

SIX MONTHLY REPORT SUBMITTED TO 21ST CENTURY TIGERS

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FOR TIGER CONSERVATION ANSHI- DANDELI

REPORT SUMMARY:

Community Leadership for Tiger Conservation (CLTC) is a pilot project started in Anshi National Park (ANP) and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary(DWS) to conserve one of the important tiger habitat in northern part of TCU- 55, level - 1 tiger conservation unit in Western Ghats of Karnataka(Dinerstein et al. 1997). Two protected areas, viz., Anshi National Park (ANP) and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (DWS), are situated on the northwestern side of the Uttara Kannada district. These forests are linked to six protected areas in the neighboring states of Goa and Maharashtra. Together this region forms a contiguous forest patch of about 2,200 sq. kms with pockets of intact prime habitat for tigers and other habitat specialist wildlife species.

Community awareness programs like slide shows, nature camps and follow up of the resettlement and boundary rationalization proposals, and supporting conservation activities with forest departments were done during the reporting period.

PROJECT TITLE: Community Leadership Conservation for Tiger Conservation - Anshi- Dandeli.

PROJECT LEADER : Balachandra Hegde

STAFF: Permanent: nil, Temporary field staff: 2

COLLABORATORS AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Wildlife Conservation Society, India Program
Center for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore
Wildlife First, Bangalore

PROJECT DURATION: 1st July 2005 – 31st June 2006

REPORTING PERIOD: 1st July 2005 -31st December 2005

APPROVED BUDGET: GBP 5665.00

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES/PROGRESS:

EUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Nature camps:

Six nature camps were conducted for students of primary and secondary schools children. Importance of Tiger conservation, along with importance of wildlife, forests, and water, were discussed. A trek inside the forests, to educate about wildlife, hydrology and forests was also included in the camp. Competitions, quiz and other activities were also included. Each camp lasted for about three days, with two night stay at the camps. Students from other parts of the state were also participated in these camps. About 90 students, 15 teachers and 12 villagers participated in these camps.

Slide Shows /Awareness programs:

A series of slide shows were conducted in twelve schools situated in and around these protected areas. The major focus of the slide shows were tiger conservation and importance of protected areas in wildlife conservation and responsibilities of local people in conserving wildlife and forests especially tigers.

Eight public awareness camps with slide shows were conducted in villages located inside the park. All these programs were conducted on the eve of the social meetings, like meetings of Self Help Groups, local festivals etc. Importance of Wildlife conservation in the region and responsibilities of local people were discussed in each of the meetings. About 225 people from eight villagers were involved in these slide shows.

Community awareness programs:

Two formal meetings and several informal meetings with villagers of Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (DWS) and Anshi National Park (ANP) were conducted during the reporting period. During these meetings, issues like resettlement of villagers, crop damage by wildlife and compensation, supporting protection system, minimizing the damage during NTFP collection etc were discussed.

Building up a dedicated volunteer group:

Six youths from villages inside the park and about 15 from other areas have been participating actively in conservation efforts. Five journalists, (both freelance and regular) are also involved themselves in conservation efforts.

Voluntarily resettlement:

A committee for drafting the proposal for resettlement was constituted including villagers, forest officials and project leader. This committee is meeting regularly and is discussing the project proposal for resettlement and work towards speeding up of the process. Project leader is regularly in contact with senior officials as follow up process.

A **boundary rationalization** proposal prepared the project leader was accepted by the forest department and is now sent to state government for approval. Regular follow up of the process with forest officials is being done by project leader. However, the process is taking longer time than expected.

Interaction with forest department staffs: Regular contact with forest officials was done to discuss conservation issues. During this reporting period, 14 meetings held with different officials.

PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS:

Nil

GOALS / ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS:

- Conduct nature camps and other community awareness programs.
- Continue conservation monitoring activities
- Follow up work of voluntarily resettlement of people and boundary rationalization proposals.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Students who participated in the nature camps were voluntarily rejected wild meat at home and few among them were even successful in convincing their parents to stop eating wild meat. Otherwise hunting wildlife for wild meat is a major threat for tiger conservation in this part.