

# TOUR to RANTHAMBHORE

25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011



ecopanions society



# INTRODUCTION

A party of 30 village members from the four Ranges of Raoli, Bhim, Baghmal & Bijaguda, comprising the Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary, left for Ranthambhore in a bus on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 and returned on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>.

# OBJECTIVES

01. To provide exposure to people living around the Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary to the success of wildlife tourism in Ranthambhore with a hope to inspire them that one-day their Sanctuary could also be a wildlife destination.
02. To show them alternative sources of income that are generated by wildlife tourism.
03. To interact with EDCs around Ranthambhore and learn from their experience.
05. To explore what crafts the women can develop that could be successfully marketed to the tourists
06. To meet Eco Guides and find out where did they get their professional Education and how much money they make as certified Guide.
07. To meet some painters of the Ranthambhore School of Art and see if they could inspire the people to make paintings of the Leopard.

# Eco Guides

The Party met Eco Guides at Rajbagh Naka.

The significant things they communicated were:

- (1) Before becoming Eco Guides they were cattle grazers and woodcutters.
- (2) As Eco Guides they found another source of income.
- (3) Their annual income is around a lac of rupees.
- (4) They got free training from Forest Dept about the flora & fauna.

One Eco Guide called Babloo Gujar age 29, who accompanied the Group in Gopalpura Block seemed reasonably well informed and pleasing in talking and manners.



# VFMC Gopalpura

The Party then saw the habitat regeneration work undertaken by the VFMC in Gopalpura the block closest to the old city of Swai Madhopur. Once completely degraded, the EDC began regenerating the habitat in 2005 and today wildlife can be seen including the tiger.



# Ranthambhore School of Art

The Party met and interacted with MD Parashar a local artist, famous for his paintings of the tiger which are well known as the Ranthambhore School of Art. He gave a live demonstration of his painting technique. He said that every year from 15<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June, he holds a 45 days workshop at Swai Madhopur, in the art of painting the tiger. It is Free and Open to All who want to learn this art. The participants from outside are welcome but they have to make their own arrangements of food & stay.



# Women's Crafts

The Party also met local women at the Samudaik Bhawan at Harijan Basti (Gandhinagar) under the guidance of an NGO called Axis. The women at Harijan Basti showed the different needlework textile items they made and how the NGO helps sell the products.



# Jeep Driver

The Party saw many jeeps and realized it means opportunities for their young boys as drivers and other automobile related jobs. A young local driver told the group that twenty years ago his family lived inside the forest.

After they moved outside there were a lot of opportunities besides education and a life of well being.

He said that except for three months of July, August & September when the Park is closed during the monsoon, there is business all the year round for a driver.





