

THE CORBETT FOUNDATION'S



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

Annual Report 2022 -2023

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Acknowledgements

TCF expresses deep appreciation for the unwavering support provided by all its esteemed partners, comprising the National and State Governments, State Forest Departments, educational institutions, NGOs and CBOs, corporates, industry bodies, and local communities. These collaborative alliances serve as a fundamental pillar in driving our conservation initiatives, allowing us to effect tangible and meaningful changes on the ground. The collective dedication and contributions of these diverse stakeholders hold significant importance in furthering our mission and upholding the protection of our natural heritage for the well-being of future generations.

Designed by

Pakhi Das





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The Corbett Foundation is a charitable trust registered in 1994 under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 with the Sub-registrar of Assurances. It is also registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 under registration number 231650853 (valid till 30th June 2027), the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for CSR under registration number CSR00000183 and with the NITI Aayog under registration number UA/2017/0179126. The donations to The Corbett Foundation are tax exempt u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (PAN AAATT9915H).

The Corbett Foundation is accredited by Credibility Alliance under the Desirable Norms prescribed for Good Governance of Voluntary Organisations in India. The Corbett Foundation is also a Member of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

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THE CORBETT FOUNDATION

The Corbett Foundation (TCF) was established by late Mr. Dilip D. Khatau and his wife, Mrs. Rina Khatau, on April 22, 1994. Mr. Khatau was a former Member of the National Board for Wildlife in India and a former Member of the Indian Wildlife Business Council of the Confederation on Indian Industry. TCF is a charitable trust, a non-profit and a nongovernmental organisation that is fully dedicated to the conservation of wildlife with active involvement of local communities. TCF has successfully demonstrated its interventions around important tiger conservation landscapes in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur and Uttarakhand, and in semi-arid ecosystems of Western India (Gujarat and Rajasthan) where it works towards the protection of Great Indian Bustard, a critically endangered species and other threatened flora and fauna. TCF adopts a 'holistic approach' to conservation which includes interventions in the areas of ecological research, biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, habitat restoration, sustainable livelihoods, watershed development, sustainable rural development, human and veterinary health, policy and advocacy. TCF has implemented its programmes in over 700 villages and adopts a multipronged strategy to help in creating a future where wildlife and human beings live in harmony.

TCF has several success stories to its credit in more than 25 years of its existence. Conservation and integrated sustainable development require the support of contributors from diverse sectors to become successful. TCF partners with various corporates, multinational companies, financial institutions and public sector units over Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and international bodies to create meaningful partnerships and implement programmes that are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). TCF is a Member of the IUCN, a Member of IUCN-Indian National Committee, and a SAVE Associate. TCF's key staff members are associated with the following IUCN Commissions: Species Survival Commission, Bustard Specialist Group and Bear Specialist Group, Commission for Education and Communication and World Commission on Protected Areas, South Asia. TCF is also a partner in Satpuda Landscape Tiger Partnership (SLTP) facilitated and funded by Born Free Foundation, UK. TCF has been accredited by Credibility Alliance under the Desirable Norms for Voluntary Organisations in India (2017- 2019 and 2019-2024). TCF has been awarded the Transparency Key of GuideStar India in 2020, 2021 and 2022.



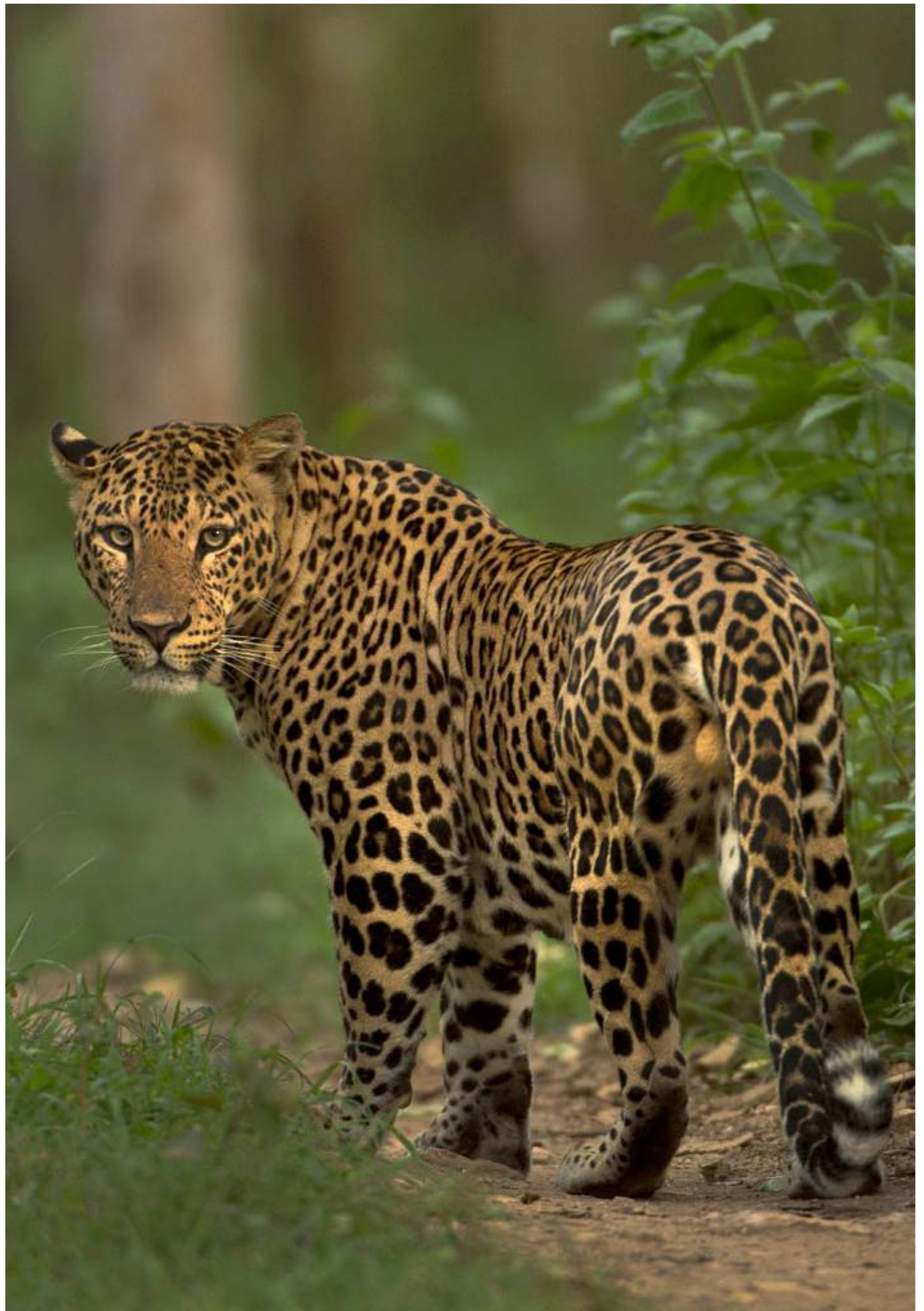


OBJECTIVES

1. Undertake conservation-oriented research for the long-term preservation of ecosystems and the associated species.
2. Restoration of degraded habitats for biodiversity enhancement and climate change mitigation.
3. Provide solutions for the harmonious coexistence of human beings and wildlife.
4. Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives to empower local communities sharing space with wildlife.
5. Implement One Health programme to ensure healthy communities and disease-free livestock in conservation landscapes.
6. Conservation education and awareness for a better understanding of environmental issues and increased appreciation of nature.
7. Promote sustainable rural eco-development for developing climate-resilient local communities.
8. Produce reports, research papers and popular articles that contribute to the knowledge of natural history, wildlife conservation and human-wildlife coexistence.

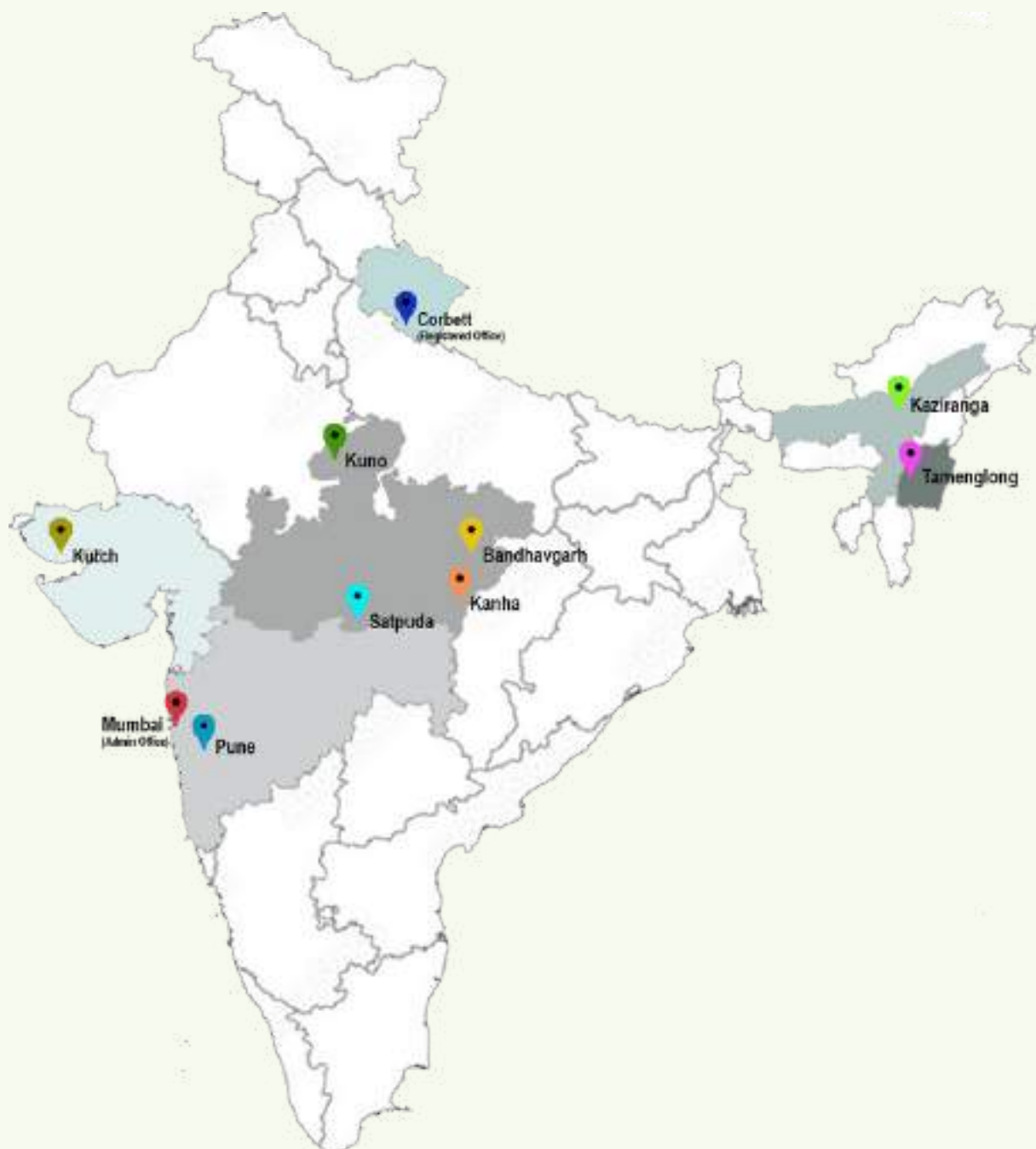
KEY THRUST AREAS

1. Human-Wildlife Coexistence
2. Threatened Species Conservation
3. Habitat Restoration
4. Conservation-Oriented Research
5. One Health
6. Community-Based Conservation
7. Multi-Dimensional Conservation Projects
8. Sustainable Livelihoods
9. Environmental Sensitisation
10. Advocacy Campaign
11. Capacity Building And Training
12. Humanitarian Support



WHERE WE WORK

The Corbett Foundation's reach extends to a wide network of communities across India, encompassing 709 villages spread across 24 districts in 6 states. In the Corbett Landscape, we are actively engaged with 350 villages situated in the Nainital, Pauri, Almora, and Amangarh districts of Uttarakhand. In the Kanha Landscape, our initiatives cover 50 villages in the Balaghat and Mandla Districts of Madhya Pradesh. For the Bandhavgarh and Sanjay Dubri Landscape, we work with 75 villages spanning Umaria, Manpur, Shahdol, Rewa, and Sidhi districts in Madhya Pradesh. We also work in 50 villages in both the vicinity of Satpura Tiger Reserve and Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. In the Kutch and Saurashtra Landscapes, we have a presence in 80 villages located in the Kutch, Morbi, Rajkot, and Bhavnagar districts of Gujarat. In the Kasiranga Landscape, we collaborate with 65 villages in the Golaghat, Nagaon, and Karbi Anglong districts of Assam. Additionally, we are involved with 18 villages in Tamenglong and None districts of Manipur and 81 villages in Pune, Thane, Palghar, and Sindhudurg districts of Maharashtra, situated within the Western Ghats region.



WE WILL MISS YOU



Dilip Dharamsey Khatau

1942 - 2023

Shri. Dilip Dharamsey Khatau, the Founder and Chairman of The Corbett Foundation, left for his heavenly abode on March 9th, 2023. The Corbett Foundation, which he established in 1994 is a testimony of his passion for wildlife and the compassion for the villagers living around the Indian National Parks and other protected areas.

His vision to create a grassroots organisation which not only acts as an intermediary for human-wildlife coexistence but also advocates the protection and conservation of India's threatened species and habitats at the national and international levels. All of us at The Corbett Foundation will miss him dearly for his generosity, wisdom, kindness and immense love for wildlife and the wilderness. We pledge that we will continue to follow the path he had lit for us.

CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE



It gives me great pleasure to present to you The Corbett Foundation's Annual Report for the financial year 2022-2023. I am delighted to share the accomplishments and strides we have made towards our mission of human-wildlife coexistence.

This year has been marked by significant achievements and milestones. All through our dedicated efforts and unwavering commitment, The Corbett Foundation (TCF) has continued to make a positive impact on the ecosystems we strive to protect. Our conservation initiatives have not only helped the threatened species but have also contributed to the sustainable development of the communities living in and around these critical wilderness habitats.

I am proud to highlight the intersectionality and inclusivity in all of the projects where various stakeholders are brought together for a larger conservation goal. These endeavours would not have been possible without the support of our dedicated team members, partners, and stakeholders. Their passion and tireless commitment to our cause have been instrumental in the success of our programs.

In the face of ongoing conservation challenges, TCF remains steadfast in its dedication to preserving biodiversity and fostering harmony between wildlife and communities. As we reflect on the past year's accomplishments, commitments and learnings, we are also mindful of the work that lies ahead. TCF will continue to adapt and evolve, striving for innovative solutions that address the multitude of conservation challenges we face daily!

I extend my deepest gratitude to all our supporters, donors, and well-wishers for their invaluable contributions. Your belief in our mission help fuels our determination to make a lasting impact on the conservation landscape.

