



WWF

for a living planet®

# The Jungle Express

August 2008



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## Youth Baton Relay for the Tiger

WWF'S SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN FOR THE TIGER TO TRAVEL OVER THE COUNTRY.

The Tiger's roar, asking for help is now going to be heard by all. WWF's signature campaign- Roar of the Tiger is going to hundreds of towns and cities in India with the Youth Baton Relay that has brought the youth and sports together.

Youth Baton Relay is a brand new concept incorporated

of athletes, volunteers, and college students will run with the relay and cheer as it travels across the country.

Unlike other relays/marathons, the baton will carry water samples from various towns and cities that it passes through during the course of the relay. This water will



by the Commonwealth Youth Games 2008 where a baton will be carried through 9 states in India. This is the first ever Baton Relay in the history of the Commonwealth Youth Games. The Youth Baton Relay (YBR) will cover 199 towns/cities/villages and will reach Pune after 73 days on October 12 '08, before the inauguration of the Commonwealth Youth Games. Hundreds and thousands

be eventually emptied into a special fountain being made near the Commonwealth Youth Games venue in Pune. The theme of YBR is "Save the Tiger - Run for their lives" and the mascot for the Commonwealth Youth Games is Jigrr - The Tiger Cub.

A grand event was organised in Delhi which was at-

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SPECIALLY DESIGNED VEHICLE FROM WWF TO ACCOMPANY THE YOUTH BATON RELAY.

tended by the Chief Minister- Ms. Sheila Dixit, President of Indian Olympic association- Mr. Suresh Kalmadi and the Sports Minister- Mr. M. S. Gill.

WWF-India had initiated the signature campaign in 2007 to raise awareness about the threatened status of the Tiger. The campaign has received overwhelming response across the country and will continue through this befitting event and hence convey the synergy of sports, youth and conservation.

During the Youth Baton Relay, WWF will reach out to people through the following means:

- By informing people along the route the importance of protecting the Tiger and its habitat and the role it plays with communities who are a part of the Tiger habitat.
- By showing films and by getting signatures on 'Save the Tiger Campaign' in the cities of halt.
- By distributing awareness material such as stickers, brochures on Tiger conservation and illegal wildlife trade.
- By presentations on the Tiger conservation in 4 PAS in Maharashtra, through which the YBR passes.

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## TIGER WALL OF HOPE

LET THIS NOT BE THEIR LAST IMPRESSION.

Nokia India, the leading mobile communications company, in partnership with WWF-India, one of the largest conservation organisations in the country, today unveiled the 'Tiger Wall of Hope' in New Delhi as part of their support initiative for the Tiger Conservation programme of WWF-India. The 'Tiger Wall of Hope' was unveiled in the presence of Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India, and Mr. D Shivakumar, VP and Managing Director, Nokia India, at an event held in New Delhi, after it was first unveiled in Mumbai

a few months back.

As part of the association, Nokia and WWF-India will work towards providing education to the villagers for sustainable development, increasing awareness on Tiger conservation, and identifying alternative livelihood programmes for the villagers around National Parks, specifically the Ranthambore National Park.



PANEL DISCUSSION IN PROGRESS

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MESSAGES WERE PUT UP IN MANY BUS SHELTERS

Speaking about the 'Tiger Wall of Hope', that has been created out of original pugmarks embedded in Plaster of Paris encased in acrylic, Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India said, "These pugmarks are a grim reminder of the critical number of Tiger left in our wild." He further added, "We are proud to partner with Nokia in India. Globally, Nokia has been involved in several conservation initiatives with the WWF Network and we are happy to see this relationship extend here. This is an important step in bringing corporate institutional support for conservation, significantly Tiger conservation in India. This is an important beginning at this critical time for conservation in our country."

"Leadership calls for responsibility and as India's most trusted brand, we are committed to contribute to the holistic and sustainable development of the environment where we operate," said Mr. D. Shivakumar, VP and Managing Director, Nokia India.

