

Project Update: January 2016

Occupancy Surveys: In order to determine the distribution and occurrence of leopards and sloth bears in the unprotected reserve forests of the Kanha-Pench landscape, we undertook intensive indirect sign surveys. A total walk-effort of 1631 km was invested yielding over 400 detections of leopards and over 300 of sloth bears. We also recorded signs of tigers, dholes, hyenas, wolves, fox and jackals, as well as all principal prey species.

Social Surveys: We conducted approximately 700 interviews of local forest dwellers and tribal communities to understand their interactions with wild animals as well as the perception of the same.

Capacity Building: A total of 41 volunteers (16 women and 25 men) from across India participated in the fieldwork. Volunteers were from varied backgrounds - students of ecological sciences (or related disciplines), engineers, doctors, bankers, architects etc. They were provided in-depth training in conducting sign surveys, social surveys, use of equipment, navigation etc.

