

ANNUAL REPORT 2000-01

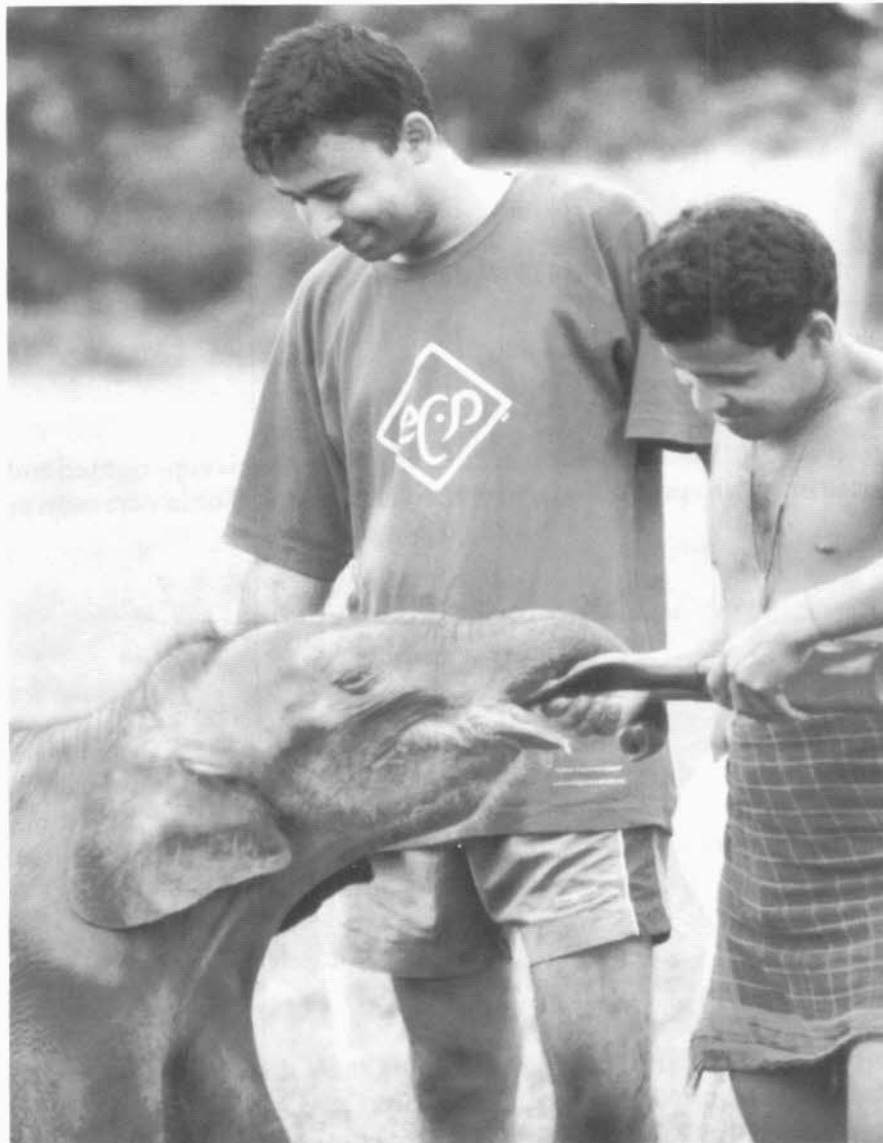


Wildlife Trust of India

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FOREWORD

For a field-based organization, nothing can be more joyous and gratifying than stories such as the one on the elephant calf rescued in Kaziranga National Park, Assam. This achievement goes far beyond rescuing one calf. The Wildlife Trust of India's (WTI's) Wild Rescue Team and the Park's forest staff have to be congratulated not only for re-introducing the calf back to the wild, but also for demonstrating the principle of rescue so effectively. Till Wild Rescue was set up, wild animals rescued in India would always be sent to a zoo or a captive facility. The act of releasing the animals back to the wild following scientific guidelines is a relatively new thought and happened for the first time with the help of Wild Rescue.

In this past one year, WTI has set many other such standards and has proven its field credentials in diverse areas such as training and equipping guards, insuring for the first time 50,000 wildlife guards against accidents, fighting international trade policies that affect species and securing vital habitat. These five programmes taken up by the Trust may be very different in nature, but they coalesce to address the most pressing conservation issues of our times. In particular, the Rapid Action Project that was conceptualized as the core of the WTI work agenda has quickly established itself as an important tool in crisis management and fire fighting the diverse problems that beleaguer Indian wildlife.

The partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) extended the principle of forging coalitions and partnerships from within the country to the international arena. WTI firmly believes that it is such partnerships that will be crucial to wildlife conservation in the years to come.

This annual report highlights some of the work done by the Trust during the past one year. The wisdom of the Board of Trustees and the diligence and skill of the staff are behind all of these achievements. For both these, I convey my heartfelt gratitude.



Vivek Menon
Executive Director
Wildlife Trust of India

October 1, 2001
New Delhi

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
Wild Aid	3
Rapid Action Project Case Studies	6
Van Rakshak Project	8
Wild Species	10
Anti-Shahtoosh Campaign	11
Elephant Conservation Project	12
Rihno Conservation Project	14
Wild Rescue	15
Wild Lands	20
Communications, Fund Raising, Administration	21
WTI Financial Report 2000-01	22
WTI's Donors	26
IFAW-WTI Partnership	27

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



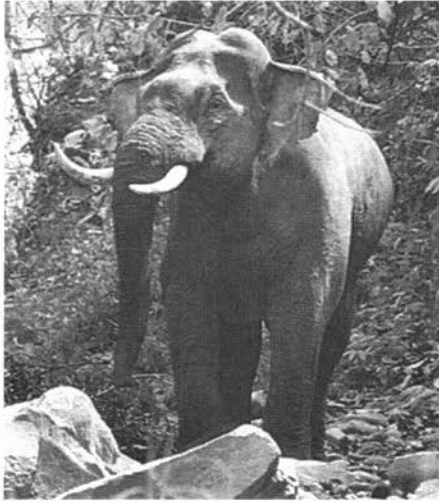
The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) was set up in 1998 in response to the fast deteriorating condition of wildlife in India. The organisation has now completed two full years of functioning and is well into its third. This annual report deals with FY 2000-01, WTI's second year of existence. The founders and senior staff of WTI have long years of conservation experience, which has helped WTI to steadily acquire the credibility of being one of India's most effective conservation organisations, despite being young in years. WTI focuses on field programmes, pragmatic conservation and responsible use of donor monies.

