

# **57<sup>th</sup> WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATIONS**

Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary

Wildlife Wing (Udaipur)

1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## **A REPORT**

**ecopanions society**



# Introduction

Wildlife Week is generally celebrated in the cities  
essentially by urban people  
who understand and appreciate  
the importance of saving wildlife.

But this is a difficult message to communicate  
to the Rural Adults living around forests  
where leopards prey on their cows & goats,  
nilgais & wild boars destroy their standing crops,  
langurs uproot their vegetable plots  
and snakes routinely invade their homes.

# The Objective

was to reach  
the impressionable school going children  
around the Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary  
with the message of wildlife conservation  
which was centered around  
the Leopard  
found in their vicinity.

Most children know it as “adhvera” –  
an animal which they have heard about  
but seldom seen.

This was an attempt to give the children  
an image of the Leopard.

A peg to hold the imagination of  
the wider world of wild animals .

# Scope of the Celebrations

The idea was to take the celebrations to 4 Schools in the 4 Ranges comprising Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary.

Date	Range	School
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2011	Raoli	Dudhaliya
3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2011	Bija Guda	Bagdi
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	Jojawar	Karmala
8 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	Bhim	Veeram Guda

The celebrations followed a pattern. After inaugural, brief talks by the representative of the Forest Dept & Ecopanions were given to the children on why the Wildlife Week is celebrated.



**Top:** ACF speaking to children at Karmala School  
**Right:** Principal Bagdi lighting the lamp



**Top:** Chief Guest Veerbhadra Singh speaking to children at Veeram Guda School.  
**Left:** A child lighting the lamp at Dudhaliya

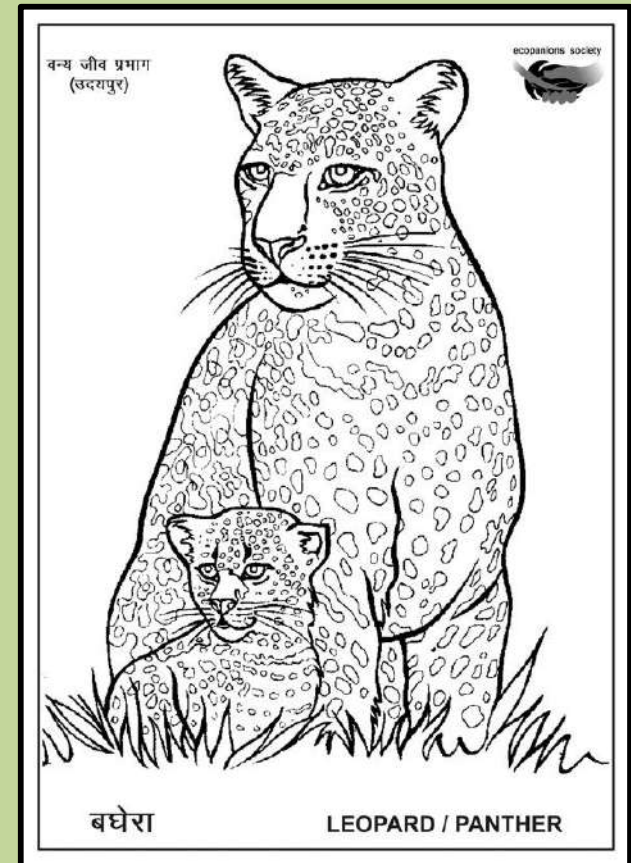
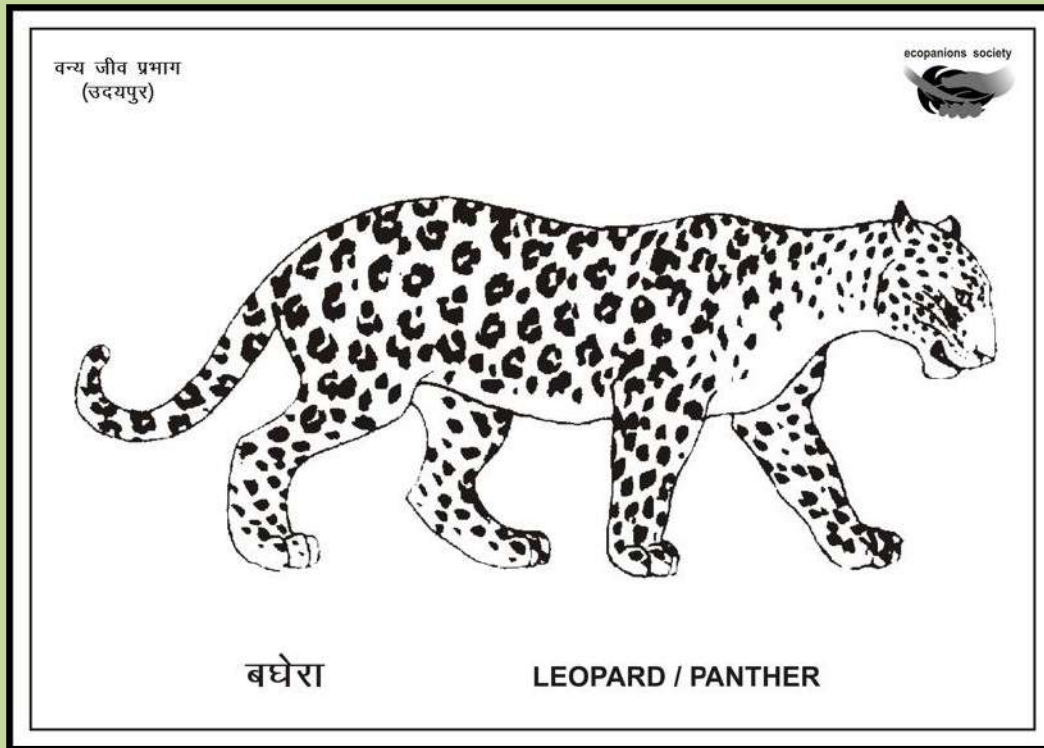




