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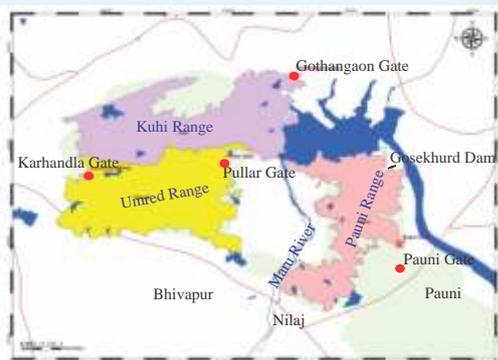
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Map of Umred Karhandla WLS



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Editors Desk



M.S. REDDY

Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary is an example of how good efforts in conservation and wildlife management can bear exemplarily fruitful results. A few years back not many were aware that such a rich green patch with varied flora and fauna was present so close to the city of Nagpur. Owing to the efforts of forest staff, Local People and NGOs this once potential area for wildlife is now the home of a good number of Tigers and also a healthy population of cubs. It is now a proven fact that Umred – Karhandla not only served as a good corridor in this landscape but also proved to be a good habitat for the animals. No wonder it is set to be declared as a Tiger Reserve which will make the state of Maharashtra proud as the state with the highest Tiger Reserves in the country.

It is imperative to be mentioned here that each one of my foot soldiers starting from the level of Van majoor to that of RFOs, ACF & FD have worked day in and day out to convert a disturbed piece of scrub land into a safe haven for animals. Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary is spread in an area of 138 sq. kms and its proximity to Nagpur (being just 60kms away) is fast converting it into a preferred tourist destination. From the time of its opening for tourists in 2013 till date the revenue from gate fee has increased manifold and each penny is used for development of villages and communities around it.

We are celebrating the formation day of Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary because three years back on this day i.e. 29th June 2012 this forest was notified as a wildlife sanctuary. This commemoration is a motivation for the good work carried out during the past few years by the forest staff, local people and NGOs involved and also to set a benchmark which has to be surpassed every time in the forthcoming years. I wish to congratulate and thank each one of my staff and individuals, groups who have contributed in whatever way to make this wildlife sanctuary what it is in the present and look forward to such commitment and efforts in the future too.

M. S. Reddy

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“Forest cannot survive without tigers, nor can tigers survive without forests.

The tiger saves the forest & the forest saves the tiger.

The tiger without a forest gets killed & the forest without a tiger gets destroyed.

So let the forest protect the tiger and the tiger protect the forest.”

---- Mahabharat

UK T3 (Chandi)



Umred Karhandla ki 'JAI' Ho!!

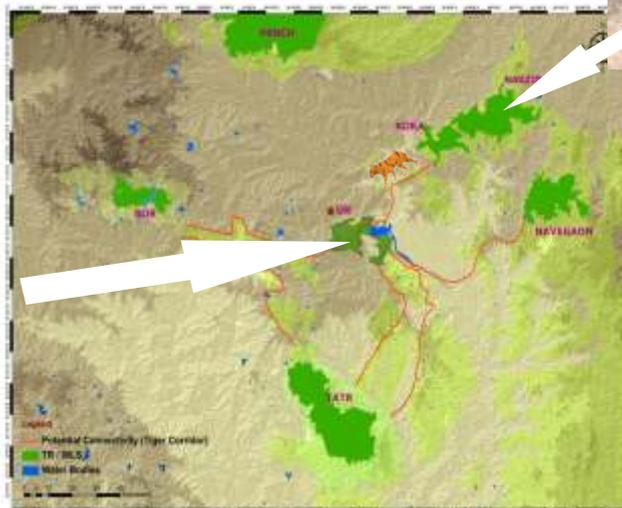
'Mai' was a very caring mother. Not that we gave her that name. It was the folks of the area they call the jungles of Nagzira where my brother and I were born and spent a good 3 years of my early childhood in the early part of this decade. The forests were all abuzz with our playful presence in the early days. Not only were the other animals always on the lookout for us but the tourists started to come in droves to have a glimpse of us playing. This is where they named my brother 'Veeru' since he had a 'V' mark on him. Me being his brother fondly came to be known by the obvious other name from a certain Hindi movie blockbuster which was released more than a quarter and a half century before we were born. The sight of friendly and often too friendly tourists gave us a lesson in familiarization with the humans which many people say, I learnt more quickly than my shier sibling. Prey there was plenty at Nagzira, but unfortunately I found that I could not satisfy all my growing needs in that small jungle devoid of a suitable mate. It is then somewhere in the mid part of the year 2012 that I decided to part from my family and search for another territory which could cater to my growing demands. Parting from my mother & brother was not very painful as it is a part of our behavior and nature. We are a species who avoids big groups for the obvious competition factor for food. I left behind my place of birth and my brother to search for greener pastures in all sense. My journey took me across fields ploughed by man, besides villages and small towns, across the dusty and tarred roads which often have the two eyed bright monsters which make a lot of noise whiz past at great speeds. I did cross a big river when it was full of water and many a small streams on my way which might have many years ago been used by one or many of my forefathers. I slept in some obscure hide of bushes during the day away from the sight of humans and walked mostly during the night. I did not carry my food. I often found them on way and they were easy pickings big in size and lasted for almost a week at times. Within a few weeks of travel I reached a pristine forest patch where I could smell the presence of the odd mate I was in search of.