A quick look at the major conservation achievements that can be attributed fully or at least partially to WTI during the last year are as follows:

1. WTI was the leading Indian NGO that lobbied for and achieved the international ban on ivory in CITES (April 2000). This decision has vastly improved the fortunes of the Asian elephant whose poaching figures had peaked in 1997. Upon resumption of the ivory trade ban, poaching figures have dropped.
2. WTI trained nearly 1000 forest guards in anti-poaching techniques, gun discipline and legal matters in 11 protected areas (especially tiger reserves) in the country and also equipped them with a specially designed anti-poaching kit comprising all field essentials required by them, excluding arms.
3. In March 2001, the organisation provided a great morale booster to all the frontline staff by providing insurance cover for all 50,000 guards and field workers of the protected area system in India. The insurance covers the staff against death and disability thereby motivating them to give their best to conservation and protection. The first cheque of Rs 100,000 has been given to a forest guard's widow in Corbett National Park, after her husband drowned while conducting a tiger census.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



4. WTI veterinarians rescued and re-introduced a wild elephant calf in Kaziranga, Assam, during the floods. This was the first ever release of a wild elephant calf back to its herd in India. This amply demonstrated WTI's Wild Rescue philosophy of returning animals back to the wild. Apart from this, WTI treated, rescued and in certain cases released more than 30 other wild animals through its state-of-the-art mobile rescue unit in Assam. WTI has conceptualised, raised money for and gone into collaborations with the Assam forest department for India's first wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre in Panbari Reserve Forest (RF), which will be inaugurated soon.
5. In partnership with the Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Centre(AERCC), WTI was the moving force behind the acquisition of the first elephant corridor to be secured and added to the protected area. The Kannianpura elephant corridor in Bandipur national park, Karnataka, has created a contiguous habitat between two mountain chains, the Eastern and the Western Ghats.. Currently, WTI is working on securing two more corridors: Kollegal in Karnataka and Chilla-Motichur in Uttaranchal.
6. Twenty-seven Rapid Action Projects (RAPs) were completed in FY2000-01 including protecting the dens of wild dog in Mudumalai Sanctuary, preventing Akhand Shikar (ritual tribal hunting) in Simlipal National Park, flood rescue work in Kaziranga National Park, preventing elephant poaching and crop depredation in Arunachal Pradesh, preventing mortality of greater adjutant stork chicks etc. Of the RAPs, the achievement of convincing an entire tribe of Nishis in and around Pakhui National Park to give up arms, banning on the hunting of hornbills in the area (four rare species are found here) and adopt fibreglass beaks for their headgear instead of natural ones for their traditional ceremonies is noteworthy.
7. The Tibetan Antelope programme's "Say No to Shahtoosh" campaign has used fashion events, advertisements and posters effectively to create a riveting plea for the Chiru. Events in both Mumbai and Delhi showcased the campaign and prominent personalities from the fashion, film and media world have become signatories to the campaign. Meanwhile an investigative foray into Tibet in collaboration with IFAW led to a new report on the trade. This extensive report includes the first ever footage of shahtoosh being traded within Tibet. Side by side, investigators in Kashmir are enumerating the entire shahtoosh workforce in a bid to suggest alternatives for those dependent on the trade.

This report is a programmatic account detailing WTI's conservation achievements in the year 2000-01.





WILD AID

With the Indian population crossing the one-billion mark, the country's struggle to meet the development needs of the burgeoning human population, has put its wildlife under severe stress. Every month, every week, and almost every day, there is a conservation emergency that requires help immediately, but usually it does not arrive in time. The primary reason for the delay is that the government machinery that looks after wildlife is not always geared for quick reaction and in most cases, does not have ready funds. Such problems, if not tackled quickly, tend to go out of control, and always need sizeable funds, planning and work force, which may not be available. Ground level action is vital for the survival of Indian wildlife and it is these rapid fire-fighting measures that are going to keep it alive. To provide a solution to this problem, the Wildlife Trust of India has started the Wild Aid Programme with two key components, the Rapid Action Project (RAP) and the Van Rakshak Project (VRP). RAP provides assistance during poaching outbreaks, natural and man made calamities and disease epidemics. This assistance can be in the form of equipment and capital support, training and even compensation for death or injury. RAPs are extremely flexible and provide such assistance rapidly, and in time, to avert wildlife catastrophes that can endanger wild animals or even long-term conservation measures that may already be in place. The following RAPs were conducted during FY 2000-2001:

S.No.	Rapid Action Projects	
1.	Protecting dhole (wild dog) dens in Mudumalai WLS. Local tribal watchers guarded known dens of wild dogs during breeding season and prevented any poaching of the animal.	
2.	Assistance for anti-poaching work in Corbett National Park including provision of 6 binoculars, 50 anti-poaching kits and ration for field patrolling staff.	
3.	Field gear to volunteers conducting tiger census in Mudumalai WLS. Assistance to census volunteers to enable accurate counting of tigers.	
4.	Investigation to determine the cause of death of mithuns (semi-domesticated cattle) in Sagali Forest Division, Arunachal Pradesh. The programme was critical in alleviating villagers' animosity towards wild dogs and suggesting practical solutions.	
5.	Support for the prevention of Akhand Shikar (ritual hunting) in Simlipal NP Orissa. Resulted in the stopping of large-scale invasion of Simlipal by tribals and the rescue of several endangered live animals from them.	
6.	Anti-poaching awareness and community participation to save four endangered hornbill species in Pakhui NP, Arunachal Pradesh. Resulted in a village level ban on hunting of hornbill, surrender of arms by well-known poachers and the adoption of fibreglass beaks (100 numbers) by the Nishi tribe in Pakhui.	

WILD AID

7.	Ex-gratia relief in Garo Hills Forest Division, Meghalaya. Assistance to widows of three slain and one injured guard.
8.	Field support to forest staff for patrolling and monitoring the habitat of Palpur Kuno WLS. Equipment aid to guards of sanctuary where Asiatic lions are to be translocated, to help speed up translocation process.
9.	Assistance for fuel costs of anti-poaching vehicles in Haridwar Forest Division.
10.	Field gear for patrolling forest staff of Eravikulam and Chinnar Sanctuaries in Kerala. Tribal watchers of the sanctuaries equipped with raingear and rucksacks.
11.	Desiltation of wetlands for improvement of Rhino habitat in Pobitora WLS. A unique experiment of desilting two important wetlands in Pobitora, that are critical for the rhino, by surrendered poachers.
12.	Enforcement assistance to a field operative for wildlife derivative (including ivory) seizure by Bombay Environment Action Group (BEAG)



WILD AID

13.	Provision of "Sanctuary Asia" magazine to the judicial officers in Assam. An attempt to orient the judiciary of an important wildlife state in wildlife protection.
14.	Fought and won a Public Interest Litigation for removal of a param-ilitary firing range operational adjacent to the Bannerghatta NP, Karnataka
15.	Four patrolling boats repaired at Corbett Tiger Reserve and equipped with 15 life jackets
16.	Enforcement assistance to a field operative for a tiger skin seizure, Dudhwa NP, Uttar Pradesh
17.	Protection of the greater adjutant stork nesting sites in Assam. Nets placed under trees and volunteer monitoring resulted in 12 chicks of the endangered bird being fostered to adulthood.
18.	Assistance for repair and fuel cost of anti-poaching vehicle Haridwar WL Division, Uttaranchal
19.	Repair cost of wireless system Balphakram NP, Meghalaya
20.	Protection of the lesser florican nesting sites around Velavadar NP (Bhal region), Gujarat
21.	Provision of flashlights to 28 anti-poaching camps at Mudumalai, Tamil Nadu
22.	Rescue cage and boat for Dibru Saikhowa sanctuary. The equipment aided in rescuing many animals during the floods, including two leopards that were released back into the wild.
23.	Lobbying to declare India's first Sarus Crane Sanctuary at Etawah (UP), which is the biggest congregation of the species in the world.
24.	Investigation and action to mitigate the problem of elephant deaths caused by trains in Rajaji NP, Uttaranchal.
25.	Posting of trained vets and volunteers equipped with an ambulance, for emergency flood relief in Kaziranga NP, Assam, for the second year.
26.	Provision of 15 watchers for resolving elephant crop-raiding at Pakhui NP, Arunachal Pradesh. A unique volunteer scheme that involved the village providing 5 volunteers and WTI funding for 10 others to protect crops and ensure poachers do not enter the park.
27.	80 rain suits provided to patrolling staff of Satkosia WLS, Orissa



RAP CASE STUDY



Rescue of an elephant calf from flood waters in Assam

Kaziranga National Park in the north-east Indian state of Assam has 1,500 greater one horned rhinos, the largest number in the world, apart from tigers, elephants and many other smaller, but equally endangered mammals. The park lies next to the one of the most flood prone rivers in the world, the Brahmaputra. Every year during monsoons the park gets

flooded, with some areas under 10 feet of water. As the floods advance the animals seek higher ground, but many of the young and those trapped in the swirling waters drown. Many, especially ungulates, come out of the forest onto to highways, leading to heavy casualties. In 1998, 43 rhinos, several hundred deer and a few elephant calves drowned.

