

VAN VIDYARTHI / वन विद्यार्थी
A Project Proposal for



Dept. of Forests
Govt. of Rajasthan

AWARENESS & EDUCATION
in Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary

Ecopanions Society



INTRODUCTION

Why do we NEED this Project?

- Need to Save Biodiversity of our Forests
- Need Local People to participate
- Reach out to Rural Children through Govt. Schools
- Introduce an Education Module on “wildlife conservation”
- Need to launch a project of Education & Awareness
- Long term vision to restore & protect the Biodiversity of this region.

TODGARH RAOLI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



- Aravellies
- 497 Sq Kms
- Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest
 - Once a Tiger Territory
- Leopards & Sloth Bears
 - Degraded Habitat
 - Wood Cutting
 - Cattle Grazing
- Rawat Rajputs: Poor People
 - Pan Indian Problem

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- To Conserve our Forests & Wildlife by Sensitizing the Children who live surrounding the sanctuary.
- To select Children for further training as Eco Guides / Bird Watchers and Professional Painters as part of Skill Development & Providing Livelihood Opportunities for the rural young.
- To take the Message of Wildlife Conservation to a Wider Rural Audience.
- To help in the Empowerment of the EDCs.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

(3 year Project)

- **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (6 Months)**
 - **FIRST YEAR:** “Out in the Forest”
 - **SECOND YEAR:** “Back to the School”
 - **THIRD YEAR:** “Selections for Future”

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Undertake Survey of Schools within the sanctuary and those at points of maximum human interference.

Prepare a Calendar of School Working Days

Buy In the Stakeholders

Create Program Content

Finalize Project Management, MIS & Budgeting with the Funding Agency

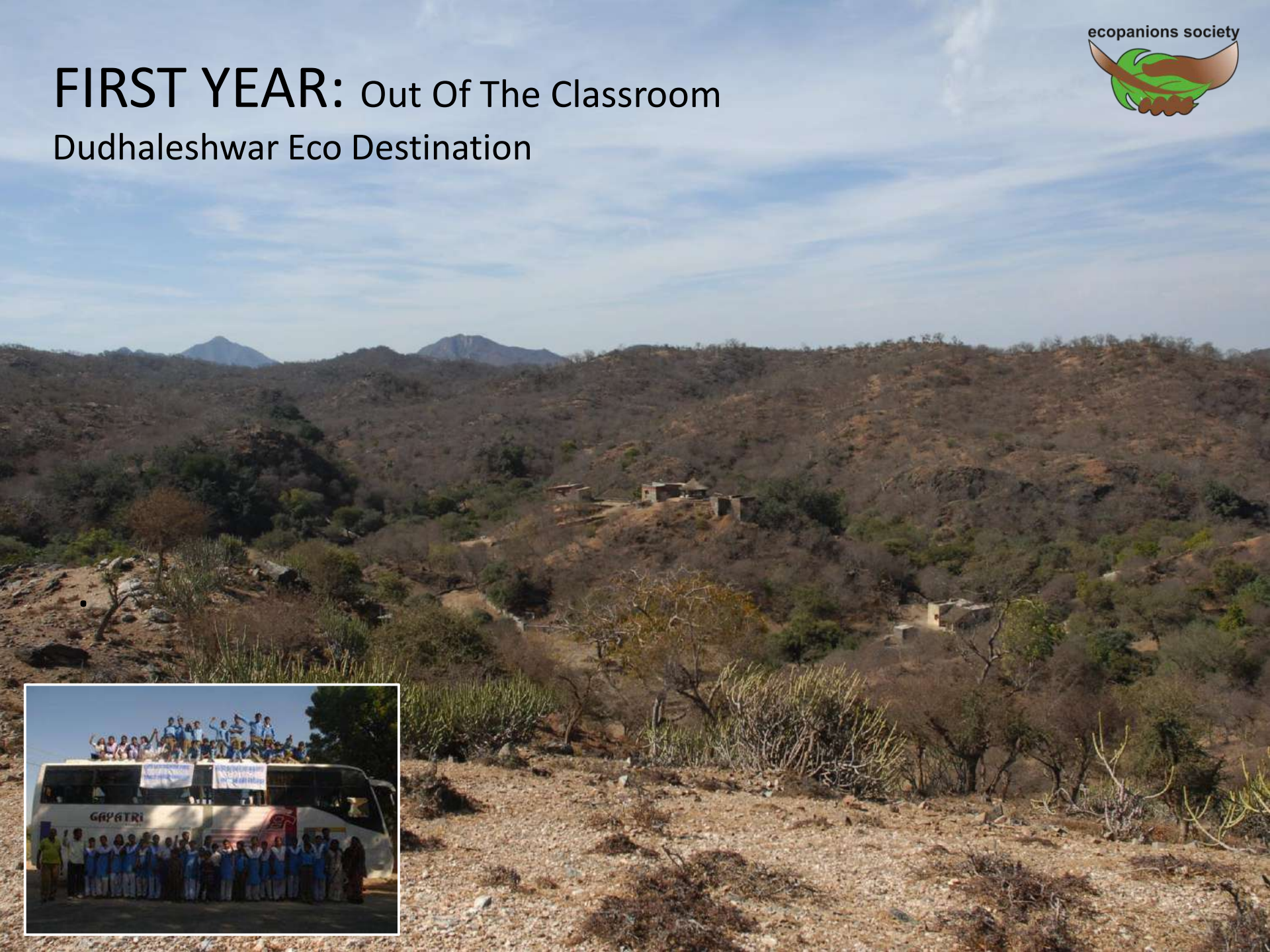
Creation of an Interpretation Centre

Select and Engage the Van Vidyarthi Team.