I encourage you to delve deeply into the pages of this report, which encapsulates the essence of our journey and the positive changes we are collectively bringing about. The Corbett Foundation remains committed to creating a world where wildlife thrives, and communities continue to coexist harmoniously with nature.

Thank you for your kind and unwavering support.

Warm regards,

Rina Dilip Khatau

Chairperson,
The Corbett Foundation



ABOUT DILIP D. KHATAU GROUP

The Khatau Business House was among India's pioneers of textile and cement industries, dating back to 1874 and 1920, respectively. Being a leader in manufacturing a wide variety of saris, the brand Khatau was synonymous with and famous for its Voile sari. In the 1990s, The Dilip Khatau Group further diversified extensively in India into footwear, dyes, capacitors, power cables, chemicals and the shipping industry. An ardent wildlife lover, Mr. Khatau's passion took him to many Wildlife Reserves and National Parks in Africa, Asia and, in particular, India. Of all the world-renowned Parks, Corbett Tiger Reserve in India impressed him the most. However, the human-wildlife conflict remained a constant concern in wildlife conservation. He felt that wildlife tourism could create a win-win situation for wildlife and the human inhabitants living around these reserves. If well managed, the economic benefits he had seen in Africa would filter down to the villagers.

That became the basic tenet of establishing a chain of environmentally-sensitive and luxurious wildlife resorts in India in 1991, starting with the first Infinity Resorts in Corbett. Infinity Resorts has since expanded from Corbett to various famous wilderness areas such as the Rann of Kutch (2008), Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (2009), Kanha Tiger Reserve (2011) and Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (2012). All these resorts incorporated local architectural designs and building materials and blended them with the surroundings. They are also operated by local managers and staff, continuously trained by hospitality experts. In 1994, Mr. Khatau established The Corbett Foundation as a tribute to the legendary Hunter/Naturalist, Jim Corbett, and the local Kumaonis he had grown very fond of. In recognition of his expertise and accomplishments in ecotourism and wildlife conservation, Mr. Khatau became a Director on the Board of the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation. Later, he was also appointed to the National Board for Wildlife, Government of India. In 2017, Mr. Khatau was presented with the Gallery of Legends award at the East India Travel Awards for his immense contribution to wildlife conservation and responsible tourism.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mrs. Rina D. Khatau



Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh,
IAS (Retd.)



Mr. B. K. Goswami,
IAS (Retd.)



Mr. Prabhu Rajkotia



Mr. Nirmal Ghosh



Mr. Sam Mistry



Mr. Akshobh Singh



Mr. Darius E. Udawadia



Mr. Atul C. Kirloskar



Mr. Laxmikumar N.
Goculdas



Dr. Divyabhanusinh
Chavda



Mr. Gautam Dilip
Khatau

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS



Dr. Asad R. Rahmani

Scientific Advisor

Dr. Asad R. Rahmani, former Director of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) from 1997 to 2015, continues to serve as a Governing Council Member. With extensive experience in conservation, he has authored over 160 research papers, 26 books, and numerous articles. Dr. Rahmani's focus lies in conserving threatened species like bustards, storks, and cranes, as well as preserving grassland and wetland habitats. He emphasizes community involvement and ensuring local benefits from conservation. Dr. Asad Rahmani has been a Scientific Advisor to The Corbett Foundation since 2016



Dr. A. J. T. Johnsingh,

Scientific Advisor

Dr. A. J. T. Johnsingh, an esteemed mammal expert in India, conducted groundbreaking research on dholes and studied raccoons and opossums at the Smithsonian Institution. With extensive experience, he worked on the elephant project at the Bombay Natural History Society and served as faculty and Dean at the Wildlife Institute of India. Currently associated with Nature Conservation Foundation and WWF-India, Dr. Johnsingh has represented IUCN in specialist groups and served on national and state wildlife boards. Dr. A J T Johnsingh has been a Scientific Advisor to The Corbett Foundation since 2016.

TEAM LEADERS



Kedar Gore

Director

Kedar Gore boasts more than 20 years of expertise in biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and environmental education. He holds esteemed positions as a Member of the IUCN - Commission on Education and Communication, Species Survival Commission (Bustard Specialist Group), and World Commission on Protected Areas. With past affiliations with WWF-India and TERI, he has made significant contributions to their respective initiatives. Additionally, he serves on the Governing Council of the BNHS in an honorary capacity. Kedar has been involved with TCF since 2009.



Dr. Harendra Singh Bargali

Deputy Director (North India)

Dr. Bargali began his career as a research scholar at the Wildlife Institute of India, where he conducted a comprehensive study on sloth bear ecology and behaviour for his PhD. Over the past two decades, he has held significant roles, including Co-chair of the IUCN/BSG Sloth Bear Expert Team, Smithsonian Research Associate at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and National Zoological Park in Washington DC, and member of the SWLB in Uttarakhand. Additionally, Dr Bargali also possesses a Bachelor of Laws degree and specializes in enviro-legal matters related to biodiversity conservation. He has been associated with TCF since 2007

TEAM LEADERS



Dr. Naveen Pandey

Deputy Director and Veterinary Advisor (NE India)

Dr. Naveen Pandey is a highly accomplished veterinarian with a diverse background. He has previously served as a veterinarian at the Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter in Kalimpong and Help In Suffering in Jaipur. During his M VetSci studies at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, he received specialized training in Conservation Medicine. Since 2018, he has been an Invited Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh. Currently, Dr. Pandey is pursuing his Ph.D. from IIT, Guwahati. With a longstanding commitment to conservation, he has been associated with TCF since 2011



Dr. Devesh Gadhavi

Deputy Director (Western India)

Dr. Devesh Gadhavi, an esteemed wildlife conservationist, has dedicated the past two decades to the field. Notably, he has invested ten years in the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard. He holds membership in the IUCN SSC Bustard Specialist Group and represents The Corbett Foundation (TCF) on the State Wildlife Advisory Board of Gujarat. Dr. Gadhavi has been an integral part of The Corbett Foundation since 2010.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE





INTERIM RELIEF SCHEME

Since 1998, TCF, in collaboration with WWF-India and other partners, has been implementing the Interim Relief Scheme (IRS) around Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand and Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. This conservation program provides interim compensation to villagers who have lost their large carnivores, reducing community hostility towards wildlife and preventing revenge killings. The IRS has been remarkably successful, transforming antagonism into whole-hearted support for long-term wildlife conservation goals.

Under the IRS, immediate ex-gratia financial assistance is offered, supplementing the compensation provided by the forest department for livestock losses. Over the years, around 20,000 livestock depredation cases from Corbett and Kanha landscapes have received interim ex-gratia payments without any recorded instances of retribution against large cats.

The IRS not only protects large carnivores but also fosters awareness about wildlife conservation through interactions with local communities during kill inspections. These interactions encourage active community participation in conservation efforts and also provide crucial hotspot information for strategic decision-making. Because of the IRS program, many large cats have been saved from retaliation by aggrieved villagers, making it one of India's longest-running and most effective conservation programs led by non-governmental organisations.



Tiger on a kill captured on camera trap installed in Kanha, MP



Kill inspection for IRS in Corbett Landscape

CATTLE SHED MODIFICATION

In order to reduce anthropogenic pressures on forests and to mitigate potential of cattle depredation by large carnivores, The Corbett Foundation is executing the 'Cattle Shed Modification Project' in Bandhavgarh and Kaziranga landscapes of India. Under this initiative, TCF promotes sustainable practices by replacing wood-based cattle sheds with chain-linked fences. Robust 7-ft cement poles, with 5-ft above the ground, are installed that replace the traditional wooden structures, and sturdy chain-linked fences are utilized to substitute branches. This transition not only ensures a safer and more secure environment for the livestock but also effectively curtails the need for logging and tree lopping in the forest ecosystem.

The primary objective of the 'Cattle Shed Modification Project' is to alleviate anthropogenic pressures on the forests, thereby fostering biodiversity conservation and preserving the ecological balance in the region. Between March 2022 and March 2023, a total of 125 cattle sheds have been successfully modified across various villages, including Badrehal, Gadawah, Goahadi, Badwahi, Mardari, Pathari, and Koluabab, situated in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.



Traditional cattle shed before modification



Modified cattle shed with chain linked fences



Project beneficiary in front of a modified cattle shed with chain linked fences

INSTALLATION OF CHAIN-LINK FENCE

Crop depredation by wild boars and various deer species pose a significant challenge for farmers across various landscapes in India. These animals often venture into agricultural fields, causing extensive damage to crops and resulting in economic losses for farmers.

To address this issue, chain-link fences have emerged as an effective mitigation measure. These fences act as a physical barrier, creating a deterrent for wildlife and preventing them from accessing crops. Chain-link fences have proven to be particularly successful in areas without elephants, as they can effectively restrict the entry of smaller animals like wild boars and deer.

To mitigate crop depredation in the Corbett Landscape, TCF as a part of its multifaceted conservation projects has installed chain-link fences in TCF has provided or assisted 7 villages in the north zone of the CTR by installing chain-linked fences, benefiting 580 beneficiaries. These fences play a vital role in reducing in negative human-wildlife interactions and promoting peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife.



Chain linked fences installed in the Corbett Landscape as an effective Human-Wildlife Coexistence strategy

STALL-FEEDING

TCF actively promotes stall feeding as a viable alternative to open grazing for livestock across all landscapes of its operations. Through this initiative, TCF aims to achieve several critical objectives: minimise disease transmission among livestock, reduce predation incidents by tigers and leopards, prevent habitat degradation caused by free grazing, and enhance the health and productivity of the livestock. To facilitate the availability of high-quality grass for stall feeding, TCF has adopted an integrated, community-led, and oriented restoration approach. This involves selecting degraded lands, including farmlands, community grazing lands, or protected area buffers, and enclosing them with chain-linked fences. This is then followed by the removal of invasive species and replanting of indigenous plants and grasses. Some forest restoration sites are deliberately left untouched to promote the ecological regeneration of grasses.

The community-based model ensures that high-quality grasses are sustainably harvested to provide nutritious feed for the livestock. Additionally, in certain areas, TCF has provided farmers with high milk-yielding cows, offering them an alternate livelihood opportunity. TCF also offers treatment for animals injured in encounters with tigers and leopards, exemplifying its commitment to the welfare of both livestock and wildlife.

This comprehensive approach not only benefits the livelihoods of local communities and their livestock but also reduces grazing pressure on forests, indirectly mitigating potential negative interactions between humans and wildlife. By embracing this innovative livestock management strategy, the local communities actively contribute to community-based nature conservation, fostering a paradigm shift towards sustainable practices.



SOLAR STREET LIGHTS INITIATIVE

One of the contributing factors to negative interactions between humans and wildlife is poor visibility during night time especially in remote, off the grid forest fringe villages. Wild animals often inadvertently enter human settlements in search of food, water, or shelter, leading to potential property damage and even attacks on humans and livestock. Conversely, due to the lack of effective lighting, sudden presence of wildlife often leads to retaliatory actions against the animals. Solar street lighting offers an effective and eco-friendly solution to address this issue. As solar street lighting does not require an external power supply, it is suitable for remote areas or regions with unreliable electricity access.

TCF has installed solar lights in strategic locations across various landscapes as an effective conservation strategy.

By illuminating human settlements and pathways at night by means of solar street lights, TCF aims to improve visibility and create a safer environment for both humans and wildlife. The presence of these lights acts as a deterrent for wild animals, discouraging them from venturing into the village areas. And better visibility enables villagers to detect the presence of these animals at a distance, giving them valuable time to take necessary precautions and avoid unfortunate incidents.





IRON HAYSTACK POLES INSTALLATION

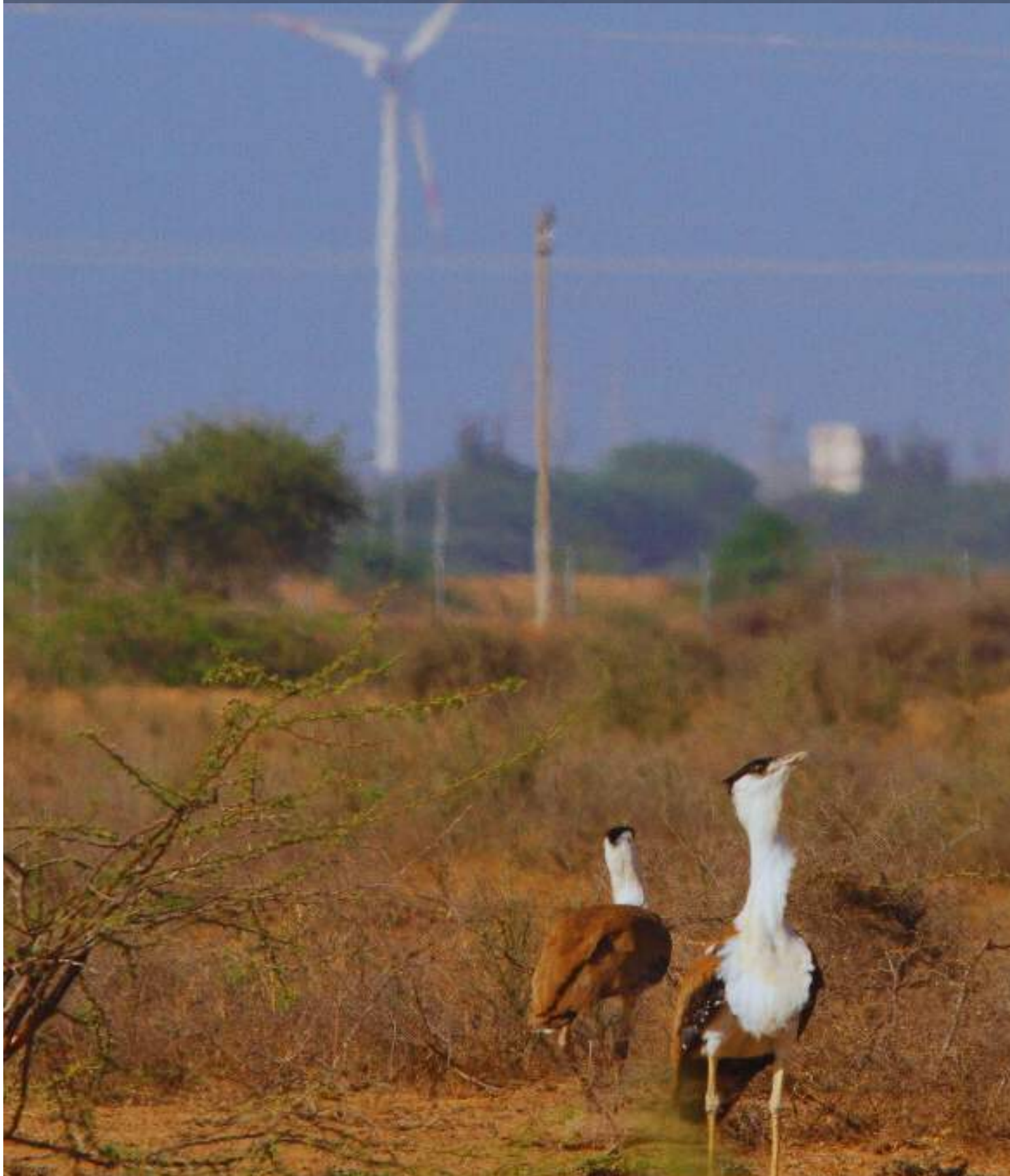
In rural communities, the construction of haystacks is an age-old practice for the storage of wheat and paddy straws. Unfortunately, this traditional method involves using a Sal tree trunk as a central pole to stack the straw bundles. The use of tree trunks for this purpose leads to deforestation and adversely impacts the natural habitat of wild animals, potentially increasing human-wildlife conflicts. To promote sustainable and eco-friendly haystack construction, TCF has provided community members with durable iron poles as an alternative.

