



LAST
WILDERNESS *foundation*

LAST WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

www.thelastwilderness.org





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From the Founder



Nikhil Nagle

To Supporters and Friends,

In the heart of India's wilderness, we have witnessed remarkable achievements. From establishing community-based conservation strategies to empowering individuals with valuable skills, our initiatives have yielded transformative results. The empowerment of women through our Self-Help Groups stands as a testament to the enduring impact of our work.

Our efforts have been driven by our dedication to balance conservation with community well-being. We have enabled these communities to become stewards of their natural traditions through diligent effort and committed relationships, assuring the sustainability of their futures and the environment.

Climate change and the ongoing pandemic continue to emphasise the urgency of our cause. Although challenges persist and balancing the needs of communities with conservation imperatives remains a complex task, we have been steadfast in our mission and unwavering in our approach and determination.

I extend a heartfelt thanks to our partners, donors, volunteers, and the communities that we serve. Together, we continue to write a story of hope and resilience to safeguard the Last Wilderness.

From the Director



Vidya Venkatesh

To Supporters and Friends,

I am delighted to present the annual report of the Last Wilderness Foundation, reflecting upon our collective efforts, accomplishments, and aspirations over the past year. As we navigate the intricate landscapes and engage with communities, this report serves as a testament to the dedication and resilience of our team, partners, and stakeholders who have stood firmly by our side.

Over the course of this year, we have continued to tread the path towards a sustainable and harmonious coexistence through our multifaceted initiatives. It was an exciting year as we took up new projects and expanded our programmes to new landscapes like Kuno National Park.

Our flagship projects, ranging from habitat restoration and wildlife monitoring to education and capacity-building, have yielded significant results, described in detail herein in this report. It is heartening to witness the positive impact that our interventions have had on the environment and the lives of the communities we work with. Each achievement and milestone is a reflection of our shared commitment to conserve our wildlife.

On behalf of the Last Wilderness Foundation Team, I thank you for supporting our journey, as we continue to champion the cause of conservation, ignite awareness, and nurture a sense of stewardship for the Last Wilderness.

Vision

An India with a vibrant and eternal natural heritage, which is respected and protected by its people.

Mission

- To increase awareness about India's wildlife, forests, and people.
- To provide assistance to various individuals and organisations (governmental or otherwise) in their battle to conserve its natural heritage.
- To be actively involved in the sustainable development of villages and tribal settlements based in the peripheries of India's forests.

Objective

To have an inclusive model of conservation by ensuring stakeholder participation in conservation efforts, thereby reducing negative interactions between humans and wildlife.

To achieve our objective, the Last Wilderness Foundation works on the following three-pronged strategy:

1. Community focus and ownership
2. Partnerships with local Government institutions
3. Capability building at community, institution, and internal organisation level



United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Last Wilderness Foundation work helps fulfil the following six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formulated by the United Nations:



Our Team



Vidya Venkatesh, DIRECTOR

Vidya Venkatesh is a multi-talented individual with a diverse range of interests and accomplishments. With a strong corporate background, she has successfully navigated the challenging world of business, developing extensive experience in strategic planning, project management, and team leadership. However, Vidya's passion for wildlife conservation has always remained at the forefront of her priorities. As an inclusive conservationist, she has worked tirelessly with tribals and communities to develop sustainable solutions that balance the needs of humans and wildlife alike.



Gaurav Shirodkar, PROGRAMME MANAGER

Gaurav Shirodkar is a Zoology graduate with a Masters in Bioinformatics. An experienced naturalist, he has a keen interest to engage with people, especially children, in matters of nature education and human-wildlife conflict. With over 15 years of experience in the field of wildlife and nature conservation, he joined the Last Wilderness Foundation in April 2022.



Bhavna Menon, PROGRAMME MANAGER

A Psychology graduate with a postgraduate degree in Journalism, Bhavna's love for nature and the wilderness started with a visit to Kanha Tiger Reserve, which had her smitten with the wild and gave birth to her desire to be deeply involved in forested landscapes. Her sense of wonder and enthusiasm for nature has been infectious and inspiring and strengthens her resolve to constantly expand her conservation vision and endeavours. She has been the Last Wilderness Foundation's hands-on Programme Manager, for over 12 years until the September of 2022. She is now working as a freelance writer and also supports various other conservation efforts.



Indrabhan Singh Bundela, FIELD COORDINATOR (PANNA)

Indrabhan is a Post graduate in History. He has a robust work experience of 10 years in the field of conservation, and worked with WWF-India before joining the Last Wilderness team. He has special experience with the Pardhi Community in Panna, and also conducted several awareness and education programmes during this tenure.



Shyam Bihari Yadav, FIELD COORDINATOR (KUNO)

A commerce graduate, Shyam is passionate about documenting wildlife through videos and is a keen environmental journalist. He lives in a village close to Kuno National Park, and works on implementing nature and wildlife awareness initiatives, village kids education initiatives, addressing conflict situations in villages and reporting wildlife news in a timely manner.



Saurabh Baghel, FIELD COORDINATOR (KANHA)

Saurabh is a dynamic young BCA graduate, who started working with LWF while he was in his last year of university. He is passionate about his work with the community and looks forward to working in the field of conservation. He is currently working on our Conservation Outreach and Livelihoods project in villages settled in and around the territorial forests of Kanha National Park.



Arpit Singh, FIELD COORDINATOR (BANDHAVGARH)

Arpit has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Application and he hails from the Tala range in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. He is a passionate and sensitive individual, and living within the tiger reserve has meant that forests and wildlife have always played a central role in his work. He previously worked in the local lodge in Tala, managing safari bookings, handling logistics and assisting in a local souvenir shop. He is resourceful, outgoing and has excellent people skills, which have helped him in his work with the communities in and around Bandhavgarh.



Rishika Dubla, CONTENT WRITER

Rishika always knew she wanted to study and work with wild animals. She completed her studies in Biological Sciences from the University of Oxford before moving back to India, first volunteering with LWF and Wildlife Institute of India, and then working in Uttar Pradesh on freshwater turtle, crocodile and river dolphin conservation. Passionate about science communication and research, she now splits her time as a content writer for LWF and a scientific copyeditor and publication production manager for the Charlesworth Group in Mumbai.



Sitalaxmi Nair, ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Sitalaxmi is a Commerce postgraduate with total work experience of 20 years in accounts management and bookkeeping. She is a hard working, highly organised and result oriented professional. When she is not working with the numbers, she immerses herself in cooking and also loves to travel.

Where we work



5⁺

Protected Areas
Covered

150⁺

Projects &
Initiatives

400⁺

Villages
Covered

25,000⁺

Lives
Touched

Our Programme Areas

The Central Indian landscape has always been known for its biodiversity since time immemorial. Over the turn of this century, this landscape has also faced its most challenging time for wildlife conservation. Despite being marginalised, the forest-dependent communities are often the most directly impacted by any adverse changes to their environment, while also serving as the strongest resource available to impart the most significant change through conservation endeavours.

Therefore, the Last Wilderness Foundation works directly with these communities around Protected Areas to facilitate holistic development, promote inclusive growth, and safeguard their cultural heritage. LWF supports communities to become active stakeholders and develop a sense of ownership and responsibility towards their environment, resulting in increased awareness, sustainable resource use practices and reduced poaching and illegal activities.

Last Wilderness Foundation is also a member of the State Board of Wildlife, Madhya Pradesh.



WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION EVENTS

- **National Wildlife Week Celebrations**
- **Social Media Awareness Initiative**
- **Podcast**
- **Panel Discussion**
- **Promotional Sale of Community Generated Product**



ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

- **Walk with the Pardhis & Camping with the Pardhis**
- **Alternative Livelihoods through Arts & Craft – Baiga tribe**
- **Alternative Livelihoods through Arts & Craft – Pardhi tribe**



OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

- **Forest Fire Awareness Initiative**
- **Community Conservation Programme**
- **Community Outreach Programme**
- **School, Conservation Education and Awareness Initiative**



EDUCATION

- **Forest Communities Education Initiative**
- **Pardhi Education Programme**



CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Meri Beat, Mera Abhimaan Initiative**
- **Nature Guide Training Initiative**
- **Community Engagement through Tourism-based Alternative Livelihood Initiatives**
- **Nature Guide Training for Pardhi's by Naturalist School with Skill India Certification**



ACTIVE PROGRAMS

- **Critical Wildlife Corridor Conservation Programme**
- **Forest Restoration Initiative**
- **Gram Rakshak Initiative**



Outreach and Awareness

Outreach and awareness programmes are a powerful catalyst for wildlife conservation. By mobilising public support, fostering environmental consciousness, and promoting sustainable practices, these initiatives contribute significantly to the preservation of wildlife and provide the communities a platform to reach out to society and voice their stories and issues.



