



GLOBAL TIGER PATROL

www.globaltigerpatrol.org

Newsletter

2009 REPORT



Twenty years ago, in March 1989, Global Tiger Patrol was first registered with the Charity Commission and began its work. Our founder, Peter Lawton, has written a piece about those early GTP times to fill in some background for those of you who are unaware of our beginnings. Our thanks go to Peter for his vision at that time and his energy in founding this unique charity.

Sunday 14 February 2010 sees the beginning of the Chinese 'Year of the Tiger'. The year coincides with GTP's 21st birthday. Therefore we are planning a number of celebratory events throughout the year.

2008 was a busy year. On the international front the International Tiger Coalition, of which GTP is a member, has been lobbying for China not open its domestic tiger farms for trade. We wrote about this in the newsletter last year. The pressure on the Chinese government from the private tiger farm owners is immense. It is therefore imperative that international pressure remains firmly on the Chinese government, from all angles, that relaxing their rules is not an option and would sound the death knell for wild tigers.

My main sadness of the last 12 months has to be the disappearance of Panna's tigers. In the June 2008 issue of the

wildlife periodical Sanctuary Asia, Dr. Raghu Chundawat and Joanna Van Gruisen pointed out that their research had shown that approximately 80 per cent of Panna's breeding tigress population had disappeared and that they feared the creation of a 'bachelor's park'. Until a few years ago, there were estimated to be over 40 tigers in Panna.

Controversially, disregarding the rules of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (formerly Project Tiger), which prohibits the removal of adult and breeding tigers from core areas of parks, two breeding tigresses were relocated to Panna from the core areas of Kanha and Bandhavgarh National Park. At Kanha, locals, including villagers, tourist guides and taxi drivers went on strike to protest about the move of the tigress to Panna. They questioned the wisdom of moving a tigress to Panna when all Panna's resident tigers had been poached. Can Kanha National Park itself afford to lose a breeding tigress, when this park itself now appears to be the worst affected in terms of recent tiger deaths?

The situation was so grave that in March 2009, eight prominent tiger conservationists including Dr Ullas Karanth, Valmik Thapar, Dr Raghu Chundawat, Fateh Singh Rathore, P K Sen, Belinda Wright and others issued a Tiger Alert, urging the Prime Minister to carry out a high level inquiry into the

disappearance of the Panna tigers. They expressed distress over the translocation carried out by the Madhya Pradesh authorities. "We are deeply concerned," the statement says, "that there has been absolutely no evidence of any tigers in Panna Tiger Reserve for over a month. The last lone male tiger was sighted in December 2008. If the safety of this single male tiger cannot be secured, then what is the future for any introduced tigresses?"

The demise of Panna's tigers personally fills me with particular sadness. Some of my best tiger sightings have taken place there - privileged moments that these beautiful creatures chose to share with me and others. We must continue to pursue our joint ambition of keeping the wild tiger just that, in the wild.

I am delighted to leave the Chairmanship of GTP in Jonathan Hodrien's capable hands and will give him all the support to help GTP with its mission to conserve the tiger in its natural habitat. There are some very exciting plans afoot, in which I hope you will be able to get involved. The GTP head office has returned to Surrey, where GTP was conceived, which seems appropriate as the charity moves into its third decade.

Amanda Bright

Chair of Trustees, 1995 - 2009

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Projects Funded

Since our last newsletter a number of diverse projects have been supported, an idea of which follows:



Field Research Station, Bhadra, Karnataka

The Malenad-Mysore Tiger Landscape (MRTL) within the Karnataka part of the Western Ghats harbour important protected tiger reserves that have long-term potential to support breeding tiger populations.

These reserves constitute one of the largest populations of wild tigers in India. A network of fourteen protected wildlife reserves including Bhadra Tiger Reserve is within this matrix of interconnected reserve forests. These reserves are currently under severe short-term proximate threats from illegal hunting and logging, over-harvest of non timber forest products, human induced fires and excessive livestock grazing, all of which are linked in some manner to the presence of several human settlements as enclaves within the reserves. Additionally, developmental activities such as dams, mines and activities that aim to provide social services to the enclaves in the form of roads, power lines, communications etc. pose serious long-term threats of habitat fragmentation and increased exploitation of tiger habitat.

One of the most critical needs in the Malenad-Mysore Tiger Conservation Landscape is to carry out biological monitoring of tiger and prey populations

and evaluate the efficacy of conservation interventions. Periodic monitoring of wildlife populations is an essential step in wildlife conservation as it allows for an objective assessment of the health of the ecosystem, and serves as the most robust indicator of the efficacy of the conservation interventions on the ground. In 2008 Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS) initiated a 10-year long project titled "Metapopulation dynamics of tigers in the Malenad-Mysore landscape of Karnataka" with permissions from National Tiger Conservation Authority, Government of India and Karnataka Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and other national and international donors are funding this project. To facilitate this new model of conservation action and monitoring, CWS aims to establish a chain of field research stations for habitat monitoring, ecological studies on focal species, conservation education and awareness at critical locations along the landscape. The Field Research Station near Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary is the first among such stations. It houses researchers, educators/instructors, trainees and students in both wildlife biology and conservation by providing simple accommodation and resource facilities to run field workshops, audiovisual shows, nature camps and technical training sessions. Trainees and researchers use the neighbouring landscape to learn and practice the field methods and concepts imparted during training.

