

Reg No : Mah/775/05 Nagpur | F/22171 Nagpur

# SRUSHTI

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION

Contact | Contribute | Conserve



# About Srushti Paryavaran Mandal

Srushti Paryavaran Mandal is a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) established in 2005 with the objective of working towards the cause of nature conservation. Based in Nagpur, central India, the organisation works actively in the surrounding districts, concentrating on wildlife and environmental issues.

At Srushti, our ideology is based on three words- Sampark, Sahabgag and Samvardhan. These words form the basic working style of any project we undertake. Sampark (meaning contact) is to establish contact with the locals or people concerned with the issue. Sahabgag (meaning to join or to contribute), is to come together, understand and confront the cause and finally Samvardhan (meaning conservation) is to preserve or restore the an equilibrium of the ecosystem . We believe, this ideology makes us work in a more disciplined and transparent way.

A photograph of two tigers in an enclosure. One tiger is in the foreground, looking towards the camera, while another is partially visible behind it. The enclosure is bounded by a green metal fence and a chain-link fence. The scene is filled with lush green foliage, some of which is in the foreground, slightly out of focus. The overall lighting is natural and somewhat dim, suggesting a shaded area.

# **Introduction to Tiger Cubs Rehab Project**

# Tiger and Central India

Central India offers one of the best forest landscapes in the country. This forested green belt extends from the Satpuda range in the north, down till the Godavari basin in the south. Nagpur lies in epicentre of this area and fortunate to have several wildlife sanctuaries and 7 tiger reserves in a 250 radius periphery. It can be said without doubt that Nagpur is located right in the heart of India's Tiger Land.

The diminishing number of tiger's in our country is an universally acknowledged hot button and the issue of tiger extinction is an immediate one. In last 100 years we have wiped out 95% of the global wild tiger population. Today figure stands at around 2000-2500 wild individuals.

Sadly neither the "national animal" tag nor the association with the goddess Durga seem to have stopped their dwindling numbers. Studies have shown that tigers have lost much ground primarily due to poaching, loss of habitat, and decrease in prey-base. All these factors have one common contributor- Man.

# Brief Project Background

For the last few years Chandrapur district has been abuzz with a lot of Big Cat news. There was a significant increase in the man-animal conflict cases and unfortunately the outcome in most was devastating. Apart from this a lot of young animals were found deserted or orphaned due to poaching activities, deforestation and anthropogenic pressure.

It started with 2 severely malnourished tiger cubs being found near village Mendki. Despite being treated by the best of vets, one of them died after 17 days. Soon after, another 3 newborn cubs were found near Junona, followed by 2 leopard cubs and another 3 tiger cubs were discovered near Ganeshpipri. Every time, the cubs were promptly shifted to local zoo.

Though this action was in the best interest of the animals and certainly increased their chance of survival, we feel, this is not conservation in the real sense. Conservation, rightly means conserving animal in their natural habitat or conserving bio-diversity.



**Orphaned Cubs**

The last three cubs found, were relocated by the forest department because they had ventured inside the villages. The first one was rescued by the department after it was cornered by some villagers on 17th Sept 2009, when she entered a cattle shed at village Sukhwasi. She was too weak to make a kill or hurt any human.

On 19th Sept, the second female cub was spotted and rescued, just outside village Ganesh Pipri. Massive combing operation was started to locate their mother, but she was nowhere to be seen . Instead a third cub was spotted on 23rd Sept.

The cubs were hungry and weak, suggesting that the mother had been missing since sometime. They were shifted to Zaran Forest Nursery for medical attention, though destined to go to some zoo later.

A local informer indicated that these cubs had been seen accompanying their mother on hunts and had hunted a village dog a few days earlier. This indicated that they were old enough to hunt and had a fair chance of survival if relocated into the wild. Proper steps had to be taken to put this plan into action and on Srushti's suggestion the forest department agreed to move the cubs to a rehab centre, later to be released into the wild.

# The Re-Wilding Project

Unfortunately, very few in the conservation field were willing to take up this project. Raising 3 cubs, for over a year, building and maintaining their enclosures, arranging their feed, was a huge task which everybody were hesitant to take up. Plus the risk involved in raising tiger cubs was also high.

That's when Srushti offered to help and was entrusted with the task of managing and funding the project. Enclosures, water bodies inside it, arrangement of feed, medicines, routine vet and pathological check up, visits etc were to be funded and managed by Srushti.