Forest Fire Awareness Initiative

Panna Tiger Reserve | February 2023 - April 2023



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 when cooking in fields are often a high risk factor, despite protocols set out by the Forest Department.

Last Wilderness Foundation, in association with the Panna Tiger Reserve Management, developed a Fire Awareness and Prevention Initiative to spread awareness and encourage safe practices to avoid the start and spread of forest fires.

Nearly 600 people were reached out via the scope of the project, spanning 20 villages across five ranges. 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 a visit to the local Interpretation Centre.

A safari ride was also arranged for the participants to the Reserve and to a local landmark, the Pandav Falls. Additionally, the opportunity was used to begin building a relationship of trust and partnership amongst the different stakeholders, especially the Forest Department and the local community, in preparation of future projects necessitating more extensive collaboration.

This initiative was supported by multiple donors.

Community Conservation Programme

Kuno National Park | November 2021 - Ongoing



The Moghiya and Sahariya are the two major tribes around the Kuno National Park, and it is imperative that these communities have access to basic living necessities, quality education and honourable livelihood opportunities.

Last Wilderness Foundation, in association with the Kuno Forest Department and the Dalmia Charitable Trust, is working with these communities to reduce their dependence on the forest and negate conflict between humans and wild animals.

In the very first year of the project, we have been able to reach out, build trust and work together with the villages in and around the Kuno National Park. More than 1800 students and twice as many adults have been exposed via our Outreach Awareness Programme. The community has taken a special liking to the regular audiovisual session in the evening, named 'Kuno Talkies'. The objective has been to create an on-ground atmosphere of coexistence and acceptance with the local communities, especially in light of the recent reintroduction of Cheetahs and for other existing species.

Additionally, in Baghcha village, 1000+ individuals from more than 179 families were surveyed to better understand their current situation. Below is a summary of key deliverables of the project:

Number of villages visited	30+	Number of schools visited	20+
Number of village activities	150+	Number of students engaged	1800+
Number of villagers engaged	1000+	Cattle kill compensation assisted	20+

This programme is supported by Dalmia Charitable Trust.

Community Outreach Programme

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve | June 2022 - Ongoing



Human-wildlife conflict is one of the primary challenges faced by communities residing in 96 villages located in the buffer area of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. This includes conflicts with tigers, sloth bears, wild boars and herbivores. To top this, Bandhavgarh has also had an inflow of wild Elephants from the neighbouring states in the past 2–3 years, which have now settled around the buffer villages.

In response, LWF has initiated dialogue with community members and school children of the buffer zone villages most affected. In the last few months of this year, buffer villages of Rohaniya, Mardari, Dhamokhar, Parasi, Khitauli and Panpatha have been visited and outreach activities have been conducted in village community spaces and schools.

During the initial visits, the team interacted with the villagers and the forest department ground staff, who reported increasing elephant-conflict issues occurring in the Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary, which serves as an important corridor, and identified the villages where these issues occurred most frequently. These data gave us an idea of the scope of villages that would need to be prioritised to most benefit from our initial outreach programmes. Till date, a total of 1300 students from 18 schools (ranging from primary schools to high school) across 12 villages have been visited and engaged with in a positive manner.

This programme was originally initiated in 2011 with support from multiple donors.

Number of villages visited	12	Number of schools visited	18
Number of villagers engaged	500+	Number of students engaged	1300+

This programme is supported by Morningstar India.

School, Conservation Education and Awareness Initiative

Kanha National Park | March 2022 – January 2023



A preliminary education and awareness programme was initiated by the Director Vidya Venkatesh and Programme Manager Bhavna Menon across three selected schools (a primary and secondary school in Tilri and one primary school in Saunf) on February 24, 2022, in which around 70 children and 7 teachers were shown a video about Kanha Tiger Reserve, providing details on biodiversity found in the park and conservation efforts. After this introductory session, which was aimed at introducing the concept and content of the programme, the reins were taken over by our newly appointed field coordinator from Mocha, Saurabh Baghel.

To improve the efficacy and avoid these sessions being one-dimensional, Saurabh put in special efforts to show cartoon-based videos educational videos and alternate this with talks and environment-themed games, rendering a more interactive and dynamic tone to his sessions. There was a very quick change in the attitudes of the children who began to show great interest in the initiative. This was particularly evident during the summer months, when, Saurabh would have to coax the children to attend the sessions, whereas by peak summer in soaring temperatures, most of the children would already have assembled in their classrooms eagerly awaiting Saurabh to arrive.

Through this initiative, Saurabh was able to reach out to a total of 118 students via education sessions across the three selected schools (28 from Tilri Primary, 38 from Tilri Middle, and 52 from Saunf Primary). Additionally, he conducted a nature walk, in which he showed children various flora and fauna in the Kanha Tiger Reserve landscape, explaining how they are connected to each other, introducing concepts of ecology and conservation in an interactive manner. Between June and August, 56 children were also taken on a safari trip into Kanha National Park, which was organised by Kanha Tiger Reserve. Despite living in such close proximity to the park, this was the first time these children were given the chance to enter as tourists and were most excited ready at 4 am for their adventure. Their enthusiasm was rewarded with a rare sighting of a pack of 15–20 wild dogs on the safari.

This initiative was supported by Sunny Saxena.

Outreach & Awareness can change Narrative & Attitude

A crude yardstick of success or failure in outreach and awareness efforts is the attitude and reaction of people when a conflict incident occurs.

Historically, people's anger over human injury or death or damage to crop or property was insurmountable and expressed with extreme violence in the Bandhavgarh landscape. These violent retributions targeted tigers, cubs and the Forests Department, sometimes even leading to riot-like and hostage situations.

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Bandhavgarh tiger attack: 29 villagers arrested for arson

TNN | Oct 26, 2014, 11:35 AM IST

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh police on Saturday arrested 29 people who went on rampage after a school teacher was mauled to death by a tiger near Bandhavgarh National Park in Katni district on Friday.

The mob attacked policemen and forest personnel, including local forest range officer while keeping some of them hostage. Some local journalists were also hurt. Villagers alleged forest officers were overlooking the fact that some tigers had turned man-eaters and were a big threat.

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Villagers set range office, nine houses on fire after tiger kills a teacher in Madhya Pradesh

TNN | Oct 24, 2014, 09:32 PM IST

BHOPAL: A school teacher died after being attacked by a tiger in Khitoli area of Bandhavgarh National Park in Katni district on Friday triggering violent protests by locals who went on a rampage setting the forest range office and nine houses on fire.

मध्य प्रदेश के जंगल में बाघ ने शिक्षक को मार डाला

Reported by Bhasha Updated: 25 अक्टूबर, 2014 10:43 AM

NDTV
इंडिया

Death of tigress, cub in MP's Bandhavgarh retribution killing by villagers?

Tigress Solo and her cub were found dead in the buffer area of Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday.

Bhopal,UPDATED: Oct 18, 2020 05:15 IST

INDIA TODAY

Since the Outreach and Awareness activities conducted in the villages over the past decade, these communities now choose communication over violence as a primary reaction towards any negative incidents.

As recently as September 2022, a tiger attacked a child and its mother around the villages of Dhamokar and Mardari in the Bandhavgarh buffer area, where we have been working very closely with the school and villages.

Her Son In Tiger's Jaws, Madhya Pradesh Woman Fought It With Bare Hands



The tiger held the child in its jaws, but the mother fought the animal and screamed. The tiger tried to snatch the boy and Archana refused to let go, trying to shield her son.