This was followed by children forming teams to pick up plastic, paper etc from their school premises in an attempt to introduce a larger Environmental message that man-made litter is garbage or “kachara” and should not be carelessly thrown around.

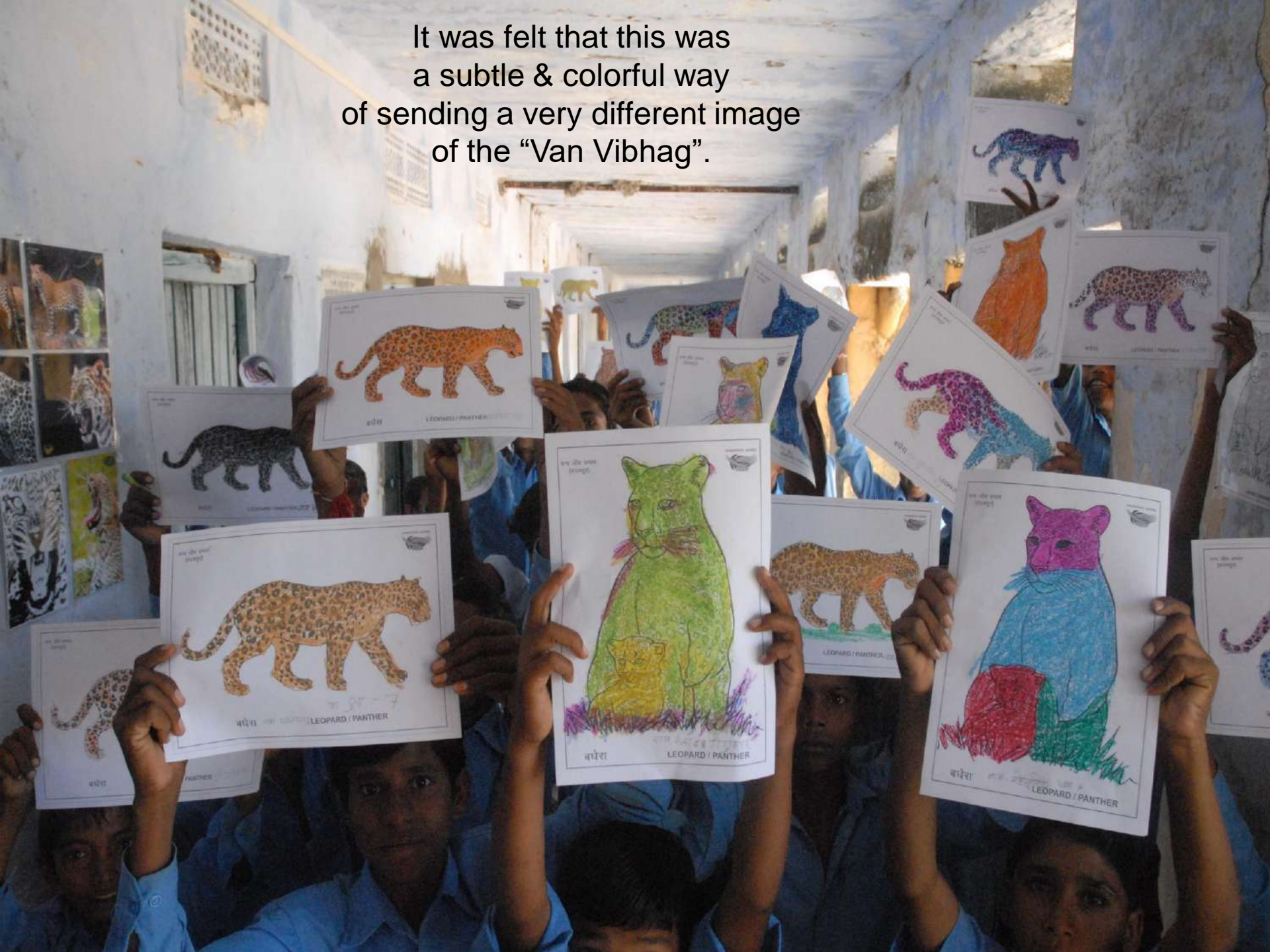


To familiarize the children with the shape of the Leopard they were given two images to fill-in-the-color. Children took keen interest in coloring the outlines which they were encouraged to take home to other adult members of the family.

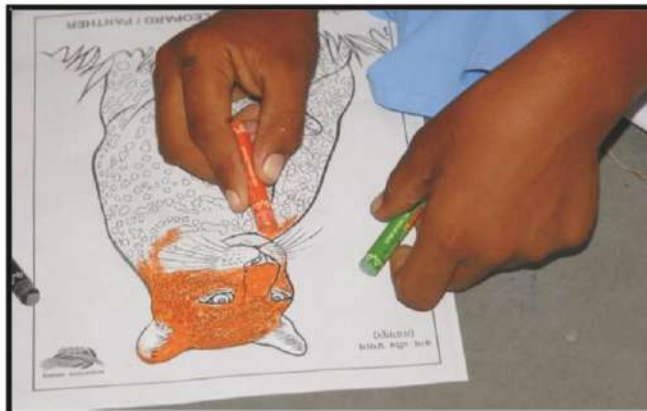




It was felt that this was  
a subtle & colorful way  
of sending a very different image  
of the “Van Vibhag”.







In every school, 10 best Fill-In Paintings were given  
Amar Chitra Katha comics.  
With little text and colorful pictures these books made easy reading  
about our culture, including the stories from  
Panchatantra & Jatak Tales



**Left:** The ACF gives away the prize at Bagdi  
**Right:** Little Kushboo gets her prize from the  
Principal at Dudhaliya



Dramatic images of the Leopard were also put up on the walls of the school corridors for children to have a closer look and appreciate this beautiful wild cat.