In 2000, WTI organised groups of volunteers to help the forest department set up camps in the most affected areas to rescue drowning or marooned animals. Again in 2001, WTI stationed an ambulance and trained veterinary doctors along with volunteers to save as many animals as possible. For the first time, an abandoned elephant calf was rescued and put back into herd at Kaziranga National Park.



The rescue team received an urgent call from Baguri Range of the national park saying that a mahout had noticed a wild elephant calf trapped in water hyacinth, the herd having abandoned it. The calf was then rescued. It was found to be less than two weeks old, with its umbilical cord still attached. The WTI veterinarian provided first aid to the animal and took it in the ambulance into the park. Meanwhile, the forest guard managed to find the rest of the herd and in a joint operation, the calf was returned to its family. This was the first ever incident where a calf was rescued and reunited with its herd.



RAP CASE STUDY



Saving rare hornbills in Arunachal Pradesh

Hornbills are especially vulnerable in North-east India due to the traditional value of these birds for their feathers, casques, medicinal value of their fat and flesh among many tribal groups. Many areas especially in eastern and central Arunachal have such high hunting pressure that the great hornbill has become extremely rare or locally extinct. The great hornbill is also the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and is the most valued and hunted by tribal groups, followed by the rufous-necked hornbill. While Nishis use the upper beak or the whole casque and beak together as part of traditional ceremonial headgear, Wanchos adorn themselves with the feathers, particularly the tail feather of the great hornbill. At Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary—a stronghold of the species—in Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng district, field conservation initiatives have persuaded the local villagers to ban the hunting of hornbills. A large WTI-supported hoarding now carries a warning that hornbills are protected, and the Village Forest Development Council, Seijosa, protects hornbills. The hoarding was erected at the Seijosa check-gate of the sanctuary. In response to an ingenious proposal by local NGO, Arunachal Nature and Wildlife Foundation (ANWF), Over 100 fibreglass beaks resembling the genuine ones, were designed and supplied by WTI to the villagers. This has been enthusiastically greeted by the people. Fibreglass hornbill beaks were presented to prominent ministers and the Governor of Assam by the Nishi tribals, indicating their complete acceptance.



VAN RAKSHAK PROJECT



While Rapid Action Projects continue to be the mainstay of the Wild Aid programme, the proactive Van Rakshak or Guardians of the Wild Project (VRP) was busy training, providing kits and boosting the morale of staff around the country. In FY 2000-01, WTI in collaboration with relevant state forest departments trained and outfitted the field staff of the following sanctuaries and national parks: Corbett, Bandipur, Orang, Pobitora, Balphakram, Nokrek, Siju, Nongkhyllem, Pakhui, Eagle's Nest, Tipi, Talle Valley and Itanagar.

During FY 1999-2000, VRPs have been launched with Sonanadi Sanctuary with nearly 1,000 guards being trained and properly outfitted, the project can truly be called a national one. Consistent to its philosophy, WTI was busy preparing the frontline staff to deal with anti-poaching rather than bemoan the fact that poaching had become the single most important threat to wildlife species, in particular the tiger, rhino and elephant.

The WTI anti-poaching kits have become so popular that the organisation is flooded with requests from protected areas (PAs) across the country for the kits and training. Unfortunately with 500 plus PAs and an estimated 50,000 workforce, the current capabilities and funding of the project does not allow for covering the whole country. It is hoped that with increased resource allocation, WTI will be able to cover at least the 100 most important PAs in a three year span.

Table: Staff trained and equipped under Van Rakshak Project FY 2000-01

Protected area	Donor	Staff Strength	Trained	Equipped
Bandipur	USFWS	270	250	270
Orang	DSCF	105	64	105
Pakhui/Eagle's Nest/Sessa/ Itanagar/Talle Valley	USFWS	113	40	113
Balphakram/Nokrek/ Nongkhyllem	USFWS	226	138	226
Corbett	IFAW	280	182	280
Total		994	674	994

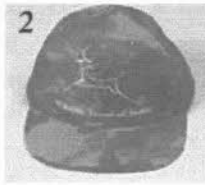
The most outstanding VRP has been the group insurance scheme for the entire field wildlife workforce from range officer downwards with an insurance policy against death and disability. This holds good even for temporary workers. In addition, WTI gave away two national level awards, the Van Rakshak Award and the Endangered Species Award to Narayan Sarmah (posthumously) for elephant conservation and Mr. K.N.Changappa for a lifetime dedicated to protecting the Nilgiri tahr and the Eravikulam National Park., respectively.



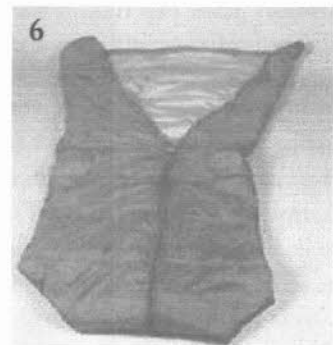
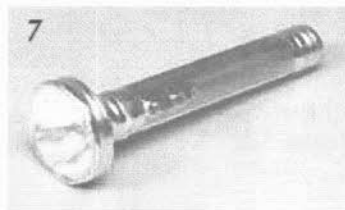
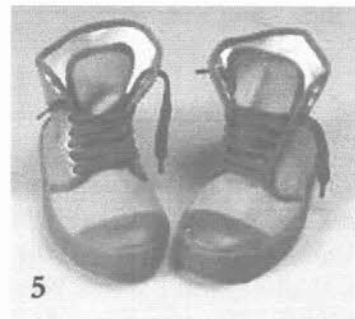
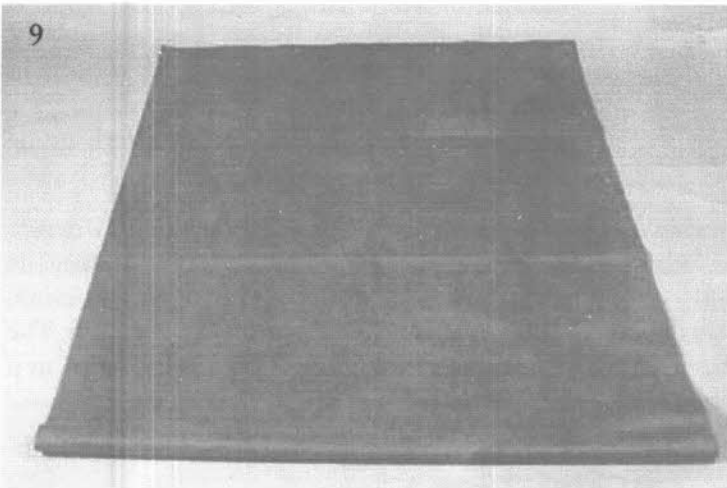
VAN RAKSHAK PROJECT

Wildlife
Trust
of India

Anli-Poaching Kit



1. Rucksack
2. Cap
3. Rain Suit
4. Jacket
5. Jungle Boots
6. Sleeping Bag
7. Torch
8. Water Bottle
9. Ground Sheet



WILD SPECIES

The Species Conservation Programme of WTI has taken up four projects for long term conservation initiatives. These relate to Tibetan antelope, Asiatic elephant, rhino and wild cats (the tiger to begin with). WTI takes up species conservation through its other programmes and projects as well but these four are specific species recovery programmes.