India News | Reported by Anurag Diwari (with inputs from AFP) | Updated: September 07, 2022 6:30 pm IST

बांधवगढ़ टाइगर रिजर्व में बाघ के हमले में युवक की मौत, मवेशी चराने जंगल की तरफ गया था युवक

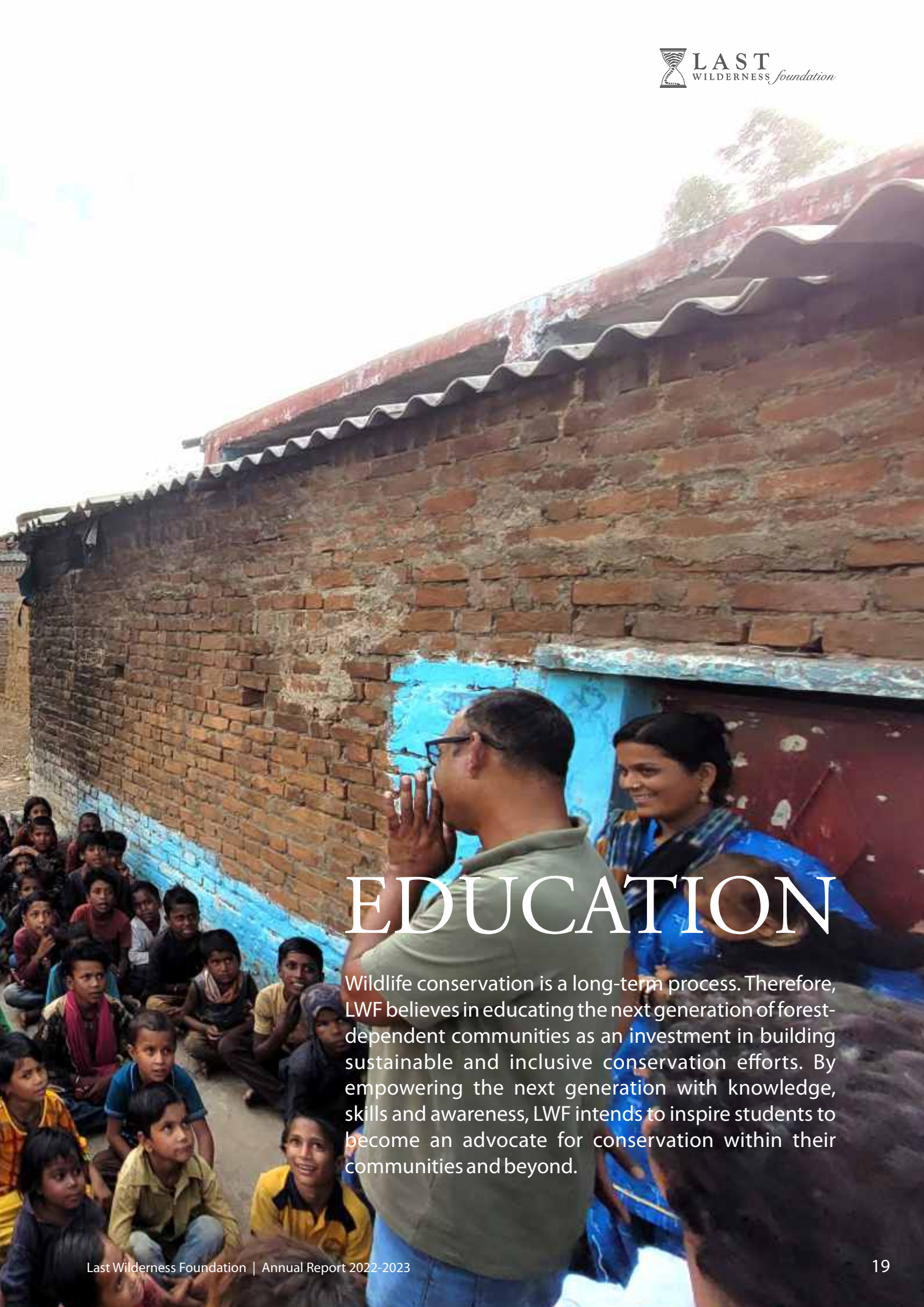


मरिया में जंगली जानवरों के साथ मानव टकराव की घटनाएं लगातार बढ़ रही हैं। बांधवगढ़ के टाइगर रिजर्व से एक माह के भीतर बाघ के हमले में यह तीसरी मौत की घटना है।

Publish: Aug 17, 2023, 07:44 PM IST

However, contrary to previous responses, this incident was handled in a sensitive and civilised manner. This exemplifies the achievement of this project's desired outcome, which is the aim with which it was first executed at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve over 10 years ago.





EDUCATION

Wildlife conservation is a long-term process. Therefore, LWF believes in educating the next generation of forest-dependent communities as an investment in building sustainable and inclusive conservation efforts. By empowering the next generation with knowledge, skills and awareness, LWF intends to inspire students to become an advocate for conservation within their communities and beyond.

Forest Community Education Initiative Kuno National Park | November 2022 - Ongoing



An initial study to understand education levels amongst individuals of the Moghiya and Sahariya communities revealed several reasons for students dropping out of school; lack of social security documents, limited access to schools, teachers' apathy towards their duty and lack of vigilance by the concerned department and a largely nomadic lifestyle of the community clashing with the academic year.

Continuous communication and introducing activity based learning to keep the students engaged in various activities in the school helped reduce dropout rates. Further, to keep the parents motivated, and to trust us to send their children to school regularly, we conducted regular visits to the houses of the students who were not regular. Through regular communication and a well-planned documentation camp, we have been successful in gaining the trust of the parents in our endeavour.

Through our initiative in Kuno National Park, we have been able to work closely with over 17 Schools across 15 villages largely populated by people from the Moghiya, Sahariya and Bhil community. Over 1800 students have been involved in the initiative through regular school visits, and with regular engagement with the students and their parents, the attendance has improved. Over 200 Moghiya students have been admitted to the schools for the current academic year through such interventions.

Village	Community	Pupils	School
Katila	Mix Community	140	Katila Ekikruit School
Ranipura	Sahariya	30	Ranipura Balak Ashram School
Ranipura	Moghiya / Sahariya	75	Ranipura Primary School
Sesaipura	Mix Community	300	Sesaipura Ekikruit School
Sesaipura	Sahariya	50	Sesaipura Balakashram School
Chak Colony	Moghiya / Sahariya	32	Sesaipura Primary School
Silori	Sahariya	55	Silori Primary School
Bansaraiya	Moghiya / Sahariya	100	Bansaraiya Primary School
Daulatpura	Moghiya / Sahariya	12	Daulatpura Primary School
Adhwada	Moghiya / Sahariya	75	Adhwada Primary School
Madanpur	Moghiya / Sahariya / Bhil	150	Madanpur Ekikruit School
Khakar	Bhil	55	Khakar Primary School
Maretha	Sahariya / Bhil	125	Maretha Ekikruit School
Agra	Moghiya / Sahariya	180	Agra Ekikruit School
Taparpura	Moghiya	30	Taparpura Primary School
New Palpur	Mix Community	230	New Palpur Ekikruit School
Baghcha	Sahariya / Bhil	180	Baghcha Primary School

The following are the number of people who managed to obtain a Social Security document through intervention by Last Wilderness Foundation.

Village	Aadhar Card	Samagrah ID	PM Aawas Yojana	Ration Card
Bansaraiya	40	10	30	NA
Katila	15	10	13	NA
Ranipura	50	15	13	10
Sesaipura Cluster	400	NA	NA	NA
Chak-colony	NA	15	30	20
Other	750	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL	1300	50	86	30

This initiative is a part of Community Conservation Programme - Kuno National Park, supported by Dalmia Charitable Trust

Pardhi Education Programme - Pardhi Hostel Support Initiative

Panna Tiger Reserve | 2010 - Ongoing



LWF's Pardhi Education Programme has supported the education and extra-curricular activities of nearly 200 students ranging across all age groups in the 2022-2023 academic year. The students from Class 1-8 were supported through the hostel facilities in Panna, with additional remedial teachers appointed by LWF for the younger primary school students.

In addition to providing hostel facilities and education, LWF has also taken care to meet the nutritional requirements and additional supplements that are not possible to be provided within the hostel's allotted budget. Since Pardhis are a nomadic and hunting community, meat is an essential component of their diet; therefore, non-vegetarian food has been provided to the students living in the hostel facilities, if required.

Many students have also taken up a keen interest in sports while pursuing their education. Recognizing that children of this community have a particular penchant and talent for sports, the LWF also supports these activities. The students get continued support for their education until they graduate, after which they continue to receive guidance till they are financially independent.

This initiative is supported by Morningstar India Pvt. Ltd.

