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IFAW
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE
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BORN TO BE WILD

Asiatic
BLACK BEAR | Asian
ELEPHANT | Greater One-horned
RHINOCEROS | CLOUDED LEOPARD | Western
HOOLOCK GIBBON

**BORN
TO BE
WILD**

Commemorating a decade of Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), is a non-profit organisation, committed to conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments.

Its vision is a secure natural heritage of India.

Sharing concern for a number of species including elephants, rhinos, bears and tigers, IFAW and WTI formed a partnership in 2000 to strengthen the cause of wildlife conservation and animal welfare in the Indian sub-continent. IFAW and WTI combine excellence in conservation science with best practices in animal welfare to address wildlife emergencies and promote long-term animal protection.

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Back cover: Rupa Gandhi Chaudhary

Layout and design: SK Jan Mohamed

Printed by: Brandworks Integrated, C-210 Sector 10, Noida 201301.

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Preface

Ten years ago I remember going to the fringe of Panbari reserve forest in Assam to look at a bald patch of land that formed the eastern fringe of the reserve. Behind me was the national highway and then Kaziranga National Park. Facing me were the low hills of Karbi Anglong. It was during floods that the wild animals of Kaziranga try to get across to the high lands of Karbi Anglong and get hit by vehicles on the highway or poached by villagers in surrounding areas. The idea of the International Fund of Animal Welfare and Wildlife Trust of India was to come together and assist the Assam Forest department in building a rescue and rehabilitation centre. The idea was in people's heads and on paper but the bare patch of land I saw showed little promise. Mr BS Bonal the then Director and DD Boro the range officer gave support and leadership. Dr Anand Ramanathan of my own organization did some spadework. Mr Alok Jain the Commissioner of Assam did the official paperwork to ensure a solid MOU.

At exactly the same time, we saw bears being kept as pets in the neighboring state of Arunachal Pradesh. Due to the awareness spread by WTI as well as the Forest department, particularly Chuku Loma, then Director of Pakke villagers started surrendering bears to the department. The zoo at Itanagar was ill equipped and we decided to build a species specific centre in the state

Ten years on, the two centers stand testament to the partnership of all three organizations; I still can't believe that we made all this happen. The fact that nearly an animal a day has been saved for the whole ten years(3000 or so in just Assam) is something that is even more satisfying. The protocols that the centres have field tested or created is a fantastic contribution to conservation. And the vets that have gone through these two centers have given hope to the states that their new blood can serve the region for years to come

These photos are visual depictions of the hard work done by the staff and keepers of these centers and the great stories of hope that the animals of the region have because of these centers.

I wish the two centers many more years of service to the wildlife of the region

Vivek Menon

Executive Director and CEO, Wildlife Trust of India

Regional Director and Advisor, International Fund for Animal Welfare

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Message

The Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) is playing a very important role in the rescue and rehabilitation of marooned wildlife especially during flood time in Kaziranga. I am very happy to know that this rescue centre run by Wildlife Trust of India, International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Assam Forest Department has become an integral part of the wildlife management system for the state of Assam.

I congratulate the dedicated team of CWRC for their efforts to save endangered and marooned wildlife with utmost care with a humane touch and for being the pioneer in this field in the entire country. Today experts from CWRC are being called to many other states of India to help in the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife.

My very best wishes to the success of CWRC on its tenth anniversary and I hope CWRC will be a model to be followed by many others.


(Rakibul Hussain)

Suresh Chand, IFS

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
& Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam



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Message

Assam is proud to have two UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Kaziranga and Manas as its natural heritage that support a rich gamut of wildlife with the flagship one-horned rhinoceros of India. However, when the River Brahmaputra floods Kaziranga annually, it endangers the wildlife, at times taking a massive toll on the inhabitants of the park.