The Tibetan Antelope

Pantholops hodgsonii -commonly referred to as the chiru_ lives above the tree line in Tibet, at an altitude of over 14,000 ft. 'Shahtoosh' is the name given to wool derived from the chiru.

The fabric woven from this wool carries the same name and is worn by the fashionable worldwide. Though the Tibetan Antelope is found largely in China, the shahtoosh shawl is woven only by master craftsmen in Kashmir. The shawls thus woven are then either sold in the domestic market or smuggled to various countries in the West and Middle East.

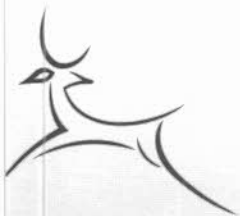


Recognising the need to put an end to this trade if the 'chiru' is to survive, WTI and IFAW joined hands to fight this battle in China, the UK and India.

The objectives for India were:

1. To eliminate the demand for shahtoosh.
2. To increase awareness about the product among law enforcers, prospective buyers and the upcoming generation both domestically and internationally, focusing on how the wool is sourced and that the source is an endangered species; and harming the animal or trading in products is illegal in most of the world.
3. To introduce replacements like high grade pashmina

Although the fashion industry in India does not use shahtoosh in their creations, they definitely form peer groups for shahtoosh users. In India, the fashion fraternity came out in full strength to denounce the shahtoosh shawl and urged the public to do so too. This was done at a highly publicised week-long event, the Lakme India Fashion Week 2000, held in New Delhi in August 2000 (August 17 to 23, 2000). The WTI-IFAW's "Say No to Shahtoosh" campaign was launched at this event. This was the only "non fashion" issue taken up at the event and thus elicited a lot of interest and got immense exposure. All the leading fashion designers and models actively supported the cause and spoke up against the use of this wool and the need to save the endangered Tibetan Antelope. The Fashion Design Council of India had provided WTI with a stall where a collage of photographs provided by IFAW China formed the backdrop.



ANTI-SHAHTOOSH CAMPAIGN



Two striking advertisements were created and placed in various leading Indian magazines like *Outlook*, *Bride & Home*, *A Wedding Affair*, *Elle*, *Reader's Digest*, *Span*, the Oberoi magazine.

Besides, a special poster was developed keeping in mind the fact that many of the target customers might not read magazines and that visibility at points of sale of shahtoosh was critical for the campaign. More than a hundred prime locations in the city of New Delhi and Mumbai were selected, and young college students volunteered to put up 1,500 posters.

In addition to the posters and the ads, 10,000 small and attractive single fold tags were designed. They carried the visual of a chiru fawn with the message "Say No to Shahtoosh".

Gitanjali Kashyap, who is leading the fashion fraternity in this cause, assisted WTI to get these tags placed in leading upmarket boutiques, in all their outlets across the country. A WTI tag was attached to every garment in the shop or was given away with every purchase.



Posters and other literature were also left in the shops. About 5,500 tags were utilised in more than a dozen fashion boutiques in Delhi.

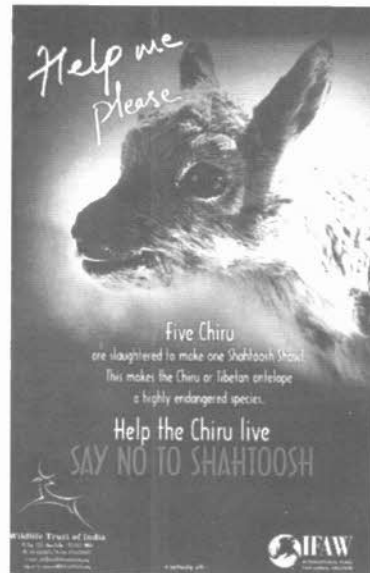
In another experiment, the tags are also displayed prominently in the rooms of a leading five star hotel in New Delhi. Several talks and seminars were organised at Habitat Centre, India International Centre, Rotary Club and a ladies club gathering for spreading the message further.

It was brought to WTI's notice that though the Shahtoosh shawl has been banned in most countries, and is definitely banned in India, many ladies of the various embassies in the Capital were openly seen draped in it.

Hence, WTI brought this to the notice of the Ministry of External Affairs by writing to them and requesting the Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, to help tackling the issue. Mr. Singh showed great sympathy for the cause and his ministry issued letters to all the

embassies, urging them not only stop using the shawl, but also desist from any further purchases of shahtoosh.

WTI also provided inputs to the Prime Minister's Office on two occasions, when notes on the shahtoosh trade were requested by his office. This and other policy meetings have ensured that the true story of shahtoosh is now well known in the corridors of power in New Delhi.



ELEPHANT CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Elephant Conservation Project (ECP) existed even before the formation of WTI and it has been an on going programme of WTI since its inception in collaboration with the Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Centre, Bangalore (AERCC).

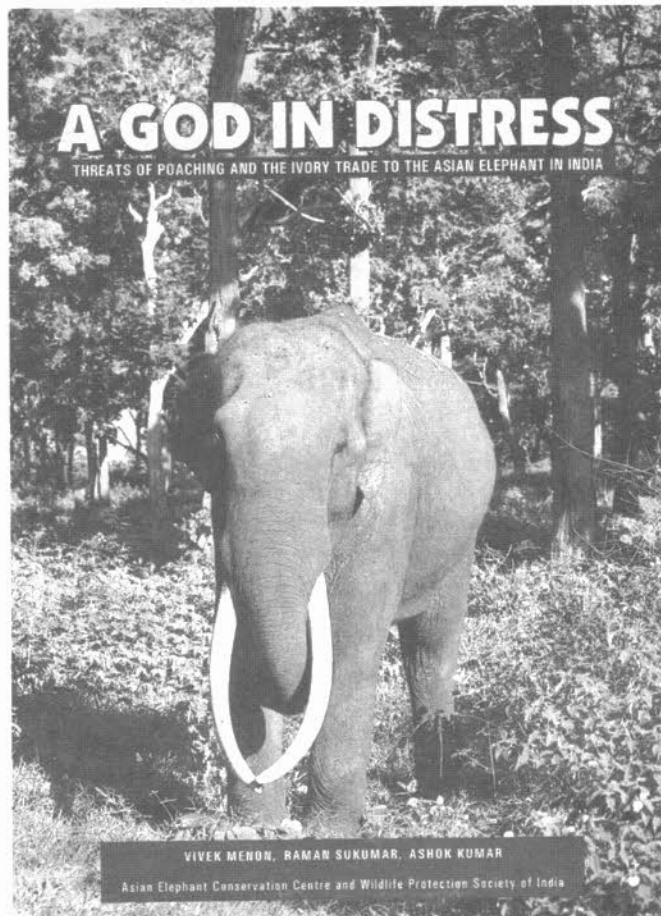
The elements which comprise ECP are :

1. Compilation of elephant mortality records on an all-India basis. WTI has the best database on this subject, which is continuously updated.
2. Study of trade in ivory and elephant poaching pressure including international initiatives on such studies for CITES and other fora. WTI is the acknowledged leader in this field in India. In the past ivory trade studies have been conducted in neighboring countries like Nepal, Myanmar, other south east Asian countries, China, Japan, and the UAE.