Pardhi Education Programme - Pardhi Education Center Initiative

Panna Tiger Reserve | 2019 - Ongoing



The Panna Pardhi Education Initiative was started by the Last Wilderness Foundation to make sure that Pardhis get access to better education. The Pardhi Education Centres, located at different Pardhi deras (small settlement) in the Panna District, were established to inculcate discipline and introduce education early on.

These education centres are run by Pardhi ex-students, and aim to enable and support the education of children in the community with the resources at hand. We have also partnered with Columbia University and created a special book as a teaching-aid for pre-primary students. Additionally, their faculty has conducted a Train-the-Trainer workshop for our Pardhi teachers, and we are now using this curriculum and teaching aid to teach young Pardhi students in their respective deras.

Pardhi Education Center Location / Name	Number of Students
Pardhi Dera Birhuli, Katni	70
Gandhigram, Panna (Now merged with Aanganwadi)	27
Bhadanpur Pahad, Satna	11
Moharba, Satna	18
Kupnaghat / Nunagarh, Panna	63

This Program is being supported by Morningstar India Pvt. Ltd.

Pardhi Education Programme - Anganwadi Adoption Initiative

Panna Tiger Reserve | September 2022 - Ongoing



The Pardhi Education Centre at Gandhigram, Panna has been merged into the local Anganwadi (state government scheme) which is now used by the Pardhi students along with a teacher appointed from within the Pardhi community.

The students have now started to focus better in their studies (which was one of the biggest challenges earlier), and some have also started reading alphabets and numbers. This merger with the Anganwadi has also helped in reducing the stigma on Pardhis as the students mingle with other local communities too.

The LWF has provided support to the Anganwadi in the form of providing additional teachers, teaching-learning materials, equipment, utensils and other assets, as well as assisting in the structural renovation and beautification of the existing government building. This has been a very successful model, and hence, is being replicated at the other Pardhi Education Centres in Panna and Satna.

This initiative is supported by Stree.

Pardhi Students' testimonials



Sijaran Pardhi, B.A., B.Ed., 1st year: मैं सिजारन पारधी ग्राम भदनपुर जिला सतना की रहने वाली हूँ। आज मैं बी. एड द्वितीय वर्ष की छात्रा हूँ। हम एक ऐसे समुदाय से आते हैं जो पूर्ण रूप से अशिक्षित होती है और जंगलों में निवास करती है, परंतु मैंने पढ़ाई के महत्व को जाना और पढ़ा। शिक्षित होने से मुझे अपने समाज में फैली गलत परंपराओं और रूढ़ियों के बारे में पता चला। यदि मैं पढ़ी-लिखी न होती तो मैं भी सामान्य महिला की तरह जीवन जी रही होती। आज मैं अपने समाज को जागरूक करने का कार्य कर रही हूँ। यह सब मुमकिन होने में एल डब्ल्यू एफ का बड़ा योगदान रहा है।



Priya Pardhi, Pursuing B.Sc. nursing: मेरा नाम प्रिया पारधी है और मैं मैहर के पास भदनपुर में रहती हूँ। मैं बहेलियां कम्युनिटी से बिलौना करती हूँ। मुझे पढ़ना-लिखना अच्छा लगता था। मेरा बचपन से सपना था कि मैं मेडिकल लाइन में जॉब कर लोगों की सेवा करूँ। इसके लिए मैंने बी.एस.सी नर्सिंग में जाने का फैसला किया है और इसके लिए मैं तैयारी भी कर रही हूँ। यह सब संभव करने में लास्ट वाइल्डनेस फाउंडेशन का बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। पढ़ लिखकर हमारे जीवन में बहुत बड़ा बदलाव आया है। थैंक यू एल डब्ल्यू एफ।



Firdaus Pardhi, Pardhi Education Centre teacher : मेरा नाम फिरदौस पारधी है। मैं महुआ खेड़ा कुपना घाट का रहने वाला हूँ। मैं कक्षा 8 वी पास हूँ। मुझे पढ़ना-लिखना अच्छा लगता था परंतु कुछ कारणों से मैं आगे की पढ़ाई जारी नहीं रख सका। लेकिन मुझे पढ़ने से लोगों के बीच किस तरह से बैठते हैं, किस तरह से बात करते हैं का ज्ञान मिला। पारधी एजुकेशन सेंटर में अपने समाज के बच्चों को ट्यूशन देता हूँ ताकि हमारी आने वाली जो जनरेशन है वह पढ़ाई का लाभ ले सके और सुधर सके। मैं आगे भी पढ़ना चाहता हूँ और अपने समाज की भलाई के लिए कार्य करना चाहता हूँ। एल डब्ल्यू एफ कदम-कदम पर हमारा साथ दिया है।



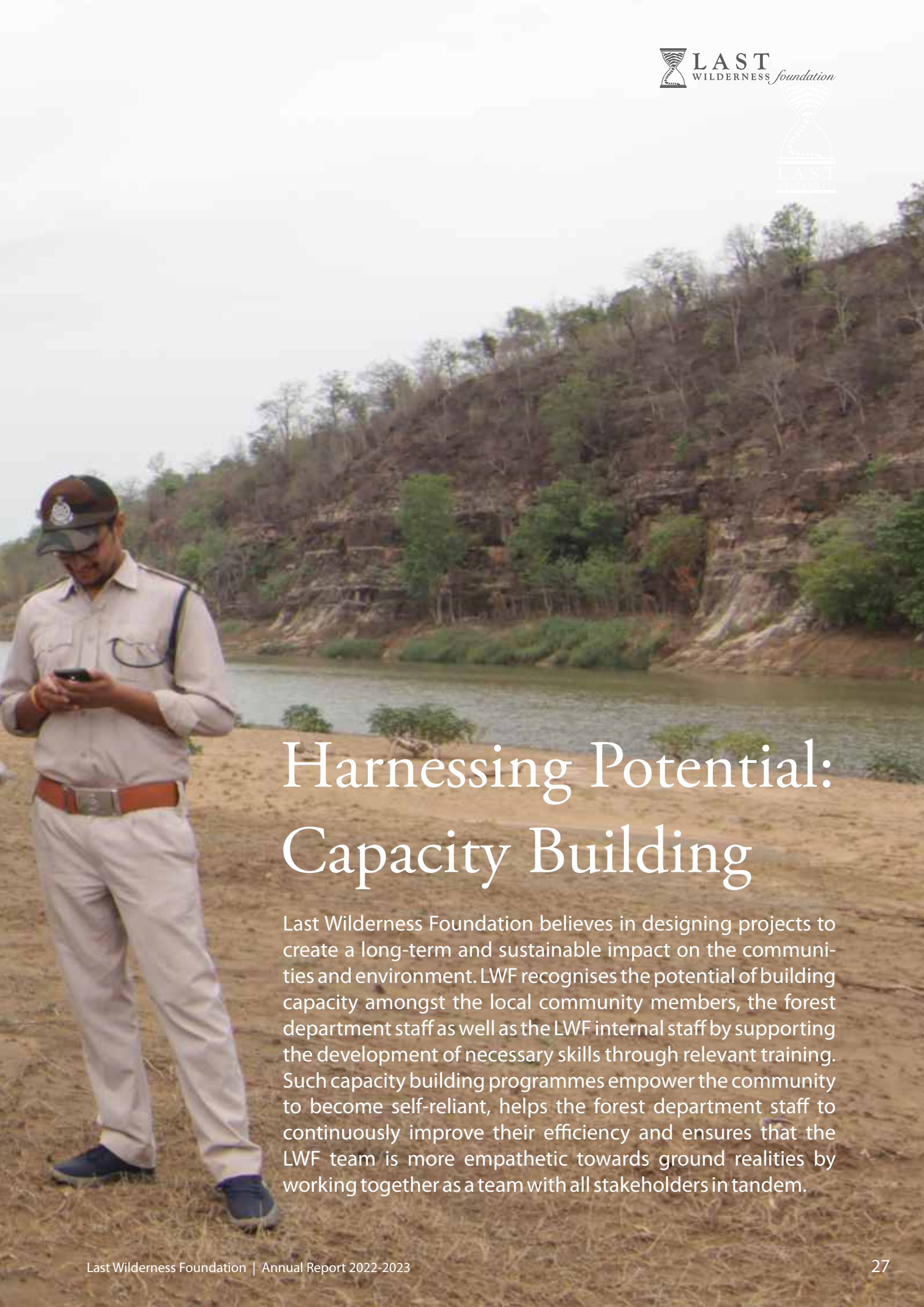
Neelam Pardhi, M.A., 1st year: मेरा नाम नीलम पारधी है। मैं बहेलिया समाज से हूँ और शाहनगर जिला पन्ना में रहती हूँ। बहेलिया समाज में बच्चों का बहुत ही छोटी उम्र में विवाह कर दिया जाता है। मुझे शिक्षा का महत्व पता था इसलिए मैंने अपने समाज से लड़कर शिक्षा प्राप्त करने का रास्ता चुना जिसमें एल डब्ल्यू एफ ने मेरा साथ दिया। मैं एम. ए प्रथम वर्ष की छात्रा हूँ। साथ ही मुझे खेलों में भी रुचि है मैंने स्टेट लेवल पर खेल प्रतियोगिताओं में भी भाग लिया है साथ ही मैं कंपटीशन एग्जाम की तैयारी भी कर रही हूँ। मैं गवर्नमेंट सर्विस में आकर अपने समाज के लिए कुछ करना चाहती हूँ।