A lack of understanding of the value of the tiger reserves among most local people and their consequent hostility towards reserve protection and law enforcement have been identified as major problems, in tiger conservation. The success of tiger conservation lies in increasing public support for the effective enforcement of wildlife protection laws and enhancing the awareness of tiger conservation values in the local communities around the project sites through conservation education programmes. The activities include conducting slide talks, field nature camp and public contact campaigns. Mainly youth, students and teachers are targeted under this programme to make them aware of tiger conservation needs, protection of forest and wildlife, and also to spread awareness. The enthusiastic participation of local community and continuous efforts will result in increased public support for tiger conservation.

One of CWS's main goals is to build local capacity to save tigers. This is carried out through training of wildlife biologists, park management personnel, and non-governmental volunteer conservationists. The researchers are trained in population estimation and sampling methods, park managers on mapping and monitoring of population and distribution of species of interest, and the volunteers in simple population monitoring techniques. Their programmes on training volunteers and forest department staff have been successful in the past. They hope that with volunteers who can do field surveys and generate reliable data, combined with the efforts of organisations like theirs, the forest department and other volunteering individuals and organisations, will ensure a safe future for tigers in India.

GTP has covered the one time start up costs of establishing basic amenities and equipment to make this first field station at Bhadra fully functional.

Education and Awareness around Kudremukh National Park

The funding of a project to generate education and awareness in communities around the Kudremukh National Park, to reduce hostility towards wildlife conservation action and to build public support for the Park, has been taken on by Isle of Wight Zoo. The project works towards establishing an independent information network to support the state's wildlife protection efforts. It also works to reduce human-wildlife conflicts through voluntary resettlement.

Some of the activities carried out are:

- Education programmes for students and youth through nature camps, slide talks, and field trips.
- Education programmes for teachers and communities around tiger reserves.
- The education of local bodies, government agencies, religious groups, and other organisations interested in wildlife conservation.

- Training of volunteers/teachers to broaden conservation activities through additional field visits and contact programmes.
- The use of public outreach programmes, such as lectures and community interactions, to create an independent, informal information network inside and outside the park to gather information on activities prejudicial to wildlife conservation.
- Sharing information gathered with the state's law enforcement agencies through constant liaison and meetings.
- Identification of small family clusters living in ecologically important locations of the national park.
- Motivation of the families to voluntarily resettle outside the national park for better access to basic amenities and also to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

This project builds on the solid foundation of experience that shows that localised tiger conservation efforts, spearheaded by motivated individuals, are frequently much more successful in mobilising ground-level changes while being considerably less expensive to undertake. Further, these efforts also focus directly on broadening the local support base for tiger conservation within the community.

Ranthambhore National Park

When the dreadful news was first reported that Sariska Tiger Reserve had lost all its tigers, protection measures at Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve were stepped up as it was felt that Ranthambhore might be the next reserve to be targeted.

The increased vigilance of the forest staff has paid off. Tiger numbers in Ranthambhore have increased and some exceptional sightings of tigresses and their cubs have been reported.

GTP was asked to provide an award to all the forest staff. Two hundred copies of "Ranthambhore – 10 days in the tiger fortress" by Valmik Thapar were presented, in a ceremony at Jogi Mahal, to the forest staff to show how much their dedication is appreciated.

The book contains more than 200 colour photographs. They were received by the forest staff with great interest and gratitude.

Travel Assistance for Conference

GTP has been a long-term supporter of science based conservation work in India.

In July 2008, an important international statistical ecology conference was held at the University of St. Andrews, where cutting edge wildlife science ideas are presented. It offers a great opportunity for people to interact with some of the best brains in the business.

Two papers from India, based on innovations in monitoring prey species, were presented. GTP gave a small donation towards the travel expenses for three participants from Bangalore.

Save the Tiger Save the Sunderbans

Those of you who are not on GTP's email list and who have not visited the GTP website over recent months will probably not be aware that Cyclone Aila wreaked havoc in the Sunderbans in West Bengal, whilst most of us were enjoying our Whitsun bank holiday Monday in May.

Reports in the Indian press highlighted water flowing at least six metres above normal, a dozen drowned tigers, their prey and livestock. Even crocodiles were swept away. One female tiger took shelter at Jamespur (the village adjacent to Project Lifeline Sunderbans' HQ) on the evening Cyclone Aila hit. The forest department was able to tranquilise her and released her deep into the forest, the following day.

GTP received a plea for help from Project Lifeline Sunderbans, with whom we have worked over a number of years. Mrinal

Chatterjee found it almost impossible to explain the devastation. Their camp was submerged in salt water, even though it is the highest point in the area. There was no fresh water at all, as all the sweet (fresh) water ponds were contaminated with salt water. Mrinal Chatterjee said, "I strongly feel that this 'Aila' has caused severe damage to the wildlife, especially in the further down islands, considering the level of water-rise and wind speed on 'Aila' day."