My journey went almost unnoticed till then but one evening I was spotted across a road by some enthusiasts carrying a camera. They were excited to see such a huge individual almost covering the road. I could not care less. I was used to all the commotion and clicks of the camera. This event they say announced my entry into the beautiful patch of forests they call Umred Karhandla. This place seemed custom made for me. I realized that this protected piece of land had very recently i.e. in 29th June 2013 been notified as a wildlife sanctuary. The protection of the forests was increased and all unwanted human intruders evicted due to the new status. The resident male of the area known as 'Bajrang' was no match for me in size and power. He made a sensible exit from the area which I started marking as my territory. I was the undisputed king soon. Mates were all ready to accept me. Chandi, Fairy and the one they call T4 bore cubs sired by me. Within a year I sired 9 cubs in the forests and further 2 cubs to a female in the fringes of the forest. Tourism which was opened in this area very recently in 2013 blossomed as I was used to the human presence unlike some of my predecessors and the news had spread like wildfire about my presence. Many people give me the credit for the increase in tourism but I feel that the presence of a pristine forest patch with sufficient water, food and other mates lured me into it. Umred Karhandla's gain is Nagzira's loss, this is often heard. Some even jokingly attribute my arrival at Umred to that of the chief of the area Mr. Reddy's transfer from Nagzira to this division around the same time. But it has to be understood that maybe one day one or more of my sired progeny will make its way back through the same path I traversed all the way to the forests of Nagzira. I can only hope that there is no further destruction of the corridors and patches I followed to allow such kind of a journey possible.

In the meanwhile I am enjoying my home in these forests. I do venture out a lot covering a big area at time checking on my families from time to time and spending some time with each cub. I do make a few bovine killings from time to time as they provide easy food but I have never hurt any human. Given the improving green cover here and absence of a challenger to suit my size and power I don't plan to leave this place soon. Umred Karhandla has provided an almost perfect habitat for me and my future generations. People throng the forests these days to have a glimpse of me and my family and are satisfied more often than not. I am very happy that the efforts of all the people working for the protection of this forest area has paid rich returns and provided me with a good home. I can only hail them in the Indian style. 'Jai ho'!

By the way for those still trying to figure out my name; they call me 'Jai'!

The journey of Jai from Nagzira to UKWLS



Jai's Foot prints

KNOW THE TIGERS OF UKWLS

UK T1 (Jai) : Jai is the only male of the sanctuary. He is one of the biggest and most photographed tiger in India. Jai was born in tourism zone of Nagzira sanctuary and reached UKWLS in search of mate by traveling 110 km in June, 2013 at the age of 3 years. He moved both males Balram & Chaitram out of the sanctuary. Now he is the only emperor of UKWLS and surrounding forests of Bhandara, Nagpur & Chandrapur district roaming in around 400 sq kms area. This year he has sired 9 cubs from 3 females in the sanctuary and 2 cubs from 1 female in Bhandara forest division.



UK T3 (Fairy) : She is one of the daughters of Chandi from her second litter. Now she has established her own territory in Kuhu and Umred range of the sanctuary. She has now two male cubs from Jai which can be a challenge in future to their own father.

UK T2 (Chandi) : Chandi is a true queen of UKWLS now nurturing her 4th litter of 4 cubs sired by Jai. She is native and the eldest female of the sanctuary. She has contributed to India's tiger population by giving birth to new generation of 3 cubs in first litter, 4 in second litter, 2 in third litter and now 4 healthy cubs of the present litter.



UK T4 (Rai) : She is one of the shiest and most elusive female of the Paoni part of the sanctuary and sister of T3 (Fairy). She presently has 3 cubs sired by Jai.



