



Figure 1 The villagers post for a group photo during the Fire Awareness Outreach program, before going for a Safari in the Panna Tiger Reserve.

Final Report

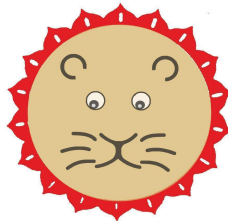
Project

Fire Awareness Program, Panna Tiger Reserve

Reporting Period

February 2023–April 2023

Submitted to



पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व

Submitted by



Project Team

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Dated: May 2023

Project Details

Reporting period:	February 2023–April 2023	Project title:	Fire Awareness Program, Panna Tiger Reserve
Date of report:	05 May 2023	Project Manager:	Gaurav Shirodkar
Report author:	Gaurav Shirodkar, Rishika Dubla	Project Sponsor:	Last Wilderness Foundation

Background and rationale



Figure 2 The deciduous forest of the Panna landscape is prone to forest fires.

In the peak summer months, Panna Tiger Reserve is particularly prone to forest fires due to the extremely dry landscape. Furthermore, small fires by local villagers for cooking in the fields are often a high risk factor for the start of forest fires that can quickly spread across vast expanses of the forest and cause unparalleled loss of life and resources. Although the forest department has set protocols in place for fire prevention and safety procedures in the event of a forest fire, it is often an uphill struggle given the unsafe practices followed by local communities that could lead to accidental forest fires, and the vast range that is difficult to be covered by limited forest staff.



Figure 3 Villagers attending the indoor session at the Interpretation Center near Hinota Gate

Therefore, a Fire Awareness and Prevention Program was developed to spread awareness on gaining knowledge and following safe practices to avoid the start and spread of forest fires. Further to this, the program was also developed as an aide to establish a dialogue and build a positive and trusting relationship between the different stakeholders residing and working within tiger reserves.

Progress



Figure 4 Group snap of the villages at Hinota gate proudly displaying the canvas water bags distributed at the Fire Awareness program at Hinota, Panna TR.

Nearly 600 people were reached out via the scope of the project, spanning 20 villages across five ranges (Madla, n = 1; Gangau Sanctuary, n = 4; Panna Core, n = 4; Panna Buffer, n = 4; Kishangadh, n = 4; Amanganj Buffer, n = 3; individual village details provided in Appendix I).

The program was held at the Panna Interpretation Center, which provided an appropriate backdrop to introduce attendees to the history and biodiversity of the park, providing a context for the main program. In batches of 25, different factions of society, which included men, women, and youths, were engaged with via the aid of interactive sessions, presentations, environment-themed games and visit to the local Interpretation Center.



Figure 5 Visit to the Nature Interpretation Centre at Hinota to know more about the park.

These included a baseline understanding of the ecology, and progressed to the main concept of fire awareness, safety, and prevention. Along with salient information regarding safe practices that prevent fires from starting or spreading during the peak dry/fire season, general awareness was also spread amongst the attendees regarding fire prevention. Additionally, to maximize the impact of the information shared, a fire-awareness and safety video has been developed, which was launched and shared during the talks.



Figure 6 Villagers enjoying sighting of wild herbivores in Panna TR.

After the event, a canvas water bottle was given to attendees and a safari ride was also arranged for the park and to a local waterfall, the Pandav Falls. Overall, the three month long program was also used as an opportunity to build a relationship and trust amongst the different stakeholders, especially the forest department, of which several guards, officers, and rangers also attended, with the local community.



Figure 7 Villagers and the forest guard chatting and enjoying the cool waters of the Pandav Kund.

Additionally, a Fire Awareness Song was specifically produced, with the help of the local Bundelkhandi music group - Swar Sangam Panna - and was premiered on You-Tube LWF channel and also shared wildly as a whatsapp forward in the community.



The image is a promotional graphic for a YouTube premiere. It features a dark background with a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. In the top left corner, the text "You're Invited!" is written in a white, cursive font. In the top right corner, the "LAST WILDERNESS foundation" logo is displayed. Below the logo, there is a red play button icon and a red rounded rectangle containing the text "YouTube Premiere" in white. The main text in the center reads: "On the onset of Summer, Last Wilderness Foundation brings you a song, for creating awareness amongst locals for prevention of Forest Fires by Swar Sangam Group, Panna." Below this text, there is a QR code on the left and a screenshot of a YouTube video player on the right. The video player shows the title "Fire Awareness Song by Swar Sangam, Panna, in association with Last Wilderness Foundation" and the video content, which includes the text "स्वर संगम पन्ना" and "जंगल में आग ना लगाओ...". At the bottom of the graphic, the date and time are listed: "Tuesday, March 07, 2023" and "07:00 PM, IST".

Figure 8 Screen shot of YouTube premiere of Fire Safety and Awareness song

Future plans

- Continue the Fire Prevention Awareness via Outreach activities throughout the fire season, i.e. entire month of Summer.
- Expand the scope of the program to further increase awareness on the topic across the area and to other tiger reserves.
- Through trust and relationship-building activities of the program, recruit volunteers and helpers that can assist the forest department personnel in fire prevention activities on a regular basis.