GTP responded with an immediate tranche of funds and then set up an appeal. Thanks to those who responded. GTP was able to send two further sums. Mrinal Chatterjee from Project Lifeline Sunderbans said, "The GTP boat MV Bholanath was of tremendous service for the Satjelia and nearby islanders for getting safe drinking water round the clock for almost three months and everybody including the Govt. officials

appreciated it." As a result of this continued usage, the GTP boat (and another small one used) have suffered and require immediate repairs.

The small hut used for evening school and hostel, for the children of tiger and crocodile attacks, was under water for 36 hours, has been crippled beyond repair with all the furniture, beds and bedding, field camp water supply, pump and generator were all damaged. All these need to be replaced. The field camp fresh water ponds have become unusable. These were the prime source of water for the villagers and require immediate repairs to capture and store rain water.

To prevent conflict, villagers' fresh water supplies are usually fenced or netted to prevent wildlife wandering into the villages. The wildlife's fresh water ponds also need to be repaired. Only a few of the 23 inside the forest have been desalinated, which has resulted in a significant increase in tigers straying into the human inhabited islands.

GTP has received a recent request for further funds to help to build up the basic infrastructure, which has been crippled beyond repair in the area: £2,000 for boat repairs, £1,500 to refurbish the school and hostel hut, repairs to the generator and pump, £1,500 for renovation of the fresh water ponds for both villagers and wildlife.

All donations for Global Tiger's work, in the Sunderbans and elsewhere in India, should be made payable to 'Global Tiger Patrol'. Alternatively visit www.globaltigerpatrol.org and make a donation by PayPal.



Islanders queue for fresh water supplies brought by the GTP funded boat

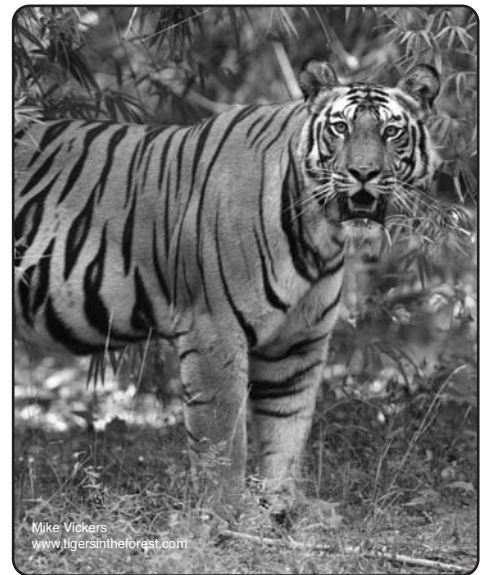
Call to MPs

Thank you to those we were able to reach via email, who supported the initiative GTP shared with the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), calling upon our UK residents to urge their MPs to help shut down tiger farms in China, which was timed to highlight the situation, in advance of the EU-China Summit in December. Commercial interests in China are campaigning for the opening of domestic trade in farmed tigers – a move which would spell disaster for the world's remaining wild tigers.

Around 100 MPs signed the Early Day Motion (no 2495), first put down on 12 November 2008, which was a pretty good result and we hope you all received satisfactory responses from your respective MPs.

Amanda Bright and Gail McGuffie, from Global Tiger Patrol, Alasdair Cameron and Debbie Banks from EIA met with the Rt. Hon. Elliot Morley MP at Portcullis House in Westminster and were joined by Professor Bo-Ying Ma, President of the Federation of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the UK, who said: "We give strong support to the protection of tigers, by not importing, not selling, and not utilising any tiger products. We oppose any trading to sell any tiger parts using the excuse of Chinese medicine. Products of tiger parts are not indispensable for Chinese medicine. There are many herbs that could be used to substitute tiger bone."

"Only some black-market traders still make reckless moves to sell the parts of tigers for their illegal self-interest. We strongly condemn such trading."



BRITISH AIRWAYS



helps
tigers

British Airways generously donated four tickets to GTP to support our conservation activities. The tickets meant that our trustees have been able to organise and participate in events in India that otherwise would have been impossible to attend. British Airways have an active programme of supporting wildlife conservation and we are particularly grateful to Keren Lovett and Mary Brew for their help.

British Airways Community Investment department currently supports more than 100 community and conservation programmes which work around the world across the British Airways route network. These organisations receive an allocation of complimentary flights and excess baggage waiver. To learn more about the work of the British Airways Community Investment department please see www.ba.com/communityrelations.



Thursday 13 November 2008, Portcullis House, Westminster, London

Left to right: Amanda Bright (GTP), Professor Bo-Ying Ma (Federation of Traditional Chinese Medicine UK), the Rt Hon Elliot Morley MP holding a tiger skin coat seized in Camden, London (kindly loaned by the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit), Alasdair Cameron (EIA), Debbie Banks (EIA)



20 Years of Global Tiger Patrol

by founder Peter Lawton



GTP's founder Peter Lawton in India



Mike Vickers
www.tigersintheforest.com



The tiger is undoubtedly one of the most dramatic creations of nature with a powerful universal appeal that is matched by few other species. Seeing this magnificent cat in the wild evokes intense awe in the beholder, according to first hand experience from our 20th Anniversary contributor, GTP founder Peter Lawton.