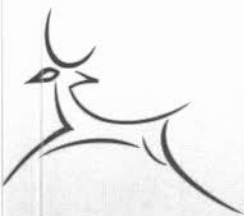
WTI also has three important publications in this field :

- a) God in Distress
- b) Signed and Sealed
- c) Reversing the Decline of the Asian Elephant (for the Ministry of Environment and Forests)



These publications help in the conservation community to continue the ban on international trade in African ivory at international meetings such as the CITES Conference of Parties held at Nairobi in April 2000. CITES is an international convention with 154 member countries. Mr. Ashok Kumar and Mr. Vivek Menon of WTI have attended these meetings as members of the Indian government delegation. Statistical models will be developed in collaboration with AERCC which will lead to policy inputs. This activity will continue and will, in fact, be a major focus from October 2001 onwards in preparation for the next CITES Conference of Parties to be held in Chile in October 2002.

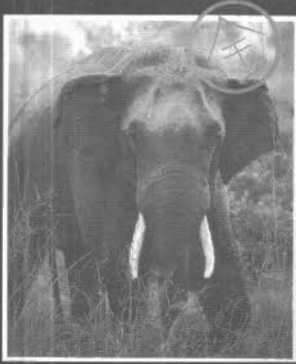
3. WTI has developed field programmes for elephant conservation. A field site was set up at Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh, which has a large elephant population. An office has been established at site but the field work will commence after the Monsoons. Other sites are also being actively considered.



ELEPHANT CONSERVATION PROJECT

SIGNED AND SEALED

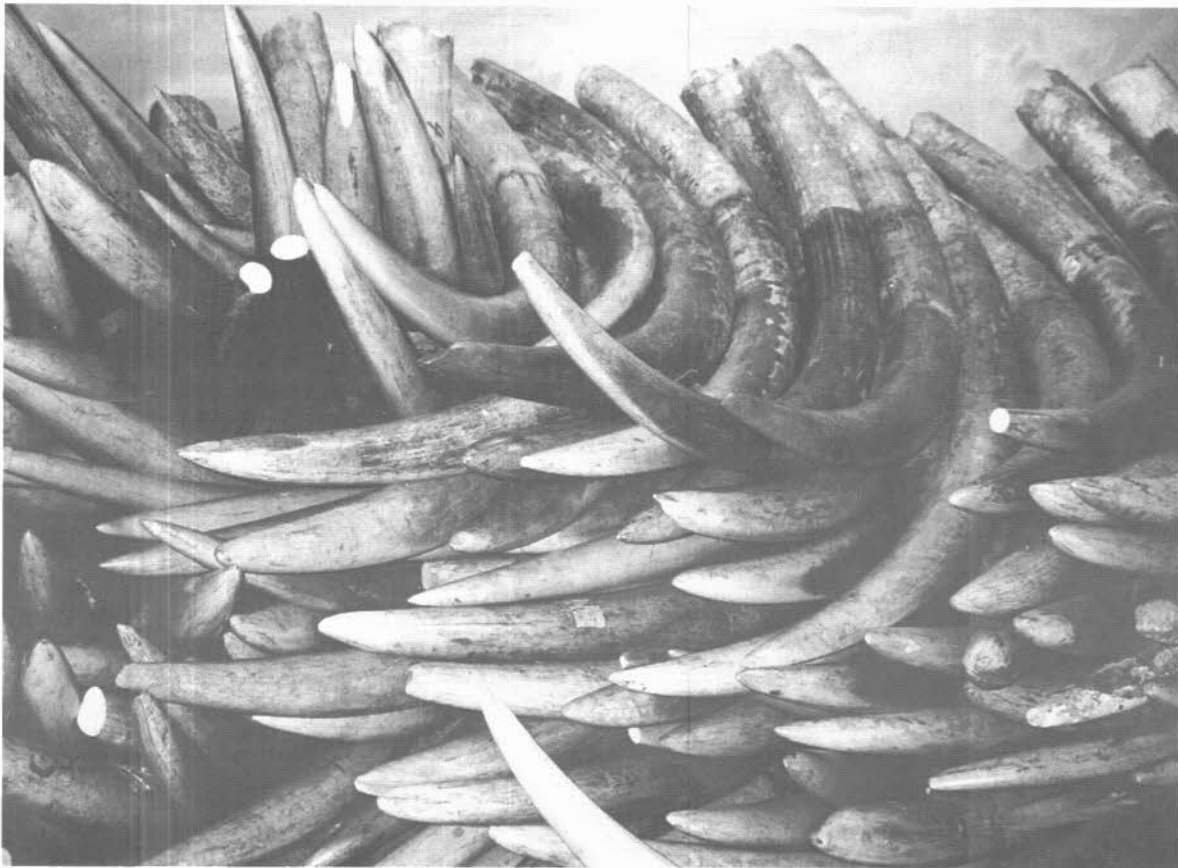
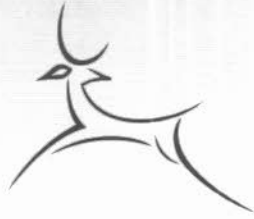
THE FATE OF THE ASIAN ELEPHANT



VIVEK MENON
ASHOK KUMAR

Asian Elephant Conservation Centre and Wildlife Protection Society of India

4. Policy and administrative issues of elephant conservation are studied in collaboration with Asian elephant specialist group of IUCN. WTI is also an active member of Elephant Working Group of Species Survival Network (SSN) an international consortium of conservation NGOs.
5. WTI is continually associated with elephant issues in India, some of which are also addressed through programmes such as Wild Aid and Wild Enforcement. The latter addresses control over poaching and illegal ivory trade. WTI has assisted in a number of ivory seizures. Study of elephant mortality in Rajaji National Park because of train accidents is one such study which has developed suggestions for control of this problem. WTI will also assist through an elephant protection RAP.



RHINO CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Rhino Conservation Project was set up during the latter half of the year and was in the process of being planned. However, during the coming year the project will deal with three important issues that face rhino conservation in India today :

1. Enforcement issues and anti-poaching measures to protect the 2,000-odd great one-horned rhinos that are left in the world.
2. Manas National Park, that was the second largest population of the rhino in India, was completely wiped out in the late 80s. The project will concentrate on the reserve to bring the rhino back to Manas.
3. Translocation feasibilities of the rhino to other areas in Assam. Today, 1,500 of the 2,000 rhinos are in one park- Kaziranga. IUCN SSC has identified three other areas including Laokhawa-Burrhasapori, Dibru Saikhowa and Sonai-Rupai as possible places for translocation. However, habitat suitability and protection status of these sites, need to be done.



WILD RESCUE



The Wild Rescue Programme rescues temporarily disadvantaged wild animals, which have been confiscated from live and pet animal trade, or have been injured, maimed, orphaned, sick, or stray and provides treatment and rehabilitation to these rescued wild animals, in order to be able to successfully return them to their natural environments. The mission of Wild Rescue is to do this in a scientific manner and in line with national and international guidelines. In the past year since the setting up of the Wild Rescue Programme a number of projects and activities have been taken up.

Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation: The North-east is a biodiversity rich area that sees a large number of wild animals needing rescuing, be it from the floods or from straying or from the illegal wildlife trade. There is currently no facility that offers wildlife veterinary services in the entire North-east. WTI proposed to set up a rescue centre with the financial support of the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment, Government of India and IFAW. The centre is slated to be a state-of-the-art facility that will set standards for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation in the north-east.

