

Project Update: May 2016

Exciting piece of information would be nice to share with you. In the last 5 years we have been engaged in various research, conservation and outreach activities in the MM Hills and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuaries.

We were involved in the gazette/extension of these protected areas, for the first time ever assessed tiger and leopard populations in this landscape, and the documentation of the ratel or the honey badger for Karnataka also



came from this landscape during our camera trapping work. We have also initiated various conservation outreach activities here with lots of enthusiastic volunteer participants.

In November 2014, when we were camera trapping in MM Hills, a tigress with three, possibly 6 month old cubs was recorded in our cameras as they frolicked in front our cameras, and the mother occasionally appearing to check if all was well with the young ones. With their bellies full to the brim, the young ones seemed to have fed well on a sambar or chital or some other prey and were visiting the waterhole to quench their thirst. Interestingly now, 18 months after we initially photo-captured the cubs, one of the female young ones has reappeared in our camera traps ~15 km from her initial capture location. It looks like she has weaned away from her mother and established her own territory. The attached photographs show her as a



young cub and now as a grown up adult (compare the stripe patterns). It's wonderful to see her surviving to adulthood, and with protection I am sure she will contribute a lot of cubs to the tiger population of MM Hills-Cauvery landscape in the coming days.

Female tigers are the cornerstone of tiger community and are very important for increasing their population in an area. With improved protection and support the MM Hills-Cauvery landscape will have more

young tigers reaching adulthood. We thank you for your kind support, and we will continue our work towards saving such wonderful species and other wildlife in this landscape.