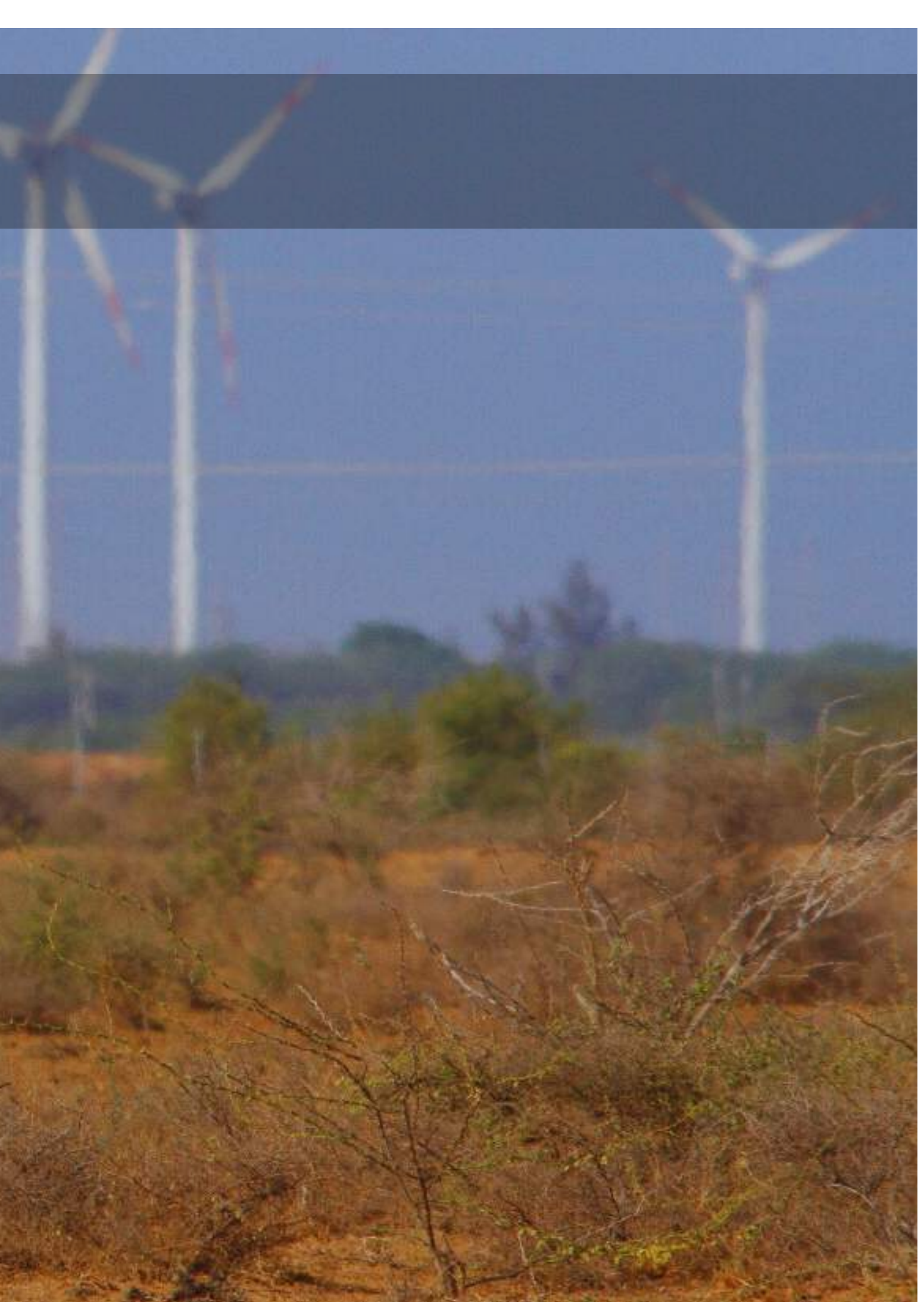


These iron poles serve as sturdy and long-lasting central supports for stacking straw bundles during haystack construction. By replacing tree trunks with iron poles, the permanent removal of trees from the forest is prevented, and any potential close encounter with wild animals is prevented. Moreover, these iron poles have been found to be more durable and resistant to wear and tear, ensuring a longer lifespan and reducing the need for frequent replacements.



THREATENED SPECIES CONSERVATION







GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD & LESSER FLORICAN

With fewer than 100 Great Indian Bustards (GIB) and less than 700 Lesser Floricans remaining in the wild, it is imperative for India to implement immediate measures to avert the extinction of these two indigenous bustard species within the Indian subcontinent. Bustards are reliant on agro-pastoral landscapes and the grassland ecosystem for their survival. Large-scale promotion of renewable energy projects in the designated 'revenue wastelands' of Rajasthan and Gujarat, crucial bustard habitats, poses a significant threat.

Over the past decade, documented cases of bustard fatalities resulting from collisions with overhead powerlines underscore the urgency of addressing this issue. To safeguard these remarkable birds native to the Indian subcontinent, a conservation approach guided by science and focused on long-term sustainability is essential. The Corbett Foundation is actively dedicated to the protection of bustards and their habitats, aiming to maintain a viable population of these species.

Despite the declining numbers, TCF has collaboratively engaged with various stakeholders, including forest departments, farmers, farmland owners, local community members, and youth. The objective is to cultivate a generation of custodians committed to adopting sustainable farming practices in bustard habitats. Additionally, these individuals play a crucial role as monitors of the birds, acting as key informants who provide essential information for informed conservation decision-making.

- **Wildlife Friendly Agricultural Arc (WFAA) Programme:**

Anthropogenic activities and intensive agriculture have altered Earth's environment, impacting land use, climate change, and food production. In India, over 20 million ha of biodiverse grasslands have been converted to cropland, leading to a decline in species like the Great Indian Bustard. Critical grassland ecosystems are disregarded, compromising biodiversity and livelihoods. Invasion by species like *Prosopis juliflora* worsens the situation. To address these issues in Abdasa tehsil of Kutch, Gujarat, TCF has successfully restored 52 acres of *Prosopis juliflora*-infested community grazing land. By engaging local villagers in scientific grassland management, removing invasive species, sowing local grass, and installing predator-proof fencing, over the last five years, the restored area has become a safe habitat, yielding 1,500 kg of grass per hectare annually. Biodiversity assessments done on the project sites also revealed the presence of 70 bird species, 60 insect species, eight reptile species, and seven mammal species. The restoration not only conserves biodiversity but also offers an opportunity for Kutch's ecological rejuvenation. With stakeholder support, TCF aims to expand these efforts, promoting sustainable land management. Sponsored by Bombay Gau Rakshak Trust, The Habitats Trust, and The Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Company Limited.



- **Understanding Power line-induced Bird Mortalities in Kutch:**

During COP26, India had pledged 500 GW of Renewable Energy by 2030 to combat climate change. However, this commitment conflicts with the conservation pledge made at COP-CMS13, where the Great Indian Bustard was designated as the mascot. The development of Renewable Energy (RE) projects in Open Natural Ecosystems threatens bustard habitats and increases power lines—a major cause of avian casualties. In the Thar desert alone, power lines cause 100,000 bird deaths annually. Globally, power lines lead to 12-64 million bird casualties. A joint study by WII and TCF in Abdasa revealed an annual toll of 22,000 birds due to power lines.

To understand this issue in Abdasa, especially from the perspective of Bustard conservation, and come up with a mitigation plan, TCF identified two of the most risky power lines located in the prime habitat of birds. A total of three km length of these lines were then marked with four types of different Bird Flight Diverters (BFD) and a detailed scientific and comparative study to check the efficacy of these BFDs on bird collisions with power lines was initiated. The primary observations revealed that ~33,000 birds belonging to ~160 species crossed these lines. Considering the bird mortalities observed during this ongoing study, it appears that the BFDs may not be a long-term solution to mitigate bird collision with power lines, as their persistence is a doubtful matter.





ASIAN ELEPHANT

The Elephant Conservation Program is a crucial initiative of The Corbett Foundation, focusing on safeguarding the country's majestic elephant population and mitigating negative interactions between humans and elephants. TCF implements holistic strategies in landscapes inhabited by these iconic creatures, encompassing research, community engagement, support for forest departments, and educational initiatives aimed at children. Key areas of focus include habitat management, mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts, efficient patrolling and monitoring, and the development of enduring conservation strategies for elephants.

The Human Elephant Program (HELP) encompasses various initiatives to address human-elephant conflicts in India we implement. Working closely with local communities, we have strategically placed traditional structures called Tongis equipped with powerful torchlights in paddy fields to deter elephants and minimize crop losses. Additionally, we have also installed solar fences over a 29 km stretch on the outskirts of Kaziranga National Park and Nagaon Forest Division, preventing elephants from raiding over 2000 acres of farms. These measures create clear boundaries between human and elephant habitats, effectively reducing crop depredation, safeguarding human lives, and preventing retaliatory measures by affected communities that could lead to elephant casualties.

Since 2017-18, wild elephants have also started recolonising MP and have made 'Bandhavgarh Sanjay Dubri Landscape' their permanent abode. Although a systematic count of wild elephants in the state of Madhya Pradesh (MP) has not been carried out yet, it is estimated that around 110 elephants have occupied various areas in the state. While this could be an indicator of the overall functionality of this landscape and carries tremendous potential for their conservation, it has posed new challenges of HEC in the landscape - damage to property and agriculture, and in extreme cases deaths of human beings. TCF has recorded HEC incidents of crop-depredation, property damage and few cases of loss of human life due to elephant attacks in the past two years. As immediate measures to understand and mitigate human-elephant conflict, TCF has also undertaken a number of activities.

- **The Tongi Project**

The local community residing along the boundaries of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in Assam faces significant crop losses and property damage due to elephants raiding their fields. To address this issue, TCF works with the local communities and strategically places traditional watchtowers called tongis - equipped with powerful torchlights in paddy fields. The key objective of this project is to maintain distance and discourage harmful practices such as using sharp objects or fireballs that could endanger the elephants. Between 2022 and 2023, TCF has successfully installed 70 tongis in Kaziranga in addition to 300 tongis have been constructed over the last 5 years across 28 villages, benefiting over 1,500 families. This initiative successfully protects crops valued at around INR 5.7 crores (~USD 695,000) spread over 1,300 hectares.



- **Solar fencing in Kaziranga to mitigate crop depredation by Elephants**



Human-elephant conflicts in Assam result in significant loss of life, property, and livelihoods. To address this, TCF implemented a successful solution by installing solar-powered fences in Kaziranga. These fences, spanning 4km in Kuthari and Rangaloo installed in (2022-2023), and 29km on the outskirts of Kaziranga National Park and Nagaon Forest Division (installed between 2017-2021), prevent elephant raids on 2000 acres of farms. The electrified wires, powered by solar energy, create a deterrent, establishing a clear boundary between human and elephant habitats. This intervention directly benefits 1800 households, reducing crop depredation, safeguarding lives, and preventing retaliatory measures against elephants. The solar fences provide nearly 100% crop protection, allowing farmers to cultivate without constant fear, while aiding early detection of elephant movement for timely interventions by authorities. This initiative contributes to fostering coexistence and minimizing the risks associated with human-elephant encounters in the region.

- **Interventions in Madhya Pradesh**

TCF supplied 40 high-beam flashlights to forest camps in Pataur and Panpatha ranges of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and check posts at Khitauli and Magadhi tourism gates in 2022. Additionally, 14 flashlights were provided to Phen WLS forest camps, and 10 to Motinala Range in Kanha Tiger Reserve. A workshop for Motinala Range staff and local Eco-Development Committee members that addressed ground situations and potential mitigation measures was also organised in early 2022. Further, based on a request for a rapid assessment of HEC-affected villages, TCF conducted door-to-door surveys in conflicted-affected villages, identifying hotspots like Baratola, Dukan Nara, Amanar, Hartala, Chitron, and Basa. TCF suggested mitigation measures to alleviate human-elephant conflicts in these areas.





LARGE CATS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The Large Cats Conservation Program stands as the flagship endeavour of TCF since its inception in 1994. The program centres on safeguarding significant feline species and fostering the capabilities of diverse stakeholders to enhance conservation efforts. TCF undertakes comprehensive initiatives in landscapes inhabited by majestic large cat species such as tigers, leopards, and cheetahs. These initiatives encompass research, community involvement, forest department support, and educational endeavours targeting children, covering crucial aspects like habitat management, mitigation of adverse human-wildlife interactions, efficient patrolling and monitoring, and the development of all-encompassing, enduring strategies for large cat conservation.

A considerable portion of TCF's on-ground initiatives in India's tiger-ranging landscapes—such as Corbett, Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Satpura, and Kaziranga—revolve around ensuring the safety of tigers. This involves not only ensuring their access to high-quality habitats with ample prey base but also to functional corridors that facilitate their secure movement between areas. TCF collaborates closely with an array of stakeholders, including forest department officials, local community members, youth and children's groups, as well as grassroots institutions and organisations operating within these landscapes.

Some main initiatives implemented by TCF for large cats conservation include

1. Supporting Cheetah Conservation in Kuno
2. Community based conservation in Corbett, Bandhavgarh, Kanha and Satpura Landscape
3. All human wildlife coexistence initiatives
4. Technical support for state forest departments of Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.

- **Protecting the tiger**

With the goal of protecting the tiger, TCF implements a range of multidisciplinary, holistic conservation projects that empower all stakeholders including communities, forest departments, women and youth. Most of our the projects, details of which are included in this annual report focus on protecting the tiger, its habitat and prey species while decreasing potential for negative interactions between humans and tigers. As with any initiative with a larger conservation goal, evaluating a projects success for protecting the tiger is not linear and cannot be accurately calculated. However social and ecological assessments have suggested that our initiatives have been successful in achieving the short term and mid term goals and targets of impact and therefore we can anticipate that in the longer term, TCFs initiatives will prove be beneficial for overall protection of India's national animal.

- **Other big cats**

In addition to the tigers, TCF is also committed to protecting all biodiversity including other large and small cats species found in our landscapes. Under the Large Cats Conservation Program, TCF implements many projects that safeguard the leopards and other carnivores from situations of negative interactions with humans or human made structures.

- **Supporting cheetah conservation in Kuno**

The presence of cheetahs now in India necessitates a holistic conservation approach that considers the needs and aspirations of local communities. Since November 2022, with support from Big Cat Rescue, TCF has been actively engaging with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department (MPFD) and the communities in about 50 villages surrounding Kuno National Park to support effective monitoring and address human-wildlife conflict, and raise awareness about the world's fastest land mammal.