FIRST YEAR: Out Of The Classroom

Dudhaleshwar Eco Destination





1. Col. Tod's Trail

(Livelihood Opportunities for EDC)



The Story of Col Tod's Trail

with a running thread of Biodiversity

2.5 Kms

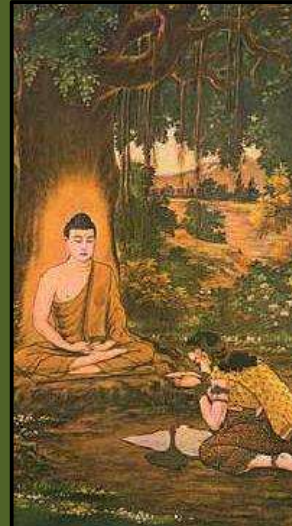
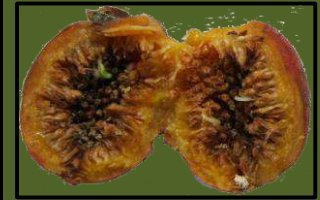


We will communicate to the children that unnecessary wood cutting & grazing of our domestic animals in the forests decimates Biodiversity which is absolutely necessary for our survival.

Enthrall Children with Interesting Sub-Stories e.g. 2nd Stop

THE BANYAN

- Roots, Fruits & Flower
- Micro Habitat /
An Ecosystem in Itself
- Banyan in Indian Culture
- Big Banyans in India
- Squirrel's Story





2. Adventure Tourism

(Livelihood Opportunities for the EDC)

Zip Line

Tree Walks

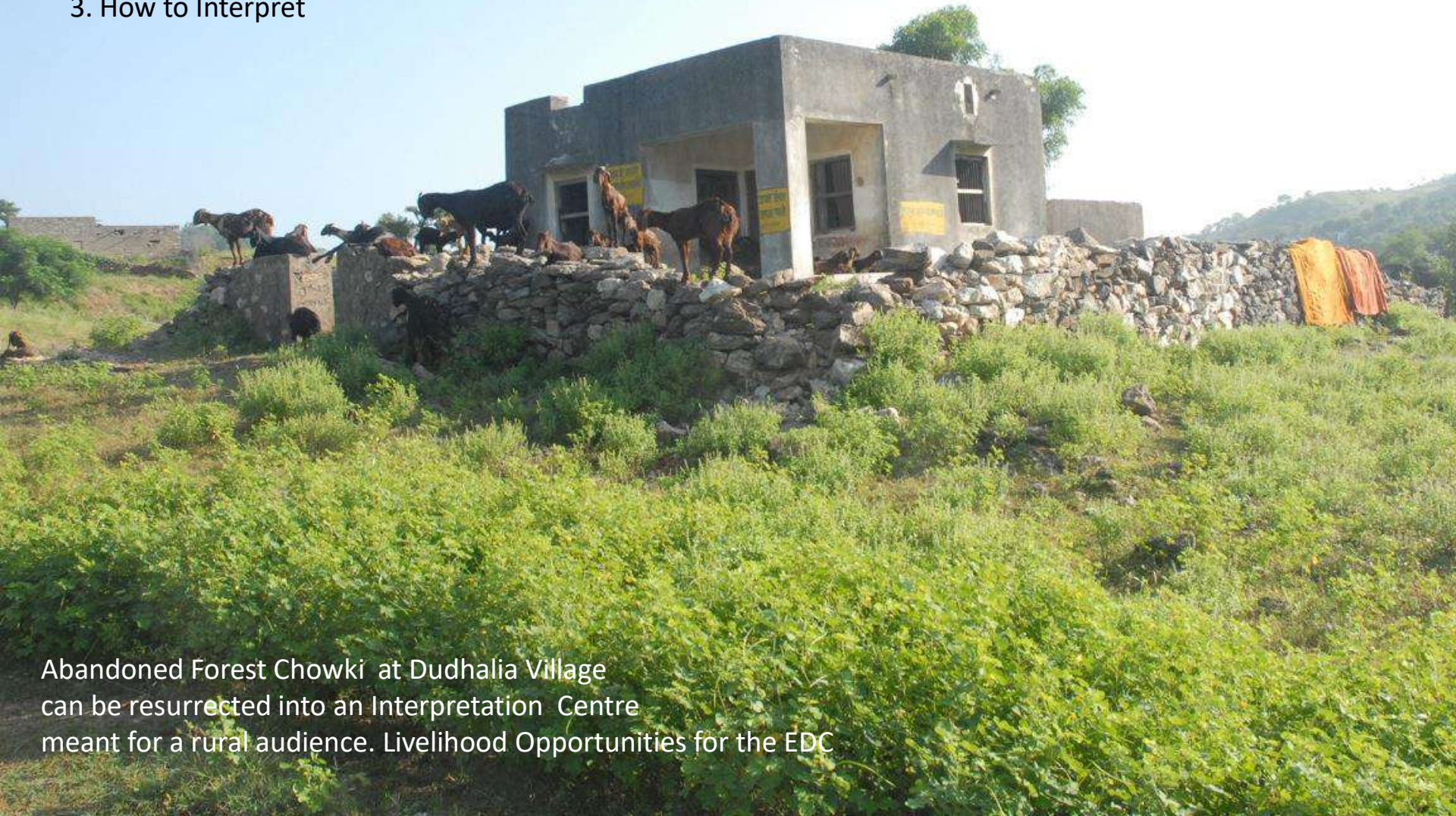
Ground Obstacles



3. Interpretation Centre:

From Urban to Rural

1. Aims & Objectives
2. What to Interpret
3. How to Interpret



Abandoned Forest Chowki at Dudhulia Village
can be resurrected into an Interpretation Centre
meant for a rural audience. Livelihood Opportunities for the EDC