"It is a matter of great privilege for Nokia India to be associated with WWF for the cause of Tiger conservation that needs immediate intervention. This endeavor for Tiger conservation is an extension of our commitment towards creating a positive impact on the society beyond our technology, products, and services", Mr. Shivakumar added.

During the event, a panel discussion was organised

with eminent conservationists and concerned personalities like Mr. P K Sen, Ms. Leena Nandan, Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Mr. Brijendra Singh, who deliberated on various factors responsible for the depleting Tiger population in India and the roles that various sections of the society need to play.

The event also witnessed the presence of eminent personalities like Nafisa Ali, Roshan Seth, Shovana Narayan, Ritu Kumar and Vir Das who were present at the event to showcase their solidarity for the cause of the endangered species.

Sharing more details about the depleting numbers of tigers in India, Mr. Ravi Singh said, "The tiger population in India has seen an alarming decrease with their habitats shrinking and several threats including poaching taking a toll on their survival. To create a healthy ecological balance we need to work towards building long term sustainable models for wildlife conservation so that our future generations can experience the joy and beauty of our varied flora and fauna".

## Elephant poaching gang busted

AFTER AN ELEPHANT WAS RECENTLY POACHED IN THE NILIGIRIS EASTERN GHATS. SPECIAL TASK FORCE, THE FOREST DEPARTMENT AND WWF CAUGHT UP WITH THE KILLERS ON THE RUN.

BULLET USED TO KILL THE ELEPHANT FOUND IN THE AREA



Three Elephant poachers working for the burgeoning ivory trade were arrested by the police after an Elephant was killed in the Northern Hay Reserved Forest.

On the 4th July, the anti-poaching team deployed in the area heard a gun shot. They rushed out and by 11 am found a freshly killed Elephant. The poachers had hacked off a huge chunk of the Elephant's head and lower jaw and gone with his tusks.

Police team led by the Superintendent of Police- Mr. Babu reached the spot. A sniffer dog was pressed into service but the killers could not be tracked as the incident was almost 6 hours old. WWF began gathering intelligence and around 1 pm was informed by the locals of the suspicious movement of a vehicle in the area. This lead was passed onto the police. The area was thoroughly combed to find out of any hideouts or ivory and muskets being hidden. But nothing was found.

This cruel killing of the Elephant got all the senior officials together. As night fell, Mr. Soundarpandian District Forest Officer- Nilgiris North Division, Mr. Sathish-Gudalur Forest Division, Mr. Kannan Conservator of Forests- Coimbatore, Director Project Tiger Mr. Rajiv K. Srivastava, Superintendent of Police-Mr. Babu, Deputy Superintendent- Gudalur and, Ranger officers from the adjoining ranges and local inspectors got down to do the tough job of catching the poachers. A list of past

offenders was pulled out and they were visited with the support of a 10-member team of the Special Task Force (STF) on a regular basis.

A few days passed and information started trickling in, names came up and the persons missing from the area were short listed. Finally two suspects were picked up for questioning who led to the house of the mastermind poacher. There the tusks cut into three pieces and two weapons were recovered. The search finally led to the arrest of the remaining two. The main accused was arrested and the last team member surrendered to the police finding that there was nobody willing to give him shelter.

This was the first time when there was perfect coordination between the Government agencies and an NGO like us. And it was an even rarer case that the ivory and weapons were recovered and the whole gang of poachers was arrested.

But the battle is not over yet. Further investigation is going on and we hope that the arrests would act as a deterrent for other poachers of the area.

## when the elephants said ouch!

WWF SENDS A VET TO TREAT THE CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS OF DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE

The Elephants of the Forest Department of the Dudhwa National Park were a sick lot. Therefore, WWF-India sent a doctor to treat them.

With the monsoon season on its way, treatment of these Elephants is necessary because the rains encourage growth of parasites, which trouble the pachyderms. Also during this time, patrolling inside the Park in a vehicle is not possible so Elephants come in handy.

