

## Assessing Ecosystem recovery of invaded dry forests | Kanha Tiger Reserve

PI: Rajat Rastogi | Advisor: Tiffany Knight

Team: Ninad Mungi, Sayee Girdhari, Tejas Karmarkar, Maneesh Yadav, Vrinda Dabas, and Manjhla

WII Collaborator: Vishnupriya Kolipakam

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Institutions:

1. India:
    - Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
    - MP forest Department
  2. Europe:
    - German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany
    - Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Leipzig, Germany
    - Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Leipzig, Germany
    - Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark
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### Progress Report: November 2024 – March 2025

#### November 2024: Permit Acquisition and Logistics

- Obtained the necessary local permits from **tiger reserve officials** to conduct the study.
- Rented a **field vehicle** and hired an **assistant** to facilitate data collection.

#### December 2024: Stakeholder Engagement and Study Preparation

- Conducted **one-on-one meetings** with **forest officers** from each range to:
  - Introduce the project objectives and methodology.
  - Discuss challenges related to invasive species and their management.
  - Acquire **management data** on past and ongoing restoration efforts.
- Mapped the **managed areas** across the reserve to guide the selection of sampling sites.
- Developed a **sampling plan** based on study design and initiated field sampling.

#### January – March 2025: Field Sampling and Capacity Building

- **Ecological Sampling:**
  - Conducted **range-wise ecological assessments** in the **western ranges** of Kanha Tiger Reserve.
  - Completed **1–2 ranges per month**, covering a total of **five ranges** so far, covering a total area of ~600 sq.km.
  - Established **50+ sampling plots** across the reserve to assess vegetation composition, habitat recovery, and herbivory.
- **Workshops and Training:**
  - Organized **two workshops** for forest professionals:
    1. **Workshop for Range Officer Trainees**
    2. **Workshop for National Forest Officers** (43 participants)
  - Each **two-day workshop** covered:
    1. The **impacts of invasive plant species** on dry ecosystems.
    2. Challenges and strategies for **managing invasive species**.
    3. A **field visit** demonstrating the extent of invasion, species spread, and management interventions.

Field Photos:

1. Plot Establishment





## 2. Mopping restored plots



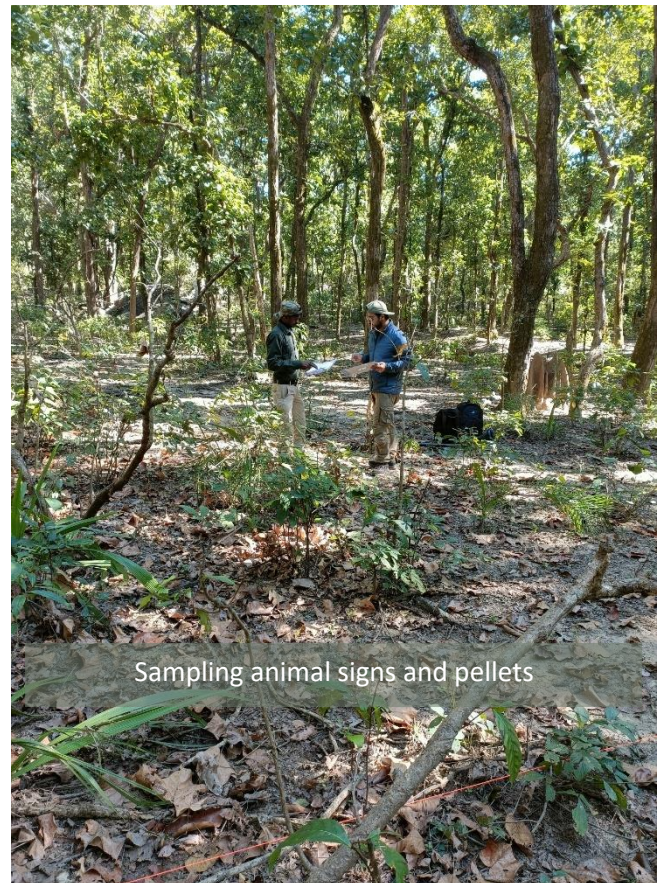


### 3. Sampling

#### a. Vegetation sampling in invaded and restored plots



#### b. Animal Signs and habitat features





c. Herbivory and additional sampling



d. Workshops







Invasive species workshop for Range officer trainees (WII): Impacts, Management, and Restoration  
Under the project “Addressing ecosystem recovery in the invaded dry forests of India”

### Affiliations and Funding: