



Project Update	June 2011
Project Name	Voluntary relocation to improve human lives in tiger landscapes
Project Objective	Improving human livelihoods and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts in Malenad/Mysore tiger landscape, India, through incentive-based voluntary relocations.
Project Funding	£250,000: Compensating beneficiaries £200k staffing/admin costs £50k
Project Length	3 years (starting January 2010)

The Project

The Adventure Ashram donation of £250,000 is paying for the successful relocation of forest dwelling families/villages within the Malenad/Mysore tiger landscape in India. The voluntary relocation project will improve the living conditions of the most disadvantaged families, giving them access to health care, education and new opportunities to earn a living. The abandoned settlements within the forests will be protected and allowed to revert to their natural state, increasing the size of untouched forest for the protection of the local tiger population. The project is run by Dr Ullas Karanth from the *Centre of Wildlife Studies*, a prominent scientist in India who has promoted successful voluntary relocation projects in Bhadra and Nagarhaole.

The Why

Like so many places in the world, natural habitats have been put under pressure by the growing numbers of people that live in and around them. The Malenad/Mysore area has a rather unique problem with its people and tigers living side by side, resulting in severe human wildlife conflict. This conflict has led to a negative impact on both the people and the endangered wildlife, with the people leading hard lives trying to farm in isolated areas of the forest and the wildlife populations shrinking as a result of disturbances and conflict.

All isolated communities suffer from poor access to basic healthcare and education. People within the Malenad/Mysore tiger landscape have the added problem of protecting their families from attacks by elephants, tigers, leopards and sloth bears. The situation for these forest dwelling people won't change – it will only get worse. The strict conservation laws preventing industrial and urban development will keep them isolated, impoverished and in confrontation with the reserve managers because of conflicts and the killing of wildlife.

The Solution

In a bid to protect these habitats, the Indian Government have run large scale relocation projects attracting whole villages out of the forests with gifts of farming land, housing, schools and health centres. The process has not always been straightforward for families trying to claim what they are entitled to. *(continued overleaf)*

However, unless properly implemented, the complications of relocation sends a negative message back to other forest dwellers encouraging them to think twice before leaving.

Successfully relocating larger settlements still leaves families living in the forests in small settlements isolated. Often the poorest of forest dwellers, with little or no documentation proving their land ownership they remain distrustful of the authorities and unable to make sufficient claims for decent relocation packages. These families remain trapped and more isolated than ever before.

The Outcome

Recognising and understanding the problems faced by these families, the *Centre of Wildlife Studies* has developed a unique conservation model to offer these families voluntary relocations to pieces of privately owned land. The Government facilitates these relocations with administrative support, which promote human welfare and conservation. *Adventure Ashram's* grant will be used to relocate identified and willing families out of Malnad/Mysore tiger landscape over the next 3 years.

The Benefits enjoyed by relocated families

- Freedom from livestock depredation by big cats, crop damage and threats to life from elephants, other large herbivores and carnivores
- Access to better employment, educational facilities and healthcare
- Access to electricity, transportation, roads and telephone communication
- Exposure to general development and economic growth of the country and opening of new avenues of livelihood
- Elimination of conflict with wildlife reserve management authorities over resource extraction

The Reality

Relocating families is a sensitive and slow process. Success will only come by taking one step at a time and earning their trust. Within its first year, the project has relocated 18 families, who now can access education and healthcare from government run facilities. The cycle of deprivation is being broken thanks to *Adventure Ashram's* supporters, there is however so much more to be done.

Thank You

Thank you for the money you are raising, you are helping to ensure projects like this one succeed in improving the standard of living for some of India's poorest children.

Our Aim

Adventure Ashram stems from the shared vision of a group of well-respected conservation, health and educational professionals in India and UK based social enterprise *Global Enduro*. The 'Adventure' part of our name comes from the company *Global Enduro* who run many spectacular adventure fundraising events across the globe, the 'Ashram' name derives from the ancient Sanskrit word for protection.

Our aim is to help the poorest people on or around the routes *Global Enduro* take through India to help achieve a higher standard of living through better health and education. *Adventure Ashram* will continue to identify and establish projects, helping more and more people.

Links



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