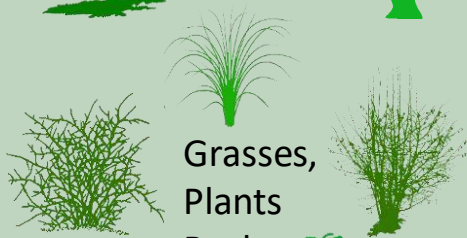


3. Interpretation Centre

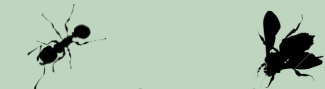
Color Coded Icons represent the diversity of the Forest



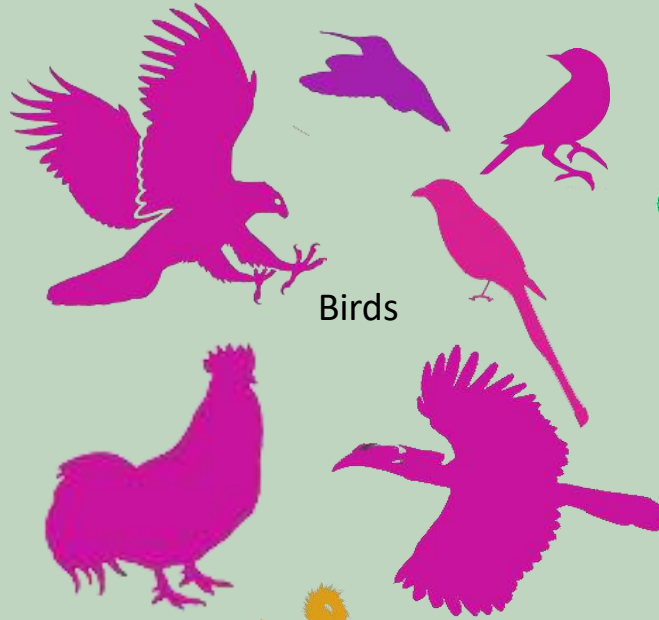
Trees



Grasses,
Plants
Bushes



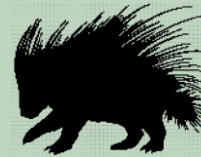
Insects & Reptiles



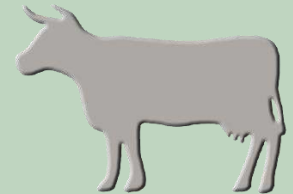
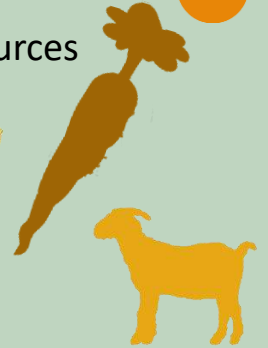
Birds



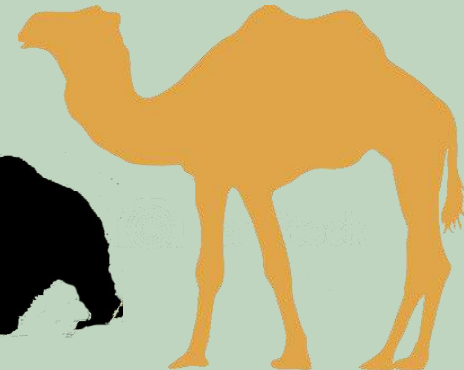
Mammals



Natural Resources



Domestic Animals





3. Interpretation Centre

Biodiversity, Interconnectedness and Web of Life

(this is a representative image not factually authenticated)