A number of potential sites were shortlisted and evaluated. Finally, an area in the Panbari Reserve Forest, opposite Kaziranga National Park, was selected. The Government of Assam granted 10 acres of land for this center. In order to establish the facilities, preparatory work on the identified site has been underway since March 2001. This includes area estimation, demarcation, clearing of weeds and burning of residues on the site. A site survey to prepare a contour map has also been completed. The site is now ready for construction work.

The development of enclosure and building designs for the center have also been processed along with the efforts to finalise the paperwork for transfer of land. A team of expert enclosure designers was identified and enclosure design criteria finalised in January 2001. In order to develop enclosures, pictures of the location, topography, terrain, and vegetation



Wildlife
Trust
of India



WILD RESCUE



were circulated among the team members in February 2001. A draft of rescue center building and enclosure design has been completed, which has been approved by the "Governing Council" along with some recommendations.

Mobile veterinary clinic

The animal ambulance procured with the financial support received from the Animal Welfare Division, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is now fully operational and is being used for wild animal rescue work in Kaziranga national park. The situation becomes very critical during the Monsoon, when the park gets flooded and thousands of animals need to be rescued in the area.. After the floods are over it will be used at the up-coming shelter in Assam. While the rescue center is becoming operational, the ambulance is being used as a mobile veterinary clinic catering to different protected areas in Assam like Kaziranga, Manas, Pobitora, Orang, Nameri, Dibru-Saikowa, Sonai-Rupai and Pakhui. The visits have also generated publicity about the Wild Rescue Programme for larger reach. Along with the Assam State Forest Department and Early Birds, a Guwahati-based NGO, WTI's Wild Rescue team is combining its efforts to provide vaccinations and veterinary services for cattle and other livestock in villages around protected areas.



WILD RESCUE AT A GLANCE

The table below indicates the species-wise description of animals treated or rescued :

S. no	Date	Species	Location	Condition	Remarks
1.	12/06/00	Captive elephant	Kaziranga NP	Injured	Treated and recovered
2.	23/06/00	Rhesus macaque	New Delhi	Orphaned from the troop	Rescued, treated, but succumbed to injuries
3.	31/07/00	Camp elephant	Kaziranga NP	Gored by a wild tusker	Recovered fully. Returned back to forest department
4.	06/08/00	Hog deer	Kaziranga NP	Hit by a speeding vehicle	Succumbed due to its multiple fractures
5.	09/09/00	Wild elephant calf	Kaziranga NP	Caught entangled in water hyacinth	Rescued, treated, recovered and released to natal herd
6.	18/09/00	Python	Kaziranga NP	Astray	Rescued and released
7.	01/11/00	Pariah kite	Pobitura WLS	Accidental poisoning	Rescued, treated, recovered and released
8.	31/10/00	Camp elephant	Pobitura WLS	Corneal opacity	Treated successfully
9.	24/11/00	Wild elephant	Sonai-Rupai WLS	Fracture in forelimb	Succumbed due to its multiple fractures
10.	01/12/00	Wild rhino calf	Kaziranga NP	Attacked by a tiger	Rescued, treated, recovered and united with mother rhino
11.	05/12/00	Wild elephant calf	Sonai-rupai WLS	Orphaned	Being raised with the help of WR team
12.	18/12/00	Python	Pobitura WLS	Astray	Rescued and released
13.	23/12/00	Lesser adjutant stork and chick	Pobitura WLS	Fell from a tree	Rescued, treated, recovered and released
14.	25/12/00	Lesser whistling teal	Pobitura WLS	Trapped in a fishing net	Rescued, treated, recovered and released
15.	20/08/00	Pariah kite	New Delhi	Fell from the tree	Rescued, treated, but succumbed to injuries
16.	15/01/01	Sarus crane	Etawah	Suffered a fracture due to collision with electricity wires	Rescued, treated, but succumbed to injuries
17.	15/05/00	Sparrow hawk	New Delhi	Wings clipped for sale	Rescued, recovered and released
18.	17/09/00	Koel	Gurgaon	Orphaned and abandoned bird	Rescued, treated, recovered and released
19.	25/12/00	Mugger crocodile	Chennai	Injured	Treated, recovered and released
20.	25/02/01	Captive elephants	New Delhi	Suffered from foot and mouth disease	Treated and recovered



WILD RESCUE

Training and Orientation

The first-ever workshop on wildlife rehabilitation in India was held in Bangalore from April 20 to 22, 2001. The workshop had as its main trainers Ms. Karen Trendler from South Africa and Dr Agoramoorthy from Taiwan. It was attended by 20 participants from all across the country. Practical classes were held at a nearby rescue centre.

As a follow up, a request has come from the Animal Welfare Board of India to train wildlife rehabilitators in North-East India. This is planned for about for 50 participants and will be held soon.



Outreach: As part of its mission, the Wild Rescue programme will collaborate with other organisations that are doing similar work in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Small grants were given to two organisations. The role of WTI lies not only in providing the much-needed funds to local bodies, but also imparting technical advise and helping them follow international protocols while handling or releasing wild animals. Two organisations which were funded were People for Animals, Bangalore and a pelican nursery in Kokrebellur, South India.

Pelican nursery in South India

For over 500 years, birds and human beings living in symbiosis have shared the village of Kokkare Bellur. The tall trees of the village have provided a safe haven for spot-billed pelicans and painted storks to



WILD RESCUE

build their nests. In turn, the fish diet of the breeding birds has repaid the villagers with a potassium and phosphate rich source of manure for their crops.

But now this age-old pattern of harmony between the avian visitors and their human hosts has been rudely shattered and the very existence of the pelicans is in jeopardy.

Pelicans nest only in clusters, such ideal haunts are provided only by large mature trees. The decline in the number of such trees and the excessive lopping of the existing ones has significantly reduced the space available for nesting. This results in overcrowding as the young birds grow. The hungry fledglings jostle one another when the mother comes to feed them. Those unlucky enough to fall out of the nest are instantly devoured by the vigilant crows and stray dogs. Year by year, the pelican population has been steadily declining.

The project has rescued chicks that fell from the nests, hand reared them and rehabilitated them in the wild, with the help of the local people.



SOWL, the wildlife wing of PFA, Bangalore: Save Our Wild Life (SOWL), Bangalore runs a rescue centre for wild animals that are in need of first aid and rehabilitation. WTI's Wild Rescue Programme has not only provided financial aid, but also timely technical advice on particular species its feeding patterns and medical advice. WTI has also provided a veterinary consultant and expert advice on the rescued wild animals at the SOWL shelter. This year, the wildlife shelter has rescued nearly 300 animals including birds and snakes among others.



WILD LANDS

The Wild Lands Programme was the newest programme to be added on to the Trust's schedule midway through FY 2000-01. While the mandate of the programme was to facilitate acquisition of land that was critical to wildlife. It was felt that the programmes needed a sharper focus. The Board of Trustees, therefore, decided to address elephant corridors first.



Elephant corridors are critical for three reasons:

1. Elephants are characteristically terrestrial migratory species that cannot be confined to protected areas alone and need corridors of movement between such areas to ensure adequate foraging ground and the genetic mixing of sub-populations. If their corridors were protected it would be a major step forward for elephant conservation. Given that WTI already had an ECP, it was felt that this could be a critical area of overlap for the two programmes.
2. Corridors are not exclusive to elephants. A host of other species including the tiger could use these habitats as migratory routes.
3. Corridors are among the most clearly defined areas that exist outside the protected area network that are critical for wildlife. Many of them have been studied and mapped. Acquisition was a logical step forward in most cases.

During FY 2000-01, it was decided to focus on the acquisition of one corridor in south India, as our partner organisation AERCC had already done considerable work in defining and mapping corridor in this region. Of the many elephant corridors that existed in the south, two were chosen in the state of Karnataka as they bore critical ecological and logistical parameters.