Appendices:

Appendix I

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क्रमांक / वनिस / 2023 / 216 / पन्ना, दिनांक 24/10/2023
 प्रति,

परिक्षेत्र अधिकारी
 अमानगंज बफर / चन्दनगर / किशनगढ़ बफर /
 पन्ना कोर / पन्ना बफर / मड़ला

विषय :- ग्रामीणों में वन एवं वन्यप्राणी संरक्षण के प्रति जागरूकता लाने के उद्देश्य से नेचर कैम्प आयोजित करने बाबत।

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निम्नत वर्षों की भांति इस वर्ष भी पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व की सीमा पर स्थित ग्रामों के ग्रामीणों में पर्यावरण, वन एवं वन्यप्राणी संरक्षण के प्रति जागरूकता लाने के उद्देश्य आयोजित होने वाले जनजागरूकता शिविर के आयोजन की तिथि निर्धारित की गई थी। दिनांक 07.02.2023 को जिला समन्वयक लास्ट वाइल्डरनेस फाउण्डेशन के साथ हुई बैठक में प्राचा सुझाव अनुसार जनजागरूकता शिविर हेतु निम्नानुसार तिथि निर्धारित की जाती है :-

क्रमांक	दिनांक	परिक्षेत्र	ग्राम का नाम	रिमांक
1	02.03.2023	मड़ला	मड़ला	सम्बन्धित क्षेत्र के वन रक्षक व परिक्षेत्र सहायक सम्मिलित हों
2	03.03.2023	गंगऊ अमयारण्य	दरेरा	
3	04.03.2023		मनीर	
4	13.03.2023		बडीर	
5	14.03.2023		जखोवा	
6	15.03.2023	पन्ना कोर	कोटा गुंजापुर	
7	16.03.2023		अकोला	
8	23.03.2023		दहलान घोकी	
9	24.03.2023	पन्ना बफर	खजूरी	
10	25.03.2023		झिन्ना	
11	27.03.2023		बनहरी	
12	28.03.2023		हरसा	
13	03.04.2023	गंगऊ अमयारण्य	बसुवा	
14	04.04.2023		मीरकुवां	
15	05.04.2023		पटोरी	
16	06.04.2023		पाठापुर	
17	10.04.2023	अमानगंज बफर	कोनी	
18	11.04.2023	पन्ना कोर	कटहरी बिलहटा	
19	12.04.2023	अमानगंज बफर	गहदरा	
20	13.04.2023		रामपुरा	

लास्ट वाइल्डरनेस फाउण्डेशन मुम्बई के साथ एक एम.ओ.यू. किया गया है। जिसके तहत ग्रामीणों को हिनोता लाकर पर्यावरण, वन एवं वन्यप्राणी संरक्षण के प्रति जागरूकता कार्यक्रम एवं पार्क भ्रमण E:\Steno 1\PTR_all\All RO\Letter RO_Nature Camps Rural-1.docx

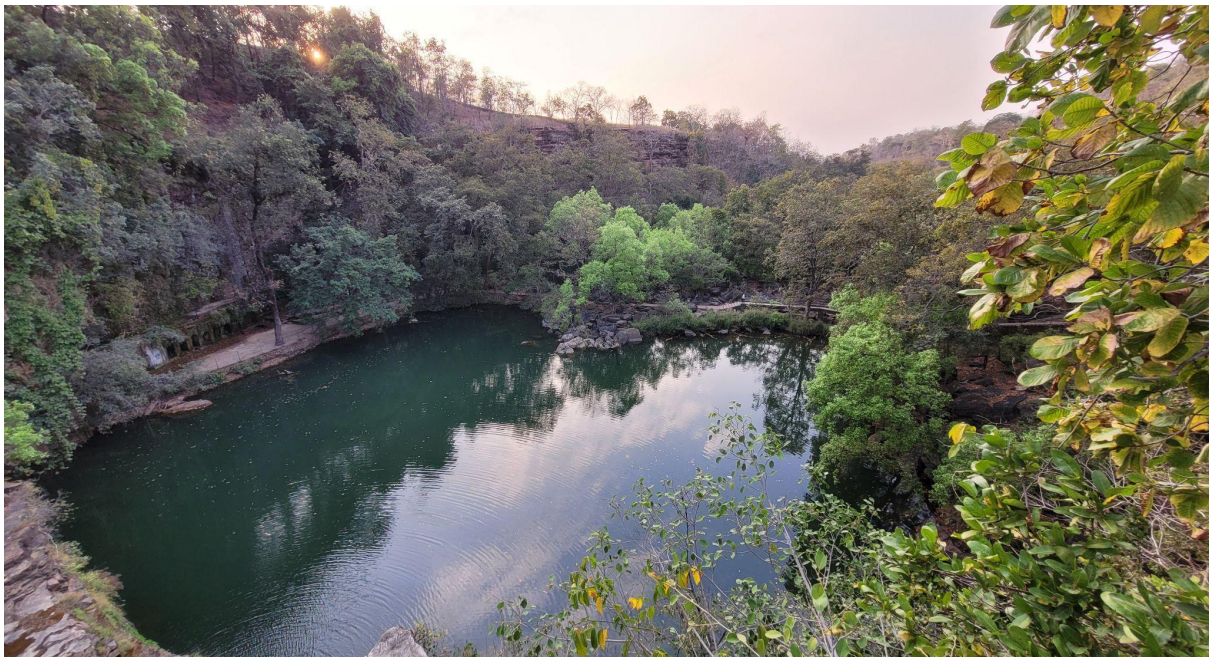


Figure 9 The serene landscape of Panna TR as seen from the Pandav Falls.