An urgent need was felt to set up a system of rescuing animals in distress, which came to fruition a decade ago with the initiative of Wildlife Trust of India and the international Fund for Animal Welfare. Together with the Assam Forest Department and the Animal Welfare Board, vetted by the Central Zoo Authority, a rescue centre was established at Panbari Reserve Forest 10 years ago with the aim of rescuing animals in distress and providing treatment and care to injured and orphaned animals from the vicinity and rehabilitating them back to the wild.

I am delighted that in the 10 years of its inception, the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) is today a one-of-its kind facility that has established release protocols and has proved to the world that individual animal welfare is a critical tool to the conservation of key species. My very best wishes to the success of CWRC on its 10th anniversary and I hope this works as a model to be emulated.

(Suresh Chand)


Message

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the people and organisations that have been instrumental in setting up the unique rescue centres for wildlife in our region. Arunachal Pradesh is home to a large variety of endangered and highly protected species of wildlife, among these being Asiatic Black Bears.

The Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation that is now ten years old started operations at Pakke by rehabilitating rescued or orphaned bear cubs. I am delighted that in ten years of CBRC and support from CWRC and Mobile Veterinary Service units spread across the northeast, we have managed to put back 30 Asiatic black bears into the wild after successful rehabilitation.

The state Forest Department of Arunachal Pradesh is happy to have partnered WTI and IFAW in this mission and we wish many more milestones to add to the existing good work.

Date: 16th November 2012
Place: Itanagar


Chuku Loma
Project Leader
CBRC



जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहाँ है खुशहाली॥



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS



केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण
Central Zoo Authority
(STATUTORY BODY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, GOVT. OF INDIA)

MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to know that the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) in Borjuri, Kaziranga National Park, Assam and the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC) in Pakke, Arunachal Pradesh have completed ten years of their existence. The delight is double fold when I consider that CWRC Borjuri, Kaziranga National Park, Assam was conceptualised when I was the Director of the Kaziranga National Park. Both the centres are Recognised as per Recognition of Zoo Rule 2009 under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 by Central Zoo Authority.

I recall one of the worst floods in Kaziranga in 1998, when three different waves of flood had kept our staff and officers working round-the-clock on rescues and on duty at the National Highway to facilitate safe movement of wild animals to higher grounds of Karbi Anglong. With the immense damage to infrastructure, we had to rebuild roads, patrolling paths, bridges and camps within a short period. The need to establish a rescue Centre at KNP was urgently felt, which I proposed to the government.

The present CWRC located at Borjuri, Kaziranga National Park was born out of this necessity in 2002. Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) joined hands with the Forest Department of Assam to attend to the increasing number of wildlife displacements. WTI-IFAW further established CBRC at Pakke in Arunachal Pradesh.

Having seen wildlife management issues being tackled across in India, I can say that no other place in India requires a wildlife rehabilitation centre as much as Assam does. Apart from floods that temporarily displace wildlife during the monsoons, I realize that a variety of man-made reasons account for majority of the wildlife displacements that happen here. As the Member Secretary of the Central Zoo Authority, I have seen the activities of WTI expand to new horizons in quick time, especially through mobile rescue units that now operate in all important areas of Assam and Arunachal. I also learnt that CWRC attracts a regular inflow of volunteers from different parts of the world, who consider this as a lifetime opportunity to interact with species like elephant, rhino, leopard, tiger, hog badger, adjutant storks, slow loris, deer, python and many others. I congratulate WTI-IFAW and both the state forest departments for the successful completion of a decade of service in addressing wildlife displacements in the respective states. I am confident that their partnership will take the discipline of wildlife rehabilitation to a new level in the coming years to come. I wish them all success.

B.S. Bonal, IFS
Member Secretary
Date: 14.11.2012



MESSAGE

A decade ago, IFAW partnered WTI to set up wildlife rescue centres for animals in India. Saving a majority of the 3000 animals that were brought here in 10 years, the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation in Assam has set new milestones in animal welfare today. Many of the species rehabilitated was the first time ever for the country, and first time ever in the world for some of them like the clouded leopard. The Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation in Arunachal Pradesh has successfully rehabilitated 16 Asiatic black bears back to the wild.