"I count myself one of the lucky few that have been so close to a wild tiger that I could smell her breath". In 1989, Peter

suffered a severe hand injury as a direct result of saving a tigress and cubs from being hit by an irresponsibly driven vehicle. He is convinced that after recovering and returning to the same sanctuary, the same tigress approached within one metre of him and as he says 'winked at me - a personal salutation for saving her cubs, perhaps'. Sadly, the very same animal was slaughtered four years later by callous poachers.

In late 1986 I noted in my diary a profound sense of déjà-vu, after a brief

visit to India and meeting up with old wildlife friends and conservationists. It was 13 years since I had heard that the tiger was suffering slaughter from trophy hunters, after its beautiful skin. With financial support harnessed from friends, and sponsorship by Air India, we raised a substantial amount of money for those days - around £40,000, which we donated to WWF for India's tiger conservation programme. That was 1973 – the year that Project Tiger was launched at Corbett National Park.

In 1987, after pleas for help from Valmik Thapar in India, I established GTP. We originally registered it as the Ranthambhore Trust, after the National Park in Rajasthan where we had learned tiger field craft from guru teacher Fateh Singh Rathore – then the charismatic field director.

The idea we discussed was to engage in 'people centred' conservation, a unique approach - the main thrust of our effort was to promote, expand and empower the stewardship roles of local, traditional communities. Wildlife authorities were just beginning to support this dynamic, while understanding the need to improve national park management and staff training, conditions of service and legal enforcement to ensure safe protection of endangered species inside demarcated reserves. However, the difference here was to protect the demarcated reserves from the outside, which an NGO initiative could do without permission.

Ranthambhore has been a long haul, and perhaps its success today, whilst constantly fragile, owes something to the efforts of the twin organisations – our (GTP) trust and that of the Indian counterpart – The Ranthambhore Foundation. Our work included reforestation in buffer zones, traditional handicraft development, alternative energy in villages, improving livestock breeds and feeding traditions, a dairy cooperative, rural health care and other village based initiatives.

The survival of the tiger in 2009 is a matter of international concern since the species is threatened throughout the entire range, from India to the Russian Far East. In some places the tiger is critically endangered and we may only see it survive in small and isolated pockets of its once vast range. There were eight subspecies of the tiger at the beginning of this century, now there are only five remaining. India probably had, and still has the largest remaining population which some estimate to have dwindled to less than 1400.

As a keystone species, and being at the apex of the food chain, the tiger, like other large predators, is an indication of the health and well-being of the forests and jungles and is also a potent symbol of global bio-diversity. When the tiger is alive so are his forests and the countless organisms that eke out a living under the same umbrella.

There are two basic threats that are impacting upon the very survival of the tiger in the wild: poaching and the loss of habitat.

Incessant poaching to feed an illegal, yet vast demand in the derivatives of the tiger across South East Asian countries resulted in a sharp increase in the poaching of tigers for bones across India since the clarion calls that alerted us all. Tiger plasters, tiger bone wines and other products are sold for their apparent medicinal value and this criminal yet lucrative market in tiger derivatives has expanded in recent years across the world. The illegal trade in the tiger's derivatives is today the most serious and urgent threat to the tiger's very existence – the fact that scientific evidence refutes any 'magical' powers is irrelevant. They are still slaughtered in the spurious belief.

The habitat of the tiger is under great pressure. Human needs in essence. Roads, railways - massive development projects such as large scale mining, thermal power plants, hydroelectric dams and a diverse array of other activities involving the destruction of thousands of hectares of forests and hundreds of thousands of trees every year.

Yet, it is the very habitat of the tiger that keeps alive a natural rhythm for humankind. These habitats are vital water catchment areas; they recharge the underground water table, increase agricultural productivity and prevent soil erosion. The tiger domains are repositories of India's wealth of bio-diversity and survival for millions on the surrounding plains and below.

If the extinction of the tiger is to be averted, then it will require political will combined with sound habitat and wildlife management, and improved financial management and support. Conservation and protection strategies will not work in isolation. Realistic benefits for forest guards and involvement of the local forest dwelling communities have become urgent needs. Rapid action that combines these concerns will help to counter the threat to the tiger.

When I visited the Russian Far East I met with elders of the indigenous Udege people, who believe the tiger is their protector, safeguarding them against bears. Although they derive their living from the forest by

hunting and trapping, the Udege would never harm a tiger, and nearly all aspects of their lives - customs, artefacts, costumes, even songs - are filled with tributes to the great striped animal with which they have always shared their forest.

For the last twenty years, Global Tiger Patrol has acted in a catalytic role for new approaches in tiger conservation. With seed finance, we have mobilised many a new wave of wildlife conservation organisations, particularly on Indian soil.

GTP has partnered the funding of scientific effort, research and a wide range of field studies to give the conservationists greater knowledge of the world's largest cat – and its habitat. It has helped state governments, by providing resources when bureaucracy took too long to help them, and has participated in the empowerment of the courageous forest guards, and local communities.

GTP has worked in around ten of India's states, and more than fifteen national parks, sanctuaries and project tiger reserves. Continued support from a nucleus of generous donors can only help this effort to continue. Support from all of GTP's constituents will provide this organisation with the encouragement it needs to further its aims and objectives - to save the tiger and its habitat.