Pushpendra Pardhi, B.Sc. Agriculture, MSW 1st year: मेरा नाम पुष्पेंद्र पारधी है और मैं गांधीग्राम पन्ना में रहता हूँ। आज मैं बीएससी एग्रीकल्चर से स्नातक हूँ और समाज सेवा में रुचि होने के कारण मास्टर ऑफ सोशल वर्क में पी जी कर रहा हूँ। पढ़ लिखकर मेरे जीवन में बहुत बड़ा बदलाव आया है। शिक्षा ही वह माध्यम है जिससे हम अपना जीवन स्तर ऊँचा उठा सकते हैं। आज मैं अपने समाज में प्रेरणा देने का कार्य कर रहा हूँ।

Students graduated until March 2023	05
Number of students receiving daily meals	84
Number of students receiving additional tuitions	84
Number of students supported in Primary School	53
Number of students supported in Middle School	10
Number of students supported in Secondary School	08
Number of students supported in Grade 11 & above	13
Number of students supported through Pardhi Education Centre	189
Number of students supported through Anganwadi Adoption	40





Harnessing Potential: Capacity Building

Last Wilderness Foundation believes in designing projects to create a long-term and sustainable impact on the communities and environment. LWF recognises the potential of building capacity amongst the local community members, the forest department staff as well as the LWF internal staff by supporting the development of necessary skills through relevant training. Such capacity building programmes empower the community to become self-reliant, helps the forest department staff to continuously improve their efficiency and ensures that the LWF team is more empathetic towards ground realities by working together as a team with all stakeholders in tandem.

Meri Beat, Mera Abhimaan Initiative

Panna Tiger Reserve | March 2023



The Last Wilderness Foundation, in association with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, successfully launched and completed a three day interactive workshop and field visit aimed at improving interpersonal skills and imparting necessary Human Resource Training through a unique programme.

The LWF recognises the core stakeholder role of FD staff and, to this effect, aims to run a professional Human Resources–themed workshop to improve training, address issues and boost overall morale. The eventual goal was that once staffs feel more professionally supported and better equipped to discuss and understand their role, they would not only take more pride in their jobs but also be more willing to engage with other stakeholders to better protect the forest.

The workshop was successfully conducted at Panna Tiger Reserve and attended by over 25 Forest and Deputy Rangers along with Range Forest Officers of two ranges (Panna core and Amanganj buffer ranges).

This initiative is a part of the Critical Wildlife Corridor Conservation Programme - Panna Tiger Reserve, supported by DCB Bank.

Nature Guide Training Initiative

Kuno National Park | November 2022



The Nature Guide Training Initiative was initiated for participants from all villages located around Kuno National Park and based at the park's three tourist gates: the Peepalbaudi, Tiktoli and Ahira Gates. The training was conducted at two locations for ease of access: one at Agra Ecocentre Campus and the second at Sesaipura Forest Campus. Although the participants were nominated by the Forest Department and Last Wilderness Foundation, there were many walk-in participants who learned of the workshop and wished to join, indicating that there is significant on-ground interest for this initiative for a much larger scale of execution.

The training was designed and executed by a professional trainer, Mr. Arjun Manjunath, from The Naturalist School based in Bangalore. Although the target was to train 20 nature guides per gate and retain at least half of these, in actuality 80 participants were trained, out of which 55 were retained at the end of the 2 training sessions. The first session was conducted by Kuno RFO Virendra Pironia where he spoke about the importance of the landscape and tourism and the Cheetah Reintroduction Project, so as to provide context of the purpose of such initiatives in the region. Following this, the rest of the activities included indoor and outdoor sessions for all-round skill development of the participants.

This initiative is a part of the Community Conservation Programme - Kuno National Park, supported by Dalmia Charitable Trust.

Community Engagement through Tourism-based Alternative Livelihood Initiatives

Kathotiya and Samardha Eco Jungle Camp | February 2022 & April 2022



A Nature Guide training was conducted for the community members living around Kathotiya Jungle Camp from 24th-27th February 2022. Sixteen individuals participated in the training conducted by Ms. Priya Venkatesh, Director of The Naturalist School. The training was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Development Board Manager Shri Pankaj Singh and included classroom teaching, games and field trips. Additionally, DCF Shri Rajnish Singh was invited as a guest lecturer and conducted a session on the wildlife heritage of Madhya Pradesh, and Deputy Ranger Shri Pandey distributed completion certificates at the end of the training session.

A four-day Nature Guide Training was held at Samardha Eco Jungle Camp from 18th-21st April 2022, which was also conducted by Ms. Priya Venkatesh. A total of 6 individuals were trained during this session, which involved addressing and finding solutions for challenges faced, team building, nature observation and documentation via sketching, conducting nature trails via storytelling, role play, thinking outside of the box/creativity and better guiding techniques. The guides benefited greatly from the training and, at the time of writing this report, are waiting to take guests on their first walk to experience the beauty of Samardha, which is known to be a birders' paradise.

Apart from the training, the participants have also been provided with resource materials (pocket guide to birds of Madhya Pradesh developed by Nature Conservation Foundation), which will further their knowledge on biodiversity and make the guided trail more appealing to tourists.

This initiative was supported by the Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Board.

Nature Guide Training for Pardhi's by Naturalist School with Skill India Certification

Panna Tiger Reserve | April 2022



The Last Wilderness Foundation has supported the first batch of Nature Guides in India, which has been certified by Skill India (Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council). The participants of the first batch included seven Pardhi guides as well as LWFs' very own Panna Field coordinator Indrabhan Singh Bundela. The training was conducted between 17th–22nd April by The Naturalist School and these guides are the first in this domain in India to ever receive such official certification.

This workshop was supported by Last Wilderness Foundation in association with The Naturalist School.



Team LWF's Capacity Building Exercise in Mumbai

In the first week of December 2022, the LWF team visited Mumbai as a part of an internal training and team and capacity building exercise. The participants included Indabhan Bundela, Saurabh Baghel, Shyambihari Yadav, Vidya Venkatesh and Gaurav Shirodkar.

PHOTO STORY



Whilst staying in tent accommodation organised at Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), participants were stunned and surprised to see such dense green forest in the heart of this famously urban Mumbai city.



Additionally, the team had an opportunity to unwind and enjoy nature at their own pace for once, hiking the park's upper Kanheri trail, birdwatching, investigating macro flora and fauna and marvelling at the historic Kanheri Caves nestled within the park's Krishnagiri range.



During their stay, the team were able to meet and converse with several individuals and stakeholders within the conversation field to provide them with a wider context of the various facets of conservation. This included wildlife biologist Nikit Survey, wildlife journalist Ranjit Jadhav, SGNP veterinarian Dr. Nikhil Bangar, wildlife researcher Kunal Chaudhari and our very own Rishika Dubla. Additionally, they also attended the Sanctuary Awards 2022 event at National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA).



Not missing the chance to explore some further iconic Mumbai activities and locations, the team members further enjoyed chaat at Girgaum Chowpati, posed in front of the Gateway of India, wondered at the biological wonders on display at the Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum and immersed into the world of marine rock pooling at Napeansea road with the ever-enthusiastic marine naturalist Pradip Patade.





Alternative Livelihood

Communities living around Protected Areas directly influence the environment through their activities. In light of our increasingly modernising world and society, these traditional practices often result in conflict situations. The LWF strives to protect India's pristine wilderness through modern and innovative conservation strategies that include tribal communities. The LWF hopes to provide alternative economic sources for local communities to engage in sustainable practices that benefit the environment using their indigenous knowledge and skills.

