



বাঘ আমাদের গর্ব
বাঘ সুরক্ষা করবো

Women are getting their voice heard through Village Forum

Minimized Human-Wildlife Conflict

Background

The Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF), the world's largest naturally growing mangrove forest, is a class-3 global priority tiger habitat. It occupies about 10,263 square kilometers area of Ganges-Brahmaputra delta with about 6,017 square kilometers of Sundarbans situated in Bangladesh and the remainder in India. Although there is no human habitat inside the SRF, about 2 million people live alongside the SRF in 76 bordering villages. Most of these people depend on natural resources such as fish, crabs, wood and honey for their livelihoods. Human-Tiger Conflict (HTC) is a regular and ongoing occurrence in the SRF and its borders. Conflict usually arises when tigers and humans share common, limited resources. HTC has a direct impact on both tigers and humans as it results in the deaths and/or injury of tigers, humans and livestock. It also gives rise to many misconceptions about our inability to co-exist with tigers.

In and around the Bangladesh Sundarbans, HTC incidents are a common phenomenon and the level of HTC is the highest of any other tiger range country; approximately 50 people, 80 livestock, and 1-3 tigers die each year. Communities who lose family members and/or livestock suffer from economic and emotional crises that can lead to negative and misinformed attitudes towards tigers. This can, in turn, make the implementation of tiger conservation activities more challenging. These misconceptions can encourage communities to engage in retaliatory killings of tigers. They may also lead to villagers supporting other threats to tigers, including poaching and trade. It is therefore extremely important to minimize this threat through effective HTC monitoring and management responses towards HTC incidents. This will aid in the overall conservation of tigers and reduce the unnecessary misery inflicted on local communities to help secure their support for long-term tiger conservation.

The Sundarbans is infamous for having the highest levels of humans killed by tigers. Related tiger kills of livestock deplete the financial resources of families already suffering from acute poverty. The Forest Department (FD) and Forest Tiger Response Teams (FTRTs) provide assistance to victims of human-wildlife conflicts in and around communities. Bagh identifies gaps in capacity and provides support to FTRT and the VTRTs with necessary behavioral changes among local communities to reduce conflict situations.

Objective

To prevent conflict, reduce fatalities and the number of new tiger widows, and to provide victim relief.

Expected results/outcomes

- Stray tiger killing incidents by local people avoided
- Management decisions informed by a new tiger monitoring/behavior prediction system
- Safety measures taken by high-risk communities/forest resource users while working in the forest
- Improved access to emergency response for forest resource collectors
- Human-wildlife conflict management guideline effectively implemented.



Bagh not only addresses the challenge of human-wildlife conflict but also tackle the root causes – the loss of habitat and degradation of habitat and ecosystem. The intervention also focuses on the principal contributor to wildlife habitat loss – especially the increase in salinity levels and sea level rise that threaten to dramatically impact the ecosystem over the next 100 years.

Activities

- Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict outside the forests.
- Adopt sophisticated tools for conflict prediction.
- Equip communities to prevent and deal with the consequences of attacks.
- Develop best practices for Human-Wildlife Conflict response.
- Share WHC management best practices globally.

Bagh has been educating people on human-tiger conflict management

Approach

An HTC monitoring system will be established in consultation with the FD to model and predict wildlife conflict to mitigate and pre-empt damage. Bagh will be monitoring the wildlife-human conflict situations as well as implementing management responses to effectively manage those incidents. Bagh will enhance community capacity to deal with conflict situations to ensure the safety of both humans and wildlife. The Village Tiger Response Teams (VTRTs) and Emergency Tiger Response Team (ETRT) will be further strengthened by providing support in the form of capacity building and equipment. Necessary support will be provided to FD for drafting and implementing conflict tiger management guidelines to inform and speed up decision making during conflict situations.

Way forward

- Wildlife rescue will be continued.
- Wildlife-human conflict incidents will be effectively managed.
- Forest safety training will be provided to forest resource collectors.
- Regular and refresher training will be provided to VTRTs and FTRT.
- FTRT's community-based operation will be continued.
- Conflict tiger management guideline will be implemented.
- WHC management training will be provided to stakeholders (ETRT, FD, and CMOs).

School kids are strong supporters of Bagh's work

Contact

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