Please Note GTP's New Address:

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(Administered by the Ranthambhore Trust, registered charity no 328126)

Festival of Carnivores with Ruth Padel on the Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight Zoo has become well known thanks to the television programme 'Tiger Island'.

As a result, the Zoo's tigers are celebrities in their own right and families flock to see particular individuals who have made an impact on them through the programmes. Every July, the Zoo holds a festival. If you find yourself on the Isle of Wight at the end of July, or at any time in season, then do visit this unique zoo, with its enclosures modelled on the habitat of various Indian Tiger Reserves.

This summer, three GTP trustees visited the Isle of Wight Zoo during its Festival of Carnivores, to update members of the public on the Kudremukh National

TIGER HAIKU

by Ruth Padel and Rajiv

The trees are breathless.

A sapling stirs in the mist.

Is the tiger here?

*They have built a road
through the dark forest. Twilight.
The poachers drive in.*

*Dusk in the forest.
Gunshots, far away. Where are
the tigers we knew?*

*A bauxite mine. Trees
are cut down. The clear river
running with poison.*

*Where is he? A scratch
on a tree - and fresh pugmarks.
Lord of the Forest!*

Park project being supported by the Zoo (see page 3). Accompanied by Ruth Padel, they also witnessed the poet writing a haiku with one of the Zoo's resident tigers, Rajiv!

Ruth Padel is the great, great granddaughter of Charles Darwin, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and author of 'Tigers in Red Weather', published by Little Brown. Haiku is a Japanese poetic form, in which each verse has three lines. The first and third lines have five syllables and the middle line has seven.

Ruth wrote the haiku with four alternative endings, each of which was represented by a different 'treat'. The four treats were presented simultaneously to Rajiv and the one he chose determined the end of the poem. The theme of the finished literary masterpiece is the issues faced by wild tigers living in threatened forests in India.



The Vanishing **Indian Tiger**

WANTED ALIVE

In October 2008, Valmik Thapar generously gave an illustrated talk whilst on a day's visit to London, in aid of GTP, entitled 'WANTED ALIVE: The Vanishing Indian Tiger'.

Prior to the talk he was in demand with the press, managing to fit in a couple of interviews with BBC World Service and The Guardian. The evening was very well attended by wild tiger supporters, who included Felicity Kendall, Geraldine James and Tessa Dahl, who was visiting from the USA.

Naturalist and conservationist, Hashim Tyabji was also present, signing copies of his book 'Tigers', co-authored with cameraman Michael W. Richards and published by New Holland. 'Tigers' is illustrated with superb photographs taken from the BBC's 'Tiger – Spy in the Jungle' television series. New Holland kindly gave GTP a special price, so that all the books sold included a sizeable donation.

The fundraising evening was kindly sponsored by Explore, Steppes Travel/Discovery Initiatives and TransIndus



Mike Vickers
www.tigerfundraising.com

Concerts For Tigers

Classical pianist and avid tiger supporter, Meher Toorkey, very kindly organised two wonderful concerts in north London, with an evening of Mozart at the end of last year and works by Mozart, Haydn and Schubert held this spring.

Both were very well attended and resulted in fantastic donations to Global Tiger Patrol.

We are so grateful to Meher for her unstinting support of our work, to Patrick Noronha, who conducted on both occasions, singers Gabriela di Laccio and Anando Mukerjee, the Tigris Players and the Brunelleschi Quartet, as well as all the other volunteers, who made the evenings such a success for both the audience and tigers in the wild.



Meher Toorkey and Amanda Bright

Forthcoming Events

The Esher Hall Antiques and Fine Art Fair

Friday 9
to
Sunday 11
October
2009

Esher Hall,
Sandown Park
Racecourse,
Esher,
Surrey KT10 9AJ



'Tiger Tiger' by Peter Malone (b. 1955), watercolour on paper. Front cover illustration for an Orion project, 2004, £1,250 from Books Illustrated at The Esher Hall Antiques and Fine Art Fair.

For those interested in collecting art and antiques, for a gift for someone special or for a fabulous piece for the home, The Esher Hall Antiques and Fine Art Fair is not to be missed. Taking place at Esher Hall, Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey KT10 9AJ it is within easy reach of the M25 and M3, has ample free parking and a crèche on Saturday and Sunday for children up to 8 years.

Global Tiger Patrol is very grateful to organisers, The Antiques Dealers Fair Limited, for nominating GTP as the fair's charity again this year and for donating the stand space. GTP's stand is being manned by various trustees and volunteers.

This boutique-style antiques fair was hailed as a great success on its debut visit to Esher Hall back in April 2008 and October's show promises to be every bit as appealing. The timing of the fair coincides with people seeking to put their savings and investments into tangible assets to enjoy, rather than leave them to the uncertainty of the more traditional investments. As Global Tiger Patrol is involved, a number of dealers are bringing sculpture, book illustrations, fine prints, oil and watercolour paintings depicting wildlife
www.esherhallfair.com

BE VIGILANT

If you notice endangered species products for sale or if you know of anybody involved in crimes against wildlife, please ring:

The Metropolitan Police's Wildlife Crime Unit on **020 7230 8898**

or Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

Mike Vickers
www.tigersintheforest.com



**32 Bruton
Place, London
W1J 6NW**

Rose Corcoran's magnificent and often almost life-size illustrations of tigers, gorillas and other wildlife will be for sale at a special exhibition of her latest work at Sladmore Contemporary in London in the run up to Christmas.

