

FINAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO 21ST CENTURY TIGER
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FOR TIGER CONSERVATION
NAGARAHOLE EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

Nagarahole National Park, consisting of moist and dry deciduous forests, is part of the Western Ghats, considered among the 25 global biodiversity hotspots. This 644 sq. km protected area is also recognized as a global priority tiger conservation area included under Tiger Conservation Landscape. This park, together with its neighboring wildlife reserves stretching over 5,500 sq. km, perhaps represents the single largest global populations of the tiger *Panthera tigris*, Asian elephant *Elephas maximus* and gaur *Bos gaurus*.

Nagarahole Education Project is a continuation of the tiger education activities initiated first under Karnataka Tiger Conservation Project (KTCP) supported by WCS, Save the Tiger Fund (STF) Exxon Mobil and other donor agencies and subsequently continued under the project Community Leadership for Tiger Conservation (CLTC). This project aimed to educate local communities residing in and around Nagarahole, local elected representatives, and other groups such as youth associations and journalists to broaden the constituency for tiger conservation efforts. This project also aimed to educate students and teachers from the area. Further, the project has assisted the state government in its protection efforts by creating an independent information network of concerned local people to assist law enforcement agencies.

During the project period six nature camps were arranged involving 213 students and 19 teachers. Project team also presented 11 slide talks reaching 1057 students and 97 teachers. Nature camps and slide talks were arranged for 321 teachers. Nature camps, Field visits were arranged for people's representatives, journalists and social activists. 33800 pamphlets about effects of forest fires were distributed in 18 public awareness programs. The forest fire campaigns were extended to Bandipura National Park and Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary. 26 teachers were also supported to carryout forest fire campaigns in the respective schools.

PROJECT TITLE: Community Leadership Conservation for Tiger Conservation –
Nagarahole education

PROJECT LEADER: K.M. Chinnappa

COLLABORATORS AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, Wildlife Conservation Society, India Program
Center for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore

PROJECT DURATION: 1st July 2005 – 30th June 2006

REPORTING PERIOD: 1st July 2005 – 30th June 2006

APPROVED BUDGET: GBP 9720.00

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES/PROGRESS:

A. Education and awareness building

I. Continuation of education programs to the students and youths through nature camps, slide talks and field trips.

a. During the reporting period 6 nature camps of two days each were arranged for the students from different educational institutions in collaboration with Karnataka Forest Department. 213 students studying in high schools and pre-degree classes, 19 teachers and lecturers and 26 general public participated in these programs. Out of this, 141 students are the residents of the surrounding areas of Nagarahole National Park. Project leader K.M.Chinnappa arranged field visit inside the forest for the participants of this camp to create awareness about the wildlife conservation, the negative impacts of human intervention on wildlife. Apart from this, participants were also trained in bird watching, identification of plants and birds, animal behavior. Karnataka Forest Department provided accommodation, allowed the students for field visit and wildlife safari at free of cost.

Details of nature camps arranged during the reporting period.

SL. NO	Date	Place	Participants	No.of Students	No.of Teachers	No.of General Public
01	28-08-2005 To 30-08-2005	Bandipura	Nisarga Vidyanikethana, Sedaganahally, Nagasandra, Bangalore	32	02	04
02	08-09-2005 To 10-09-2005	Bandipura	Appachu Kavi Vidyalaya, Ponnampet, Kodagu	39	03	05
03	19-10-2005 To 20-10-2005	Bandipura	Government High School, Gonikoppa, Kodagu	40	02	04
04	16-11-2005 To 18-11-2005	Bandipura	Srimangala P.U. College, Srimangala, Kodagu	22	02	--
05	11-01-2006 To 12-01-2006	Nagarahole	Government High School, Doddahejjur, Hunsur	40	05	03
06	27-02-2006 To 28-02-2006	Nagarahole	Cauvery Public School, Mandya	40	05	10
			TOTAL	213	19	26

b. Project leader presented 11 slide talks to the students of different educational institutions. 1057 students, 97 teachers and 93 people were reached through these programs. Project leaders explained the importance of wildlife conservation and its indirect benefits to human beings, negative impacts of forest fire, encroachments, tree felling, poaching and grazing in protected areas.