Walk With the Pardhis™ & Camping With the Pardhis™

Panna Tiger Reserve | October 2018 - Ongoing



In 2018, Last Wilderness Foundation, in association with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Panna Tiger Reserve and Taj Safaris, conducted several Guide Training Programmes for Pardhi community members at Panna, to equip individuals with expert guiding techniques and enhance and incorporate their current knowledge of the biodiversity and forests within the context of modern tourism in preparation for the 'Walk with the Pardhis' initiative.

Ever since its inception, Walk With the Pardhis (WWP) has become a major source of income for the community members and has given them a platform to share their knowledge and story with visitors. Apart from the walk, visitors can also experience the local culture and heritage, and get to sample their local cuisine, considered a speciality in the region.

Till date, around 2000 guests have experienced the walk bringing in over INR 5,00,000 in revenue to the community. Walk with the Pardhis is a community-based initiative and 100% of the earnings from each walk go to the community members themselves. This model has not only given them an opportunity to prove themselves but also helped abolish the social stigma associated with the community and mend their relations with the Forest Department.

Revenue generated	INR 500000
Number of visitors	1650
Walks conducted	180
Members trained	15

Walk With the Pardhis has been supported by Taj Safaris and Camping With the Pardhis is supported by Jehan Numa Hotels.

Alternative Livelihood through Art & Craft - Baiga tribe

Kanha Tiger Reserve | August 2021 - December 2022



The Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR) is one of the largest tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh. KTR faces similar pressures to most protected areas: development and infrastructure projects, illegal poaching and wildlife trade, grazing, woodcutting and bushmeat hunting. KTR has also faced a conservation crisis in relation to the native Baiga tribe of the park. To maintain critical tiger habitat, these tribes, traditionally nomadic hunter-gatherers, were relocated to other areas where they struggled to adjust and thrive. This resulted in not only the tribes resorting to illegal and unsustainable methods of earning a living but also often resorting to retaliatory killings of tigers and other precious wildlife in the event of conflict interactions.

Therefore, LWF introduced a community-based alternative livelihood programme, with the Baiga community of the KTR, which utilises their traditional jewellery-making skills and culture and establishes it as a legitimate and sustainable form of livelihood. Around 40 women and men from the Baiga community were trained in back in November 2021 to fine-tune their traditional skill in intricate jewellery using sourced material by Ms. Ankita Roy, an assistant professor from the Department of Design, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. The programme resulted in the production and sale of over 200 pieces with profits of over INR 50,000. The products are in demand from local and pan-India businesses as well as from individual buyers and tourists. This has reduced this community's dependency on limited natural resources of the forest, as well as helped to preserve dying cultures and artforms of tribal communities from Central India. The programme currently supports 4 villages and 20 women from the Baiga community.

Revenue generated	INR 50000
Products sold	200+
Lives impacted	40
Villages supported	4

This project was supported by Madhya Pradesh Tiger Foundation Society and Kanha Tiger Reserve.

Alternative Livelihoods through Arts & Craft - Pardhi tribe

Panna Tiger Reserve | April 2022 - March 2023



At the Last Wilderness Foundation we have long understood that on-ground conservation efforts are not possible without the support of local and tribal communities. Therefore, LWF, in association with DCB Bank, aimed to further incentivize these communities and protect the region on a landscape level by introducing initiatives and pilot schemes that would provide alternative sources of income to individuals living in close proximity to animals thus reducing negative interactions and further protecting biodiversity.

13 women were successfully trained in producing neo-traditional handicrafts like the key chains, bag charms, dream catchers, curtain holders, rakhis, designer diyas etc. This was achieved by supporting a local handicraft startup Wildpines. Founded by a panna local Ms Satakshi Singh, a designer herself, she wanted her brand Wildpines to do more than just sell jewellery and handicraft items, but to become an institution for learning, contributing and making a decent livelihood out of it.

The community that we worked with for handicraft were the pardhis, who were residing in the Gandhigram dera, near Ranipur forest. Satakshi very seamlessly integrated their traditional art and their clothing style to the handicrafts. Today there are an array of products that have been sold across the country, and this is just the beginning. Over 5-7 men and women work at Wildpines, receiving hands-on-training and also earning a decent livelihood at the same time. Over 30 different products have been successfully launched so far, and over 5 members of the Pardhi community earn a decent monthly income.

This initiative is a part of the Critical Wildlife Corridor Conservation Programme - Panna Tiger Reserve, supported by DCB Bank.

An experience of a lifetime

Savour the fire-cooked food made the Pardhi way

Camping with the Pardhis

An initiative by



Supported by



Book your experience at : conservation@thelastwilderness.org



Active Conservation

Traditionally, conservation efforts in India have always focused on safeguarding landscapes and biodiversity from an ecological point of view; that is, often executed either in complete disregard or even to the detriment of the tribal communities that have been residing in those landscapes for hundreds, if not thousands of years. We believe that conservation cannot happen without the participation of the community. If the community is not involved in conservation, then we will not be able to succeed. Inevitably, it will not be a sustainable model. Therefore, the community is our main stakeholder in on-ground active conservation efforts.

Critical Wildlife Corridor Conservation Programme - Forest Restoration Initiative

Panna Tiger Reserve & Ranipur Tiger Reserve | March 2021- June 2022



The project aims to protect an important wildlife corridor between Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary and Panna Tiger Reserve, so as to increase not only big cat numbers, but also prey species they rely on. The primary reason for conflict between the communities and the authorities in the area has been because of the current practice of villagers taking their cattle to graze within the forest.

To address the issue, first we decided to provide a locally available area for creation of fodderland to promote stall feeding, thus reducing the need to enter the forest; second, to implement innovative strategies that support traditional livelihoods like farming and herding cattle, and third, to provide options of alternative livelihoods like handicrafts that can further augment income and reduce their dependence on the forest.

Project Outcomes

Infrastructure development: A stone wall over 1000 m long and 5 feet high was built to keep the cattle away from entering the land under restoration.

Direct beneficiaries: Nearly 100 people have been employed in various aspects of the project through the stone wall construction, plantation drive and dairy industry development.

Indirect beneficiaries: Nearly 50 people benefitted from the project by supplying and helping to source plants, compost, stones, bee boxes, and being involved in the logistic support system

Cattle inoculated: Over 400 cattle (goats, cows and buffalo) were vaccinated against zoonotic diseases via vaccination drives

Number of trees planted: A total of 2000 indigenous forest and fruiting trees belonging to 20 different species were planted

Fodder created: Over 50 quintal of fodder was generated in 1 hectare, providing ample fodder during summertime to the cattle of 8–10 villagers, in exchange for 7–8 trolleys of cow dung (300–400 kg per trolley). Additionally, 20 fodder lands (20 farmers) were established within the Ranipur village area, as well as surrounding three villages of Kalyanpur, Sarkoha and Pati.

During the period of the project, there was significant reduction in the number of cattle kill compensation claimed by the villagers, whereas reports of sightings and predation of feral animals within the corridor has confirmed the presence of big cats. The fodder land initiative has been so successful that it has even inspired the Forest Department to adopt the same and create more across other villages to further reduce forest grazing and incidences of conflict. The project has overall been largely successful in reducing human presence within the corridor while also boosting biodiversity.

Alternative livelihoods recommendations have been met with positive attitudes, with the local community agreeing to handicraft development and moving past the pilot stage (details on page 38).

This initiative is a part of the Critical Wildlife Corridor Conservation Programme - Panna Tiger Reserve, supported by DCB Bank.



Gram Rakshak™ Initiative

Panna Tiger Reserve | January 2021 - Ongoing



Last Wilderness Foundation in association with the Panna Tiger Reserve Management initiated the Gram Rakshak Initiative in 2021. The idea behind this project was to include selected community members from sensitive villages situated in the buffer zone of the reserve to act as 'Rakshaks' or guardians to protect people as well as wild animals.

The main role of the Rakshaks is to pass on any information about untoward incidents of forest fires, hunting or any illegal activity that is encountered around their respective village areas. Apart from sharing information, the selected community member is also responsible for conservation outreach and the precautionary measures to be taken while living around the tiger reserve. They were first inducted through an initial training process, wherein they were oriented about their roles and responsibilities and trained on working in tandem with the Forest Department on information sharing.