As a part of these efforts, TCF has adopted a holistic approach where while providing technical support to the MP forest Department for effective cheetah monitoring and patrolling, TCF is also addressing the most pressing needs in the communities to ensure active participation and support from them. As the villages surrounding Kuno National Park are extremely remote, they are not connected to the central grid for electricity. This prevents their access to any source of home lighting. To mitigate this situation, TCF has provided home lighting solutions to 50 households. Additionally, TCF has also provided 120 solar lights to forest department camp offices, 30 water storage tanks, and 20 solar street lights near the park. We have also supported the MPFD with night patrolling and monitoring cheetahs beyond the park boundaries. TCF continues to engage and conduct awareness, sensitization programs in the villages to instil a sense of ownership and responsibility for the well-being of the park and its biodiversity.



HABITAT RESTORATION







2018

**BSDC
490 ha,
300,800 saplings**



2022

FOREST RESTORATION

Over 40% of India's forests have suffered degradation as a result of human activities, leading to several adverse consequences. These degraded habitats are often engulfed by invasive and exotic weeds such as Lantana camara, which startlingly occupies a vast 154,000 square kilometres in India's tiger range alone, accounting for more than 40% of the total forest area.

The growth of Lantana also impedes the growth of native species that are essential food sources for wild herbivores. Further, the dense growth of Lantana provides shelter for tigers and leopards, leading to more frequent attacks on livestock. These forests face additional pressures from activities such as firewood extraction, livestock grazing, and tree cutting for housing and fencing purposes.

To ensure the long-term conservation of tigers, it is crucial to restore these lost habitats and actively engage local communities in the restoration efforts. Only through such collaborative measures can sustainable tiger conservation in the future be achieved.

Over the last five years, TCF has demonstrated expertise in restoring degraded habitats through inclusive and community-driven approaches across landscapes in Kanha, Satpura, Bandhavgarh, Corbett and Kutch. TCF is committed to adopting a multifaceted approach for effective, sustainable landscape restoration and are in the process of initiating restoration efforts in more parcels of degraded land.



FOREST RESTORATION IN BANDHAVGARH SANJAY DUBRI CORRIDOR

In collaboration with the **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department** and with CSR support of **Jet Privilege Pvt. Ltd**, TCF launched its inaugural "forest habitat restoration project" in 2018. The project targeted the North Shahdol Forest Division, an integral part of the Bandhavgarh Sanjay Dubri Corridor, recognized for its significance in facilitating the dispersal and long-term preservation of tigers.

Between 2018 and 2022, with the support from Jet Privilege Pvt. Ltd. a total of 83 ha of degraded forest area was restored and handed over to North Shahdol Forest Division. In 2022-23, another 100 ha of degraded forest patch was taken up for restoration with the support from **Axis Bank Ltd.** Collectively, 110,000 saplings of native trees and bamboo species were planted, nurtured, protected and raised by involving local villagers to recreate the habitat for tigers and their prey species.

Almost 186 tonnes of grass fodder has been collected so far to support stall feeding needs of 95 cattle from five adjoining villages. TCF has identified additional 290 ha of degraded forest land for restoration in 2023-24.



ECO- RESTORATION IN SATPUDA LANDSCAPE

TCF, in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, is implementing an eco-restoration project in the buffers and corridors of Satpura Tiger Reserve. Adopting a holistic approach, the project focuses on targeted areas for restoration, management, and capacity building. The main goal is to increase forage availability for ungulate species, creating a better environment for their thriving. Additionally, the project aims to improve connectivity conservation at a landscape level, promoting movement between Satpura Tiger Reserve and neighbouring reserves for large mammals and genetic diversity.

In 2022-23, TCF successfully removed lantana and other invasive species from over 435 ha of grasslands in the buffer of Satpura Tiger Reserve to support wild herbivores for the large cats.



FOREST RESTORATION IN KANHA

Since 2019, The Corbett Foundation has been undertaking a restoration project in the buffer zone of Kanha Tiger Reserve, with financial support from **PwC India Foundation**. Under this project, 36 hectares of degraded forest patches have been effectively restored by planting a total of 13,800 saplings comprising indigenous tree and bamboo species carefully selected to suit the local environment.



RESTORATION IN THE CORBETT LANDSCAPE

The Corbett landscape is intertwined with the lives of rural villagers who heavily rely on the nearby forests for essential resources such as fuelwood, fodder, and timber. However, this dependence has raised concerns about sustainable forest management and the degradation of wildlife habitats due to unclear levels of resource extraction and the spread of invasive weed species. To tackle these challenges, a plantation-based approach has been initiated by TCF, with a major focus on the eradication of invasive weeds and the establishment carefully managed plantation sites that nurture fodder and fuelwood tree species.

About six acres of weed-infested degraded landscape owned by the local villagers, spread across the North and South zones of the Corbett Tiger Reserve, were replenished during the period from March 2022 to March 2023 through replantation activities. A total of 430 saplings of indigenous plant species, such as Sheesham (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), Bheemal (*Grewia optiva*), Sehtut (*Morus alba*), Goolar (*Ficus racemosa*), Kachnar (*Bauhinia variegata*), Siris (*Albizia lebbbeck*) and Bamboo were planted at Muniyajal and Gajrijal planation sites of the North Zone while 100 saplings were planted in the Amgadi plantation site of the South Zone. TCF continues to maintain these sites by replanting in the areas where the saplings planted earlier failed to grow. Replantation activity is carried out every year depending on the damage rate to saplings at the sites.



RESTORING JHUM SITES IN TAMENGLONG

Jhum cultivation, a traditional agricultural practice widespread in northeastern states in India, involves clearing and burning patches of land for cultivation. However, inadequate management of this practice has led to adverse consequences such as soil erosion, deforestation, and habitat degradation. It is imperative to focus on renewing degraded jhum sites to promote reforestation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable land management practices.

With support from **IndiGo Reach**, TCF implemented effective interventions, such as reforestation and habitat restoration to enhance ecological resilience, conserve biodiversity, and improve livelihood opportunities for the communities in Tamenglong district and other areas in Manipur. As a crucial component of sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation, restoring degraded jhum sites held immense significance in ensuring a harmonious coexistence between people and nature in the region.

Under the aegis of the project, TCF identified, de-weeded, and restored approximately 20 hectares of degraded jhum fallow in three villages - Dailong, Puching, and Teguarum through the plantation of 25,000 saplings of indigenous plants. Following the initial six-month period, a commendable survival rate of nearly 80% was observed among the saplings, warranting the ongoing care and management of approximately 20,000 thriving plants presently. To secure the long-term success of plantation initiatives on jhum sites, the responsibility for monitoring progress, maintaining and safeguarding the regenerated site has been entrusted to the Village Council(s) and local youth club.



HABITAT RESTORATION IN KUTCH

Abdasa tehsil of Kutch district in Gujarat is an abode to several threatened species, including the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican. The increased anthropogenic pressure and infestation of *Prosopis juliflora*, locally known as 'Gando baval', an invasive species in the landscape, pose a tremendous threat to the grassland ecosystem. In order to address this issue, TCF has successfully restored ~52 acres of degraded and *Prosopis*-infested community pasture into productive grassland at the Kanakpar village. This work was carried out with financial support from Bombay Gow Rakshak Trust (BGT), Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Company Limited (DMCC) and The Habitats Trust (THT).

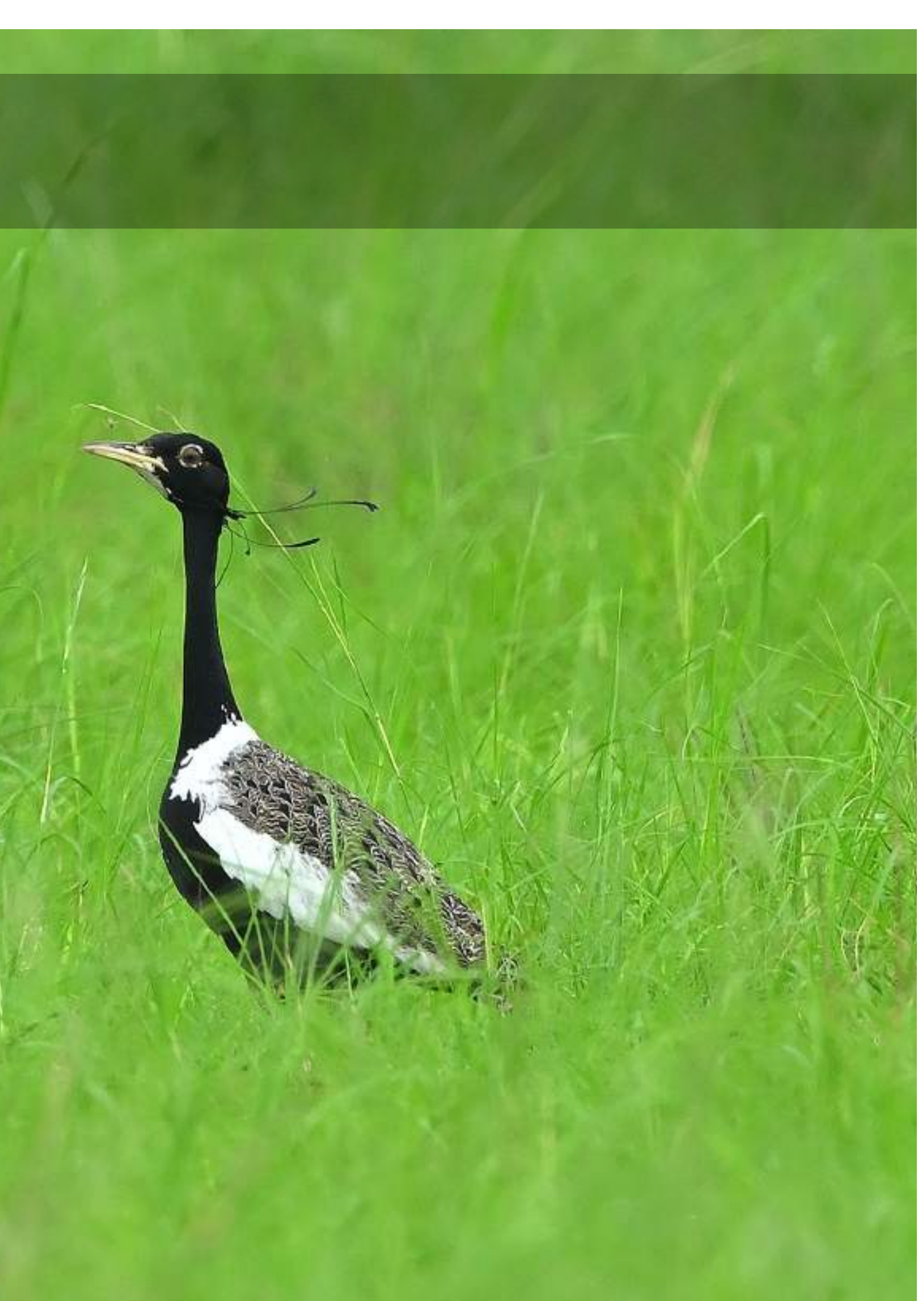
The restoration project involved the uprooting of invasive species, broadcasting/seed sowing of local indigenous grass species and installation of predator-proof fencing to ensure the safety of the developed plots. Additionally, the villagers actively participated in scientific management as well as 'controlled and rotational grazing' practices for the developed plots. Over a period of five years, this restored area is a secure habitat for the local biodiversity and thriving with ~70 bird species, 60 insect species, eight reptile species and seven mammal species. The average annual grass production of these 52 acres has reached 2000 kg per hectare.

This project has brought significant benefits for both biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. The successful restoration efforts serve as a testament to the positive impact of involving local communities in conservation initiatives. Looking ahead, TCF aims to expand these restoration efforts to larger areas with the continued support of stakeholders. Through such endeavours, TCF contributes to the ecological rejuvenation of Kutch and the preservation of its precious wildlife.



CONSERVATION-ORIENTED RESEARCH





SATELLITE TELEMETRY PROJECT IN GUJARAT

The Corbett Foundation served as a 'Subject Expert' for the Wildlife Division of Sasan-Gir, Gujarat Forest Department, on a project to deploy transmitters on birds for the satellite-telemetry study project involving 42 individuals of 16 species of birds, namely, Lesser Florican, White-rumped Vulture, Indian Vulture, Red-headed Vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Eurasian Griffon, Egyptian Vulture, Pallid Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Greater Spotted Eagle, Indian Spotted Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Common Crane, Demoiselle Crane, Lesser Flamingo and Indian Grey Hornbill. This first-of-its-kind research project began in September 2020 to understand the migratory routes, breeding and wintering areas, and the overall movement patterns of these birds, and has played an important role in adding significant information on these species.

In 2022-23, a total of four Lesser Flamingo, one Marsh Harrier, one Pallid Harrier and five Indian Grey Hornbill were deployed with satellite transmitters and released back in the wild. TCF has been assisting the Wildlife Division of Sasan-Gir in monitoring the tagged birds and analyzing the information gathered. Two research papers titled, 'Unravelling the secrets of lesser florican: a study of their home range and habitat use in Gujarat, India' ([link](#)) and 'Satellite Telemetry Insights into the Winter Habitat Use and Movement Ecology of Common and Demoiselle Cranes' ([link](#)), were published in 2023 in reputed international journals.

TCF's collaboration with the Wildlife Division of Sasan-Gir, Gujarat Forest Department for the satellite-telemetry study continues in 2023-24.



BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENTS IN RESTORATION SITES OF BANDHAVGARH- SANJAY DUBRI CORRIDOR (BSDC)

To address the restoration of degraded habitat fragments within the Bandhavgarh-Sanjay Dubri Corridor (BSDC), TCF, in partnership with Axis Bank Limited, has undertaken the restoration of approximately 290 hectares of such habitats. This initiative primarily focuses on enhancing security measures to prevent vandalism and the introduction of native wild tree and shrub species. The reappearance of biodiversity within these habitats serves as a pivotal indicator of the successful habitat restoration efforts. To document these developments, we have carried out a preliminary assessment of biodiversity across the following three restoration sites - Pipari-Amjhor (Spanning 125 hectares), Karpa-Banchachar (150 hectares), Amanar (15 hectares).

A total of five species of mammals, 42 species of birds and seven species of butterflies were recorded in Pipari-Amjhor, Seven species of mammals, 38 species of birds and five species of butterflies were recorded in Karpa-Banchacha and seven species of mammals, 19 species of birds and five species of butterflies were recorded.

Indian Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*), Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*), Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*), Plain Tiger Butterflies (*Danaus chrysippus*), Common Emigrant butterflies (*Catopsilia pomona*) and Baronet butterflies (*Euthalia nais*) were found across all the three sites. However, each site also had a large list of species unique to itself. For instance, the list of mammals found in Pipari-Amjhor included Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Striped Hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*), Asiatic Wildcat (*Felis sylvestris*) and Indian Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*) while the same found in Karpa-Banchachar included Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Indian Gazelle (*Gazella bennettii*), Indian Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) and Small Indian Civet (*Viverricula indica*). Moreover, Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) and Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) were found only in Amanar among the three sites. In addition to mammals, each site was also home to a number of unique birds and butterflies as well.