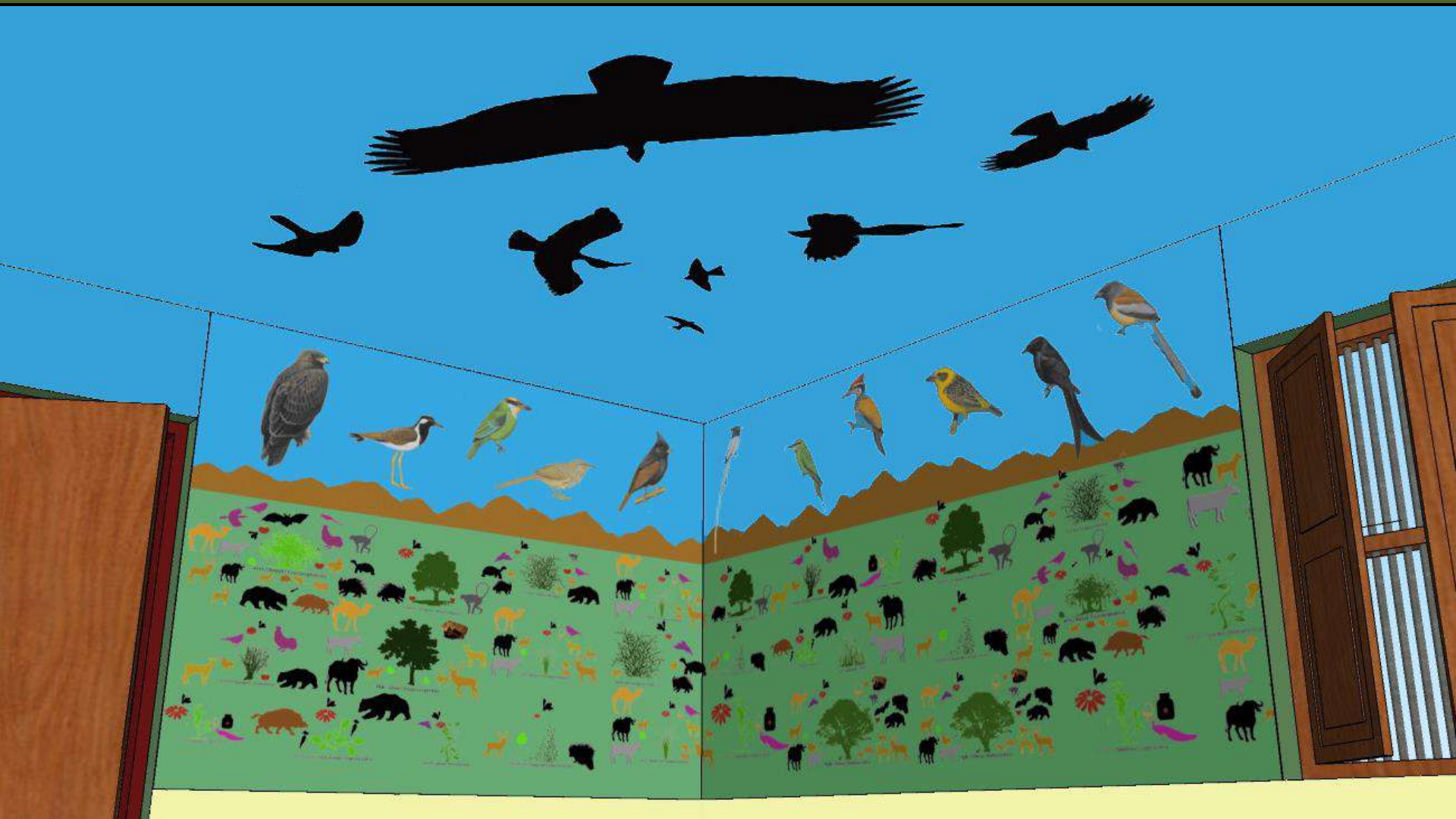


Egqv / Mahua / Madhuca
indica



3. Interpretation Centre

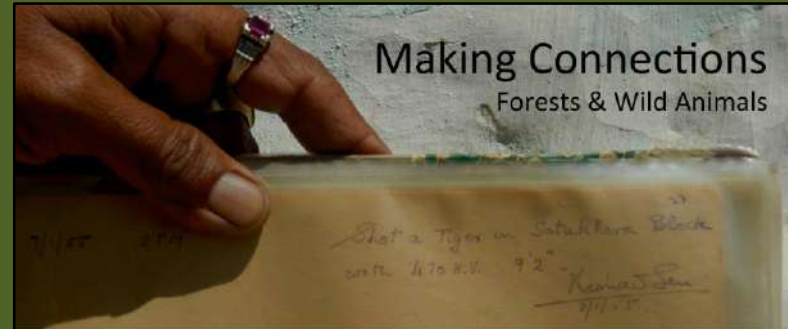
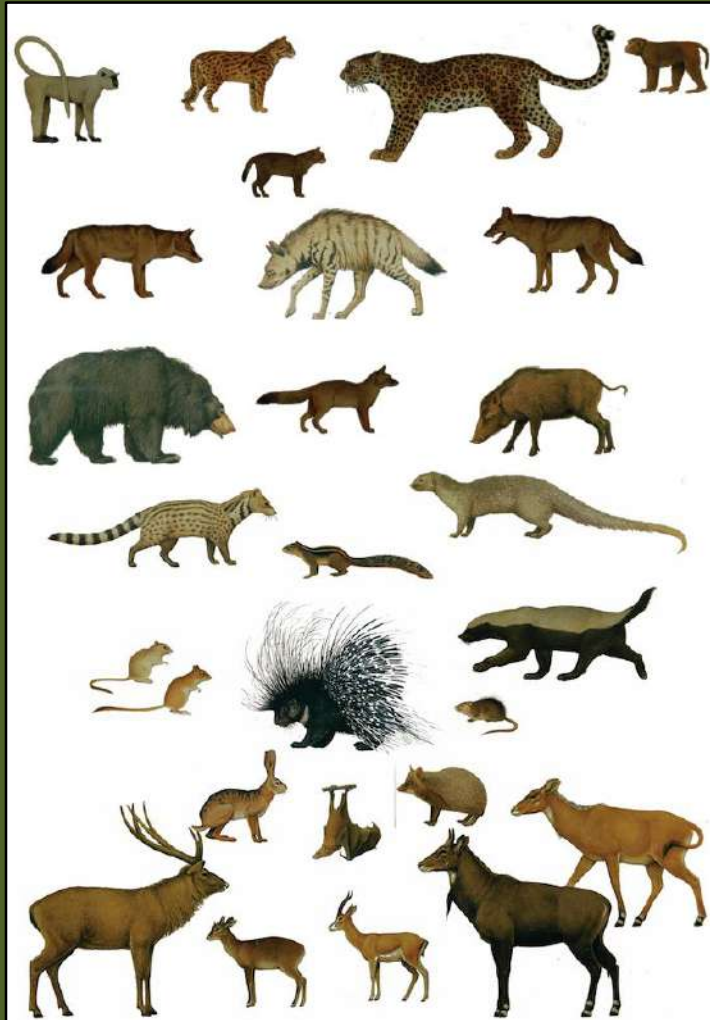
Self explanatory Panorama of a Virtual Forest





