

## **SIX MONTHLY REPORT SUBMITTED TO 21<sup>ST</sup> 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 high-priority tiger conservation area globally and included under Tiger Conservation Unit 55 (Level I) by WWF/WCS. 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.

A total of four nature camps, nine slide-talks and three field trips were conducted to the students and teachers around Nagarahole National Park, during the reporting period. Nine meetings were also held with Park authorities on various conservation issues.

**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:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006

**REPORTING PERIOD:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005

**APPROVED BUDGET:** GBP 9720.00

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES/PROGRESS:**

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

A. During this period four nature camps were conducted in Bandipura in coordination with Karnataka Forest Department for the students. 101 students, 7 teachers from the surrounding of Nagarahole National Park participated in this program. Another 32 students, 2 teachers and 4 general publics from Seedaganahally, Nagasandra, Bangalore participated in the nature camp held at Bandipura. The participants of these programs were taken for a field visit inside the forest to create awareness about the importance of conservation, the effects of human intervention, man-animal conflict. Project leader guided the participants about the identification of birds, plants and animal behavior. Karnataka Forest Department provided accommodation and allowed the students for field visit and safari, free of cost. The cost of food for the participants is incurred under this project.

**Details of nature camps arranged during this reporting period.**

Sl. No	Date	Place	Participants	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	General Public
01	28-08-2005 To 30-08-2005	Bandipura	Nisarga Vidyanikethana, Seedaganahally, Nagasandra, Bangalore	32	2	4
02	08-09-2005 To 10-09-2005	Bandipura	Appachu Kavi Vidyalaya, Ponnampet, Kodagu	39	3	5
03	19-10-2005 To 20-10-2005	Bandipura	Govt. High School, Gonikoppa, Kodagu	40	2	4
04	16-11-2005 To 18-11-2005	Bandipura	Srimangala P.U.College, Srimangala, Kodagu	22	2	-
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>

- B. During this reporting period project leader presented 7 slide talks at different educational institutions. Project leader explained the importance of wildlife conservation and its direct benefits to human beings, negative impacts of forest fire, encroachments, tree felling, poaching and grazing. 434 students, 42 teachers, 65 publics participated in this program.

**Details of slide talks arranged during this reporting period.**

No .	Date	Participants	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	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	8
03	23-10-2005	Kannada Bharathi P.U.College, Kushalnagar, Kodagu	52	2	10
04	02-11-2005	Club Mahindra Holidays, Galibeedu, Madikeri, Kodagu	-	-	42
05	05-11-2005	Brahmakumari Eshwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mysore	90	10	-
06	18-11-2005	Brahmakumari Eshwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mysore	70	5	-
07	23-12-2005	Govt.First Grade College, Kushalnagar	42	1	5
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>65</b>

- C. Two field trips of one day each were arranged for the students of Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama, Ponnampet, and Srimangala P.U.College. Total number of 74 students from rural background (residents of the surrounding areas of Nagarahole and Brahmagiri wildlife sanetary) participated in this program.

***II. Conducting exclusive education program for teachers around Nagarahole national park and other important tiger reserves in Karnataka.***

Project leader presented two slide talks exclusively for the teachers from the Kodagu district. One slide talk was presented for 110 teachers from different primary schools from Kodagu district. This program was organized by Bharath Scouts and Guides at Kushalnagar. Another program was presented for 46 teachers of different high schools of Kodagu district organized by Bharath Seva Dal, Madikeri.

***III. Educating local bodies, government agencies, religions groups and other organizations interested in wildlife conservation.***

One field trip was organized for the members of Cauvery Sene, a highly motivated social activist group from Kodagu district at Nagarahole national park.

Project leader explained the importance of wildlife conservation and its indirect benefits to the plantation community of the region. Impressed by this field trip this group members promised to involve themselves in wildlife conservation activities.

***IV. Create independent information network around Nagarahole National Park to supplement protection measures by Karnataka Forest Department.***

During this period, an informal information network was created involving 8 tribals around Nagarahole National Park. Project leader shared the information with Karnataka Forest Department regarding activities of poachers from Kerala and Karnataka in D.B.Kuppe range, collection of minor forest producers in D.B.Kuppe and Veeranhosally range, unmanned anti-poaching camps (during October-November) in D.B.Kuppe and systematic tree smuggling incidents in D.B.Kuppe.

***V. Other activities***

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.

**VI. List of publications in the local language (Kannada) on project activities**

A)	Kannada Prabha (Newspaper)	-	22-08-2005
B)	Sudha (Magazine)	-	06-10-2005
C)	Mysore Mithra (Newspaper)	-	22-10-2005
D)	Andolana (Newspaper)	-	28-10-2005.

**PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS:**

Nil

**GOALS / ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS:**

1. Continue education program for students, teachers and local youth through nature camps, slide talks and field trips.
2. Educate local bodies, government agencies, religious groups and other organizations interested in wildlife conservation.
3. Organize public awareness programs to highlight the need to prevent forest fire.
4. Continue public outreach programs like lectures and community interactions to create an independent and informal information network both inside and outside the park to gather information on activities prejudicial to wildlife conservation and share the information generated with the state's law enforcement agencies through constant liaison and meetings.
5. Support park's wildlife protection efforts by providing benefits such as uniforms, insurance cover to field protection staff as well as by providing incentives and rewards to staff carrying out exemplary work.