During the year, AERCC and WTI in partnership with the Karnataka Forest Department succeeded in acquiring the Kannianpura corridor, making it the first elephant corridor in Asia to be scientifically mapped and acquired. This achievement meant that two critical mountain chains- the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats were connected not only for elephants but for a host of other species that could move from one side to the other.. The acquired land is now part of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve. The contribution of the Wild Lands programme of WTI and AERCC was to identify this area as an elephant corridor, the scientific mapping and groundtruthing of the corridor and the lobbying in state and centre to finally manage the acquisition.

Work has also begun in the Bekkatur- Arrabikeere corridor in Kollegal district of Karnataka for acquisition.



While in the first case the state government and Project Elephant of the Government of India had funded the acquisition, in this case WTI raised the required money for the corridor to be acquired. It is hoped that in the following year, this corridor can also be acquired and conserved.

COMMUNICATION

In addition to the main programmes, WTI formally launched its communications programme. It has slowly stepped up information about wildlife and conservation to the media as well as maintain a nascent website. The team has been involved in the anti-shahtoosh campaign (see under Wild Species) that is today one of the most visible conservation campaigns in India.

FUND RAISING

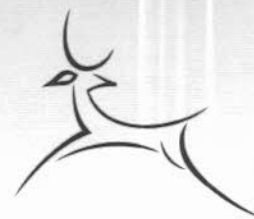
WTI has stepped up its fund raising both within the country and outside. Its strategic collaboration with the International Fund for Animal Welfare during this year set up a global partnership and at the same time strengthened fund raising capabilities. During the year the annual turnover increased by 278 % to Rs 1,69,79,490. A national fund raising campaign was set up to garner support at home as well.

While fund raising efforts are being pushed up, the organisation is keeping its eyes on the 15% limit set for expenditures on overheads including administrative salaries and headquarter maintenance. This financial year 80.5% of funds that were expended were intended for the field, which is good, considering that early years of an organisation always entails larger capital expenditure. It is intended that within a five year span the annual average reaching the field will be 85%. This is one of the highest returns to the field by any NGO in India.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL

In response to the achievements in the field, WTI has had to increase staff strength exponentially to keep pace with the workload. In all in FY 2000-01, WTI had a workforce of 27 staff and consultants compared with seven during the previous year. The team now was more fully rounded professionally comprising wildlife biologists, media experts, lawyers, veterinarians, business managers, accountants and fund raising experts. The emphasis on recruitment was to find not only the exact skill required for the job but also personnel whose heart was firmly committed to conservation. Emphasis was given to field personnel even if headquarter-based and even support staff have been assigned supplementary conservation duties to keep their interest in the work at hand. For example, the WTI accountant also assists manage the elephant mortality database and executive secretaries have often journeyed to the field to assist in delivering equipment aid to forest guards.

This flexibility in recruitment and management of personnel has ensured a highly motivated and committed team of personnel in WTI.



WTI FINANCIAL REPORT 2000 - 2001

Donations and grants received

The financial Year 2000 - 2001 was a good one with reference to fund raising. During the year, the total amount received as donation and grants has gone up by 277.6% when compared to the last financial year, from Rs 69 lakhs to Rs 169 lakhs.

A significant move taken by WTI during the 2000 - 2001 was the launching of National Fund Raising.

At the end of the FY 2000 - 2001 WTI's main donors were Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, International Fund for Animal Welfare, David Shepard Conservation Foundation, USFish and Wildlife Service and the Rufford Foundation.

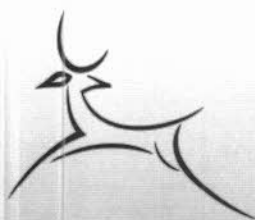
Utilisation of Funds

During the financial year the total funds expended has increased to Rs 111 lakhs from Rs13 lakhs resulting in an increase of 845.5%. The funds were spent mainly for the following :

- During 2000 - 2001, VRP spent its entire allocation for kit distribution, training and other projects. The total expenses under this project is Rs. 46,35,749, about 41.5% of the total expenditure.
- The expenses for various other wildlife welfare and conservation expenses was about 40% of the total expenses.
- Administration and support cost increased from Rs. 52,778 to Rs. 20,41,829 because of the initial setting up cost ie capital equipment and the cost of support staff. However, if we look at the total expenses during the year it is only 18.2% of the total funds expended, with the basic aim of spending 85% of total expenses in the field almost achieved.

To summarise the receipts and payments during the financial year 2000-2001 it can be graphically represented as follows..

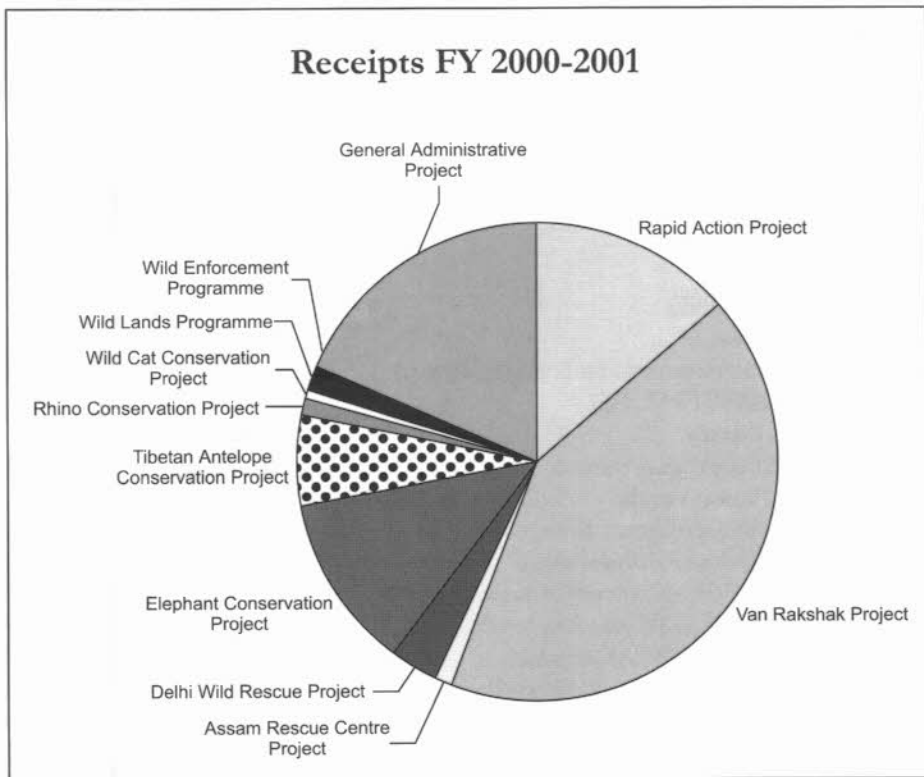
	1999-2000	2000-2001
Funds Raised	Rs.61,15,108.23p	Rs.1,69,79,490.00p
Expenses	Rs.13,21,591.00p	Rs.1,11,74,981.00p