3. Interpretation Centre

Posters, Computers, Films





4. Evaluation & Refreshments

Before Departure

A Sample Test from the Society's Program "A Date with Indian Air Force"



Sample
Test Paper

A Date with Indian Air Force
Sponsored by Rajeev Khandelwal



टाइगड रावली के वन्य जीव

नाम..... कक्षा..... विद्यालय.....



A Date with Indian Air Force
Sponsored by Rajeev Khandelwal



भारतीय वायु सेना के विमान

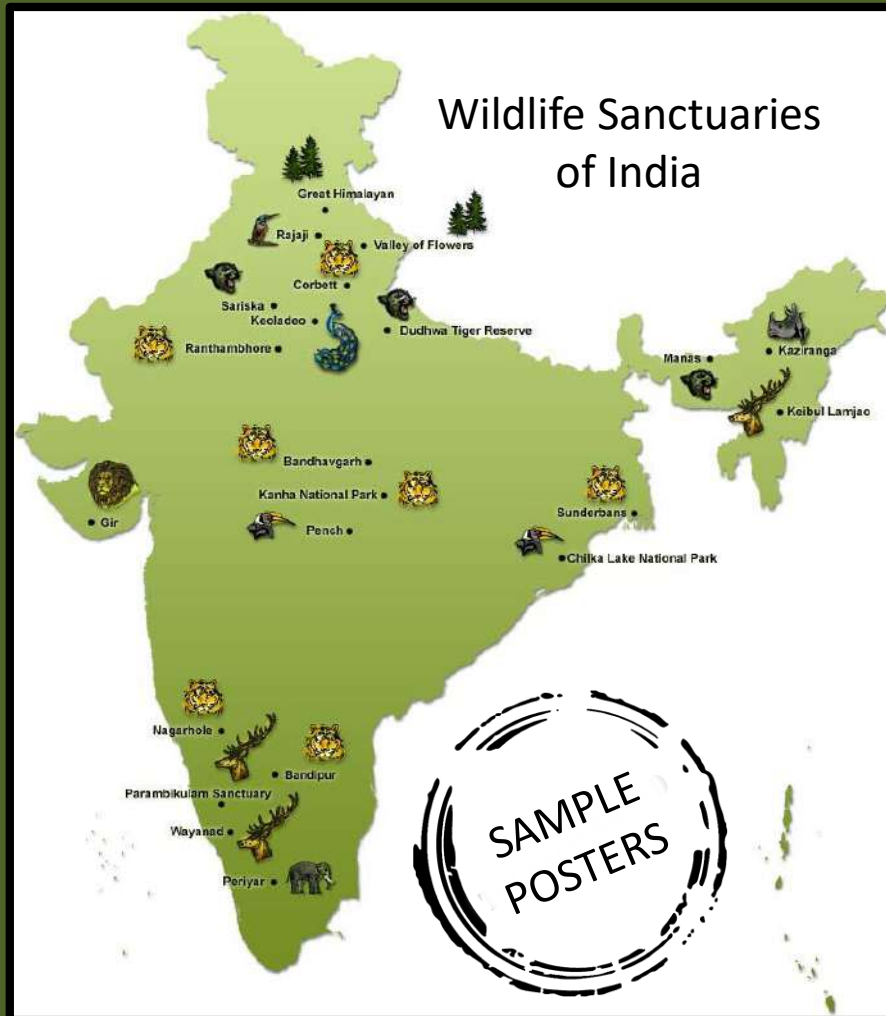
नाम..... कक्षा..... विद्यालय.....





5. Educational Posters for the School

Self Explanatory Laminated Posters “installed” on School Walls by Team B the following day



National & State Symbols

English text English text
English text English text
English text English text
English text English text
English text English text
English text English text



Hindi text Hindi text
Hindi text Hindi text
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SECOND YEAR: Back to the School

Visit the same Schools / same Children with an Eco Module designed for 4 levels of Age & Education

Primary	Class 1 to 5	6 – 10 years
Middle	Class 5 to 8	11 - 13 years
Secondary	Class 8 to 10	14 - 16 years
Senior Secondary	Class 11 to 12	16 - 18 years





SECOND YEAR:

