

## MILESTONES

### Pioneering Themes

1. Pioneered the concept of private land purchase and securement as a model for conserving endangered habitat by working on elephant corridors as a test case. Along with the Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Centre (AERCC), Project Elephant and concerned elephant-bearing states of India worked out the most important corridors for elephant movement and drew a green-print to secure them. Purchased the first ever Asian elephant corridor and handed it over to a protected area.
2. Pioneered systematic wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife health monitoring as tools for conservation in India. Built the first two super-speciality centres for wildlife rehabilitation in India: the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) in Assam and Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC) in Arunachal Pradesh and started operating six Mobile Veterinary Services all over India that have since inception saved around 500 individual animal lives, vaccinated over 12,000 cattle, attended to 1,000 captive elephants and provided them with health support at the protected areas near where they are located. As a result, protocols for the rehabilitation of eight species of endangered wildlife have been formulated and field-tested, and at least 130 vets given hands-on exposure to wildlife veterinary science and rehabilitation, creating a new cadre of "green vets" in the country.
3. Built on founder-Trustees Ashok Kumar and Vivek Menon's work to build a network of wildlife enforcers and litigators in the fight against wildlife crime. This has led to more than 100 seizures of illicit contraband, busting of major trade gangs and networks, building up of two comprehensive national mortality databases on the elephant and rhino, training of more than 7,000 staff of 100 protected areas in Level 1 of anti-poaching training and insuring the lives of the nation's wildlife staff. This has, in turn, led to the creation of the first ever national database on wildlife protected area staff status.



*WTI's Mission is to conserve nature, especially endangered species and threatened habitats, in partnership with communities and governments*



*WTI's Vision:  
The Natural Heritage of  
India is Secure*



### Species and Habitat Conservation

1. Was instrumental in getting the Whale Shark put on CITES Appendix II, lobbied the government for inclusion in the Wildlife Protection Act (the first fish ever) and ran a landmark campaign in Gujarat to raise it to a conservation icon. The Whale shark Day and five cities adopting it as a city mascot are only symbols of the pride of Gujarat but the 31 Whale sharks freed by fishermen in whose nets they had got caught off the coast of Gujarat in only one year, speaks volumes for the success of the campaign.
2. Did the first ever comprehensive survey for the Markhor in Jammu and Kashmir, found that there were at least 350 of the species still present in Indian territory and assisted the Jammu and Kashmir government to declare a new national park- Kazinag National Park and expand a sanctuary, Hirpura Wildlife Sanctuary for its conservation.

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3. Was responsible for the lobbying and creation of two village reserves in the Garo Hills- Selbelgre and Arteka, 400 hectares of area which is today community-conserved for the Hoolock gibbon and the elephant.
4. Combined a very public fashion campaign against Shahtoosh with strategic legal, enforcement and policy work and a pioneering alternative livelihoods project for women spinners and weavers in Kashmir to give a new lease of life for the endangered Chiru. As a result, Shahtoosh is formally banned in Jammu and Kashmir, awareness levels amongst consumers is high and international attention has been drawn to this regional issue.
5. Brought back the rhino into Manas after years of poaching by putting back three orphaned calves after rehabilitation into the National Park.
6. Put eight Asian elephant calves by re-uniting them with wild herds within a few days of abandonment or capture, thereby strengthening the principle of rehabilitation.
7. In partnership with the Chhattisgarh Forest Department started a long-term project to save the highly endangered Central India wild buffalo of which (WTI research showed) there were only seven left in Udanti Sanctuary and none in three of four other protected areas where they were supposed to be found (Pamed, Bhairmgarh and Sitanadi). Is leading a holistic recovery plan for the remaining specimens through *ex-situ* and *in-situ* measures.
8. Established the presence of the endangered Phayre's leaf monkey from four new localities in the north east.
9. Entered Rajaji National Park in 2001 (passing trains had killed 11 elephants in 14 years) and launched a joint project with the Uttaranchal Forest Department and the Northern Railways to halt the killing of elephants in the park due to rail hits. Not a single elephant has been killed since then.
10. Fought and won public interest litigations that include stopping the draining of the largest breeding grounds of the Sarus crane for a land reclamation project in Etawah and Mainpuri of Uttar Pradesh and removing encroachments in Bannerghata, Wayanad, Corbett and Achanakmar protected areas.
11. Set in place, along with the Bihar Forest Department, a long term recovery plan for the tiger in a neglected and forgotten tiger reserve- Valmiki, in Bihar. Demonstrated through science that tigers were still present in viable numbers, through litigation that the staff who protect species must also be looked after, and through community work that there is hope in recovering even a highly beleaguered tiger habitat with ground level work.



