

Project Update: November 2022

A brief update on a presentation made to the implementing authorities for relocation of villages from Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in August 2022.

We left our field site, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, by mid-September 2022. It was a hectic and intense 3 months in the field, and I would like to draw your attention to a presentation that we held for concerned authorities on the basis of our observations and preliminary findings. Do note that we are yet to go through the process of analysing our findings and data, so this presentation was based on our experience, observations and learning from the field. We were keen to have a formal and informed interaction with concerned authorities before we left TATR.

We are currently in the process of consolidating, transcribing, translating and finally analysing the data. We expect this to take some time. We also intend to revisit Tadoba in January 2023 for a short period to fill any gaps in information, conduct some key interviews and meeting with concerned authorities.

Additionally, we hope to visit our satellite field site, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala around the same time.

Meanwhile, here is a brief update on a presentation we made to the concerned authorities, along with one or two photographs.

Also, a picture of the of a tiger we met with on the site of a relocated village—seeing one is just so uplifting that we had to share.



Presentation-Chandrapur Forest Academy-August 2022.

Presentation at TATR:

I, along with Ms Krithika Sampath, the Research Assistant, gave a presentation at the prestigious Chandrapur Forest Administration, Development, Research, and Management Academy on 18th August 2022. It was attended by authorities and field staff who are/were involved in the relocation process, including implementing authorities' forests officers, field staff, and supporting administrative and finance staff, who are key to providing back-end support to the relocation process.

Chandrapur Zilla Parishad, (authorities in charge of rural development, playing a significant role in the development of the village post relocation) officers, and NGO representatives were also present.

In the presentation, I provided an overview of the relocation process, starting from the rationale behind the relocation policy, and examples of relocations in India that have had diverse outcomes. I also spoke of the state (Maharashtra) specific relocation policy, which provides additional benefits and its implantation in Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR). This was followed by an overview of our preliminary findings based on our discussions, interviews, interactions with relocated villagers and those slated for relocation, and interviews and discussions with the implementing authority, NGOs, researchers.

We discussed how facilities and compensation provided has improved over time and also the evolution of the relocation process itself from one of first villages relocated at the onset of Project Tiger in 1973, to those relocated more recently, as for example Palasgaon (Singru) which shifted out in 2019. We drew attention to the challenges that the communities continued to face, and based on this, included recommendations and action points.

This was followed by a Q&A session, and a lively, informal discussion.

We hope to submit a white paper to the authorities after we have analysed our data.



Tiger Cub @ near Jamni meadows -Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.