



2011

Tigers Alive Initiative Awards for Excellence in Protection Efforts 2011

Best Site Based Intelligence Work



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The Terai Arc Team

The Terai Arc team has been recognized for the number of successful actions taken on the ground driven by their intelligence work. Good local intelligence work compliments patrolling work, and in 2011 the Terai Arc team put that intelligence into action, taking the next important step of linking it to effective enforcement operations on the conservation frontlines in the tiger landscape.

The Terai Arc Landscape

With a land total of 49,500 square kilometres, the Terai Arc landscape stretches across Nepal and India, encompassing six protected areas in Nepal and nine protected areas in India. In Nepal, the Terai Arc covers approximately 23,199 square kilometres and a vast network of protected areas, national forests and water bodies. Terai forests are home to high value timber species such as Sal, Saj and Sisso, as well as a number of endangered and protected species, in addition to the tiger. Nepal's Churia foothills serve as a watershed to the Terai, providing the region with fertile soils.

Partners and Team Composition

In Nepal, park authorities in Chitwan and Bardia national parks, under the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, work with the Nepal Army to patrol protected areas and help curb wildlife crimes. WWF-Nepal works with a strong contingent of community based anti poaching operation units, which are voluntary outfits led by community youth. Buffer Zone Management Committees undertake patrolling and intelligence gathering on the borders surrounding protected areas.

Challenges and Threats

Poverty in the region leads to poaching, as the opportunity to earn huge sums of money for killing a tiger or other endangered wildlife is tempting. The population of the Terai Arc, at 6.7 million people, is growing, and this places greater pressure on the area's protected areas and natural resources, as communities depend on forest resources for food, fodder and firewood.

The demand for timber and firewood also leads to deforestation. Human-Tiger conflict is a problem for communities living near protected areas, as tigers at times kill livestock in search of easy prey. People are often killed or injured by wildlife. Affected communities often engage in retaliatory killings.



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Enforcement and Anti Poaching Progress in 2011

- More than 140 locally made firearms were collected by authorities during the year through a gun handover programme. The firearms are often used for poaching in and around protected areas. The programme is a collaboration between park authorities, communities and WWF-Nepal.
- Due to stepped up enforcement efforts and cooperation between communities and park officials, not a single tiger was poached in Chitwan National Park in Nepal in 2011.
- Close coordination among authorities of Chitwan National Park, the Criminal Investigation Bureau, Nepal Army, the local administration and WWF-Nepal led to break up of a poaching operation and the arrest of 17 people. The arrests led to the complete breakdown of a network of poachers and smugglers from grassroots to international levels.
- The number of community user groups in the Terai Arc reached 300. These groups currently manage 150,000 acres of forests, leaving protected areas, including tiger corridors, untouched.



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