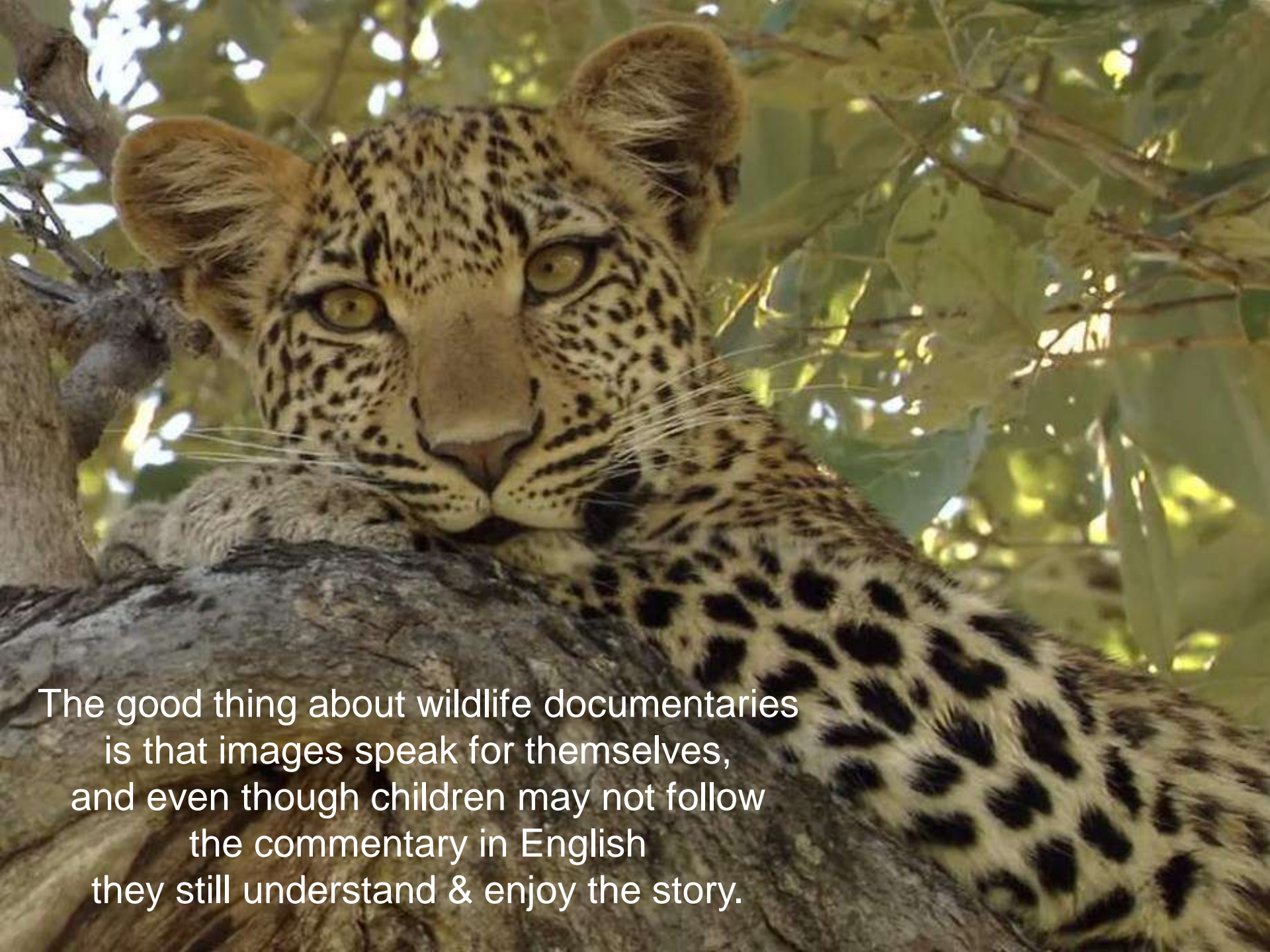
# Wildlife Documentary on the Leopard

The children were shown a Nat Geo Special called  
“Eye of the Leopard.”