Congratulations to the team that has shown the world that individual animal welfare significantly contributes to conservation of species.

IFAW is happy to move closer towards its vision of a better world for animals and people through CWRC and CBRC and on the 10th anniversary of setting up these Centres, I am delighted to wish the team greater success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Azzedine Downes', is positioned above the name and title. The signature is fluid and somewhat abstract, with a large loop at the end.

Azzedine Downes
Executive Vice President
for International Operations,
VP of Programmes

Vision:
A secure natural heritage of India.

Mission:
To conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual animals in partnership with communities and governments.

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is a non-profit conservation organisation, committed to urgent action that works towards the protection of India's wildlife.

It was formed in November 1998, in response to the rapidly deteriorating condition of the country's wildlife, with only three staff members. The core team today includes scientists, field biologists, conservation managers, veterinarians, lawyers, finance, business management and communication specialists, who operate diverse conservation projects across India. WTI's significant innovative and pioneering contributions in wildlife conservation makes it one of India's key wildlife NGOs.

WTI's Big Ideas

Species recovery

Recover populations of selected threatened species where WTI can make the most difference, using improved techniques, intensive management, conservation breeding, reintroduction and restocking.

Rescue and rehabilitation

Increase welfare of individual displaced animals while enhancing conservation and pioneering science based rehabilitation, conflict mitigation and wildlife health.

Enforcement and Law

Reduce wildlife crime by strengthening frontline field staff, practical trade control, championing legal defense using existing laws and by providing alternatives to wildlife products and livelihoods.

Securing habitats

Secure critical habitats outside the traditional PA system, especially linkages, wetlands, grasslands,

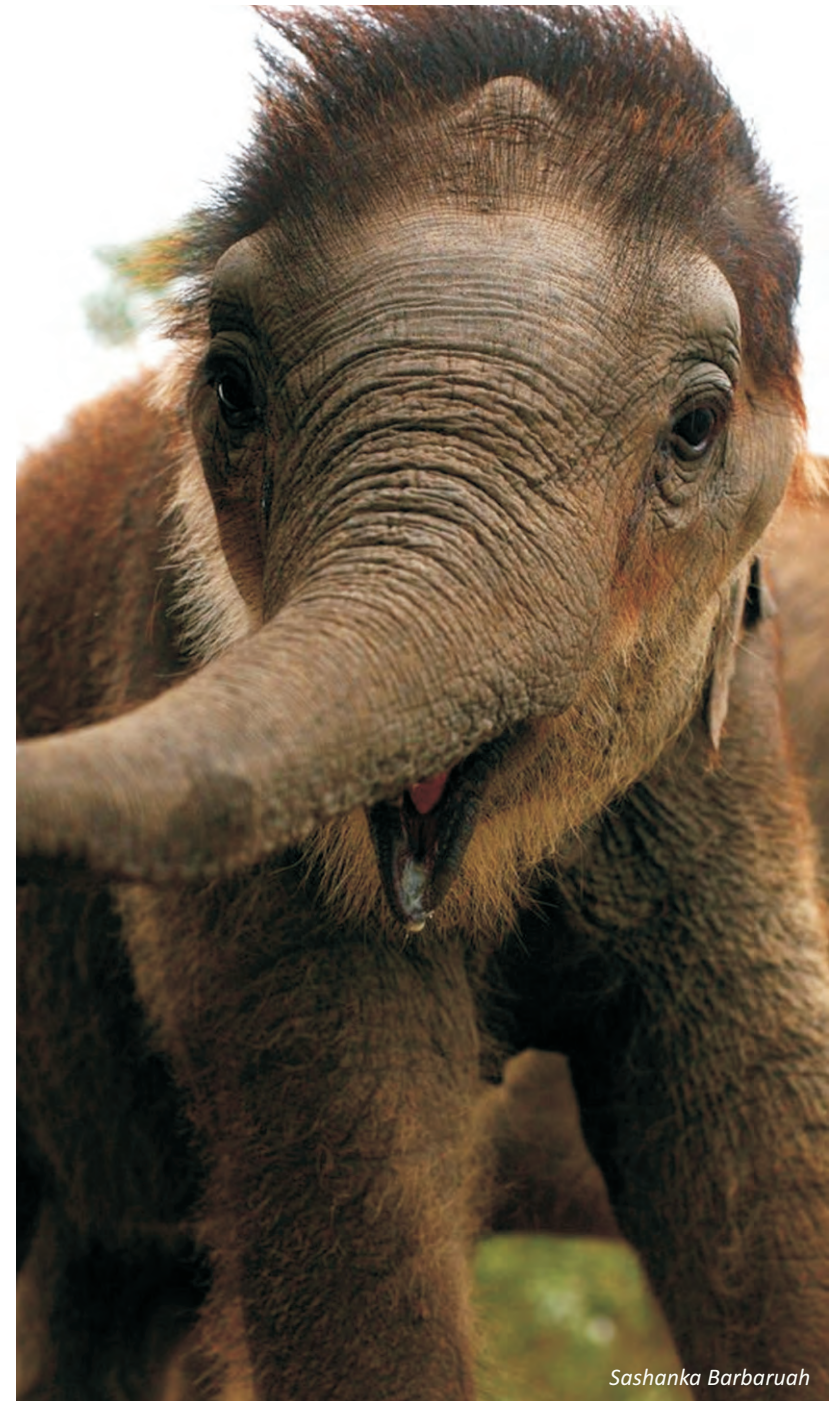
BCPP, important bird areas and sacred groves, thereby increasing the effective protected area of India by 1%.