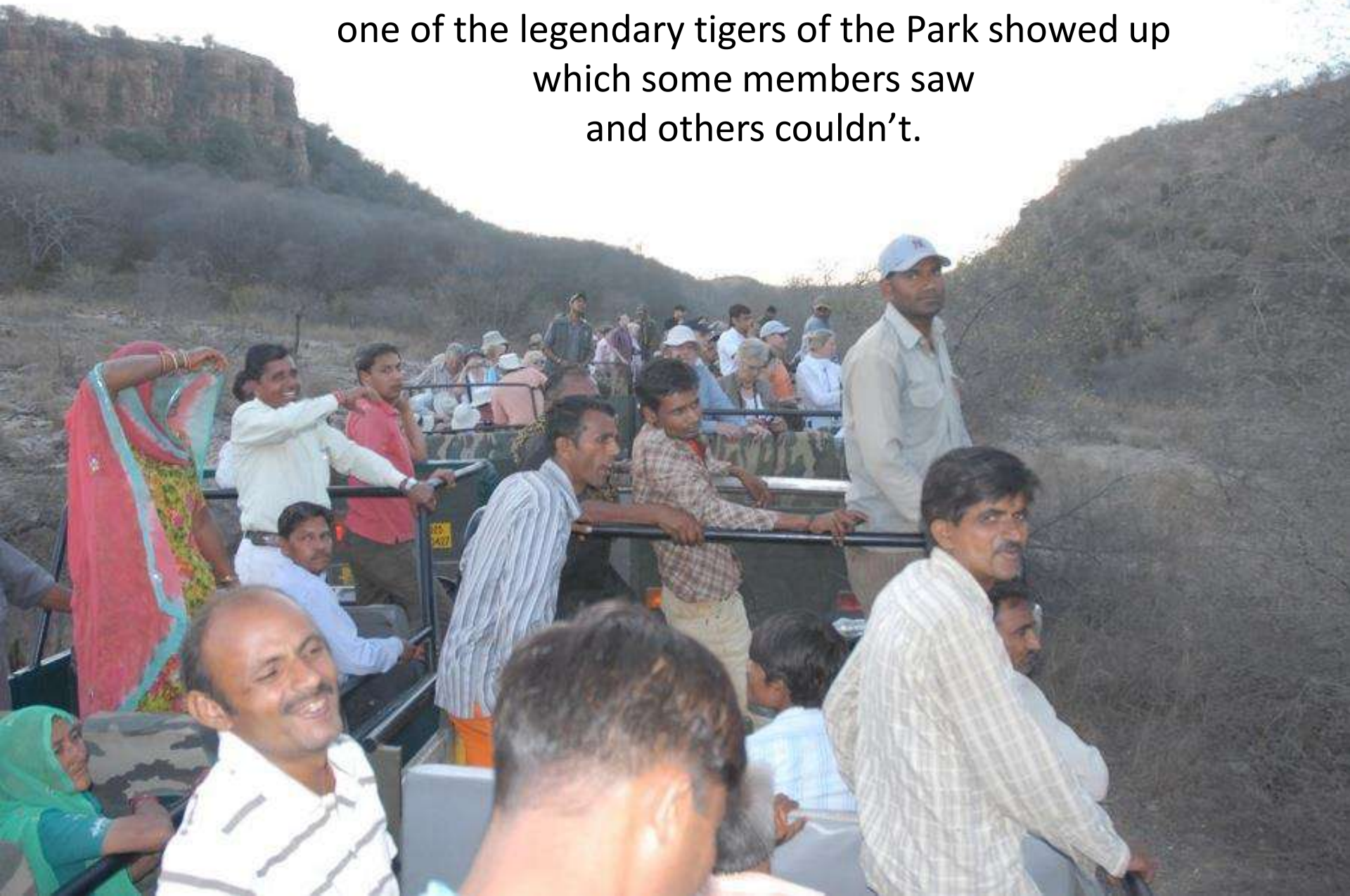
# National Park

After Lunch, the Group drove inside the National Park in 2 canters. It was pointed out to the Group that there was No Plastic or any other industrial waste scattered in the Park. It was also pointed that there was Dead Wood lying around indicating No Wood Cutting or pilfering by the local people. The Group was very impressed to see many Grasslands. They also saw many species of animals and in large numbers that included sambur, chital, wild boar etc. The Group members began to identify the flora and fauna of Ranthambhore and constantly compared it to Todgarh Raoli and discussed similarities & differences between the two habitats.



# TIGER!

As a parting gift to the Group,  
one of the legendary tigers of the Park showed up  
which some members saw  
and others couldn't.



# CONCLUSIONS

## 01. Deep Impression upon the EDC Group

The visiting group of people clearly see the connection between wildlife tourism and their income generation.

## 02. Training of Eco Guides

The young men have shown interest in being Eco Guides but look towards Government for some funding.

## 03. Income Generation for Women

The women feel that they can make carry bags and other small items.

## 04. Promote Paintings of Leopard

To initiate this genre of paintings, once again Government patronage is needed.

Wishes to thank the Office of the DFO Wildlife Wing, Udaipur for this initiative.

# ecopanions society



an Initiative to Communicate  
the Importance of Ecology  
the Story of Resources and  
the Lessons of Sustainability

Registration No. 345/Jaipur/2011-12

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