Presently, the cubs are kept in a huge enclosure deep inside a forest area, away from human interaction. They are monitored round the clock with the help of CCTV cams installed on the site. They are fed on meat, with each consuming roughly 30kgs a week. Erratic feeding schedules are maintained similar to as in wild. According to tiger experts and medical study, the cubs are approx 20 months old now and in a few months time, they should be released in the wild.



**Cub inside the enclosure**

# The Future

The aim is to bring up these cubs in natural surroundings, under protection with minimum human interference, till they are fit enough to fend for themselves and to then finally release them into the forest, recommended by wildlife experts. The first step is being successfully achieved and the cubs are being raised in a monitored environment.

The second step would be to release them into a suitable habitat and then monitor their further development. The release procedures would be followed according to NTCA guidelines, with the help of WII (Wildlife Institute of India). Wildlife experts, biologists, veterinarians will advise, as to when the cubs can be released. Similarly a suitable habitat according to water availability, prey-base, anthropogenic threats etc, would be identified by wildlife researchers. Post release WII will study their behavior and track their movement using radio telemetry.

The necessary permissions from the ministry, NTCA and WII have been sought and the required paper work is expected soon.

# The Appeal

A project of this scale is only possible with the strength of people by large. Srushti would like to take this opportunity and appeal to individuals and corporate bodies to donate towards the cause of Tiger Conservation at large and Rehabilitation of the Tiger Cubs in specific..

# The project so far has being funded by members of Srushti Paryavaran Mandal and with the help of associated donors.

# Donors will be at liberty to scrutinise the expenditure and satisfy themselves that the funds are utilised judicially.

# You may also recommend others, who can contribute or forward their contact to Srushti.

Donations thus made to Srushti Paryavaran Mandal are 50% exempted from income tax U/S 80 G vide F.No.CIT/80G/S-11/2009-10 dated 3rd Nov 2009 of CIT-I, Nagpur. Due receipt for the donations thus received will be given by Srushti.

# Why save the tiger ?

Being the top-most predator in the food chain, tiger is an indicator species.

Presence of tiger in its historic territory suggests that the fragile ecosystem, though immensely misbalanced, does exist. This balance is so critical that disappearance of tiger can tip it over and roll the ball of disaster. So when we save tiger, we also save the forest they dwell in, the prey that they survive on and in-turn save the biome they exist in. One should remember that the climate of a region, change in seasons, flood & droughts depend on these biomes and they are the only source of clean air and water. So when we save tiger today, we save the “tomorrow” for our future



# Why Srushti

Srushti, essentially is a volunteer's organisation. People from different professional backgrounds have come together to do their bit for nature.. Everyone offers his or her expertise as and when needed without charging any fees. As far as possible, outside expertise is sought through mutual or personal relationships on a no-strings attached basis without burdening the organization.

Field trip, travel, survey work is carried out by members at their own expense. Administrative work, or most of the communication is take care by volunteers on personal levels. So unlike in other bigger organisation , where quite a bit of their resources (at times up to 40%) have to go in administration and communication, in Srushti 99.9% of the donation is utilised right on the field work.

Most of the work in Srushti is carried out by the members themselves. Commercial contractors are avoided, unless absolutely necessary.

# Why Srushti

Srushti on regular basis, organises “Shramdan”, where repair work on dams, water holes, underground bunds etc is undertaken by members doing all the labour work.

Srushti with the help of few members of the organisation have developed their own nursery for plantation drives. This eliminates the cost of buying saplings for plantation.

Litigation and legal cases are done free of cost with the help of lawyers who have been associated with the organisation.

Srushti encourages use of local labour and skill set, wherever needed. This helps us to form a bonding with the local population and also helps create awareness amongst people.

Thus overhead and other expenses are avoided and all the funds are channelised towards actual conservation work.

# Other activities at Srushti



Poacher caught during regular patrolling drive which are assisted by Srushti members.



Dam constructed across jungle streams to arrest water flow-off during monsoons.

Members doing survey work of underground earthen dams to increase local water availability.



One of the plantation drive undertaken along with local school children at Bor WLS



Cleaning and deepening of water bowl being done by some members during a weekend activity.



“Shramdan” activity being undertaken along with the employees of Persistent Systems Ltd.

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