Wild Aid:

Provide short term focused aid both monetary and technical, to assist in emergencies and in emerging conservation issues, to provide rapid aid to animals in distress, to initiate pilot projects or innovative ideas to help conservation and to focus public attention on conservation emergencies.

In addition to these, the following values have been with us for the past ten years and while we did not discuss it at the Board, I hope you endorse these as well.

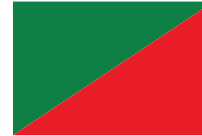
WTI is a registered charity in India (under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961) and is mandated by its Board of Trustees to ensure that 80% of all specified donor funds go to the field.



Sashanka Barbaruah



Sashanka Barbarua



Department of Environment and Forests
Govt. of Assam



If ecology includes the study of individuals, populations, species, communities of species and ecosystems, then nature conservation efforts should target every unit of this ecological and evolutionary process. Wildlife rehabilitation focuses on the individuals of a wildlife population that get displaced due to conflict with humans, calamities like floods and other anthropogenic causes like illegal wildlife trade.

The IUCN guidelines for the placement of confiscated animals, as outlined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, provides three options for displaced wildlife:

- Return to the Wild,
- Euthanasia and
- Captivity.

International Fund for Animal (IFAW) and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) believe 'return to the wild' as the appropriate placement option for individuals including orphans displaced from the wild. Making orphans wild again requires some disciplinary skills that IFAW-WTI has been nurturing since it began its wildlife emergency relief and rescue operations in India in the year 2000. The case studies of mammalian rehabilitation showcased in this book demonstrate how orphaned animals can be returned to the wild and thereby contributing to conservation.



Sashanka Barbaruah



Sashanka Barbaruah



Sashanka Barbaruah



Tiju Thomas



Rathin Barman



Rommel Shanmugam

IFAW-WTI rescues and rehabilitates wildlife in distress through:

- Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) in Assam
- Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC) in Arunachal Pradesh
- Five Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) units in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh
- An Emergency Relief Network of rehabilitators all over the country
- Rapid Action Projects across the country

Join us on this visual trip to our rescue and rehabilitation centres where IFAW-WTI's dedicated veterinarians, biologists and others work round-the-clock to return wildlife where it belongs – the wild.