1. Program Content

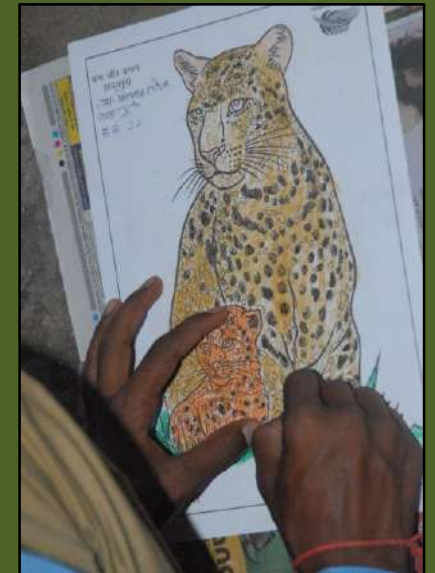
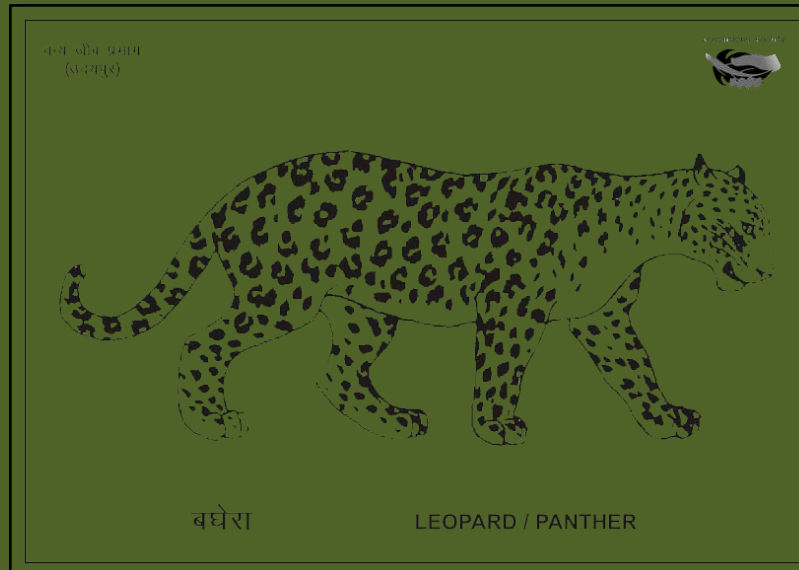
- Day Long Program to begin with Evaluation
- Different Program for 4 different Age Groups
- Message for 4 different Levels:
 1. Love Animals (Primary)
 2. Love Wildlife (Middle)
 3. Conserve Wildlife (Secondary)
 4. Save Biodiversity (Higher Secondary)
- Paint an Animal
- Panchtantra Skits with Mask Props
- Clean the School Premises of “kachara”
- 2nd Evaluation of Wildlife Knowledge
- Documentary Film in the Community





SECOND YEAR:

Paint an Animal



Pitch it as “Pratiyogta” or Do-Your-Best for a Prize

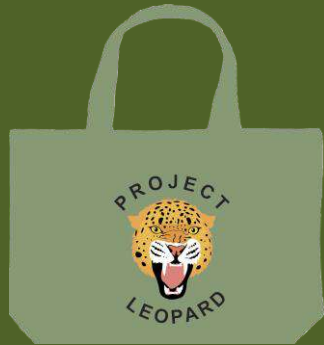


SECOND YEAR

Community Participation

- Wildlife Film show in the Village at twilight
- Organized by EDC & Road Manager & Helper
- Banners & Message of Wildlife Conservation
- EDC to sell the Project Merchandise
e.g. T-Shirts & Caps





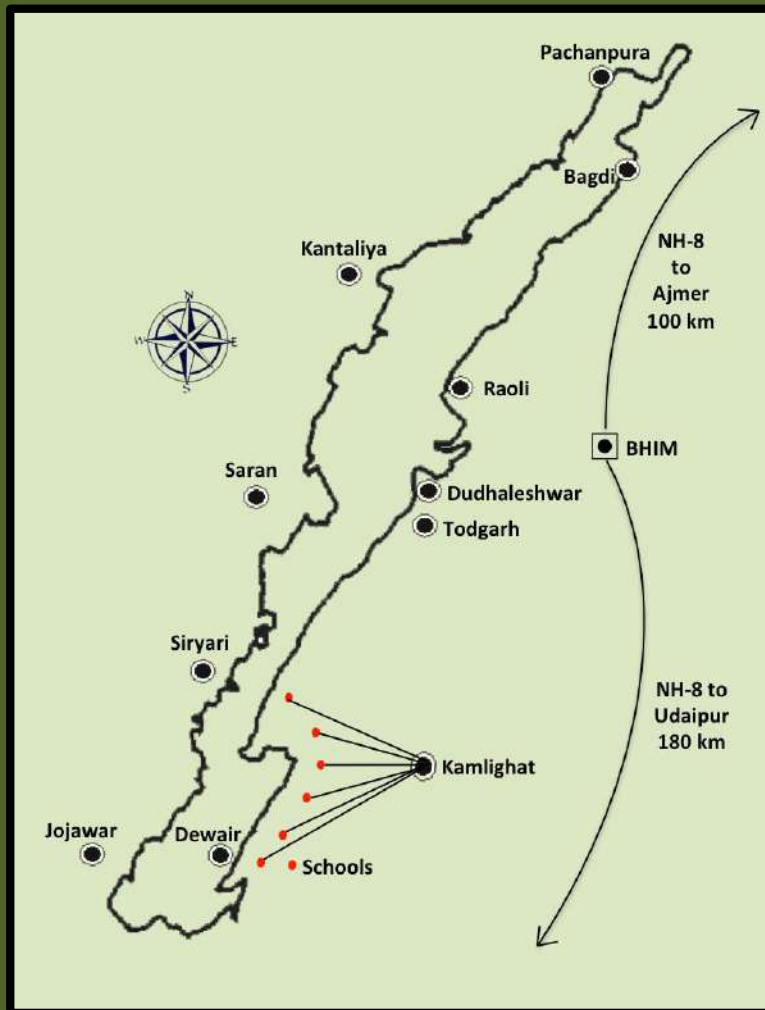
Project Merchandise

ecopanions society



SECOND YEAR:

Implementation Strategy for 200 Schools

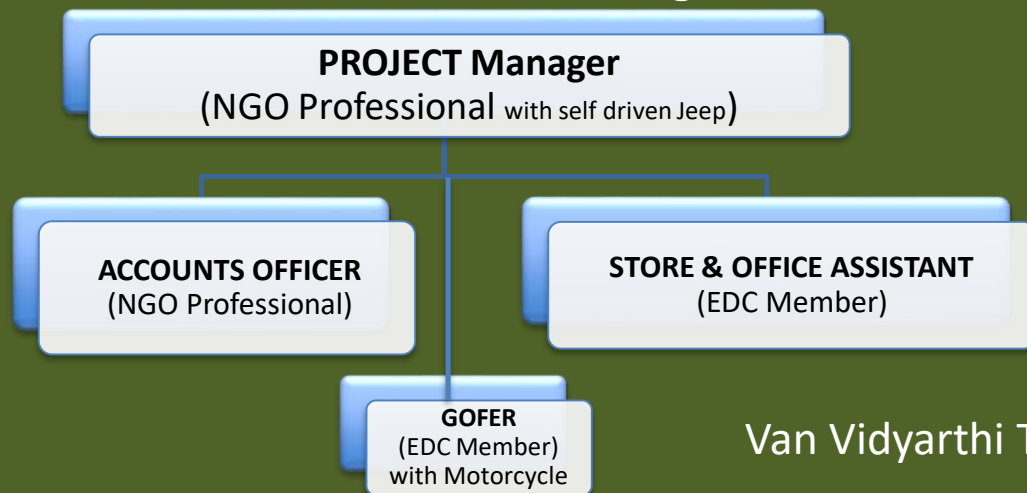


- Base Camps with Creature Comforts
- Van Vidyarthi Team:
 - 2 Communicators
 - 1 School Manager
 - 1 Road Manager
 - 1 Cook
 - 1 Helper
 - 2 Drivers

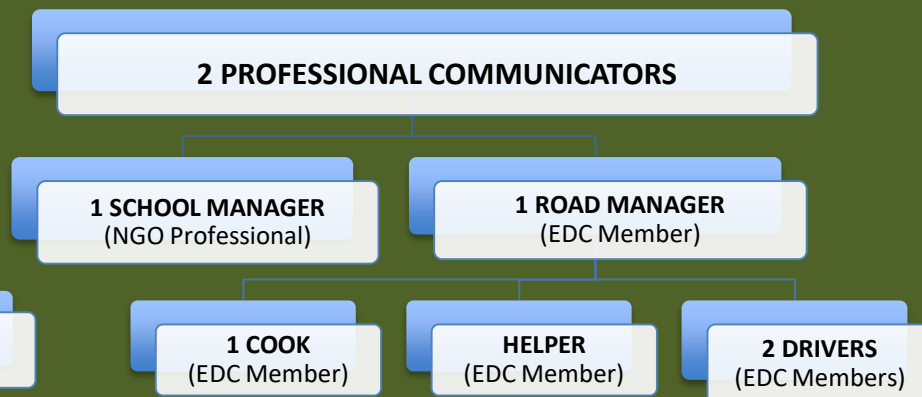
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Ecopanions Society will employ NGO Professionals; Communicators & EDC Members

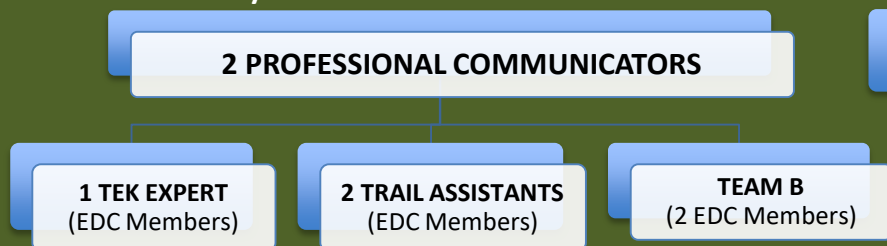
Field Office, Dudhalia Village



Van Vidyarthi Team 2nd Year



Van Vidyarthi Team 1st Year



FEEDBACK & EVALUATION MIS & YEARLY REVIEW

- Will put in place a System to Generate Data, Evaluate Performance & Collect Feedback.
- Evaluation of Field Stakeholders:
School / Teachers, Cooperation from the EDC & the Dept. Of Forests.
- Web based Flow of Information
- Project Review at the end of First Year



THIRD YEAR: Selections for Future

Select Talented Children
and Develop their Skills
in Income Generating Activities
that also reinforce Wildlife Conservation

e.g.

Train Eco Guides
and
Teach Wildlife Painting



THIRD YEAR:

1. Select Potential Eco Guides / Bird Watchers



- Existing Govt. program to train local youth as Eco Guides.
- On 9th March 2011, the Dept. of Forests undertook a day long workshop to train young men of Dudhalia village for Nature Interpretation.
- The Van Vidyarthi Project would take the idea further by Selecting talented children from the 4 Ranges of the Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary.