Dr. Jeherul Islam, a veterinary doctor with WWF-India left Delhi for Dudhwa on an overnight train. When he reached the Forest guest house, it was pitch dark and

all he could see were small twinkling lights, slightly above the ground. The doctor realised that he was surrounded by a herd of cheetal!

The next morning, Dr. Islam left for the first camp-Dudhwa range. He was greeted by Ganga, Pabankali,



Sunder, Rupkali, Pushpakali and Batalik. The Elephants were physically checked for any abnormality. Fresh dung and urine samples were collected and examined for parasites. Pushpakali, the 55-year-old female was approximately 17 months pregnant. Like others, the only problem she had was of uneven foot surface and had a split front nail.

His next stop was to Salokhapur. Due to heavy hail-storm a day before, the road was washed off, and the team had to take a detour and travel through dense forest to reach the next batch of Elephants. Srilochna, Mahon, Gajraj, Chameli, Madhu and Pakhri were the names of the patients, who had recently been brought from West Bengal. Here too they were physically examined and routine tests were carried out to determine the presence of parasites. Mahon was not happy to see the Doctor and made it clear that he didn't want him anywhere near. However, 5-year-old Gajraj was ecstatic and was just swaying while he was examined. Chameli was stressed as she was constantly shaking her head, which is a sign of boredom, according to the doctor. Here too most animals had foot problems, with many having uneven foot surface and split nails.

Dr. Islam explained the treatment to the mahouts and we hope that the Elephants would feel better in the coming days.



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## Trans-Boundary Meeting Between India and Nepal

WWF AND FOREST OFFICIALS TRY TO SAVE THE TERAJ ARC

BY DEEP CONTRACTOR

Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) is one of the world's most spectacular landscapes, straddling the border of India and Nepal. It is spread over approximately 49,500 sq. kms and stretches from Nepal's Bhagmati River in the east to India's Yamuna River in the West encompassing 13 Protected Areas on both sides. This landscape is home to a wide array of globally endangered species like Tigers, Elephants, barasingha and Rhino to name a few.

Sensing that the Protected Area managers as well as the law enforcement personnel of both India and Nepal face common problems while combating illegal trade, poaching and managing and protecting TAL, the 'Trans-Border consultative meeting for biodiversity conservation between India and Nepal'- a mechanism facilitated by WWF - were initiated for better conservation of this landscape. The first Trans-Border consultative meeting on biodiversity conservation was held between officials of the Government of Nepal and Government of India on 3rd - 5th January '97 in Kathmandu, the second meeting was held in Surajkund near Delhi from 28th - 1st March '99 and a third meeting was held in Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu, Nepal from 13th - 15th September '02

In the light of the above mentioned, WWF India organized a meeting on 'Trans- Border Collaboration for Wildlife Conservation' on 19th July '08 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh where expert conservationists and senior officials from Nepal and India were invited to dis-

cuss issues related to conservation and wildlife crime in TAL. The various agencies that participated included officials from state Forest Departments of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Special Task Force (STF), Uttar Pradesh police, officials from Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal, representatives from WWF-Nepal and WWF-International, WWF-India, TRAFFIC-India and the Wildlife Institute of India.

The meeting had two sessions- the technical session where presentations were made to provide information on status of conservation and protection of wildlife in



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TAL on both India and Nepal. The second session comprised of a plenary discussion on conservation of corridors; anti - poaching and illegal wildlife trade issues.

It was felt by all that increasing human demands, exploitation of natural resources and other infrastructural development activities have led to fragmentation and degradation of the wild habitats within TAL. Such deterioration of their natural homes evidently poses a grave threat to the endangered tiger and other large mammalian species. Organized crime against wildlife is the other problem plaguing TAL.

An action plan was developed keeping these issues in mind. This action plan will focus on the conservation of critical areas through various means, in association with the respective Forest Departments, such as relocation of villages, monitoring habitats, sensitisation and education workshops and eco development. To improve and enhance the effectiveness of wildlife protection measures, dossiers and databases will be maintained on suspects, valuable information will be shared and the networks strengthened and enforcement agencies will be sensitized. It was also decided in the meeting that WWF should facilitate frequent meetings at the field as well as national level and the progress on the action plan is to be evaluated from time to time.



