The uniforms donated Dhariwal family of Raipur, were handed out to the students by the Headmaster.

School Art Competition

TCF conducted painting competitions for the tribal children through some schools in Kanha on the topics of wildlife protection. This was the first such activity ever conducted in these schools. The students were thrilled to participate in the programme. TCF provided them with paper, pencils and crayons.

Snake Awareness Programme

An excessive number of snakes are killed every monsoon due to ignorance and insensitivity towards wildlife. If this continues, the crop fields are going to be decimated by rats and mice, whose population is kept under control by the snakes. TCF Kanha is working on a snake awareness poster that will be translated in Hindi and used in schools and villages during awareness programmes.

Slogan Writing on Walls

To generate awareness on health, hygiene and conservation, slogan writing was carried out by TCF Kanha on the walls of houses in 5 villages along the roads frequently used by the villagers in the area. It is hoped that these slogan will motivate the villagers to improve their health, hygiene and also generate environmental awareness.



Awareness through slogans written on walls of houses in the villages

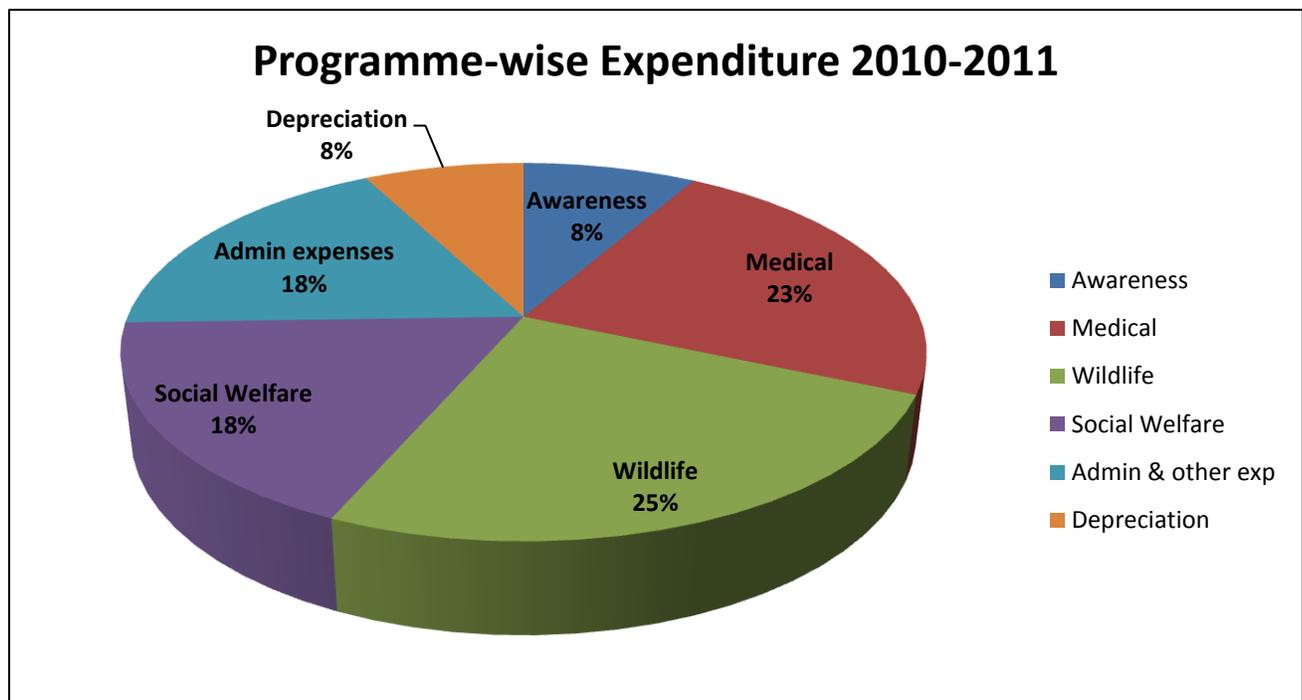
SOURCES AND USAGE OF FUNDS

The Corbett Foundation supports its wide range of activities in Corbett, Kutch, Bandhavgarh and Kanha through the interest earned on the corpus fund. In addition, it receives donations and project grants from individual as well as corporate donors who share TCF's vision and objectives.

In 2010-2011, TCF had over Rs. 2.3 crores to be spent on its programmes at all its locations. TCF ensured that its funds were judiciously spent towards its programmes – Awareness (8%), Rural Medical Outreach (23%), Wildlife Conservation (25%) and Social Welfare, Cattle Care and Sustainable Development (18%). Around 18% was spent on administrative and other miscellaneous expenses and 8% was taken towards depreciation.

TCF carried over Rs. 70 lakh to the Balance Sheet of 2011-2012 as this fund is year-marked for establishment of the Medical and Vocation Training Centre in Kanha and expansion of TCF activities in Kaziranga National Park, situated in the North-eastern State of Assam.

Given below is the pie chart showing the distribution of funds in 2010-2011.