Following the completion of the plantation phase, a subsequent biodiversity assessment will be conducted to order to assess if there has been an increase in the influx of biodiversity in these sites.



ETHNOBOTANICAL SURVEY IN TAMENGLONG.

Under the “Safeguarding biodiversity in Tamenglong and Noney districts in Manipur” project funded by Indigo Reach, TCF had signed a MoU with Mangolnganbi College, Ningthoukhong, Manipur to coordinate conservation science through joint research projects and publications, undertaking wildlife and biodiversity assessments in the remote regions of northeast India in the region and facilitating faculty exchanges based on principles of reciprocity to foster knowledge exchange and expertise enrichment. As the first initiative under the MoU, scientists and researchers from Mangolnganbi College, in collaboration with TCF's team, undertook a biodiversity survey of the Longku Forest of Dailong village in Tamenglong district of Manipur in March 2023. The survey covered an 11.35 sq. km area of Longku Forest and another two sq.km watershed areas of Joulangpang-Khoukao waterfalls and Raengan.

The comprehensive survey documented a total of 457 distinct species of flora and fauna including 186 different plant species belonging to 82 different plant families, several rare and endemic species, including the globally rare Indian wild orange (*Citrus indica*) and the Jewel orchid (*Anoectochilus albolineatus*), significant plant species like the Tree fern (*Alsophila gigantea*) and Tassel ferns (*Huperzia squarrosa*), 103 avian species from 34 different families along with 82 species of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) from 5 families. This list included species that were considered threatened and endemic. In the mammalian category, eight different species from six families, including a critically endangered Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*). In addition to these, the survey team also documented five species of amphibians, several lizard species, and 14 different species of snakes, including a rare and endemic Cherrapunji Keelback (*Hebius xenura*). In the aquatic realm, 13 species of fishes from three families and 11 species of dragonflies (Odonota) from six families were identified.



BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT IN SATPURA

TCF is implementing multifaceted landscape restoration projects in various landscapes. The process mainly involves identification of suitable sites, removal of invasive weeds, large-scale plantation activities and installation of chain-linked fencing to prevent free livestock grazing and unauthorised entry. These plantation sites are then regularly monitored and maintained by dedicated local community members. In some areas, specific patches of land are deliberately left unplanted to allow for the growth of local grasses, which can be sustainably harvested for stall-feeding livestock.

Satpura landscape is one such region where TCF is involved in extensive landscape restoration. In the reporting period, prior to the initiation of management interventions, comprehensive biodiversity surveys were conducted to assess the status of flora and fauna. A total of 20 transects were traversed across 7 out of 12 sites earmarked for restoration interventions, with vegetation data meticulously recorded from 120 sampling plots. Additionally, seven transects were covered for 'post-management intervention' biodiversity assessments, carried out in two sites corresponding to the year-two restoration intervention.

The results of these efforts yielded an inventory of 52 tree species, 28 grass species, 17 herb species, 90 bird species, 10 butterfly species (opportunistic records), and indirect/direct signs of 11 mammal species.

The team expresses sincere gratitude to the Satpura Tiger Reserve for their active cooperation and unwavering support throughout the entire exercise. The crucial contributions of dedicated beat guards and chowkidars have played a pivotal role in the success of these endeavors.



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LIVESTOCK IMMUNISATION TO PREVENT TRANSMISSION OF DISEASES

Forest-dwelling rural communities in India heavily rely on animal husbandry for their livelihood, whether it be for agricultural purposes or dairy production. Since cattle are often grazed in forests, the grazing pressure on the forest increases but degrades forest and soil quality, increasing the risk of not only negative interactions between humans and wildlife but also of disease transmission from livestock to wildlife.

To address this challenge, TCF implements a comprehensive program involving veterinary experts, paravets, and Livestock Inspectors who conduct regular veterinary camps in various reserves offering round-the-clock assistance, ensuring that locals adopt healthy and sustainable cattle-rearing practices, maintain disease-free animals, and promote productivity. Annually, TCF treats nearly two lakh livestock, addressing various ailments such as worm infections, mastitis, indigestion, pneumonia, infertility, and reproductive issues. TCF has vaccinated a significant number of livestock against diseases like Black Quarter, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia.



RURAL MEDICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The support of local communities residing within a wilderness area is paramount for the success of any conservation program. However, accessing healthcare facilities in forest areas proves challenging for these communities, often resulting in feelings of neglect and resorting to unqualified practitioners. Since 1995, the TCF has been diligently providing essential healthcare to over 100 villages near reserves. TCF's efforts include conducting mobile camps and awareness programs, reaching out to approximately 15,000-20,000 people annually.



COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR CHEETAH CONSERVATION

TCF was invited by Madhya Pradesh Forest Department (MPFD) to collaborate in the Kuno landscape, with the objective of tackling human-wildlife conflict and raising awareness about the cheetahs. Since November 2022, TCF has actively engaged with the residents of approximately 50 villages surrounding Kuno National Park (KNP). The overarching goal is two-fold: to address conservation challenges and to build resilience within these communities, fostering a harmonious coexistence with cheetahs and other wildlife.

To achieve this, TCF has undertaken various initiatives. One pivotal initiative involves the distribution of solar home lighting systems to 48 families across Ranipura, Katila, and Mohan Ki Pataari village. The residents of these villages had no access to electricity and relied on firewood for lighting in the dark. Due to the close vicinity to the Kuno National Park, it was crucial to provide lighting solution for not only the benefit of the villagers but also for monitoring Cheetah movement through the villages. Beyond domestic use, these lights play a crucial role in tracking wildlife activities, enhancing safety, and transforming aspects like education, healthcare, and overall quality of life for villagers.

In addition to the distribution of lights, TCF also conducted several comprehensive awareness programs for sensitising the locals to cheetah and wildlife conservation. The educational endeavours shed light on the integral role of forests and wildlife in maintaining ecosystems that inherently impact human well-being. These initiatives also emphasised education's significance, encouraging villagers to prioritise their children's learning journey. Moreover, TCF also raised awareness regarding government schemes like cattle kill compensation, offering restitution to livestock owners for losses due to wild carnivores while altering perceptions around human-wildlife conflicts and mitigating retaliatory actions.

By instilling a sense of custodianship for the park's well-being, all the programs aimed to thwart poaching activities and engender collective efforts towards protecting wildlife and habitats.





HOLISTIC HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION PROJECT

TCF is implementing a comprehensive human-wildlife conflict mitigation initiative within the Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR) with funding support from **Born Free Foundation**. The main objectives encompass mitigating negative interactions between humans and wildlife in the buffer zone of the KTR by reducing cattle depredation by tigers and leopards via stall feeding of the fodder grown on community lands and to encourage alternate source of income in order to conserve the big cats and their habitat .

As a part of this project, TCF has leased a 10-acre land parcel in Baherakhar village from local farmers for cultivating green fodder. This strategy alleviates pressure on the forest while also averting disease transmission between domesticated and wild herbivores. The land boasts a fodder capacity of roughly 80,000 kg per annum, having cultivated maize and barseem (*Trifolium alexandrinum*) during the monsoon and winter harvest seasons, respectively. Maize is the sole fodder crop feasible for monsoon cultivation in this terrain due to heavy rainfall.

Further, with approvals from the forest department, another 10-acre expanse in Pandhraphani village was chosen for lantana removal to promote the of native grass regeneration to support stall feeding. Approximately 15 tons of lantana were uprooted, and the area fenced to facilitate local grass growth, enabling nearby villagers to adopt stall-feeding practices. Additionally, TCF also provided 10 high-milk yielding crossbreeds (Holstein Friesian, Sahiwal, and Gir) to six Baherakhar village farmers to promote diversified livelihoods. Medical care for cattle injured by large predators in the reserve is also being provided, overcoming treatment delays caused by financial constraints. TCF has also constructed 10 cattle shed floors with a unique design featuring slopes and a center hole to collect urine, which is subsequently repurposed as a crop pesticide.



HOLISTIC RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

TCF, with support from HDFC bank, has initiated an holistic rural development project in the rapidly developing Rajmachi and Lonavala region of the Western Ghats. The main goal of the project is to promote Human-wildlife coexistence and ensure long-term conservation in the Western Ghats by identifying and addressing challenges of unsustainable practice, securing habitat connectivity and building capacities of local communities for fostering human-wildlife coexistence.

Since the start of the project, TCF teams have successfully conducted needs assessment surveys and based on which trainings for SHGs, youth led eco club, identified sites for natural resource management, identified potential trades to enhance livelihood practices, planned school and Anganwadi refurbishment activities along with a range of education, awareness and capacity building initiatives for the FY 2023-24.



GREEN LIVELIHOODS & ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT

The Corbett Foundation (TCF), in partnership with the **PwC India Foundation**, is actively engaged in a comprehensive habitat restoration and community support project within the Kanha Tiger Landscape (KTL). This notable initiative focuses on eco-restoration of degraded forest areas while empowering local communities through self-help groups (SHGs) to generate additional income through equipment and capacity-building support.

The primary objectives of this project are to initiate green and sustainable livelihoods for the forest-dependent communities residing in the vicinity of the Kanha Tiger Reserve and promote human-wildlife coexistence by fostering awareness and sensitization efforts among the local community.

To reduce the pressure on the forest caused by the free grazing of domesticated cattle and mitigate the potential risk of livestock depredation, villagers have been encouraged to harvest grass for their cattle. Moreover, to diversify sources of income and reduce forest-dependent forms of livelihood TCF has provided 60 bee boxes to two SHGs and 750 stalks of Napier grass to 15 households, resulting in a harvest of 150 kg of green fodder for their cattle. Additionally, the project has also supported 20 women SHGs in the preparation and market linkages for 4500 saplings, enhancing the community's efforts in environmental conservation.

Through this initiative, TCF is aiming to revitalize the ecosystem, foster sustainable livelihoods and promote coexistence between humans and wildlife in the Kanha Tiger Landscape. The successful implementation of these measures not only benefits the environment but also strengthens the bond between local communities and nature, ultimately contributing to the long-term conservation of the region's rich biodiversity.





INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Corbett foundation (TCF), with funding support from **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)** implemented Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) in 15 villages in Amboli region, taluka Sawantwadi, district Sindhudurg of Maharashtra between March 2021 and March 2023.

The project addressed the needs and challenges of livelihood, education, natural resource management (NRM)/conservation, water and sanitation, awareness generation and conservation education in these villages and aimed to foster community-based conservation by implementing several, goal oriented activities. Component-wise activities under the IRDP included:

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

- Provision of Energy-efficient (EE) stoves
- Crop-raiding-prevention torches
- Installation of Street solar lights
- Solar-fencing for protection of crops from wild animals
- Capacity-building of forest department frontline staff

Water and sanitation

- Open-well fencing
- Jal-minar
- Cement structure stop dam
- Village ponds / wetland rejuvenation

Livelihood

- Vermicompost
- Poultry farming
- Women' SHGs & livelihood
- Organic farming
- Cattle vaccination
- Skills training for unemployed youth

Education

- School infrastructure strengthening
- Anganwadi infrastructure strengthening
- Educational support for needy students
- Remedial coaching
- Teachers' training workshop
- Providing K-Yan – a digital teaching aid

Conservation education & awareness generation

- Sahyadri Nisarg Shala – a nature club in collaboration with the schools in project-villages
- Awareness generation sessions with the community

The area around Amboli-Dodamarg Conservation Reserve, where many of the villages are situated, is a part of the Western Ghats and acts as corridor for the dispersing population of tigers and other threatened wildlife between the forest areas of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka. The IRDP was a pioneering effort of such scale in the area and benefitted over 15,000 individuals directly and indirectly and is expected to have a long-term positive impact in all the villages, wildlife and forest.





ENHANCING COEXISTENCE & COMMUNITY COOPERATION TOWARDS THE CONSERVATION OF FLAGSHIP SPECIES IN CORBETT LANDSCAPE

The Corbett Foundation, in collaboration with The **DMCC Speciality Chemicals Ltd.**, executed a community-based and comprehensive conservation initiative within the Corbett Landscape.

The primary objectives of this project were to:

- address and mitigate negative human-wildlife interactions
- enhance wildlife habitats
- uplift the economic conditions of the local community.

With a holistic approach, TCF undertook both short-term and long-term strategies to empower communities and encourage them to become active custodians of wildlife conservation. Key activities included installing solar-powered street lights to deter wild animals from human habitations, setting up chain-link fences to prevent crop damage, and providing iron poles for traditional haystacks. Additionally, initiatives for economic upliftment involved establishing spice processing units and providing high-yielding crossbred cows to villagers.

For tackling the issue of negative HWI, TCF provided interim financial aid to individuals affected by wild animal attacks, facilitating prompt medical care. Additionally, 20 solar street lights were installed across four project villages, and chain-linked fences were set up in two villages to discourage wild animals from entering into human habitations. To further mitigate negative HWI, TCF promoted and provided haystack poles, not only reducing the communities' reliance on forests for these poles but also minimizing the risk of accidental encounters during wood collection.

A pivotal aspect of the project was the focus on fostering economic upliftment among local communities. TCF extended financial and technical support to community members, enabling them to establish a spice processing unit and purchase high-quality, high-yield cows.

The results of this project were substantial, directly and indirectly benefiting over 2000 people within a one-year timeframe.





MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS





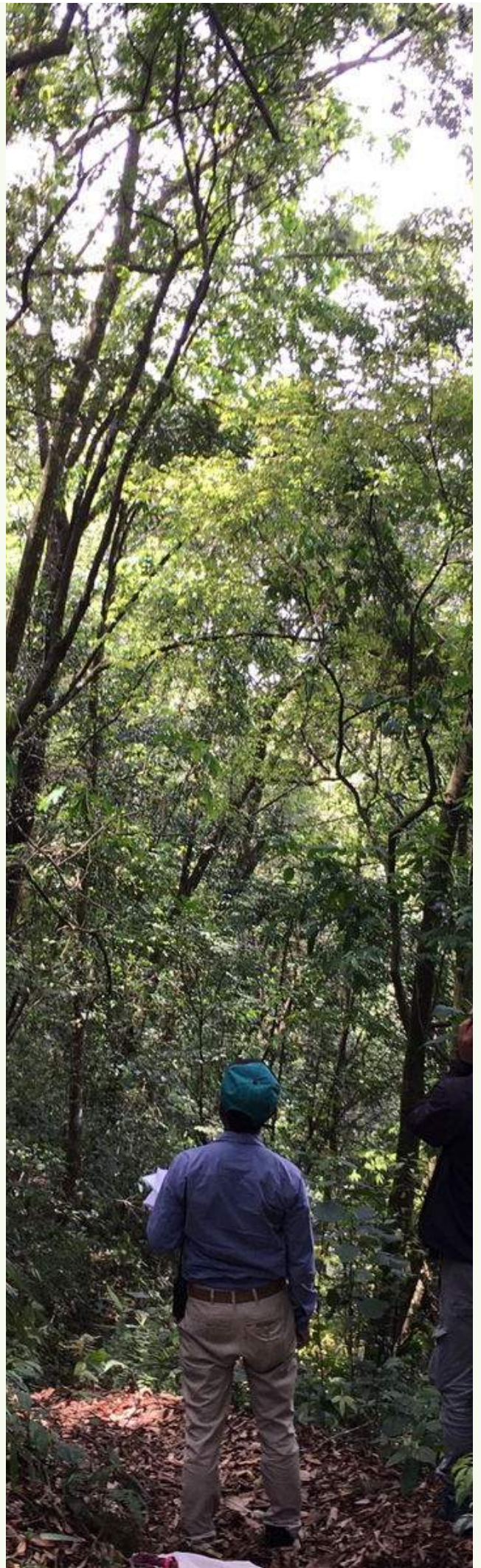
SAFEGUARDING BIODIVERSITY IN TAMENGLONG & NONEY DISTRICTS IN MANIPUR

The Corbett Foundation, in partnership with IndiGo Reach executed a comprehensive biodiversity conservation project in Tamenglong and Noney districts of Manipur between October 2021 to March 2023.