The film profiled the life of a leopardeess named  
Legadema in Botswana’s Okavango Delta.

It is an endearing story  
of a mother’s relationship with her cub  
that also grows into a fine leopardeess.  
It is indeed a PR film on the Leopard.





The good thing about wildlife documentaries is that images speak for themselves, and even though children may not follow the commentary in English they still understand & enjoy the story.



Children watched the film with great interest which were shown in the biggest classroom available in the school. The rooms however, were not large enough to accommodate all the students and the film was shown twice in Bagdi & Karmala. Also, the October weather proved to be too warm & made the room very stuffy.





The event was linked to  
a “Nashta” or Refreshments of  
Biscuits & Bananas



Attendance in the Schools was very poor because the Wildlife Week coincided with Dusherra holidays.

There were only 3 working days i.e. 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October. And even on these days, the children came briefly to mark attendance and then bunked school to go to the Mela.

Name of the School	Total Strength	Attendance
Dudhaliya	120	109
Bagdi	289	281
Karmala / Bogla	532	130
Veeram Guda	206	122



The day long celebrations at the Schools concluded with a group picture of the students.



BAGDI



KARMALA / BOGLA



DUDHALIYA



# The Leopard Painting Competition.

Alongside the celebration  
in the School with children,  
the Wildlife Week  
also sought to bring the local artists  
to come & paint the Leopard.

The idea was not to promote art or creativity  
but to see if there was enough local talent  
to reproduce stunning images of the Leopard  
as paintings that could be sold commercially.

# Aravelli School of Paintings

Inspiration for this idea came  
from paintings of the Tiger  
done in Swai Madhopur area  
that are recognized the world over  
as the Ranthambhore School of Art.

There is no reason why pioneering efforts  
cannot be made in this region to promote  
the image of the Leopard  
in a bid to establish a distinct  
Aravelli School of Paintings  
that could generate both Livelihood & Awareness  
at the same time.

## THE PAINTERS

In almost all small towns and big villages around the Sanctuary like Todgarh, Bada Kheda, Bhim, Deogarh, Jojawar, Siryari etc there are young men who work as “Painters” doing mostly signage and banner work to make a living.

They are artists in their own right and need an opportunity to do more creative paintings.

The idea was to discover this local pool of talent and see if there was any potential in giving them further training in the Aravelli School of Art.