In January 2023, a training was conducted with the Panna Tiger Reserve Field Director, Deputy Director and Veterinarian to further incentivize the Rakshaks about their duties. Custom-made Gram Rakshak jackets were distributed to all the Rakshaks in this meeting. Furthermore, a safari was organised as a motivation exercise, and the Rakshaks were even lucky enough to sight three tigers. A 'Van Sanrakshan Samiti or Village Forest Committee' meeting was arranged among villagers, Rakshaks, and forest department staff to advise villagers to not lay traps and snares during the crop season and follow safety protocols when working in the fields.

As of March 2023, 20 Rakshaks from 20 sensitive villages have been chosen. Awareness and education activities, such as Forest Fire Awareness and Snake Bite Awareness Sessions, have reached over 2000 people across 20 villages.

This initiative is supported by the Astral Foundation.





Conservation Engagement

Although it is important to reach out to like-minded people, it is imperative to reach the sceptics and put forth the work that is done. Apart from our routine outreach and awareness activities in the field, we also actively celebrate 'Green Days' in local schools and villages in association with the Forest Department. In a rapidly digitising world, social media plays a crucial role in reaching out to our patrons as well as engaging with the masses online and offline through participation in talk shows, pop-up stalls, panel discussions and podcasts. Additionally, curated content on conservation is regularly shared on YouTube for easy access due to its free platform.

National Wildlife Week 2022

Kuno National Park | October 2022



Previous trends have shown a reduction in student attendance as the academic year has progressed. At its peak in the first quarter as a result of children being provided with various free-of-cost amenities and resources, interest to continue attending school quickly wanes by late monsoon to early winter. To retain the students for the whole year, the team realised that they needed to be given a reason to come to school during this mid-year lull.

National Wildlife Week 2022 provides us with just this opportunity and tool. Announcing a National Wildlife Week event in association with the Kuno Forest Department not only served as a major outreach opportunity in the region but also coincided with the historic reintroduction of cheetahs to India. The event included competitions and activities such as sports, drawing, quiz and puzzle for all the age groups in all the schools in Adhwara, Chakk Colony, Sesaipura, Katila, Ranipura, Bansaraiya, and Daulatpura villages surrounding Kuno National Park.

More than 1500 students across all age groups from over 12 schools participated in the event, engaging in activities such as sports, drawing, quiz and puzzle competitions. A total of 120 prizes such as water bottles, school bags and compass box kit along with a certificate were distributed to winners of the first, second and third positions. Additionally, all participants were given a pencil, eraser, and sharpener to keep them in high spirits. Prizes were distributed in the presence of the Forest Department, and teaching staff in the schools, during the Republic Day celebrations on 26 January. Furthermore, awareness was spread amongst schools and villages using a slideshow and movie presentation through our audio visual initiative named the Kuno Talkies.

'Chintu Cheetah' became the central mascot figurehead of the event , and the Wildlife Week celebration was successfully carried out.

The event was a part of the Community Conservation Programme - Kuno National Park, supported by Dalmia Charitable Trust.

Talk Show, Presentation, Pop-up stall

'Jungle Ki Baatein'- An online talk show was hosted by Bhavna Menon, in which she spoke with experts in the field of ecological and experiential tourism about their experiences.

July-September 2022



Bhavna Menon gave a session on wildlife conservation at the Great State Dive, Pune. August 2022



Bhavna Menon along with intern Akshita Pungaliya, organised and managed a display-cum-sales of the handicraft products produced by the tribal communities of Kanha and Panna at the Elephant and Co. in Pune. August, 2022.

Panel Discussion, Presentation



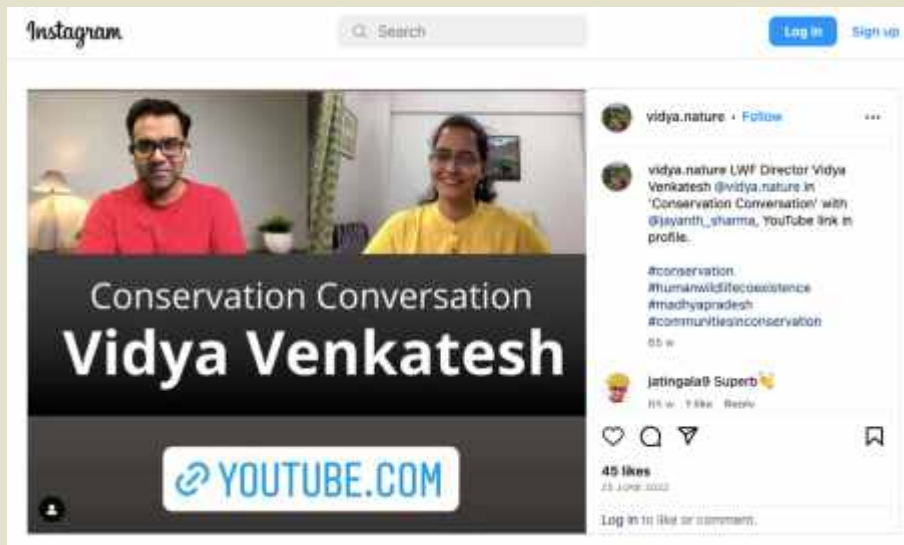
Vidya Venkatesh gave a session titled 'Community and Conservation' on International Day of the Indigenous People, organised by Nature Information Center Sanjay Gandhi National Park, August 2022

Vidya Venkatesh was part of a panel discussion on the Impact of Environment Education during the WeNaturalist People of Nature Awards, September 2022



Vidya Venkatesh moderated a panel discussion on Restoration during the Central Indian Landscape Symposium (CILS), Kanha Tiger Reserve. February 2023

Podcast



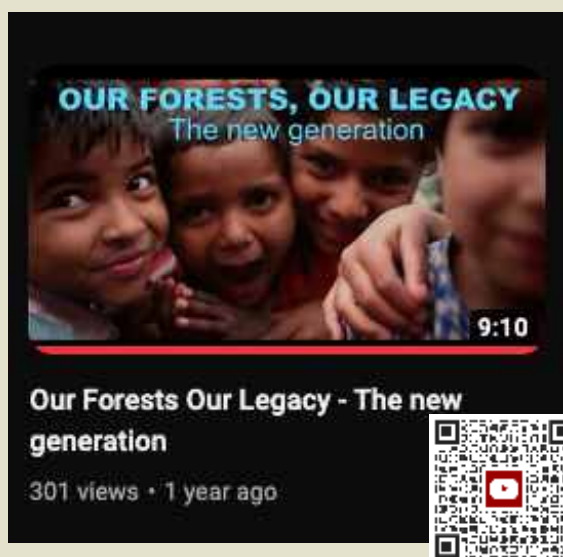
Vidya Venkatesh featured
in 'Conservation
Conversation', an YT video
By Jayanth Sharma.
June 2022

Vidya featured with Think Wildlife Foundation in a podcast on 'Forestering with Human-Wildlife Coexistence'. June 2022



The Flapper Life - Podcast
featuring Vidya Venkatesh.
January 2023

Media



'Our forests, our legacy- the new generation' aims to highlight the successful transition of the children in the Pardhi community who have braved choppy waters in the form of an unforgiving society, lived, dealt with and emerged victorious in the face of century old stigma and who today are the torchbearers of the community and the protectors of the wild. As the Pardhi children take a step forward to be the change the world needs, it is upto us to help them find their footing in mainstream society, away from the nomadic way of living and to enjoy opportunities that are rightfully theirs.



At the onset of summer in March 2023, LWF uploaded a YouTube video titled 'Fire Awareness Song' by Swar Sangam. This song has been one of the many tools used to spread awareness about the various stakeholders, both human and animal, who are dependent on forest resources and the harmful effects of forest fires for their survival, as part of our Fire Awareness Initiative. This initiative conducted every year ahead of the fire season in Panna and Kanha and now in the Kuno landscape, has shown a drastic decline in forest-fire incidents across these landscapes.



Anna Surtersic invited LWF to contribute real life instances from the eld to her book 'Stories of Coexistence'(April 2022). For as long as man has existed, there has been a way to interpret reality, understand it and give it meaning: stories. Stories have always been the tool we use to connect the elements of the reality that surrounds us and attribute meaning to these and the relationships between them. And precisely to remain in the tradition as long as our history as men, PAMS Foundation has chosen the stories to investigate the "meaning" that coexistence with fauna takes on in different cultures, natures and corners of the world. - by Anna Sustersic

Ways to give to Last Wilderness Foundation

Become a Monthly Supporter:

A regular contribution each month ensures that LWF is consistently growing its far-reaching efforts to preserve our wilderness spaces in tandem with community members.