The project's primary objectives were to address conservation challenges in the region by focusing on restoring degraded landscapes, reducing the reliance on natural resources, promoting sustainable livelihoods, enhancing the capabilities of forest department personnel, and empowering local community members and youth through conservation education initiatives.

The project directly impacted and benefited more than 100 families, 120 teachers, 600 students, 300 frontline forest department personnel, and 3500 individuals across different age groups. Through innovative strategies, the Corbett Foundation successfully piloted interventions that can have a positive and long-lasting effect on the well-being of people and the natural environment in Manipur.

The project's initiatives encompassed various activities, such as restoring degraded Jhum Sites, distributing energy-efficient cook stoves, promoting sustainable beekeeping, supporting eco-tourism, conducting conservation education programs, and running campaigns like Friends of Amur Falcon and My Jungle My Pride Campaign. Ethnobotanical biodiversity surveys were also conducted, and capacity building efforts were made for both community members and forest protectors. Training covered technical aspects like GPS, compass, camera trap devices, and other essential equipment.





HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE & CONSERVATION OF FLAGSHIP SPECIES AT CORBETT

With financial support from *H T Parekh Foundation*, TCF implemented a comprehensive project for promoting harmonious coexistence and conserving flagship species within the Corbett landscape. Spanning from November 2022 to March 2023, multifaceted initiatives were undertaken to address conservation challenges and uplift local communities surrounding the Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR).

The overarching aim of the project was to ensure the long-term conservation of flagship species and their habitats in the Corbett Landscape through community engagement and capacity-building. The initiative encompassed various strategies to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, enhance economic opportunities for local communities, and strengthen conservation efforts in a holistic manner.

The project's activities encompassed several key areas:

- **Reducing Habitat Degradation:** Iron poles were provided to create traditional haystacks in fringe villages, aimed at reducing dependency on forest resources and preventing habitat degradation.
- **Mitigating Human-Wildlife Interaction:** Solar-powered street lights were installed in villages facing threats from wild animals to minimize negative human-wildlife interaction. Additionally, a chain-link fence was installed to prevent crop damage by wild animals.
- **Anti-Poaching and Legal Training:** Training workshops were conducted to enhance the capacity of frontline field workers in combating illegal wildlife trade and prosecuting poachers. Experts from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Uttarakhand Forest Department provided insights on intelligence collection, interrogation techniques, legal provisions, and successful prosecution strategies.
- **Field Patrolling Strengthening:** Rechargeable LED torch lights were distributed to field patrolling teams in forest divisions to enhance their capacity to perform duties during nighttime.
- **Economic Upliftment:** Training programs and support for setting up poultry farms were provided to self-help groups in villages. Spice processing units were also established, benefiting local communities engaged in organic farming.
- **Rural Medical Outreach:** Primary health check-up facilities were provided to remote fringe communities, conducting health awareness programs and diagnostic tests, benefiting a significant number of patients.





SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS





SPICE PROCESSING UNITS

With the purpose of economically uplifting communities living in forest fringes and providing alternate sources of income, TCF encourages rural communities to form Self Help Groups (SHGs) and promotes selling spices made from locally grown agricultural products. In addition to organising capacity building trainings and workshops to facilitate the learning process, TCF also provides the spice processing unit, consisting of a spice pulverizer machine, a dryer, a packaging machine, a weighing machine and packaging material as seed support.

Spices such as turmeric, coriander, chilli powder and bay leaves can be produced in these areas. Moreover, as such species are not damaged by wild animals and these can be grown in areas affected due to severe crop depredation. TCF has established two such units in the Corbett landscape and one unit in the Amboli region of Maharashtra.



BEE KEEPING



Honey collection is longstanding practice among communities living in forest fringe areas. Depending on the region, local communities engage in either wild honey collection which involves climbing on trees and other higher areas to manually cut down beehives or using rudimentary methods for beekeeping involving crafting hives from mud, straw, or hollow pieces of wood collected from the forest.

These methods not only lack the sophistication of modern bee boxes and frames but also are unsustainable and extremely dangerous. Moreover, the quantity of honey collected or harvested by these methods is often only sufficient for self consumption or sometimes sale in local markets.



To modernise and make beekeeping more sustainable and economically viable, TCF has introduced a shift from collecting swarms to raising brood and harvesting honey in a more organised manner. TCF has provided bee boxes and frames, where the bee colonies are kept intact in a single column of the box with separate chambers for brood and honey to local community members in various landscapes. This approach benefits both the beekeepers and the honeybees. By adopting these improved methods, beekeepers can now ensure a more efficient and productive beekeeping process, leading to increased honey production and better utilisation of resources. Moreover, this sustainable approach fosters a harmonious relationship between beekeepers and the delicate ecosystem of the honeybees.

POULTRY FARMING

Communities residing in villages situated near forest fringes often find their livelihoods heavily dependent on agricultural and dairy activities, owing to limited employment opportunities in their vicinity. However, a recurring issue arises in cases where frequent depredation of crops by wild ungulates occurs. This agricultural challenge leads to a diminishing interest in farming among the local populace, resulting in the transformation of productive farmlands into uncultivated and weed-infested terrains. Additionally, a notable trend of outmigration, particularly among the youth, has been observed from these fringe villages. This demographic shift poses further difficulties for the remaining elderly and youth who continue to inhabit these areas. During community interactions and surveys in various landscapes, small-scale poultry farming emerged as an area of interest for the villagers among other potential endeavours.

Through extensive consultations with local community members, TCF facilitated the creation of self-help groups (SHGs). A comprehensive training program in poultry farming techniques, led by a veterinary officer, was provided to the members of these groups. Each selected beneficiary received a well-rounded package that encompassed the provision of chicks, financial assistance for establishing poultry farm infrastructure, and essential resources such as chick feed and supplements. This initiative aimed to empower the villagers, enhance their economic prospects, and contribute to the sustainable development of these regions.



SKILLS TRAINING



The intricate relationship between humans and wildlife in areas of close coexistence with endangered species demands attention due to escalating anthropogenic pressures and resulting conflicts. TCF addresses this challenge through a multifaceted approach, emphasizing skill development within local communities. By empowering individuals with diverse skills, the initiative aims not only to mitigate immediate human-wildlife conflicts but also to foster long-term conservation and sustainable coexistence. TCF's workshops between 2022 and 2023 covered themes such as small-scale business operations, production or crafting skills, entrepreneurial skills, budgeting, financial planning, sales, negotiation skills, supply chain management, and networking for business expansion. The organization also conducted nature guide workshops focusing on effective interpretation, waste management, bird watching, communication skills, snake awareness and rescue, intelligence gathering, and first aid.

Additionally, TCF addressed youth employment through workshops on skills like electricians and beauticians. This comprehensive skill development approach not only diversifies income sources for communities but also reduces dependency on activities leading to conflicts with wildlife, contributing to poverty alleviation and strengthening economic resilience while benefiting long-term wildlife conservation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITISATION





GREEN SCHOOL PROGRAMME, KAZIRANGA

With the aim to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship in the younger generation, TCF is implementing a green school project in rural schools in the Kaziranga region of Assam, India. This project encompasses various facets, including initiatives such as tree plantation, energy conservation, and the establishment of school gardens. In addition to the physical interventions, the project also emphasizes the importance of environmental education. Workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions are conducted to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of ecological concepts, wildlife conservation, and the need for biodiversity preservation. This project has helped over 2000 children so far in developing environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility towards the natural world.



WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY, 2022

On the occasion of World Migratory Bird Day in May 2022, TCF conducted awareness programs in a number of schools across various landscapes where the identification of migratory birds, their ecological importance & threats were discussed with the students, mainly focusing on the 2022 theme effects of artificial lights on migratory birds.



CELEBRATING WORLD EARTH DAY '22

On the occasion of Earth Day 2022, TCF teams across different landscapes organised awareness and education programs for children and youth residing in the proximity of forests in India. The activities involved informative sessions, presentations and talks by experts, wherein essential aspects concerning Earth, climate change, and the pertinent measures of mitigation and adaptation were elucidated. Subsequently, some landscapes also planned a number of interactive exercises such as satellite viewing of the earth wherein the students were exposed to satellite views of diverse continents and countries via the Google Earth platform, catering to their curiosity and geographical exploration.



WORLD WETLANDS DAY & BIRD FESTIVAL 2023

In February 2023, TCF collaborated with the Tarai-West Forest Division (TWFD) to organize an engaging two-day Bird Festival to celebrate World Wetlands Day. The festival featured diverse programs, including training sessions on migratory waterfowl identification at Tumaria Reservoir, captivating nature trails, and the unveiling of a new vulture awareness poster. With active participation from 84 forest staff from TWFD and nature guides from Phanto safari, the event provided a valuable platform for TCF to raise awareness about the significance of wildlife conservation.



INTERNATIONAL VULTURE AWARENESS DAY

On International Vulture Awareness Day, TCF in collaboration with state forest departments of Uttarakhand and Maharashtra jointly released an informative poster on the conservation of vultures. The poster was developed and published by The Corbett Foundation with the content development support from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and SAVE (Save Asia's Vultures from Extinction).

Additionally, TCFs Corbett Division had also organised an awareness program at Belghatti Gujar Settlement within the Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR). Gujar residents residing in the CTR were educated about vulture species, their significance, the threats they face, and conservation efforts. The Gujar settlements in the CTR harbor a thriving vulture population, with habitats in nearby forest areas. Participants were sensitized to the detrimental effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like diclofenac, aceclofenac, ketoprofen, and nimesulide on vulture populations. Safe alternatives, such as meloxicam and tolfenamic acid, were recommended for treating their livestock. The awareness poster was widely distributed in range offices, Gujar settlements, the veterinary hospital in Ramnagar, and schools within the Gujar settlements as a part of the event.



HARELA FESTIVAL, 2022

During the Harela festival in Uttarakhand, TCF-Corbett distributed and planted approximately 600 lemon saplings across three villages: Okhaldunga, Simalkhet, and Malli Simli. This was the first instance of TCF-Corbett introducing lemon plants as a bio-fencing solution in villages experiencing crop depredation due to wildlife. By strategically implementing lemon plants as a form of bio-fencing, the initiative aims to provide effective protection for the crops and concurrently establish a potential source of income for the villagers in the future.



WORLD ELEPHANT DAY 2022

On the 12th of August 2022, TCF teams across in elephant range states celebrated World Elephant Day by engaging with school students through awareness and education programs. The programs aimed to raise awareness about the significance of elephants and promote their conservation. Activities included informative presentations, on-spot quiz sessions and screenings of documentary films on elephants. All activities effectively conveyed the challenges elephants face in their natural habitats, emphasizing the need for conservation efforts to safeguard their existence. By fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy towards wildlife, TCF sought to inspire the younger generation to become proactive advocates for wildlife conservation.

SAHYADRI NISARG SHALA

Between 2022 and 2023, the TCF conducted a series of educational and awareness initiatives focused on instilling conservation consciousness among students and elders. These efforts aimed to promote long-term environmental sustainability in 14 villages within Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district.

As part of these initiatives, the TCF launched the "Sahyadri Nisarg Shala" program in five primary schools within the project villages. This program engaged students from grades 1 to 7 in weekly activities centered on environmental and conservation themes. Concurrently, the TCF contributed to improving school and anganwadi infrastructure by providing tap-water supply to toilets and hand-wash stations, along with repainting school buildings using engaging designs.

TCF also distributed educational material kits to underprivileged students, ensuring their educational progress and organized bi-weekly remedial coaching sessions at each school for academically challenged students, focusing on academic improvement, teamwork, and extracurricular skills such as sports and life skills. This coaching framework targeted the needs of academically vulnerable students.

TCF's approach emphasises a holistic perspective in its initiatives. To foster children's future roles as custodians of nature, TCF strives to provide comprehensive educational support that includes everything from enhancing the school infrastructure enhancement to ensuring access to educational resources and materials.



Before transformation



After Transformation



CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING





SUSTAINABLE NTFP HARVEST

The Corbett Foundation (TCF) has engaged with villagers living near Kanha Tiger Reserve to enhance their capacity for sustainable NTFP collection. TCF conducts training sessions and workshops that focus on specific techniques. For example, villagers from Sareipatera were provided training on the collection of mahua flowers on a green net to prevent them from getting soiled, enabling the flowers to be sold in the market for making treacle and other mahua products. TCF has also established market linkages for the sale of these flowers to ensure the economic viability of the initiative for the communities. The training also encompassed various other NTFPs, such as the careful harvest of tendu leaves to ensure only the leaves are collected without damaging the branches and the setting up of bee boxes to prevent traditional unsustainable methods of honey collection, amongst others



NATURE GUIDE TRAINING PROGRAMME



TCF in collaboration with the Ramnagar Forest Division conducted a comprehensive training program for the nature guides of Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve. The training covered various topics, including the guide's background and standards, effective interpretation skills, waste management in natural habitats' fringe areas, the historical significance of forests in Kumaon, the art of bird watching, communication skills (self-presentation and self-esteem), snake awareness and rescue, Wildlife Protection Act pertaining to protected areas, anti-poaching techniques, intelligence gathering, and collaboration with the Forest Department. In addition, representatives from TCF Corbett provided first aid training with a focus on equipping nature guides to handle unforeseen medical and health emergencies during wildlife safaris.

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON ANTI-POACHING & LEGAL JURISPRUDENCE



The Corbett Foundation, in collaboration with the Uttarakhand Forest Department (UKFD) and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), organised training workshops on anti-poaching measures and combating illegal wildlife trade with a focus on enhancing legal insight and requisite provisions for successful prosecution in January 2023. These workshops involved comprehensive lectures on critical topics essential in tackling wildlife crime and illegal poaching by esteemed experts from the WCCB and UKFD, delivered and covered a wide array of subjects, including intelligence gathering, methods of intelligence collection, agent/source running, search and seizure techniques, effective interrogation, objectives and qualities of an interrogator, as well as various methods of interrogation. Moreover, the session delved into the nuances of wildlife crime and the appropriate procedures for dealing with such issues under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, encompassing the filing of complaints in court. In-depth discussions centered around significant sections of the Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, crucial judgments, investigation processes, filing of complaints, and essential legal considerations necessary for securing successful convictions in wildlife crimes.