BALANCE SHEET 2010-2011

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2011

PARTICULARS	AS AT 30.03.11	AS AT 31.03.10
SOURCES OF FUND		
Corpus Fund	196,893,652	188,368,108
	196,893,652	188,368,108
APPLICATION OF FUND		
Fixed Assets	23,537,123	19,394,106
Less: Depreciation	1,280,691	967,258
	22,256,432	18,426,848
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES		
Cash and Bank Balance	172,403,415	169,127,260
Other Current Assets	2,982,515	1,469,023
	175,385,930	170,596,283
Less: Current Liabilities	748,710	655,023
Net Current Assets	174,637,220	169,941,260
	196,893,652	188,368,108

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2010-2011

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AS AT MARCH 31, 2011

PARTICULARS	2010-2011	2009-2010
INCOME		
Donations, grants and contributions	6,233,659	2,483,317
Interest on bank deposits and savings account	17,440,936	17,137,548
Balances written back / Miscellaneous Income	(9,925)	1,732,819
TOTAL	23,664,670	21,353,685
EXPENDITURE		
Awareness / Education Programmes	1,384,877	1,351,012
Rural Medical Outreach Programmes	3,853,268	1,944,119
Wildlife Programmes	4,176,610	2,991,119
Social Welfare Programmes	2,982,940	4,122,205
Administrative and other expenses	2,960,739	2,817,212
Depreciation	1,280,691	967,258
TOTAL	16,639,125	14,193,075
Excess of Income over expenditure	7,025,545	7,161,610
Balance carried over to Balance Sheet 2011-12	7,025,545	7,161,610

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

First and foremost, The Corbett Foundation would like to express its deepest gratitude to the Conservation Corporation of India Pvt. Ltd. (CC IPL) for its generous and valuable contribution towards the corpus fund that enables the Foundation to take up programmes and fulfill its objectives. The Corbett Foundation would like to thank Infinity Resorts in Corbett, Kutch, Bandhavgarh and Kanha for providing the infrastructural support. The Corbett Foundation is grateful to the help and support extended by the employees of CC IPL and Infinity Resorts from time to time.

We cannot thank enough all the 'Friends of TCF' who over the years have extended their whole-hearted support to TCF. We also wish to place on record our fruitful collaborations with national and international organisations and forest departments whom we work with in the States of Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

The following donors and well wishers extended their valuable support to The Corbett Foundation in 2010-2011.

S.No.	Donor	INR Funds	Foreign Funds	Purpose of Donation
Corpus				
1	Phoenix Distributors Pvt. Ltd.	1,000,000		Corpus
2	Oberoi Hotels Pvt. Ltd.	500,000		Corpus
Donations (above INR 100,000)				
3	S & R Associates	100,000		Tiger Conservation
4	Mr. Mahesh Gheewala	500,000		General Donation
5	V. V. Mariwala & Smt. K. V. Mariwala Charitable Trust	200,000		Flood Relief Work in Corbett
6	Smt. Krishna Khatau	300,000		Rain Water Harvesting
7	HDFC Ltd	500,000		RMOP in Corbett
8	Pirojsha Godrej Foundation	1,000,000		RMOP in Kutch
9	Bombay Gow Rakshak Trust	1,000,000		Cattle Care in Kutch
10	WWF-India	111,596		Interim Relief Scheme
11	WWF-India	192,995		Interim Relief Scheme

12	WWF-India	240,220		Interim Relief Scheme
13	WWF-India	237,990		Interim Relief Scheme
14	WWF-India	160,545		Interim Relief Scheme
15	WWF-India	159,665		Interim Relief Scheme
16	WWF-India	157,150		Interim Relief Scheme
17	Save the Tiger Fund	149,583	3220 USD	Tiger Conservation
18	Ten Dollar Club	141,135	3195 USD	Flood relief Work in Corbett
19	E-Pac International	176,738	2500 GBP	Mahseer Conservation
20	Other donations (less than INR 100,000)	806,042		General Donation
	TOTAL donations other than Corpus	6,233,659		

LOOKING AHEAD

The year 2010-2011 has been the one of expansion for The Corbett Foundation (TCF). It established a new division in Kanha and initiated its range of activities in Bandhavgarh. Our divisions in Corbett and Kutch too underwent restructuring of staff, infrastructure and infusion of fresh ideas and interventions in the activities - our programmes grew stronger and the outreach increased manifold.

It has been a very satisfactory journey for TCF in the last 16 years. From a modest beginning in 1994, TCF has grown into an organisation of international repute with over 50-strong force of its dedicated employees working very hard to achieve the Objectives listed on page 9 of this report. There have been important milestones that TCF reached – from successfully initiating the Interim Relief Scheme (Cattle Compensation Programme) to establishing the only one-of-its-kind Centre on Global Warming in Corbett, from Habitat Restoration to Rain-water Harvesting projects in Kutch, from Snake Rescue Helpline to Solar Lanterns Project in Bandhavgarh and from Rural Medical Outreach to Health and Wildlife Awareness programmes in Kanha.

But we know there is a lot to be done. Our team has planned meticulously how we embark on our journey in the next financial year 2011-2012. The highlights of what we plan to achieve are listed below:

- A fully equipped Vocational Training Centre in Kanha that will be dedicated to provide skill-based training to the tribal youth so that they can seek alternate livelihood option and thus reduces their dependency on the forest.
- A new division of TCF near Kaziranga National Park to extend our programmes to this beautiful ecosystem in the North-eastern India.
- A fresh look to TCF website with special interactive fun-n-learn sections (online quiz, painting, blog, competitions) for the kids all over the world.

We have always valued the feedback from our donors, supporters and well wishers about our programmes. Please do continue to be in touch with us through our Facebook page and blog. You can also send in your comments and suggestions at info@corbettfoundation.org.

Looking forward to your valuable support and appreciation in 2011-2012.

The CorbettFoundation



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