Stakeholder Liaison:

Help establish tie ups with institutions or organisations who can aid LWF in spreading awareness about community members, the on-ground challenges and the work being done to combat these issues. Such partnerships can also be used to showcase the skill sets possessed by community members in the form of products, the proceeds of which will go back to the community members.

Education Sponsor:

Support the supplementary needs of our educational projects by helping establish libraries, distribute winter uniforms and school supplies etc.

Sponsor a Student:

Support the education of a child by covering their top-to-bottom expenses for one academic year in mainstream education.

Support Our Heroes:

Equip frontline Forest Department staff with necessary resources that will aid protection measures.

Conserve While You Travel:

For your next holiday, opt for unique itineraries while visiting any of our featured tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh. You can get oriented with community members and engage in our on-ground conservation activities and projects. Immerse yourself in our various alternate livelihood projects like village walks, lunch/dinner with community members, camping, nature walks etc., in which 100% of the proceeds are given to community members. These can be arranged as family holidays or even corporate offsites.



Contact us!

To know more about our work and how you can contribute, please scan the QR code or visit our website

www.thelastwilderness.org

and/or write to us on

conservation@thelastwilderness.org

Fuelling the movement

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller

Conservation is a collaborative endeavour. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partners and generous donors who have made our mission possible. Your unwavering support has empowered us to create meaningful change and uplift communities in need.



The Way Forward



Gaurav Shirodkar
 Programme Manager

As we step into the future, our commitment towards wildlife conservation and protection of the last remaining patches of wilderness remains unwavering. The time to come holds significant promise as we strive to ensure the preservation of our precious protected areas. In the pursuit of this goal, our focus extends to enhancing corridor connectivity between key regions, with a keen emphasis on the following areas: Kuno National Park, Panna Tiger Reserve, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and Nauradehi Tiger reserve.

Conservation Through Community Participation:

Our approach hinges on the belief that sustainable conservation is a shared responsibility. By actively involving local communities, we aim to forge a symbiotic relationship between nature and its guardians. Utilising livelihood, education and outreach as formidable tools, we envision a harmonious coexistence that benefits both wildlife and the communities that call these areas home.

Gram Rakshak Initiative:

At the forefront of our conservation initiatives stands our Gram Rakshak™ initiative. This endeavour engages communities directly, empowering them to become stewards of the land they inhabit. Through this grassroots initiative, we anticipate not only safeguarding wildlife but also nurturing a sense of pride and ownership amongst those living on the fringes of these protected zones.

Empowering Frontline Staff with MBMA:

Recognizing the pivotal role of frontline staff in conservation, the Meri Beat Mera Abhimaan (MBMA) initiative takes centre stage in our forward strategy. MBMA is poised to bridge the gap in communication within the team and with the communities and empower our dedicated forest department personnel through soft-skill training. This initiative will not only enhance efficiency but also foster a more responsive and adaptive approach to conservation challenges.

In the coming year, our collective efforts will be dedicated to these principles, weaving a tapestry of conservation that extends beyond borders and encompasses the wildlife and the communities intertwined with their habitats. Together, we embark on a journey towards a more sustainable and harmonious future.

Financials

LAST WILDERNESS FOUNDATION (CIN : U93000MH2009NPL196854) Statement of Profit and Loss for the year ended 31 March, 2023				
Particulars		Note No.	For the year ended 31 March, 2023	For the year ended 31 March, 2022
			Rs.	Rs.
I	Revenue from operations (net)		0	0
II	Other income	8	67,67,514	83,79,891
III	Total Income (I+II)		67,67,514	83,79,891
IV	Expenses			
	(a) Cost of materials consumed		0	0
	(b) Purchases of stock-in-trade		0	0
	(c) Changes in inventories of finished goods, work-in-progress and stock-in-trade		0	0
	(d) Employee benefits expense	9	31,70,708	27,24,700
	(e) Finance costs		0	0
	(f) Depreciation and amortisation expense		10,685	0
	(g) Other expenses	10	33,71,148	48,10,683
	Total expenses		65,52,541	75,35,383
V	Profit / (Loss) before exceptional and extraordinary items and tax (III - IV)		2,14,973	8,44,508
VI	Exceptional items		0	0
VII	Profit / (Loss) before extraordinary items and tax (V + VI)		2,14,973	8,44,508
VIII	Extraordinary items		0	0
IX	Profit / (Loss) before tax (VII + VIII)		2,14,973	8,44,508
X	Tax expense:			
	(a) Current tax		0	0
	(b) Deferred tax		0	0
			0	0
XI	Profit / (Loss) from continuing operations (IX - X)		2,14,973	8,44,508
XII	Profit / (Loss) from discontinuing operations		0	0
XIII	Profit / (Loss) for the year (XI + XII)		2,14,973	8,44,508
See accompanying notes 1-13 forming part of the financial statements				
In terms of our report of even date attached. M/S A.B.B. & ASSOCIATES Chartered Accountants FRN:116615W Sd/- CA. Atal Bihari Bhanja Partner Membership No.: 057691 Place: Mumbai Date: UDIN: For and On Behalf of LAST WILDERNESS FOUNDATION (CIN : U93000MH2009NPL196854) Sd/- Sd/- Nikhil Nagle Vidya Venkatesh Director Director (DIN: 02667236) (DIN: 05168000) 				

LAST WILDERNESS FOUNDATION
(CIN : U93000MH2009NPL196854)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March, 2023

Particulars		Note No.	As at 31 March, 2023	As at 31 March, 2022
			Rs.	Rs.
A	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
I	Shareholders' funds			
	(a) Share capital	1	22,70,342	20,60,892
	(b) Reserves and surplus		-	-
	(c) Money received against share warrants		22,70,342	20,60,892
II	Share application money pending allotment		-	-
III	Non-current liabilities			
	(a) Long-term borrowings		-	-
	(b) Deferred tax liabilities		-	-
	(b) Other long-term liabilities		-	-
	(c) Long-term provisions	2	-	26550
			-	26,550
IV	Current liabilities			
	(a) Short-term borrowings		-	-
	(b) Trade payables		-	-
	(A) Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises		-	-
	(B) Total outstanding dues of Creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises		-	-
	(c) Other current liabilities	3	4,72,011	18,42,811
	(d) Short-term provisions	2	18,661	45,666
			4,90,672	18,88,477
	TOTAL		27,61,014	39,75,919
B	ASSETS			
I	Non-current assets			
	(a) Fixed assets	7		
	(i) Property, Plant & Equipment		77,315	-
	(ii) Intangible assets		-	-
	(iii) Capital work-in-progress		-	-
	(iv) Intangible assets under development		-	-
			77,315	-
	(b) Non-current investments		-	-
	(c) Deferred Tax Assets		-	-
	(d) Long-term loans and advances	4	13,925	15,000
	(e) Other non-current assets		-	-
			91,240	15,000
II	Current assets			
	(a) Current investments		-	-
	(b) Inventories		-	-
	(c) Trade receivables		-	-
	(d) Cash and cash equivalents	5	26,47,014	39,11,759
	(e) Short-term loans and advances	4	8,210	32,822
	(f) Other current assets	6	14,550	16,338
			26,69,774	39,60,919
	TOTAL		27,61,014	39,75,919
	See accompanying notes 1-13 forming part of the financial statements			

In terms of our report of even date attached.
For M/S A.B.B & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 116615W

For and On Behalf of
LAST WILDERNESS FOUNDATION
(CIN : U93000MH2009NPL196854)

Sd/-

CA. Atal Bihari Bhanja
Partner
Membership No.: 057691
Place: Mumbai
Date:
UDIN:



Sd/-

Nikhil Nagle
Director
(DIN: 02667236)

Sd/-

Vidya Venkatesh
Director
(DIN: 05168000)

*Thanking all our partners, donors, volunteers and followers
for trusting & supporting us generously.
We look forward to interacting with each one of you
through our programmes every year.*



*With best regards,
Last Wilderness Foundation family*

www.thelastwilderness.org

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In defence of the last wilderness

LAST WILDERNESS FOUNDATION



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