Sashanka Barbaruah

Conservation Partners



**BODOLAND
TERRITORIAL
COUNCIL**





Rupa Gandhi



Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros Rehabilitation

About three quarters of the world's population of greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is distributed in India and Nepal. Kaziranga National Park in the northeast Indian state of Assam is home to more than 1800 individuals. Chitwan National Park in Nepal has the second-largest population of about 400 individuals, which is less than one-fourth of the Kaziranga population.

One of the consequence of habitat loss and hunting for the rhino horns is the fragmentation of rhino populations into few isolated pockets along its historical distribution range. In Assam, they are largely confined to five Protected Areas.



Arindam Pachoni

Kaziranga National Park falls within the Brahmaputra River flood plains and gets inundated annually during the monsoon. The floods sometimes take heavy toll on all the wildlife in the park, including rhinos. This is also the time when poachers get easier access to rhinos straying out of the park looking for higher grounds for temporary refuge. Flooding, injuries due to unsuccessful predation and poaching of mother rhinos are the major reasons for the displacement of rhino calves in Kaziranga.

Since its inception in 2002, CWRC has been rescuing displaced rhino calves during floods and young orphan rhinos left behind by poachers. The rehabilitated rhinos from CWRC are released back to the wild in Manas National Park in an effort to restock Manas after its entire rhino population was wiped out over a decade ago. CWRC has managed to successfully release four rhinos to Manas with five more currently undergoing rehabilitation.

A calf found with its dead mother, was rescued and brought to CWRC (top); another one separated from its mother during the annual floods follows a village boy through a flooded field (right).



Phulmoni Gogoi

The rhino calves are bottle fed formula milk every two hours until they are around two months old. Around a month later, they are given bits of grass to nibble, and eventually multigrain supplements. Initially housed in the indoor nursery for stabilisation for varying periods depending on age, the rhino calves are later transferred to one acre outdoor paddocks within the Centre.

Unlike elephant calves that suckle for about three years in captivity, rhino calves get weaned off milk by about 18 months of age. They also start nibbling blades of grass much earlier than elephant calves.

Orphaned rhino calves are brought to CWRC by the Forest Dept and IFAW-WTI staff (below). A very young calf being bottlefed in CWRC (right).





Luna Cid



Panjit Basumatary

While at CWRC, the calf undergoes treatment for any injuries and is carefully nursed back to health by the resident vets and keepers. Once weaned, the calves are ready for relocation to the release site. Once the rhino calves are screened for diseases and behavioural disadvantages, they are relocated to the release site in Manas in crates, usually mildly sedated to prevent panic. A spacious *boma* (a temporary enclosure) sprawling across 33 acres has been created at the Bansbari Range where the rhinos are confined till they attain sexual maturity.

Clockwise from top left: A rescued rhino calf being treated for injuries. The resident vet with a newly-rescued rhino calf. The keeper with his charge at CWRC.



Kadambari Majinkar



Idris Ahmed



Idris Ahmed

The *boma* ensures protection from predators to the calves, while allowing them to acclimatise to the local environment. The rhinos in the *boma* have no interactions with humans except during periodical medical assessments.

After about two or three years of acclimatisation, the rhinos are let out and are remotely monitored round-the-clock with the help of radio-transmitters. Rhino reintroduction to Manas is part of a larger IFAW-WTI initiative called 'Bringing Back Manas' which aims to restore Manas National Park to its former glory.

As of May 2012, IFAW-WTI and the Assam Forest Department have successfully released three rhinos in Manas, and two more are in the *boma* for *in-situ* acclimatisation. Seven more rhino calves are being nursed at CWRC and they will all be eventually moved to a suitable release site in future.

Clockwise from above: Crane loading crate housing rhino into truck. Rhino stepping out of truck into boma in Manas National Park. Rhino exploring the boma in Bansbari range immediately after release.



Idris Ahmed