Priced between £500 and £12,000, there will be a selection of charcoal and mixed media illustrations for sale.

Rose is generously donating a percentage of the sales to Global Tiger Patrol. Enquiries to Sladmore Contemporary: Email - peggy@sladmore.com or telephone +44 (0)20 7499 0365.

Rose Corcoran's Exhibition at Sladmore Contemporary

**Wednesday 25 November to
Thursday 24 December 2009**

BIG 2010 PLANS FOR GTP'S 21ST ANNIVERSARY YEAR IN THE YEAR OF THE TIGER

2010 is Global Tiger Patrol's 21st Anniversary, which coincides with the Chinese Year of the Tiger commencing on Valentine's Day (14

February) 2010. There are big plans afoot for a 21st Birthday celebratory dinner in March 2010. Sir Ian Botham has kindly agreed to be patron for the evening.

Other plans include an exhibition at the Haslemere Museum in February 2010, a sporting event in the summer and an art exhibition later in the year.

DON'T MISS OUT. Please let us have your email address so that we can keep you informed.

RAISE FUNDS FOR GTP IN THE YEAR OF THE TIGER



Can you think of a way to raise funds for GTP in 2010?

Young Tiger Brewer seems passionate about his namesake and has pledged to raise money for GTP each year. Last year, he swam 112 lengths and raised over £700 for tigers in the wild.

Sushobhan Zanane completed the Bath Half Marathon 2009 in 2 hours and 12 minutes raising funds from work colleagues and friends for Global Tiger Patrol's work.

You don't have to be as sporty as Sushobhan and Tiger. Why not ask your friends for a coffee morning and ask them to make a donation towards biscuits and cakes? You could even do this at the office.

Save the environment by sending a Christmas email to all your friends and colleagues and donate the funds you might have spent on purchasing the cards or the postage costs.

At least your message should get through and not sit in the Post Office's mountain of undelivered mail!

traveloperatorsfor tigers

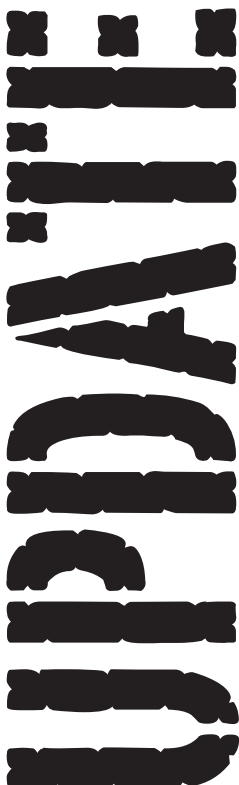
Action on responsible use of wild habitats



by Julian Matthews

Another Travel Operators For Tigers (TOFT) season has passed and I am delighted to say that a host of activities and projects has been carried out, involving all parts of the TOFT membership.

Starting with our most recent event, TOFT successfully launched the TOFT Wildlife Tourism Awards on 24 April 2009, at a reception at the residency of the British High Commissioner in Delhi, with the kind permission of Sir Richard and Lady Arabella Stagg. These are the first of their kind in India to highlight and support best practices and initiatives happening across India between the wildlife tourism community and all the other parts of the conservation equation including park management and local communities. Seven initial categories of Awards will be given in April 2010 and details of these and application forms can be found on the TOFT website (www.toftigers.org).



Over 80 TOFT members, park officials and conservationists crowded into the front room of the Residency, and enjoyed the hospitality of the High Commissioner, they watched a short film on TOFT and the Awards, before we awarded two very special 'Lifetime Achievement Awards' to two very special individuals. These two 'celebrity' individuals have earned over their lives an estimated US\$130 million for the Indian economy over their lives (most of this within the local economy), have employed tens of thousands of people across a range of hotel, travel, transport and film industries; have been seen by hundreds of thousands of people and given pleasure and excitement to millions. They have done all this whilst having large families and whilst preserving their environment!

The two individuals who received the Awards were Machali, the famous female tigress, whose range is in the scenic lake area of Ranthambhore and B2, the well known male, who has sired 35 cubs, 90% to adulthood in the tourism zone of Bandhavgarh. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve Field Director, Mr Shafaat Husain and Dr Gopa Pandey from the Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Board accepted the award on their behalf on the evening, which generated a lot of press and TV interest, including Star News and CNN-ITN. In February this year, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) together with the Chair of the Tiger Task Force, Ms Sunita Narain, called TOFT to a meeting to discuss the Ecotourism Guidelines laid out in the Task Force's recommendations. I flew back from Madhya Pradesh and, with other key lodge owners and agents, put our views on the future of tourism within wildlife parks in India. The result has been to publish a list of TOFT recommended guidelines for enhancing the overall wildlife experience, negating poor practices and working more effectively with local communities surrounding the parks. See our website for details.

Without doubt the wildlife tourism community in India faces an uphill struggle to become recognised as a key stakeholder in the wildlife conservation equation, being seen both internally amongst the Forest Department, the media and amongst many conservationists as an 'enemy' of conservation. The reality today is that wildlife tourism is one of the key reasons why tigers still exist in protected areas. Wildlife tourism provides the economic imperative, motivation and accountability to save them and help pay for their protection. The old maxim – "If it pays: it stays" - is as applicable in India as it is in Africa!