Details of Slide Talks presented

S. N.	Date	Participating Institution	No.of Students	No.of Teachers	No.of General Public
01	15-07-2005	SWASTHA - Centre for Special Education and Rehabilitation Suntikoppa, Kodagu	50	10	-
02	13-08-2005	Appachu Kavi Vidyalaya, Ponnampet, Kodagu	130	14	08
03	23-10-2005	Kannada Bharathi P.U.College, Kushalnagar, Kodagu	52	02	10

04	05-11-2005	Brahmakumari Eshwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mysore	90	10	-
05	18-11-2005	Brahmakumari Eshwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mysore	70	05	-
06	23-12-2005	Government First Grade College, Kushalnagar	42	01	05
07	04-04-2006	Kodagu Vidyalaya and Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Madikeri	148	04	09
08	18-04-2006	SJM Education Institutions, Beluru, Somwarpet	65	06	10
09	28-04-2006	Kodagu Vidyalaya and Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Madikeri	60	15	05
10	14-06-2006	Kalegowda High School, Mandya	150	15	02
11	14-06-2006	Cauvery Public School, Tubinakere, Mandya	200	15	02
		TOTAL	1057	97	51

c. Three field trips of one day each were arranged for the students of three educational institutions to Nagarahole National Park. Project leaders K.M.Chinnappa arranged field visit, wildlife safari, and interaction with Karnataka Forest Department Officials for these students. 122 students from Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama, Ponnampet, Srimangala Pre-University College, Srimangala and SWASTHA (Centre for Special Education and Rehabilitation Centre), Suntikoppa participated in this program.

II. Publish information booklets on tiger, other large carnivores and their prey, based on the knowledge on wildlife gained through research and practical experience that can act as source material for teachers and others.

During this project period, information booklets were not published. But two books published during earlier project period were distributed at free of cost to the teachers, journalists who participated in education and awareness programs. 60 copies of *Huli: Balu Naajukina Balishta Jeevi (Tiger: Power and Fragility)* and 40 copies of *Hakkigalu (Birds)* were distributed to the journalists and teachers who participated in the nature camps organized by the project.

III. Conducting exclusive education program for teachers around Nagarahole National Park and other important tiger reserves in Karnataka

a. During this project period one nature camp was arranged for the teachers of St. Michels Kannada Medium School, Madikeri at Nagarahole. 26 teachers participated in this one-day program, which included field visit, birds and plant identification, understanding wildlife behavior. Project leader explained the participating teachers about the benefits from wildlife conservation and the roll they can play in educating younger generation.

b. Project leader presented four slide talks exclusively for the teachers from the Kodagu and Mysore Districts. Two programs were arranged at Bramakumari Eshwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mysore for 127 teachers. These teachers are working in the schools situated near Nagarahole and Bandipura. Two more programs were presented for 166 teachers from different educational institutions from Kodagu District who were participating in the program organized by Bharath Scouts and Guides at Kushalnagar and Bharath Seva Dala at Madikeri.

IV. Educating local bodies, government agencies, religious groups and other organizations intended in wildlife conservation.

a. Project leader K.M.Chinnappa was involved as resource person in the nature camp organized by Karnataka Forest Department for the people's representatives from Kolar District at Bandipura National Park. 55 members including two members of State Legislative Assembly and 40 members of local bodies participated in this program. K.M.Chinnappa explained the relationship between rain forests of Western Ghats and rivers of South India. He requested them to advocate conservation-oriented approach while enacting law and its implementation.

b. One nature camp was arranged for the working journalists from Kodagu District by the project supported by Karnataka Forest Department. 14 journalists both from electronic and print media participated in this program. Project leader K.M.Chinnappa arranged field visit, interaction with Karnataka Forest Department Officials, slide talk and wildlife safari. Praveen Bhargav of Wildlife First presented a slide talk on tiger and its prey base.

The journalists participated in this program published 5 articles about the camp and wildlife conservation.

c. One field trip was organized for the members of Cauvery Sene, a highly motivated social activist group from Kodagu district at Nagarahole. Project leader explained the importance of wildlife conservation and its indirect benefits to the plantation community of the region. Impressed by this field trip, these group members are activity involved in the conservation activities.

V. Organize public awareness programs to highlight the need to prevent forest fire.

a. Project leader K.M.Chinnappa and Field officer P.M.Muthanna organized 18 public awareness programs in towns and villages situated around Nagarahole National Park and Western Ghats. 1358 students 63 teachers and 80 volunteers were involved in this program arranged during the month of January, February and March. A total number of 33,800 pamphlets about the impact of forest fire were distributed during these campaigns. People’s representatives, officials, coffee planters and teachers were involved in these public programs. This entire program got wide publicity in regional newspapers. Project leader also addressed press conference in Madikeri about forest fire and its effect on forests.

The details of Forest Fire campaigns held under this program.