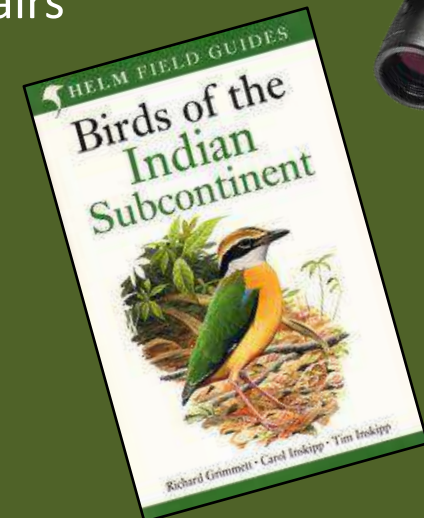
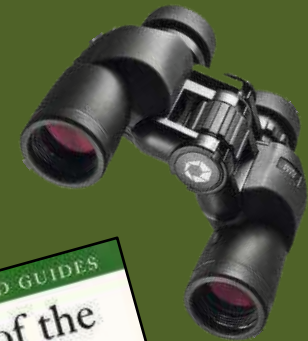
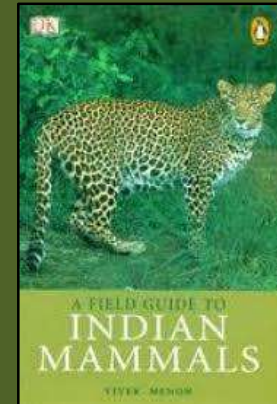


ECO Guide & Bird Watcher Training Program (Next 3 Years)

Wherever there are Forests – there are Eco Guides to communicate the importance to the community. These livelihood opportunities are now available but the local student needs to be trained in:

01. Character: Sense of Time, Discipline, Lifestyle, Behavior
02. Knowledge of Local Ecology: Trees & Animals
03. Knowledge of Local Birds / Birding
04. General Knowledge: Geography and Current Affairs
05. Spoken and Written English
06. Working Knowledge of Microsoft Office

with Classroom Teaching & Outdoor Instruction
Visit of Experts
Field trips to Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambhore
& Bharatpur





THIRD YEAR:

2. Select Potential Artists





The Aravelli School of Paintings (Next 3 Years)

Build a Brand
where the Product is the Leopard.

Wild & Beautiful animal.

A 21st Century Cat.

Always in the news.

As a marketing strategy
we can deliberately create an
"Aravelli School of Art"

fashionable and chic

where the Leopard is the central image
on the same lines of the Tiger
painted in Ranthambhore.

The funding stakeholder
Dept. of Forests, Government of Rajasthan
could fund training of talented children
to paint stunning portraits of the leopard
that could be marketed thru
the network of heritage hotels

owned by Rajput Princes – traditional patrons of all wildlife
(and possible Sponsors of the Program).

Professional Graphic Artists can help create
a distinct School of Paintings / Graphics.
that could generate both Livelihood & Awareness
at the same time.

PORTRAITS OF A PREDATOR



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Colorful Graphics of the Leopard



THE ARAVELLI SCHOOL OF PAINTINGS

Paintings in Photo Realism



Help Launch
the Aravelli School of Paintings
and lend the stakeholder's name to it.

Primary Beneficiary of the Project:

EMPOWERMENT OF THE EDC



- Livelihood Opportunities Created by the Project
- Funds transferred directly to EDC's Account
- Revenue from Sales of T-Shirts, Caps, Bags etc.
- Skill Development in Office Management



Livelihood Opportunities FOR THE EDC

PAID FOR BY THE PROJECT

1 Store-in Charge Cum Office Assistant

Manage store and assist Project Coordinator & Accounts Officer in day-to-day work.

2 Trail Assistants

Accompany the Communicators and assist in child management and control on the Trail.

1 Interpretation Centre In Charge

Security, maintenance and day-to-day management of the Interpretation Centre

1 Media In Charge At Interpretation Centre

Maintain and work on Computers, Screen films, assist Incharge

GENERATED BY THE PROJECT

2 Adventure Assistants:

Handle receipts (Rs. 10), manage and help participants, look after maintenance and keep premises plastic and paper free.

1 Ticketing & Parking Attendant:

Monitor the Gate and handle receipts for Entry to the Destination (Rs. 4) for all visitors and parking for the vehicles (Bus Rs. 130, 4 Wheeler Rs. 50. Two wheeler Rs. 15).

1 Cook and Helper at the Dudhaleshwar Eco Destination to serve snacks to the children

Several people from the EDC involved with the board & lodge arrangements (including bringing water) for the Van Vidyarthi crew members that come from outside



THE VISION

1. Project would Affect the Entire Community.
2. It is the Community that can bring the Change.
3. And Children that are the Agents of Change.
4. If this Vision is shared by all Stakeholders
then the Dream of Saving our Biodiversity
can become a Reality



BUDGET ESTIMATE

Van Vidyarthi Program

A. SURVEY of SCHOOLS	₹ 1,57,136
B. RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	₹ 15,14,386
C. FIRST YEAR	₹ 69,56,736
D. SECOND YEAR	₹ 85,00,000
E. THIRD YEAR	<u>₹ 85,00,000</u>
F. VAN VIDYARTHI PROGRAM	₹ 2,56,28,258



"In the end,
we will conserve
only what we love.
We will love
only what we understand.
And we will understand
only what we are taught."

Dalai Lama

ECOPANIONS SOCIETY

The logo symbolizes a Green Contract between Man & Leaf. The understanding is that as long as we Humans respect Plant Life, the leafy world in return will ensure that they continue to provide us with our sustenance.



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

Registration No. 345/Jaipur/2011-12

Nihal Mathur, Secretary

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