

Call of the wild

Sanctuary

A S I A

Vol. XXIX No.2, April 2009

Borneo

forests of life

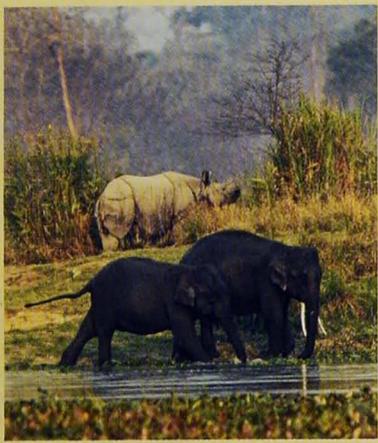
The Southern Western Ghats

Land of the Apatanis

Dolphins of the Ganges



The Tiger's Tattered World



On the cover

A picture of utopia? These elephants and rhino freely share space in Kaziranga, where tigers thrive as well, but humans are bent on tearing this living canvas apart.

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Cover Story

The Tiger's Tattered World The odds are heavily stacked against the royal Bengal tiger *Panthera tigris*. The most serious threats to the long-term survival of the tiger are habitat fragmentation and poaching for the wildlife trade. **Lakshmy Raman** and **Bittu Sahgal** underline key strategies to protect the tiger and ask that Forest Departments be overhauled, as **B.K. Sharma** underlines the growing link between the illegal wildlife trade and narcotics. **22**



Species Focus

On the Trail of the Mangrove Monarch

Rishi Sharma writes about an ambitious camera trapping and radio-telemetry effort that he hopes will set the ground for more detailed studies designed to obtain accurate estimations of tiger density and territoriality in the Sundarbans. **44**

Running Out of Breath

A retinue of threats ranging from resource overlap to polluted waters is affecting the Gangetic dolphins of the Vikramshila Sanctuary, writes **Nachiket Kelkar**. **54**



Conservation

Mountain Rainforests

Rajeev Pillay undertook an extensive study on habitat quality, connectivity and large mammal distribution in the southern Western Ghats and returned with some disquieting results. **48**

Land of the Apatanis

Biodiversity is the foundation of the *Apatani* culture, writes **Gopi G.V.** who elaborates on how their traditional agro-ecosystem management practices are being eroded and why they must be protected. **60**



Reports

The Subansiri Subversion

The dilution of conditions of clearance for the Lower Subansiri hydroelectric project, makes a mockery of environmental governance and makes it difficult to trust officialdom, suggests **Neeraj Vaghlikar**. **72**

Royal Bengal Tiger Consultation

The third in a series of national consultations builds consensus on the imperative of protecting wildlife habitats as a way of fighting climate change and securing our food and water security. **74**