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WWF IN ACTION

## killer lines

### FOUR ELEPHANTS DIE OF ELECTROCUTION IN ASSAM

In two days, four Elephants were electrocuted to death in Assam. And this is not the first time the sagging wires have found their victims.

Three unsuspecting, unlucky Elephants walked right into a death trap. And what followed after was a horrific story of excruciating pain and suffering. A mother with her calf and an adult Elephant were killed by one of many electric wires, carrying 11,000 V, hanging loose in the Singlijan Reserved Forest. The carcasses were found on the 27th July and it seems the incident was probably 7-8 days old.

As if this wasn't enough, in the same area, another male Elephant was electrocuted in the same area of Raunathpur village near Tarajuli TE. His body was discovered the next day. Even after the tragic deaths of the three Elephants before, this death could have been prevented. In this case, the neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh's Electricity Department is responsible for the loss of the highly endangered Asian Elephants.

But this is not the first time that Elephants had to face the death sentence. In 2003, three Elephants were

electrocuted in Kawripathar area of Sonitpur district. In 2004, three Elephants died similar deaths in Assam. In 2004, two died in Panpur area. In 2006, the death toll was six and in 2007 five Elephants were electrocuted. Even though minimum height of the pole should be atleast 8m and that of the wire 7.1m, many wires in our Protected Areas are hanging low, killing the Elephants.

The Asian Elephants are dying all over the country's

Protected Areas and Reserved Forests where they are not even safe from the killer wires of States' Electricity Department.





## Tiger Asking for Trouble

A TIGER IN KAZIRANGA-KARBI ANGLONG HAS BEEN KILLING CATTLE ANGERING THE FARMERS.

There's been a spate of cattle killings in the fringe areas of Kaziranga National Park and North Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary. Over 30 domestic animals have been killed, especially from the fringe villages of Borbeel, Rangajan, Durgapur, Haldibari, Sildubi, Kohora, Sygner Gaon and Bagori. The deadliest attack happened on 1st July, when 7 cattle were killed in the shed of Buri Mai Than, a Hindu temple situated along NH 37 at Haldibari.

Most of the animals' jugular vein was punctured and none of them were lifted out of the sheds. In most of the cases, the Tiger has been killing the cattle inside the sheds and has not been able to lift the cattle or eat it completely due to the alert villagers. This points out that the Tiger is either old or injured, incapable of hunting for food.

Efforts are being made to identify the Tiger and to mitigate the situation. Pug marks have been lifted and experts are being consulted.

These killings have enormously angered the farmers. With the loss of their valuable cattle, they could resort to retaliatory actions, and hence WWF has been providing them with interim relief to prevent any such retaliation.

This case is a serious set-back to the conservation activities going on in the area.

We hope to zero-in on the Tiger and diffuse the situation.



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## Lost and found

LITTLE AND LOST, SEPARATED FROM HIS MOTHER, TIGER CUB RESCUED FROM RAMNAGAR.

A two-month-old Tiger cub, lost, tired and scared was rescued by the villagers of Chunakhan village. The cub was hiding in the bushes when the village dogs started to bark. Alerted, the villagers after rummaging through the bushes found the cub hiding. They wrapped him in a blanket and fed him milk.

WWF was informed by a villager and soon the DFO was informed too. Dr. Hem Singh Gehlot from WWF and a team from the Forest Department reached the spot. The cub was examined and his measurements were taken. After Dr. Srikant Chandola suggested, the cub was sent to the Nainital zoo.

Post a medical check-up at the zoo, it was discovered that the cub was suffering from fever and was treated for it.

This incident is a sad reminder that a cub, which would have grown up to become a powerful male and lived like true wild cat, would now have to spend the rest of his life in a cage. Every effort should be made to take back as many animals to the wild as possible, because that is where they belong.