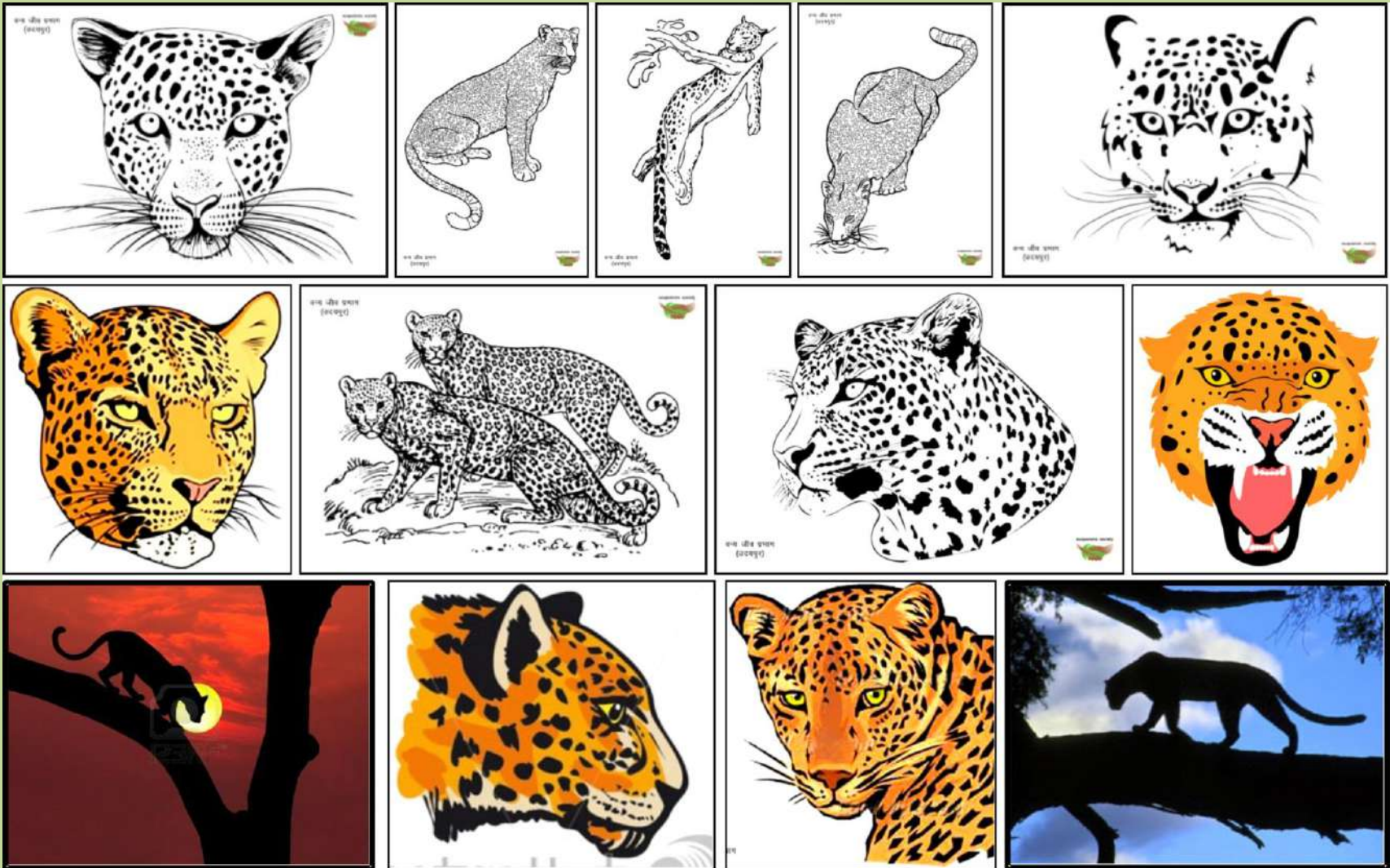
Gopal : **Top** “Jhony”  
: **Right**  
Chandresh : **Middle**



**Top:** Chandresh & Gopal  
**Left:** Mahendra

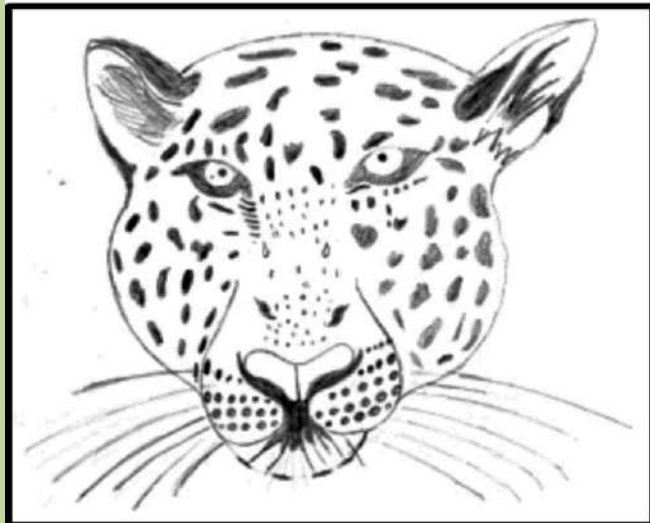


The Painters were given four 15"x11" drawing sheets along with Pencils & Rubber for sketching and a box of Camel Oil Pastel Colors. They were provided with images of the Leopard & were asked to reproduce any 2 one a black & white sketch showing their control of line and another to show their aesthetic use of color.