Participation in these programs was robust, with approximately 100 forest department staff members from Corbett Tiger Reserve, Kalagarh Tiger Reserve, Ramnagar Forest Division, and Tarai-West Forest Division were actively engaged in these workshops.

EQUIPMENT SUPPORT FOR CHEETAH CONSERVATION

To support effective monitoring and address human-wildlife conflict, and raise awareness about the Cheetahs in the region, TCF has been actively engaging with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department (MPFD) since November 2022 . With financial support from with support from Big Cat Rescue, TCF has provided 120 solar lights to forest department camp offices, 30 water storage tanks, and 20 solar street lights near the park. We have also supported the MPFD with night patrolling and monitoring cheetahs beyond the park boundaries. TCF continues to engage and conduct awareness, sensitization programs in the villages to instil a sense of ownership and responsibility for the well-being of the park and its biodiversity.

Participation in these programs was robust, with approximately 100 forest department staff members from Corbett Tiger Reserve, Kalagarh Tiger Reserve, Ramnagar Forest Division, and Tarai-West Forest Division actively engaging in these workshops.







CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

THE SATPUDA LANDSCAPE TIGER PARTNERSHIP SEMINAR 2023

Melghat Tiger Reserve

The Satpuda Landscape Tiger Partnership (SLTP) teams met in Melghat Tiger Reserve in January 2023 as a part of their Annual Seminar.

The seminar was well attended by partner teams, officials from the forest and revenue departments, representatives from the National Tiger Conservation Authority, and prominent individuals from the conservation space who used this unique platform to share learnings and discuss conservation issues and collaboration opportunities.

Through talks held by Jayoti Banerjee, the Field Director of Melghat Tiger Reserve, and M.K. Ranjitsinh, the torchbearer of India's Wildlife Protection Act, the participants had an opportunity to learn about the wildlife management practices of the reserve and the history of Project Tiger. The participants further embarked on focused discussions to suggest future strategies to strike a balance between conservation and the livelihoods of local communities.

Furthermore, the activity filled 3 days of the seminar provided a wonderful opportunity for the younger SLTP field team members to interact with each other, share ideas and present their work.

Representing The Corbett Foundation, Priya Warekar and Dikesh Choudhary spoke about the team's work and learnings in the Kanha and Bandhavgarh landscapes.



5TH CENTRAL INDIAN LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM

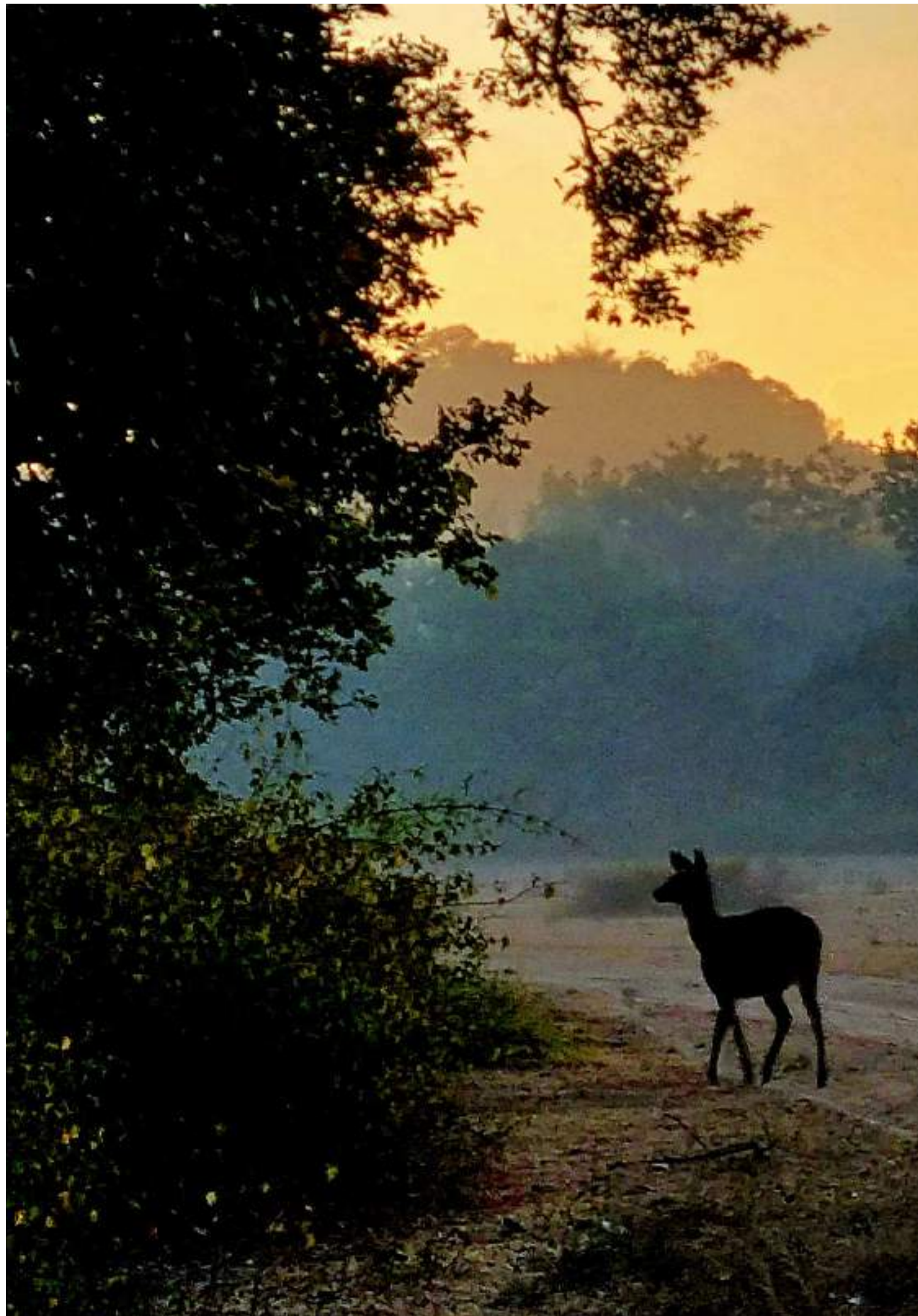


Kanha Tiger Reserve

The Corbett Foundation, in collaboration with the Network for Conserving Central India (NCCI), organised the fifth Central Indian Landscape Symposium (CILS) at Infinity Resorts in Kanha Tiger Reserve in February 2023.

The Central Indian Landscape serves as a diverse tapestry of interconnected ecosystems that not only nurture biodiversity but also facilitate crucial ecological processes and uphold regional climate patterns. Interwoven with various protected areas of differing sizes, this landscape is renowned worldwide for its commitment to tiger conservation. However, this Indian region grapples with the delicate balance between development and conservation. Amidst the escalating interplay between human activity and natural dynamics, conservationists are confronted with multifaceted challenges that extend well beyond the boundaries of protected areas, as they contend with the intricate interplay of multiple factors and sectors. Under the thematic umbrella of "Jugalbandi," denoting a harmonious collaboration, CILS5 brought together a diverse assembly of practitioners, conservation scientists, and governmental officials. The symposium aimed to dissect intricate challenges and foster innovative solutions that are grounded in a mosaic of perspectives, collectively working towards a sustainable resolution.







PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

SATPUDA LANDSCAPE TIGER PARTNERSHIP

About SLTP: The Satpuda Landscape Tiger Partnership (SLTP) stands as one of the most extensive consortia of NGOs operating within the heart of the Central Indian Landscape, spanning Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for nearly two decades, driven by a shared purpose and unified agenda. Guided by the maxim of "Harmonizing the needs of people with those of nature such that both can thrive," SLTP encompasses a network that now envelops over 12 tiger reserves and vital corridor regions. Its influence extends to over 150,000 residents living adjacent to these tiger-inhabited woodlands in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, diligently striving to safeguard both tigers and their critical habitats, all in close cooperation with the respective forest departments.

Amidst a tapestry of successes achieved by surmounting challenges from the grassroots to the policy echelons, SLTP unites formidable partners such as The Corbett Foundation, Satpuda Foundation, Bombay Natural History Society, Tiger Research And Conservation Trust, Nature Conservation Society of Amravati, Conservation Action Trust, BAAVAN (Bagh Aap Aur Van), and Wildlife Conservation Trust. The Born Free Foundation contributes essential financial backing, underpinning a significant portion of the collective endeavors undertaken by SLTP's partners. A knowledge partnership is fostered with the WildCRU at Oxford University.

Beyond the indispensable financial support, SLTP orchestrates annual seminars that unite partners and invite stakeholders, scholars, scientists, and conservationists who share a shared mission to safeguard the tigers of Central India. These gatherings serve as platforms for reviewing ongoing efforts, exchanging invaluable insights and best practices, and strategically charting the course for forthcoming initiatives.

Website: www.savingindiastigers.org





COALITION FOR WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

About CWC: The Coalition for Wildlife Corridors (CWC) is a collaborative network composed of individuals and organisations dedicated to advancing connectivity conservation in India. The core vision that guides the CWC is the establishment of a connected network encompassing major terrestrial and freshwater habitats within a region. This network aims to preserve ecological and evolutionary processes while facilitating economic development and upholding existing social and cultural practices. The CWC is a collaborative effort among non-governmental organisations (NGOs) united by a shared commitment to employ scientific knowledge and advocacy to identify, devise, and advocate for the protection of wildlife corridors throughout India. One of its primary goals is to present a unified perspective, fostering consensus and responsible action on critical matters related to corridor conservation. The CWC facilitates the creation and execution of advocacy strategies, resource sharing, fundraising initiatives, and novel avenues for promoting connectivity conservation.

Objectives

1. Create and maintain a comprehensive and dynamic web portal to host data on corridors in India.
2. Co-design and undertake coordinated advocacy for corridor conservation
3. Develop, share and standardise approaches to corridor planning, connectivity design and monitoring
4. Work to affirm implementation efforts of partner organisations (through knowledge sharing, site visits, learning and external profiling)
5. Create new opportunities to work together on connectivity conservation and raise funds jointly

Website: www.corridorcoalition.org



HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION

STAFF REMUNERATION DETAILS

Slab of gross monthly Salary (INR) Plus Benefits paid to Staff	Male Staff	Female Staff	Total Staff (22-23)
< 2500	5	1	6
< 7000	6	3	9
< 15000	27	5	32
< 30000	20	7	27
< 50000	13	7	20
>50000	5	2	7
			101

DETAILS OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Sr. No	Name	Position	Relationship
1	Late. Mr. Dilip D. Khatau	Founder	
2	Mrs. Rina D. Khatau	Chairperson	Wife of Late. Mr. Dilip D. Khatau
3	Mr. B.K. Goswami	Trustee	N.A
4	Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh	Trustee	N.A
5	Mr. Darius Udwadia	Trustee	N.A
6	Mr. Nirmal Ghosh	Trustee	N.A
7	Mr. Sam Mistry	Trustee	N.A
8	Mr. Akshobh Singh	Trustee	N.A
9	Mr. Laxmikumar Goculdas	Trustee	N.A
10	Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavd	Trustee	N.A
11	Mr. P. R. Rajkotia	Trustee	N.A
12	Mr. Atul C. Kirloskar	Trustee	N.A
13	Mr. Gautam Dilip Khatau	Trustee	Son of Late. Mr. Dilip D. Khatau

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

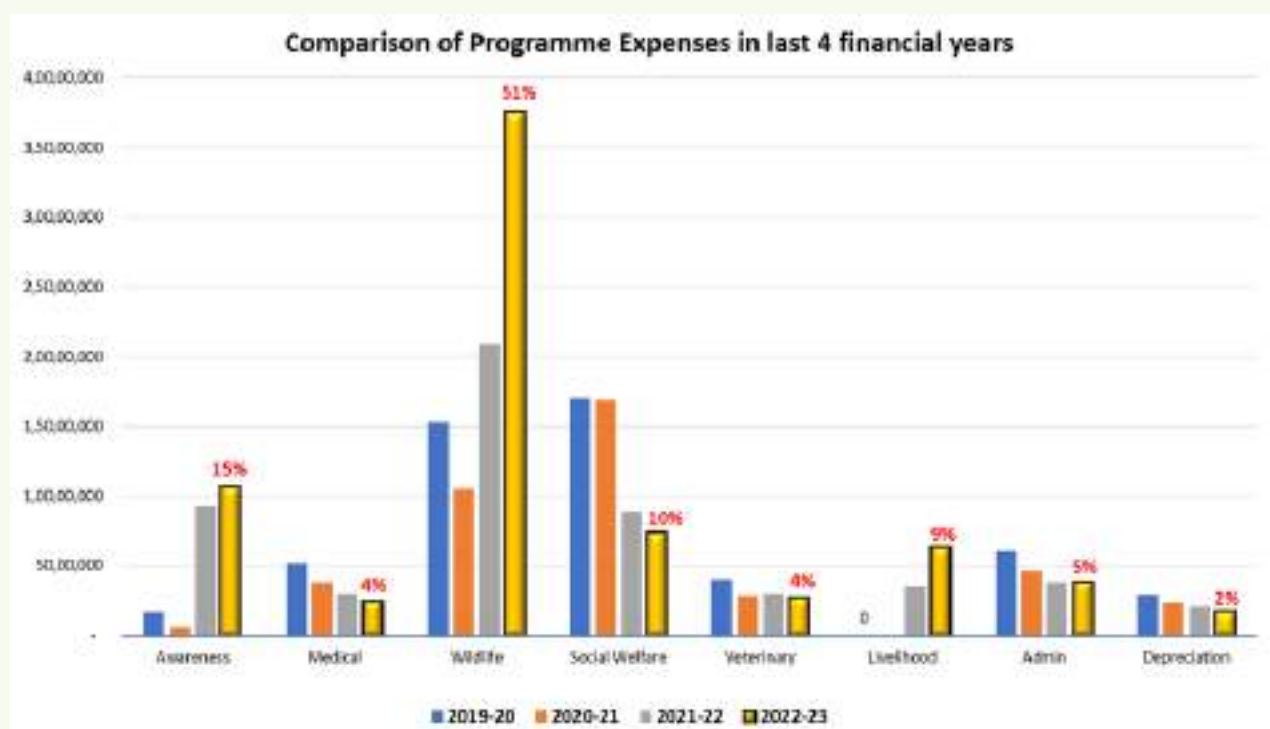
The Corbett Foundation management confirms that:

1. The Annual Accounts have been prepared based on the accounting policies adopted by the organisation in compliance to the existing Accounting Standards wherever necessary.
2. Sufficient care has been taken for the maintenance of Accounts as per the applicable legal statutes of India.
3. The Statutory Auditors have performed their task in an independent manner and the management letter submitted by the Statutory Auditors has been considered by the management.
4. During daily operations of the organisation, ethical accountability, value of money and environmental concerns have been given highest priority. No part of the income during the previous years has been applied and used directly for the benefit of:
 - The founder of the organisation.
 - Any person who has made a substantial contribution to the organisation
 - Any relative of the Member of the Governing Board.
 - Any concerns in which the above-mentioned category of persons have substantial interest (as required under Sec. 13(3) of Income Tax Act, 1961)
5. No Member of the Governing Board has been given any honorarium and none of them occupy a place of profit in the organisation.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

PROGRAMME-WISE EXPENSES OVERVIEW

The Corbett Foundation supports its wide range of activities in Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam, Manipur and Maharashtra through the interest earned on its corpus fund, other donations and project grants from individual, corporate and institutional donors who share TCF's vision and objectives.