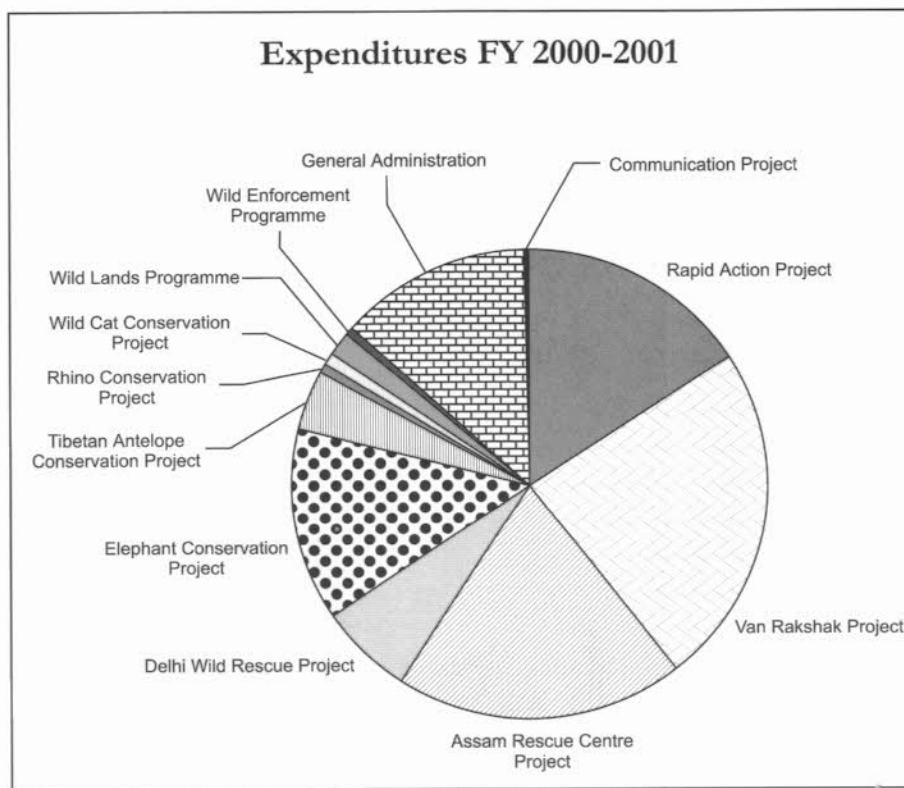


WTI FINANCIAL REPORT 2000 - 2001

Receipts FY 2000-2001



Expenditures FY 2000-2001




WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA BALANCE SHEET A

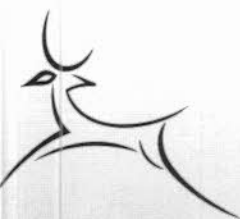
AMOUNT (RS.) FY 99-00	LIABILITIES	AMOUNT (RS.) FY 00-01
	CORPUS FUND	
10429.78	Opening Balance 10429.78	
	Add: Transfer from Income & expenditure A/c 99425.94	109855.72
	FIXED ASSETS FUND	
397653.00	Opening Balance 397653.00	
	Add: Addition during the year 185298.00	582051.00
	Specific Project Funds (Schedule "A")	
3330764.06	WILD AID-Rapid Action Project	2199241.70
794457.98	WILD AID- Van Rakshak Project	869276.66
977268.70	WILD SPECIES - Elephant Conserv, Project	1804854.15
-	WILD SPECIES - Tibetan Antelop Project	345246.87
-	WILD SPECIES - Wild Cat Project	73780.45
-	WILD SPECIES - Rhino Conserv, Project	11254.57
1053844.76	WILD RESCUE - Assam Project	4537129.60
-	WILD RESCUE - Delhi Project	1108720.30
-	WILD LANDS	248182.98
-	WILD ENFORCEMENT - Enforcement Project	46429.00
-	WILD ENFORCEMENT - Legal Project	49196.50
-	GENERAL - Communication Project	86844.03
-	GENERAL - Building Fund	1779770.69
	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS	
34863.00	Expenses Payable	145917.70
-	Creditors	29500.00
6599281.48	TOTAL	14028651.92

Note to Accounts - Schedule "F"

FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA


H. Jay Dabur (TRUSTEE) *hnd* (TRUSTEE)

Place : New Delhi
Date : 6-6-2001





STATE OF INDIA
31st MARCH 2001

AMOUNT (RS.) FY 99-00	ASSETS	AMOUNT (RS.) FY 00-01
372169.00	FIXED ASSETS (Schedule "C") Gross Block	1375995.08
4950000.00	INVESTMENTS Fixed Deposits	10261979.08
20856.16	Accrued Interest	60384.68
	CURRENT ASSETS LOANS & ADVANCES	
	CURRENT ASSETS:	
	Cash in hand	
"	Cash (Indian)	6,183.50
1917.50	Cash (FCRA)	2,683.75
"	Party Cash	224.50
16098.59	Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank: A/C No. 25516981 (FCRA)	153452.49
1149010.23	A/C No. 39552609 (Indian)	1240275.86
	LOANS & ADVANCES:	
76230.00	Advances (Schedule - D)	763572.98
13000.00	Security Deposits (Schedule - E)	163900.00
6599281.48	TOTAL	14028651.92

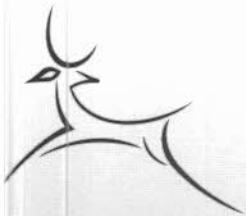

[Signature]
(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

As per Our Attached Report of Even Date
FOR L. B. JHA & CO.
Chartered Accountants

[Signature]
SHISHIR GOEL
(PARTNER)


WTT'S DONORS

- ❖ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India
- ❖ International Fund for Animal Welfare
- ❖ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ❖ David Shepherd Conservation Foundation
- ❖ Rufford Foundation
- ❖ Maurice Laing Foundation
- ❖ Born Free Foundation
- ❖ Japan Wildlife Conservation Society
- ❖ Tiger Trust
- ❖ Jindal Steel & Power Ltd
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Forest Department
- ❖ Alfred Foundation
- ❖ Alka and Sriram Srinivasan
- ❖ Santanu Sarkar



THE IFAW-WTI PARTNERSHIP

The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) strongly believes that partnerships with like-minded organizations and the subsequent pooling in of resources for a common goal is the way ahead for conservation. It was with this in mind that WTI forged a partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

IFAW was founded in 1969 to end the commercial slaughter of harp and hooded seals. Today, it has become one of the largest international animal welfare organizations in the world with offices in 13 countries and a staff of more than 200 experienced campaigners, legal and political experts, and scientists.

IFAW campaigns to change policies and practices to improve the welfare of animals, apart from helping animals directly through its own programmes and grants to other organizations. Its campaigns are based on sound scientific research bolstered by close cooperation with governments (including advocacy with policy makers for strong laws to protect animals), other organizations, and local communities, as well as public education to promote more enlightened coexistence with all living things on this planet.

IFAW's work, stemming from the belief that animals suffer far too much from commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and needless cruelty, is concentrated in three areas: it mounts rescue and relief operations to help animals in distress, whether from natural or man-made disasters; collaborates with local communities around the world to preserve critical tracts of wilderness habitat; promotes economically viable alternatives to commercial exploitation of wildlife; and supports sanctuaries for animals around the world.



IFAW

International Fund
for Animal Welfare

www.ifaw.org



PHOTO CREDITS

Mohd Khalid Pasha	:	Pg 1 t, Pg 7 t, Pg 8, Pg 14 t & b
Amrit Pal	:	Pg 3
Aniruddha Mookerjee	:	Pg 2 t, Pg 18 b
Vivek Menon	:	Pg 13 b, Pg 20 t & b
Pradip Mandhani	:	Pg 2 b, Pg 10 m
Anand Ramanathan	:	Pg 16 b
K.N. Changappa	:	Pg 4 t
Kumi Furuya	:	Pg 12 t
IFAW	:	Pg 10 t, Pg 11 b
WTI photostock	:	Rest

t	:	Top
b	:	Bottom
m	:	Middle

