

9th of September 2017

All for Nature Travel supports the Village Wildlife Guardian Scheme in India

Helping secure the long-term future of tigers and other endangered species in the wilds of India

The Indian subcontinent has one of the world's richest natural biodiversity, nestled from the mountains of the Himalayas to the swamps of the Sundabans. However it faces the demands of 1.4 billion people and the threat of extinction for thousands of its creatures and millions of acres of its remaining wild landscapes.

Although tiger numbers were up in India's last official Tiger Census in 2015, poaching and pressures from man remain very real threats to the long-term survival of numerous endangered species in the wild – especially the Bengal tiger, now thought to number close to 2400 in India today.

To address this at a local level, where it counts, All for Nature Travel, under the TOFTigers charity www.toftigers.org, is funding a growing network of Village Wildlife Guardians working with wildlife action charity, Tigerwatch, and the Field Directors and staff at Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan and now between Kanha and Pench Tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh.

Trained village guardians (called VWV's or volunteers), chosen from villages prone to wildlife conflicts bordering these reserves, some of the world's most important tiger habitats, now keep their eyes and ears primed for wildlife and illegal activities in and around their villages and homes. Most of them are farmers or tractor drivers or other rural occupations, working part time for wildlife.



Two of Tigerwatch's village wildlife watchers set up a camera trap to record wildlife movements on the borders of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. © Aditya Singh/Tigerwatch



This is providing a proactive deterrent for poachers, illegal wood choppers and the bushmeat trade, as well as valuable research on tiger and other wildlife movements to help avoid conflict with humans and support conservation efforts. It's a powerful protection force that is having an immediate and positive effect on the areas it covers.



A tiger and poacher with rifle cross the same camera trap separated by an hour and a half. ©Tigerwatch

Over the past year, the results have been astonishing. 40 Poaching cases uncovered, 17 tigers movements monitored across huge areas of landscape outside the reserve, dens protected, wildlife preserved, illegal mining and wood chopping stopped and 257 village wildlife conflicts resolved to make their homes safer and secure wildlife's homes. Read the latest report about these wildlife heroes [here](#).

In fact it's been such a success, the Field Director want far more guardians and therefore we thank All for Nature Travel for its support.

Julian Matthews,

TOFTigers
Sustaining the wild

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