Some black & white sketches  
done by the Painters





# Color Reproductions done by the Painters



# Poor Show of the Painters

In the run up to the Wildlife Week efforts were made to spread the word around in the four Ranges for the local Painters to come to the venue of the school and participate in the Leopard Painting Competition.

But only five painters came in two Ranges:

Jaswant Singh,	Bada Kheda
Gopal Painter,	Veeram Guda
Chandresh Kumar,	Veeram Guda
Ghanshyam Lal,	Dudhaliya
Mahendra Kumar,	Beawar

Once again, the poor show of the painters was obviously because of Dusherra festivities when their services are greatly in demand.

The few who came only because of peer pressure.

Half-hearted & hurriedly did the paintings and left.

The Painters also complained about the oil pastel colors provided saying water & oil colors were the preferred medium.



# Report Card: Forest Department

In the organization of the Wildlife Week, Ecopanions received fullest cooperation from the Ranger Raoli, Shri Mahendra Singhji Rathore. At the inaugural function at Dudhaliya the Range was adequately represented by the Forester Prema Ram Choudhary, Forest Guard Susheel Kumar Yadav & Babu Singh.

ACF Shri Pratap Singh Chundawat graced the occasion twice at Bagdi and Karmala and took the opportunity to talk to the children and give away the prizes.

Ranger Bhim, Shri Kishori Lalji took a keen interest in the celebrations at Veeram Guda which was reported in the Rajasthan Patrika, Udaipur edition. The event in Jojawar was carried by Dainik Navjyoti Pali edition while the one at Dudhaliya was covered by Dainik Navjyoti, Ajmer edition.

Special mention must be made of Forester Prema Ram Choudhary who was always there to speak to the children. Speaking in local dialect he reached out very effectively to the children about the importance of wildlife, especially the Leopard.

# PRESS REPOTAGE

Dainik Navjyoti  
Ajmer edition  
2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2011



Raoli Range

Dainik Navjyoti  
Pali edition  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2011



Jojawar Range

Rajasthan Patrika  
Udaipur edition  
9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011



Bhim Range

# Lessons for Future

1. The organization of the 57<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Week in Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary was done very quickly within 4 days i.e. from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011. Consequently there very many hiccups. In future, there should be adequate time for planning and setting up of the celebrations.
2. Due consultation with the School Head Master / Principal / Teachers should take place to ensure attendance.
3. Program content could be enriched with other creative activities for the children.
4. The screening of wildlife documentary film should be done not in the School but within the community, after dark & in open air. It should become a local event.
5. Local Press should be invited to cover the event. Since Ecopanions is new in the region, the onus of the Publicity of the event should not be left to it alone. Ecopanions can write the “vigyapti” and give it to the Forest Dept that has a long standing relations with the local print media to ensure that it is printed.
6. The “nashta” given to the children in the school can be dispensed with since they are given the midday meal anyway. Instead, “chai” can be served to the local community during the screening of the film.
7. Network with other NGOs like Zoo Outreach that provides materials for celebrating Wildlife Week.



# Painting Competition for Children

The Central Ground Water Commission Board under the Ministry of Water Resources has been conducting a School, State & National Level Painting Competition for Children on the theme of Water Conservation since last year i.e. 2010.

Thousands of children across the country are involved in this huge project. From Rajasthan alone there are 20,000 children participating from both Government and Private schools.

(<http://cgwb.gov.in/Currentevents/Painting-comp.html>)



The Hindu  
15<sup>th</sup> November 2011

There is no reason why, on a much smaller scale an annual painting competition cannot be organized in all the schools that surround the Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary on the theme of Wildlife Conservation.

Children are a Part of the Solution. We must Invest in them.

# ecopanions society



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

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