TOFT's work to try and upgrade the tourism fraternity and integrate them more effectively with communities and park management continues as before. Abhishek Behl, TOFT's India based director, has spent several months in the six parks that continue to be TOFT's main focus, carrying out lodge and resort PUG audits. He has also been asked to do a large number of upgrade audits, proving that the owners and managers are keen to improve their ecological footprints and gain PUG ranking – exactly what TOFT set out to do when we started. Details of all new lodges being audited, their ranking and upgrades can be found on the TOFT website.

This season TOFT helped catalyse a 'Children in the Park' programme on 18 April 2009, with four lodges in Kanha's Mukki area working together to take 42 children into the park. The Mukki side lodges agreed to effect a programme that aims to take a total of 12 schools with 1350 children from standards 6, 7 and 8, into the park, between October and the end of March 2010. A huge challenge that we hope other lodge communities will emulate.

To this end we set two further dates of the 13 May and 5 October, around Madhya Pradesh's Nature Week, when the other



Julian Matthews launches the TOFT Awards at the British High Commissioner's residency in Delhi

lodge communities in Kanha, Panna, Pench and Bandhavgarh will be involved in picking up village school children, specifically those who get the least benefits from tourism, to giving them a fun day in the park, a picnic and other activities like a painting competition.

Corbett has finally received its promised and much needed guidebook. This neat, highly visual, quality pocket guidebook has been produced by Sanctuary Asia, in association with TOFT, who have helped to highlight the best accommodation in the park, as well as the PUG ranking achieved. We still need to affect a perfect distribution method both in the park, across India and ideally abroad too, as in not only helps the park guard and park guide welfare funds, but aims to get tourists enjoying other parts of the region too. We are hoping more guides to other TOFT parks will be rolled out over the coming year or two too. You can order the Corbett guide through the TOFT website.

Corbett is also the test bed for the first TOFT Field Officer, Mr Neeraj Upadhyay, who joined in March, with the objective that he becomes the liaison between parks, tourism and local communities, helping to stimulate collective action and initiatives around the park, and being 'our man on the ground'. The Field Officer is paid for by TOFT's lodge members in Corbett - a model we aim to replicate across all 6 parks with which we work. The TOFT India Wildlife Association is

now in full swing with money beginning to come in from the destination management companies and agents within India. TOFT India aims to become the principle funder of projects and overseer of the field officers over the coming year, and will be advised by a recently appointed committee of representatives from the wildlife tourism industry.

The TOFT website is also being enhanced and an upgrade will be unveiled shortly that aims to provide a better marketing platform for lodges and other members, so that we can better effect the supply chain element of the campaign. Simply this means those businesses ranked highest in the PUG ratings and are the best supporters of TOFT's principles, will get the greatest website support and best enquiry levels.

We are delighted that HRH The Prince of Wales personally referred TOFT to the Cambridge Programme for Industry, one of The Prince's initiatives. We hope this may provide us with a useful network platform and greater influence to effect change in the years ahead.

In October last year TOFT was joint sponsor and participant in a high profile event entitled 'Last and Final Call for the Bengal Tiger', a two day gathering in Delhi, comprising politicians, conservationists, NGOs, scientists, forest officers, GTP trustees and TOFT tourism members who discussed and debated the

way forward for tigers, organised by Sanctuary Asia, and also supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society. It sent seven key recommendations to the Prime Minister, to act on, as a matter of urgency. We have had no response!

TOFT's role is a difficult one. Increasingly TOFT is being asked to take up investigations of illegal practices and law breaking within parks, yet we have absolutely no authority, powers or remit to do this as an organisation. We can and will only act after the authorities have made a decision and after the court of law has concluded a verdict for an offence related to any of our members.

There is no doubt we are in tougher economic times. This past season has shown the first signs of this for most of us in the travel industry, with slowing demand and some oversupply for the first time. India was troubled by the horrific Mumbai attack at the start of the season which definitely affected the international community, foreign business and leisure travellers visiting India, but the domestic wildlife tourism industry continues to grow well and expand. The lodges have all been working with this market to make up the gap in demand.

Finally I had a most enlightening 3 months in India myself, having stepped back from day to day management of my own nature travel business, and spent it all in the unknown and remaining forests of Madhya Pradesh, Utterakhand and Assam. It not only reinforced my belief that responsible tourism is critical to saving habitat, creating economic enterprise and providing alternative livelihoods, but also that India's wildlife and its once great wildernesses are in an unbelievably poor state of health, outside of a very few well known national parks. A combination of grazing, illegal hunting, poaching, regular fires and continuous encroachment has all but denuded most wildlife sanctuaries, reserve forests and corridors, and it's only a monumental government effort, wholesale root and branch change to the Ministry of Forests and the Environment and greater public/private partnership and cooperation that can save what will otherwise be barely sustainable 'pocket' wildlife parks, within which a few tigers remain for our children to see wild(ish) tigers!

We must do everything in our powers to avoid this situation – and FAST!