S. N	Date	Place	Participants	Students Involved	Teachers Involved	Public Involved	Pamphlet distributed
01	23-01-2006	Karike	Government High School + Higher Primary School	225	09	07	450
02	29-01-2006	Suntikoppa	Government Pre-University College	85	03	05	1350
03	30-01-2006	Bhagamandla	Government Model Primary School	41	02	-	1250
04	06-02-2006	Napoklu	Sri Rama Trust English Medium School	45	02	01	1750
05	12-02-2006	Gonikoppa	Gonikoppal High School	60	03	10	2500
06	13-02-2006	Srimangala	Srimangala Junior College	25	02	03	650

07	14-02-2006	Kutta	Government High School	64	02	10	1350
08	16-02-2006	Hunsur	Shastri High School	40	01	03	3200
09	20-02-2006	Somwarpet	Janavikas English Medium School	35	01	05	2700
10	21-02-2006	Kushalnagar	Morarji Desai Residential School	55	03	02	3000
11	21-02-2006	Thorenuru	Government High School	150	10	03	250
12	22-02-2006	Virajpet	Cauvery Women's College	250	10	10	2350
13	23-02-2006	Murnad	Murnad High School	50	05	02	1500
14	24-02-2006	Madikeri	St. Michales Higher Primary School	34	01	02	4000
15.	25-02-2006	Sanivarasanthe	Bharath High School	54	02	03	2200
16	05-03-2006	Siddapura	Gonikoppal High School	20	02	05	2000
17	06-03-2006	Balele	Vijayalaxmi Junior College	100	02	08	700
18	07-03-2006	H.D.Kote	St. Maris High School	25	03	01	2600
			TOTAL	1358	63	80	33800

b. Field officer P.M. Muthanna arranged the forest fire campaigns in the surrounding areas of the Bandipura National Park. 10 schools situated in the adjoining areas of Bandipura National Park were identified and Field Officer visited them during February. Field officers involved two volunteer and addressed 3467 students and 87 teachers about the effects of man made forest fire. A total number of 3255 pamphlets in local languages were distributed to the students.

Details of Forest Fire campaigns organized around Bandipura National Park.

S. N.	Date	Name of Institution	No. of Students Reached	No. of Teachers Reached	Number of Pamphlets Distributed
01	10-02-2006	J.S.S. High School, Horeyala	171	06	180
02	10-02-2006	Government Pre-University College, S. Beguru	800	12	820

03	10-02-2006	Morarji Desai High School, Yadavanahalli	179	07	179
04	10-02-2006	Government Pre-University College, Yadiyala	460	10	470
05	10-02-2006	Government High School, Maduvinahalli	200	06	210
06	11-02-2006	Sri Gangadareshwara High School, Gopalapura	102	05	110
07	11-02-2006	Sri Niranjana Shivayogi Vidya Samsthe, Hangala	120	16	136
08	11-02-2006	Government High School, Hangala	530	10	540
09	11-02-2006	Government High School, Bachalli	410	08	420
10	15-02-2006	Government High School, B.Matagere	495	07	505
		Total	3467	87	3570

VI. Train volunteers / teachers to extend conservation activities in their respective areas through field visits and contact programs.

26 teachers who participated in earlier nature camps and field visit programs arranged by the project, volunteered to conduct forest fire campaigns in their respective schools. 15 teachers from the surrounding areas of the schools situated near Nagarahole National Park conducted this program involving 2140 students and 105 teachers. A total number of 2648 pamphlets were distributed. Another 11 teachers from the schools situated near Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary also arranged similar program involving 723 students, 40 teachers and 1111 pamphlets were distributed.

B. Establishing an independent information network to support the state's wildlife protection efforts.

I. Use public outreach programs like lectures and community interactions to create independent and informal information network both inside and outside the park to gather information on activities prejudicial to wildlife conservation

During the project period project leader K.M.Chinnappa and Field officer P.M.Muthanna developed a informal information network involving 6 tribals and 5 non-tribals. Field officer maintained regular interaction with these informers about poaching,

tree felling and encroachment issues. Field officer also maintained regular contact with some forest department field staffs to understand their functioning. Information network provided information regarding the activities of poachers and smugglers and also about the functioning of Karnataka Forrest Department such as failure in protection measures, unmanned anti-poaching camps etc. This information was shared with the state's law enforcement agencies through constant liaison and meeting with them.

C. Other activities

- i. Project leader held two meetings with Conservator of Forests, Madikeri regarding declaring Greater TalaKaveri Sanctuary including the reserve forest and revenue land along Western Ghats in Kodagu district.
- ii. Project leader held three meetings with Field Director, Project Tiger regarding shifting of departmental camp elephants from elephant-camps inside the national park to minimise human activities. Project Leader explained the effects of human pressure due to the presence of 37 tamed elephants in 8 camps of the national park. Field Director, Project Tiger has promised to shift some of the elephants from the camps to other divisions during April.
- iii. Project leader also held three meeting with Field Director, Project Tiger and one meeting with Deputy Conservator of Forest regarding protection measures and relocation of tribals.
- iv. Two articles were published in local language in the daily newspaper regarding the effects of starting the hydel power generation projects in protected areas and reserve forests.

PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS:

None

GOALS / OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT YEAR

1. Continuation of education programs for students and youth through nature camps, slide shows and mass awareness programs.
2. Organizing public awareness programs to highlight the need to prevent forest fire and to conserve forests.