DETAILS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

N.A

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

The Corbett Foundation extends its gratitude to all its donors (corporate, institutional, government and individual) for their financial support to its programmes in the financial year 2022-2023

LIST OF DONORS IN FY 2022-23	
Name of the Donors	Amount in INR
FCRA	
The Exodus Travels Foundation	45,39,683
The Nature conservancy	41,72,059
Born Free Foundation Limited	21,53,983
Defries Bajpai Foundation	18,89,791
Big Cat Rescue	15,68,811
DierenPark Amersfoort Wildlife Fund	8,58,906
Codello Lifestyle Accessories GmbH	4,31,452
International Elephant Foundation	3,87,319
Tony Renton	1,20,585
Merlin Unwin Books	96,626
Scottish African Safari Park Limited	48,890
Total FCRA Donations and Grants	1,62,68,105
Non FCRA	
Axis Bank Limited	1,28,39,183
National Payments Corporation of India	1,01,51,156
Bombay Gow Rakshak Trust	51,17,729
H T Parekh Foundation	39,20,000
DMCC Specialty Chemicals Limited	24,00,000
PricewaterhouseCoopers India Foundation	22,85,129
Eicher Group Foundation	20,25,513
Bajaj Auto Limited	17,00,000
World Wide Fund for Nature India	14,90,518
HDFC Bank Ltd	14,00,000
Deepak Ramineedi	12,00,100
TNC-The Nature Conservancy Centre	5,28,000
Dilip Dharamsey Khatau	4,00,000
Amar Jyoti Trust	2,00,000
Dr Naveen Pandey	1,18,200
Atul Ambavat	1,15,000
Darshana Chothani	1,15,000
Changrani Chandur Sobhraj	1,00,000
Pradeep Dalal	11,111
Khimji Poonja Charitable Trust	10,000
WestBridge Advisors LLP	6,300
Kaushal Shah	5,000
Ashwati Menon	2,100
Kedar Gore	1,800
Abhilash Sachdeva	1,500
Total Non FCRA Donations and Grants	4,61,43,339
Total donations and grants for FY 2022-23	6,24,11,444

AUDITORS REPORT & BALANCE SHEET FY 2022-2023

<p style="text-align: center;">THE CORBETT FOUNDATION 81/85, Atlanta Building, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021 Balance Sheet As At March 31, 2023</p>			
Particulars	Sch. No.	As At March 31, 2023 ₹	As At March 31, 2022 ₹
SOURCES OF FUND			
Corpus Fund	1(a)	21,03,79,639	21,03,79,639
Surplus / (Deficit) in Income & Expenditure account	1(b)	1,81,543	(52,59,356)
Unmarked fund	2	1,45,58,135	1,40,20,186
		24,31,17,317	20,91,40,469
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	3	1,88,37,073	1,90,32,711
Less: Depreciation		17,64,702	20,53,883
		1,71,72,371	1,69,78,829
ASSETS			
Non Current Assets	4	2,76,811	8,05,990
Fixed Deposits with Company		10,48,65,000	10,48,65,000
Cash & Bank Balances	5	9,61,64,799	8,94,92,539
Current Assets	6	10,86,708	8,76,254
		20,33,93,118	20,58,30,783
Less: LIABILITIES			
Non Current Liabilities	7	26,82,413	25,56,496
Current Liabilities	8	8,43,754	11,23,442
		35,26,167	36,79,938
NET ASSETS		19,98,46,946	19,21,61,846
		21,53,19,317	20,91,40,469
<p>As per statement of assets attached For C N K & Associates LLP Chartered Accountants Firm Registration No. 001961 w/w-100096</p> <p><i>(Signature)</i> Member Membership No. 100684 Place: Mumbai Date: 25 SEP 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For The Corbett Foundation</p> <p><i>(Signature)</i> <i>(Signature)</i> Trustee Trustee Place: Mumbai Place: Mumbai Date: 15 SEP 2023 Date: 15 SEP 2023</p>			

THE CORBETT FOUNDATION
81/88, Atlanta Building, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021
Income and Expenditure Account For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

Particulars	Sch. No.	For the year ended March 31, 2023 ₹	For the year ended March 31, 2022 ₹
INCOME			
Donations and contributions - FCRA		27,80,380	32,36,989
Donations and contributions - Non FCRA		43,36,340	12,53,328
Interest on bank deposits and savings accounts		1,32,71,965	1,30,15,458
Donations towards Earmarked activities - FCRA		1,19,74,062	40,46,330
Donations towards Earmarked activities - Non FCRA		4,52,99,145	3,89,96,711
Miscellaneous Income - FCRA		32,350	2,274
Miscellaneous Income - Non FCRA		8,09,357	6,10,794
		7,84,82,565	5,61,61,864
EXPENDITURE			
Awareness/ Education Programme	9	2,47,786	1,12,047
Medical Programme	10	1,47,319	8,67,185
Wildlife Programmes	11	37,64,601	34,59,127
Social Welfare	12	5,00,621	8,43,179
Veterinary Programme	13	25,26,299	28,28,986
Sustainable Livelihood Programme	14	1,31,884	-
FCRA Project Expenses	15	29,27,671	25,75,456
Administrative & other expenses	16	36,57,792	37,74,736
Expenditure on Earmarked Fund - FCRA	17	1,19,74,052	40,46,310
Expenditure on Earmarked Fund - Non FCRA	18	4,52,99,145	3,89,96,711
Depreciation	3	17,64,702	20,53,883
		7,30,41,872	5,45,36,619
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		54,40,693	16,25,245
Balance carried over to Balance Sheet		54,40,693	16,25,245

As per our report of even date attached
For C N K Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No: 301961 W/W-100036

Mahesh Sampat
Partner

Membership No: 300688

Place : Mumbai

Date: **25 SEP 2023**



For The Corbett Foundation

Justin
Trustee

Samir D. Murtu
Trustee

Place : Mumbai

Date: **15 SEP 2023**

Place : Mumbai

Date: **15 SEP 2023**

THE CORBETT FOUNDATION
 8/161, Akash Building, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

For the year ended March 31, 2022	RECEIPTS	For the year ended March 31, 2023	For the year ended March 31, 2022	PAYMENTS	For the year ended March 31, 2023
4,32,13,880	Opening Balance:	5,55,71,887	46,875	RECEIPTS	1,27,128
9,30,013	Bank	6,18,632	3,09,92,034	Fixed Assets Purchased	-
	Cash			Investments in Fixed Deposits	-
				Income (Profit/Loss)	
10,26,999	Donation Receipts:	10,75,030	40,35,129	FCRA Projects Expenditure	1,98,62,975
4,24,741	Donation - FCRA		1,38,30,115	Non-FCRA Projects Expenditure	5,00,07,115
	Donation - Other	40,75,140	37,04,919		5,59,89,100
49,31,140	Interest Income:	1,47,91,475		FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE	
2,21,88,041	Project Grants Received from FCRA	6,28,80,138	6,76,77,639	Awareness Programme	2,39,975
1,78,20,000	Interest of Fixed Deposits			Sustainable Livelihood Programme	1,17,795
				Medical Programme	1,12,800
1,44,11,263	Interest from:	1,42,08,864		Social Welfare	4,54,277
49,503	Bank and other Deposits and Savings Accounts	19,751		Veterinary Programme	21,96,272
	(as it related part of TDS)		5,32,97,738	Welfare Programme	48,27,186
				Books & Travel Fund from FCRA	11,27,780
				FCRA Projects	11,27,780
				Swachh & Tissue Fund FCRA	2,56,880
					1,07,80,294
1,08,224	Reimbursements:	76,648		Other Expenditure	
	Non-FCRA		11,349	Administrative Expenses from FCRA	14,25,351
	FCRA			Administrative Expenses from FCRA	1,89,311
8,18,889	Income Tax Refund		6,16,029	Income Tax on Profit of Donors (Receivable)	
8,18	Sale of Fixed Assets (at 90%)		1,88,102	Non-FCRA	8,000
				FCRA	10,44,007
					10,52,007
	Dividend Received from:			Reimbursements:	
	FCRA	8,940		Non-FCRA	11,649
	Non-FCRA	3,000	8,350	FCRA	21,653
	Reimbursement from Donors of (Provisional) Fee, Remuneration, etc.			Donations	
	FCRA			Income Tax (TDS) (Asset)	18,000
	Non-FCRA	4,35,367	4,20,267		38,550
	FCRA			Grants & Advances	
	Other Receipts:			FCRA	40,281
	Miscellaneous Income from FCRA	10,079		Non-FCRA	3,881
	Miscellaneous Income (including royalties)				44,162
	income of Fixed Asset (Non-FCRA)	1,13,218	7,89,198	Closing Balance:	
1,97,299				Bank	4,89,10,274
				Cash	1,30,824
9,44,41,189	TOTAL	10,94,93,439	9,99,40,139	FCRA	5,19,91,148

As per the report of your date attached
 For C.M.A. & Associates LLP,
 Chartered Accountants
 Plot No. 10, Sector 10, Gurgaon - 122001

[Signature]
 Chartered Accountant
 Membership No. 121889
 Place: Mumbai
 Date: 25 SEP 2023



For The Corbett Foundation:

[Signature]
 Trustee
 Place: Mumbai
 Date: 15 SEP 2023

[Signature]
 Trustee

Place: Mumbai
 Date: 15 SEP 2023

THE CORBETT FOUNDATION
81/82, Akshara Building, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021

SCHEDULE - B **Property, Plant & Equipment**

PARTICULARS	W.O.V as on 31.03.2022	ADDITION DURING THE YEAR			TOTAL AS ON 31.03.2023	DEPRECIATION FOR THE YEAR			W.O.V as on 31.03.2023
		MORE THAN 180 DAYS	LESS THAN 180 DAYS	SALE		MORE THAN 180 DAYS	LESS THAN 180 DAYS	TOTAL DEPRECIATION AS ON 31.03.2023	
Land	31,52,489	-	-	-	31,52,489	-	-	-	31,52,489
Building	52,67,523	-	-	-	52,67,523	5,26,753	-	5,26,753	47,40,770
Plant and Machinery	34,80,000	8,080	79,039	-	35,46,119	5,20,297	5,095	5,25,392	30,20,727
Computer	81,438	1	29,455	2,542	1,08,136	31,509	5,883	37,392	70,744
Furniture and Fixtures	4,75,508	-	9,676	-	4,85,184	47,258	486	47,744	4,37,440
Vehicles	43,80,302	-	-	1,68,332	45,48,634	6,36,258	-	6,36,258	39,12,376
Estimated Fund(Rs.000)	218	34	70	1	323	-	-	-	323
Total Fixed Assets	1,69,78,829	8,080	1,08,564	1,68,818	1,69,57,271	12,53,308	11,383	12,64,691	1,56,92,580
Previous Year	1,69,70,978	(5,087)	54,879	8,130	1,70,31,112	18,48,868	9,429	18,58,297	1,51,72,815



FORM 10B

CNK & Associates LLP

Chartered Accountants

FORM NO. 10B [See Rule 16CC and 17B]

Audit report under clause (b) of the tenth proviso to clause (23C) of section 10 and sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of subsection (1) of section 12A of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of a fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution.

We have examined the balance sheet of **THE CORBETT FOUNDATION, AAATT 9915 H** [name and PAN of the trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution] as at 31st March 2023 and the Income and Expenditure account or Profit and loss account for the year ended on that date are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations to the best of our knowledge and belief which are necessary for the purposes of the audit.

In our opinion, proper books of account have been maintained at the registered office of the above named fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution at the address mentioned at serial number 14 of the Annexure :

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to explanations given to us, the particulars given in the Annexure are true and correct subject to following observations or qualifications.

- 1 While reporting under clause 12, only amendments carried out to the Objects clause during the year have been considered. Amendments carried out to other clauses and amendments made in prior years have not been considered.
- 2 Clause 20 & 39- While reporting on the applicability of section 13(10) in clause 20, since the time limits for filing of Audit report and income tax return have not yet expired, reporting has been based only on the applicability of the proviso to section 2(15).
- 3 The assessee has not reported a foreign contribution received in Form 10BD due to non-availability of tax identification number and any other identity prescribed in Form 10BD. However, the assessee has the name and address of the donor and thereby is not anonymous donation as per section 115BBC(3).
- 4 The amount of foreign contributions in clause 25 and Schedule FC has been taken based on the return filed under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, representation received from the trust and on the basis of appropriate test checks.
- 5 For the purposes of clause 43(f), only non-compliance with other laws material to the achievement of objects of the trust have been considered for reporting.
- 6 The trust has not been able to prepare a reconciliation between total payments made as per books of account and the amounts disclosed in Schedule TDS/TCS (Column 4 and 5) of this Report. In absence of such reconciliation, we have not verified and are unable to comment on the completeness and correctness of the information reported in the Schedule TDS/TCS of this Report.

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MUMBAI | BENGALURU | CHENNAI | VADODARA | AHMEDABAD | GIFT CITY | DELHI | PUNE | DUBAI | ABUDHABI

CNK & Associates LLP

Chartered Accountants

- 7 Maintenance of List of Specified Persons For the purposes of reporting list of specified persons under sub section (3) of section 13 under clause 41, reliance has been placed on the list maintained and provided by the trust. While maintaining list of specified persons, for determining substantial contributors, donations for the financial year 2022-2023 have been considered. List of specified persons does not include relatives of settlor, trustees and substantial contributors, since the trust has been unable to obtain and provide this information.

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us the said accounts give a true and fair view :-

- (a) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named * fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution as on 31st March 2023 and
- (ii) in the case of the Income and Expenditure account or Profit and Loss account, of the income and application or profit or loss of its accounting year ending on 31st March 2023.

subject to the following observations/qualifications

NIL

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

For C N K & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration no. 101961 W / W-100036

MANISH
PRATAP
SAMPAT

Digitally signed by
MANISH PRATAP
SAMPAT
Date: 2023.10.30
20:16:54 +05'30'

Manish Sampat
Partner
Membership No. 101684
Place: Mumbai
Date: October 30, 2023
UDIN: 23101684BGWNJJ1154



The Corbett Foundation

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Registered Office:
Village & PO Dhikuli, Ramnagar,
Dist. Nainital, Uttarakhand - 244715

Admin Office:
80/81, Atlanta, 8th floor,
209 Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021

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