Working with other Organisations to **Benefit the Wild Tiger**

International Tiger Coalition

Global Tiger Patrol is a member of the International Tiger Coalition, an alliance of 40 organisations across the globe, united under the common aim of stopping trade in tiger parts and products from all sources.

This unprecedented coalition, made up of environmental, zoo and animal protection organisations as well as the traditional Chinese medicine community, speaks with one voice in calling for an end to trade in tiger parts and products through increased intelligence-led law enforcement and strengthening existing tiger-trade bans. Furthermore, the coalition has joined leaders of the international traditional Chinese medicine industry in asking China to make its successful 14-year tiger-trade ban permanent.

The aim of the coalition is to coordinate research, communications and awareness-raising efforts in order to provide a well thought out and strong response to the organised crime that sustains illegal tiger trade and endangers all wild tigers.



Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT)

Travel Operators for Tigers is a campaign set up in 2004 by a number of concerned Indian focused Travel Operators in the UK who believes there is a need for change in the way that nature and wildlife tourism is developing in India.

Working with Global Tiger Patrol, the idea is that all those involved in 'tiger tourism', including tour operators, accommodation providers, local services, park management and of course visitors, will join together to attempt to halt the demise of the tiger. Through collective action and adherence to the code of conduct, the campaign aims to make wildlife tourism in India more responsible and more sustainable.

If you are planning to visit tigers in India, please can we request that you book your trip and accommodation with TOFT members. See the website for details at www.toftigers.org



21st Century Tiger

21st Century Tiger, Global Tiger Patrol's wild tiger conservation partnership with the Zoological Society of London, continues apace, having funded some 80 projects in Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia, Thailand, since its inception in 1997.

Most recent projects funded include an exciting project, run by WCS-Russia, to fit Amur tigers with GPS radio collars. Not only will this improve data collection, but reduce the time and effort required to retrieve it, as the researchers will get daily emails from the collared tigers, detailing individual movement and locations visited. This project is also using camera-trapping to survey Amur tiger populations, a successful technique used extensively by WCS in India.

In Kerinci Seblat National Park on the island of Sumatra, Flora & Fauna International's anti-poaching teams recorded 29 separate encounters with Sumatran tigers. In the first 4 months of 2009, 22 men were arrested, including a notorious loan shark and long-suspected tiger dealer, as a result of routine patrols or joint actions with national park rangers. With recent funding for the coming months, they will seek to intensify investigations.



If you would like to hear about Global Tiger Patrol's 21st Anniversary events

in 2010, which include a 21st birthday celebration in March and an art exhibition later in the year, please email your address and contact details to

admin@globaltigerpatrol.org

so that we can add you to the GTP database.

Please rest assured, you will not be bombarded with emails requesting funding, nor will your details be passed to any third party.

Email is a very cost effective way for us to update you on news and forthcoming events, saving on postage and paper, thereby ensuring more funds can be spent on the important work to conserve the tiger in its natural habitat.



Free & Easy Ways to Help Raise Funds for Tigers

www.everyclick.com

Calling all internet users. Have you set up Everyclick as your home page for surfing the net?

www.everyclick.com is an internet search engine with a big difference – it donates half its revenue to charity. It won't cost you a penny, but the more people who use this when searching for travel tickets, research for homework and theses, online shopping, reading newspaper articles etc, the more money is donated to charity.

Check out

www.everyclick.com/globaltigerpatrol
Simple to do, every time you search on the internet, you'll rack up the funds, which Everyclick then donates to GTP.

Energy Comparison Website - Switch2help

Whilst using Switch2help, the gas and electricity comparison website, to save you money, you could end up helping GTP at the same time.

Simply log on to www.switch2help.com and check out the options. If you decide to switch providers, Switch2help will donate £5 to a charity of your choice. We would be most grateful if you selected Global Tiger Patrol to be the beneficiary. You can carry out comparisons as often as you like. There is no obligation to switch and it is absolutely free.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer and occasionally donate to Global Tiger Patrol, please fill in the enclosed Gift Aid form, or email admin@globaltigerpatrol.org requesting that all your future donations are subject to Gift Aid. If you are a basic rate taxpayer a £10 donation is worth £12.82 to GTP.



Shere Khan' by Angel Dominguez from Books Illustrated at The Esher Hall Antiques and Fine Art Fair

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GTP's Amanda Bright Steps Down

by Jonathan Hodrien

After twelve years of dedicated hard work, Amanda Bright stood down as Chair of Global Tiger Patrol at the last AGM.

Her contribution to the Charity and its work in tiger conservation has been considerable and we are immensely grateful to her for the knowledge and drive that she brought to the role. We are delighted that she will be continuing as a trustee and that we can rely upon her support and experience.

In taking over as Chair I am very aware that 2010 the (Chinese) Year of the Tiger, will be a very important year for Global Tiger Patrol. We will be celebrating our 21st Anniversary and will use this milestone to promote awareness of the plight of the tiger in the wild. My main objectives are to ensure we raise money for the right projects, getting support to the people and communities who can influence the survival of the tiger in the wild.

Looking back Peter Lawton GTP's founder gives his thoughts on the Charity's history and successes. A series of fundraising events are planned for 2010 and we hope these will raise much needed funds for the projects we support. I hope we can rely upon your help.