Village Eco Development Program : Boon for the Village Development

Each forest patch is surrounded by villages which depend mostly on forests for their livelihood, source of fuel, food and water. Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary has around 46 villages which fall within one kilometre of the park boundary from all sides. The forest department endeavours to form Village Eco Development Committee (VEDCs) consisting of group of people from the villages itself. In the region of UKWLS VEDCs have been formed in 25 villeges, The VEDCs are beneficiaries of various schemes and works done by forest department and NGOs for betterment of lives of the inhabitants of the region. A conscious effort is also made to reduce the biotic pressure on the forest by the people residing in these areas. For example LPG gas is distributed to reduce the use of wood as fuel for cooking. Similarly stall feeding is promoted for cattle to prevent grazing activities in the forest areas. Solar fencing, training in livelihood and even job opportunities are provided to citizens of the villages who are a part of these VEDCs.



VED meeting in Gothangaon Village

Table : Activities done in EDC Villages of UKWLS

Sr. No.	Details	Number of beneficiaries	Remarks
1	EDC Formation	27 Villages	
2	LPG Distribution	3242 families	
3	Eco - Guides	63	
4	Youth Trainings at Monfort/Pratham	360	320
5	Agarbatti Center at Thana village	12	
6	Entrepreneurship Development Training (Bamboo Handicrafts)	18	
7	Low Smoke Metal Jallis	2300	10
8	Hydroponics Fodder Units	6	6
9	Low Cost Fencing	34	4 villages
10	Health Camps	10	Monthly 10 Villages

Phase - IV Monitoring in Umred-Karhandla

Umred-Karandala WLS being a wildlife sanctuary, regular monitoring of Tiger and large carnivores is highly important. Camera Trapping (CT) exercise helps to take important management decisions as well as monitoring critically endangered animals individually. Umred-Karandala WLS has conducted this exercise according to the standard protocol laid by NTCA.

The area of Umred-Karandala WLS was divided into grid cells of 2 sq. kms each. In each of these grids one pair of camera trap were placed. The selection of camera sites were done according to the presence of large carnivores in that particular grid cell. This helped to increase the probability of photo-capturing of large carnivores. Total 70 grid cells with a pair of camera traps were deployed in the field. Cuddleback Ambush and Moultry D cameras were used for sampling. The sampling was done between 10th June to 25th June 2015 i.e. 15 days. The camera traps were kept active during the sampling period. The total study area was sampled within a period of 15 days which enabled us to meet all the assumptions behind closed model capture recapture exercises (Otis et al, 1978). Memory cards were downloaded in intervals of two days and photographs were scrutinised for individual identifications.

Year	Study Area	Unique Tigers	Unique Sub-Adult/Cubs
2013-14	Umred-Karhandla WLS	3F+1M	4* 2*
2014-15	Umred-Karhandla WLS	3F+1M	4 9
Year	Study Area	Unique Leopards	Unique Sub-Adult/Cubs
2014-15	Umred-Karhandla WLS	3F+2M+1 ²	6 0

Umred-Karhandla WLS : Some Facts

- ▶ Total Sanctuary area – 189.30 sq. Km
- ▶ Umred-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary was notified on 29th June 2012
- ▶ It is situated in Umred, Bhiwapur, Kuhu & Paoni of Nagpur & Bhandara district respectively

CNC in Gothangaon Village - Milestone in Wildlife Conservation

The concept of a Community Nature Conservancy (CNC) is based on the success of private nature reserves in South Africa, and has been customized to address two of India's most pressing problems - failing farmlands and shrinking forests. The one point objective of the project is to 'provide a basket of benefits to marginal farming communities residing adjacent to Protected Areas through the re-wilding and restoration of their land.

Leases to demarcated sites on these joint land holdings will then, once the land has been restored, be auctioned to reputed and ethical tourism professionals to set-up tourist accommodations. These accommodations will be run entirely by members of the community under the management of the tourism professionals, and funds from the lease will be poured back into the cooperative.

The most tangible benefits from this project will be :

- An assured and dignified income to the landowners instead of an uncertain income from erratic crop yields.
- The reduction of human-wildlife conflicts on lands that directly border PAs by turning such holdings into genuine buffers.
- A Physical increase in the area available to wildlife by restoring marginal and failed farms to their original forest status.
- The reduction of tourism pressure in the concerned park's core area by enlarging the landscape available to tourists to view wildlife.
- A multitude of ecological benefits, including carbon sequestration, the reduction of siltation in reservoirs and ponds, climate control and an improvement in the water table, will flow from the restored CNC land.

This patch of 105 acres is selected for the CNC and through extensive discussions the Gothangaon land owners have understood the scope of the concept and have given their consent to the project.

Social Fencing : For Better Conservation



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