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**12.** Showed innovative rapid action models of conservation including fibreglass hornbill beak alternatives for the Nyshi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh (four threatened hornbill species around Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal got some reprieve), circus safety-nets for wind-blown endangered (global population less than 1,000) Greater adjutant stork chicks (in one year nearly two dozen chicks were rescued and a larger project was spawned as a result), popularising fish oil alternatives for dolphin oil bait in the Ganges among others.

**13.** Exposed the illegal mongoose hair brush trade, lobbied and got the mongoose species protection under the Wildlife Protection Act and through an award-winning documentary and several school programmes, launched a campaign that reduced their use as children's paintbrushes.

**14.** With the blessing of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, launched a massive Tibetan Awareness Campaign in Indian Tibetan settlements upon hearing news of the wanton use of tiger and leopard skins in Tibet. Was part of an international outcry that made the overt use of endangered skins in Tibet vanish and laid the grounds for a basal change in the attitudes of the Tibetan community in India for the conservation of species.

**15.** Established the wild chiru and wild yak populations of Ladakh and showed that the endangered Ladakh urial was only half the previous enumerations as part of the Schaller Conservation Surveys.



### Setting a National and Global Pro-wildlife Agenda

**1.** WTI and its international partner, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) have played a consistent supportive role to the Indian government in its fight against re-opening the ivory trade at CITES. Since its inception, WTI has attended all Standing Committee meetings and Conference of Parties of CITES and Critical Animals Committee Meeting. As a result, from 1998 to 2007, no ivory was sanctioned to be traded internationally. In 2007 when a nine-year moratorium was won despite a concessional one-off sale in ivory.



**2.** WTI and IFAW have revived the Global Tiger Forum, the only inter-governmental forum on tigers, by sponsoring Cambodia to join the forum, seconding a technical officer into the secretariat and by bringing out the national action plans for tigers in a single volume. The forum has now become widely participatory and international interest in it has been revived.



**3.** WTI has been part of several state and national wildlife advisory boards and committees and has strengthened the government's pro-wildlife measures by contributing actively in all of them.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### **MK Ranjitsinh** Chairman

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr Ranjitsinh, an expert on Indian wildlife and natural history has authored many books, including *Beyond the Tiger: Portraits of Asian Wildlife*. Born in the princely house of Wankaner, Dr. Ranjitsinh joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1961, and held several environment-related jobs. As Forests and Tourism Secretary to Madhya Pradesh, he was responsible for the creation of 14 national parks and 11 sanctuaries. Later, he drafted the key Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, and served as India's first Director of Wildlife Preservation.

### **Ashok Kumar** Vice-Chairman

Mr Kumar has been at the forefront of the fight against poachers and illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife derivatives in India for over two decades. He was the first director of TRAFFIC INDIA (an organisation that studies wildlife trade), former Vice-President of the Wildlife Protection Society of India and has served as a consultant to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

### **Sujit Gupta** Vice Chairman

Mr Gupta has been associated with the TATA Group of Industries since 1962. His last assignment was as Resident Director representing the TATA Group. He is a graduate from the London School of Economics and brings with him a wealth of Management and organisational experience. He was on the Eastern Regional Committee of WWF-India (World Wide Fund for Nature - India).

### **Parimal C Bhattacharjee** Trustee

Dr Bhattacharjee is a respected academic and a Professor of Gauhati University. He is a member of several governmental and state committees on wildlife conservation. He is also an erstwhile state level cricket player and is a member of the state Ranji Trophy selection committee.

### **Raman Sukumar** Trustee

Dr Sukumar is well known as the elephant expert of Asia. He is a professor at the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and has also authored popularly and academically acclaimed books on the Asian elephant. He is also an Honorary Director of the AERCC, a partner organisation of WTI. Dr Sukumar was Chairman of the IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group, Steering Committee member of Project Elephant, GOI and a former member of the National Board for Wildlife (earlier the Indian Board for Wildlife).

### **Ajay Balram** Trustee

Mr Balram is a business manager, who was formerly Director of Tate and Lyall Investments (India) Pvt Ltd. Having spent long years with the industry, he brings to the board a vast expertise in management and finance. Mr Balram is also an Olympic judge in yachting and a well known theatre personality of Delhi.

### **Erach Bharucha** Trustee

Dr Bharucha is a leading authority on environment education and has been one of the people responsible for its inclusion as a subject in school and college curriculums in India. As a Director of Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research (BVIEER), he has been instrumental in designing and conducting formal courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels. He has worked as consultant to the government and has been a member and an executive functionary on several conservation institutions including the Bombay Natural History Society, Worldwide Fund for Nature, Wildlife Institute of India, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History and the Central Zoo Authority.

### **Vivek Menon** Executive Director & Ex-Officio Trustee

Mr Menon is a conservation biologist who has worked on the conservation of a number of endangered species including the elephant and rhino. Currently an Honorary Wildlife Warden of Delhi he is the author of six wildlife books. Mr Menon is also a member of several IUCN SSC Specialist Groups including the Rhino, the Elephant and Re-introduction Specialist Groups.

## WTI PUBLICATIONS

### OCCASIONAL REPORTS

**Tribal Territories:** Impact assessment around the Jarawa Tribal Reserve, Middle and South Andaman Islands

**Jumbo Express:** A Scientific Approach to Understanding and Mitigating Elephant Mortality due to Train Accidents in Rajaji National Park.

**Elephant in Exile:** A Rapid Assessment of the Human-Elephant Conflict in Chhattisgarh.

**Against the Current:** Otters in the River Cauvery, Karnataka

**Silent Stranglers:** Eradication of Mimosa in Kaziranga National Park, Assam.

**Living at the Edge:** Rapid Survey For The Endangered Ladakh Urial (*Ovis vignei vignei*) in Leh District of Ladakh Trans-Himalaya

**Search for Spectacle:** A Conservation Survey of the Phayre's Leaf Monkey (*Trachypithecus phayrei*) in Assam and Mizoram

**Awaiting Arribadda:** Protection of Olive Ridley Turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and their nesting habitats at Rushikuliya rookery, Orissa

**Living with Giants:** Understanding Human-Elephant Conflict in Maharashtra and adjoining areas

**Crane Capital:** Conservation Strategy for Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) Habitats in Etawah and Mainpuri Districts, Uttar Pradesh.

**Carnivore Conflict:** Support provided to Leopards involved in conflict related cases in Maharashtra

**India at the International Whaling commission:** A Policy Document on India's Involvement in the IWC 1981-2003

**Sighting Storks:** Status and Distribution of Greater Adjutant Storks (*Leptoptilos dubius*) in the Ganga and Kosi River Floodplains near Bhagalpur, Bihar

**Bait and Watch:** popularization of Alternatives to Dolphin oil among Fishermen for the conservation of the Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) in Bihar

**Captive Concerns:** Health and Management of Captive Elephants in Jaipur

**Fair Concern:** Health and Management of Captive Elephants in Sonpur

**Ganesha to Bin Laden:** Human-elephant Conflict in Sonitpur District of Assam

### CONSERVATION ACTION REPORTS

**Beyond the Ban:** A census of Shahtoosh Workers in Jammu and Kashmir

**Biodiversity, Livelihoods and the Law:** The Case of the 'Jogi Nath' snake charmers of India

**Goats on the Border:** A Rapid Assessment of the Pir Panjal Markhor in J&K Distribution, Status and Threats

**The Ground Beneath the Waves:** Post-Tsunami Impact Assessment of Wildlife and their Habitats in India

### CONSERVATION REFERENCE SERIES

**Wildlife Law:** A ready reckoner - A guide to the wildlife (Protection) Act 1972

**Back to the Wild:** Studies in wildlife rehabilitation

**Right of Passage:** Elephant corridors of India

**Commentaries on Wildlife Law:** Cases, statutes & Notifications

### OTHERS

**Tiger Bridge:**  
Nine days on a bend of the Nauranala,  
by Barbara Curtis Horton

Emergency Relief Network Digest 2005– 2006

